



St. Paul
Lutheran Church

Walking Together

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Catonsville, MD

November 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

It's the End of the World As We Know It

The rock and roll band REM had a hit song in the 1980's called "It's the End of the World As We Know It". It is a jarring, dark title for a song. It sounds gloomy. But the song itself is upbeat, cheery, happy. You can dance to the collapse of civilization ... or something like that.

In November, the Church Year and the Scriptures we hear turn to the theme of the end of the world. Or, to name it better, we hear of the return of Christ at the end of time. The Church Year ends when Advent begins and with the slow dying of nature around us, the falling of the leaves, the cold temperatures, we hear that this world is not permanent. Christ will return. All things will end. The Bible is more direct than REM. It is not the end of the world as we know it. It is simply the end of the world.

That truth can seem discouraging and awful. All we know and have and rely on will end. But if we dig a little further in the Scriptures and explore the doctrine of "eschatology" (the study of the end times) we find that the end of the world is not as scary as it seems. In fact, it is comforting to Christians. Keep in mind these Scripture truths about the end of the world.

1. When Christ returns all evil and sin and death will be destroyed and overthrown.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. Revelation 21:4

2. Our bodies will be resurrected from the dead and will be glorified and holy.

He will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Philippians 3:21

3. There will be no condemnation for Christians when Christ returns.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1

4. We will live eternally with Christ in the new heaven and the new earth.

But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:13

The REM song has this punch line: it's the end of the world as we know it ... and I feel fine. We Christians do feel fine about the end of the world. One of the earliest recorded prayers of the early Christians is "Come, Lord Jesus." We pray, hope, and long for the return of Jesus. The same one who comes with glory on the clouds to judge the living and the dead is the one who died on the cross and shed his blood to take away all sins. He will welcome us on that day into his eternal presence. Come, Lord Jesus!

Pastor Alms

News From the Elders

The Elders for 2022-23 are:

Kevin Dungey (Chairman)
Jim Baeder
Norm Giguere
Bill Oldhouser
Jeff Piegols
Bruce Staudinger

The Elders are looking for members of the congregation interested in helping in the following areas:

- **Adult Education.** The Elders and Pastor unite in wanting to increase every member's access to adult education at St. Paul. This may mean increasing Bible Study opportunities on Sundays, setting up special one-time or recurring Bible Study opportunities during the week, and otherwise making it easier for members (and guests) to know more about the Bible and the Christian faith. Please let either Kevin Dungey (kdungey49@gmail.com) or Bill Oldhouser (who@nholaw.com) know what you would be interested in learning more about. What type of Bible Study do you enjoy most? What topics would you be interested in? Would you enjoy teaching an adult Bible study? You also may talk to us at church when you see us.
- **Sunday School.** We are in need of a person with an interest in children's Christian education to help coordinate the Sunday School program. Please let Pastor Alms or Kevin Dungey know if you are willing to help with this.
- **Youth Ministry.** We are also in need of a person who enjoys working with youth to help plan social and educational activities for our young people. Please let Pastor Alms or Kevin Dungey know if you would like to serve in this way.

Tom and Karen Bok have transferred their membership to Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sun Prairie Wisconsin. Susan Sohn has transferred her membership to Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington Park, Maryland. While we miss these long-time, faithful members, we praise God that they have found new LCMS congregations in which to worship and serve.

We are pleased to welcome Sigrid Jaeger and Hope Dreesen into our church family – both were baptized in October. We also rejoice with Chris Parsons and Katie Schwartz, who were married at St. Paul on October 8, as they begin their new life together.

In His service,

Bill Oldhouser,
Board of Elders

St. Paul Day School News

In this article, the Day School Board introduces the St. Paul congregation to two of our newest school staff members, [Ama Owusu-Boaitey](#), our Early Childhood Center Director, and [Cameron Neilon](#), our new Fourth-Grade Teacher.

Ama Owusu-Boaitey was born in Ghana, West Africa, and lived there until she was 17 or 18. At that point, her grandmother passed away, and Ama came to the United States to join other members of her immediate family. She originally thought she would train to be a nurse but happened to work with a family friend who ran a daycare service. She admired how this family friend behaved with the children and liked the children themselves. At this point, she says she felt like working with young children was a special calling, and she initially earned her 90-hour early-childhood certificate so that she could take jobs with daycare facilities. Then she kept on working beyond the 90 hours of training because she found the field fascinating. Once she was equipped with this training, she put her resume up on Indeed, an internet job placement service, but honestly does not recall applying specifically to St. Paul. But, as she said, “God has His own way of making things happen”! And so she was hired and joined St. Paul as the ECC Director. She admires and loves the sense of community at St. Paul. It is a happy Christian environment where she can freely say “Merry Christmas” instead of “Happy Holidays.” She also admires St. Paul’s involvement with the local community and hopes that the ECC parents can become more involved with St. Paul.



Cameron Neilon was born in Manila of the Philippines and was placed with Catholic Charities until he was a year old. At that point, he was adopted by a family in Ellicott City and came to the United States. He went through the public schools and recalls a profound change in his life when he met his male fifth-grade teacher who related to him and encouraged him. Cameron’s self-confidence grew. He faithfully attended Catholic Church in Ellicott City until he went away to Salisbury State University on the eastern shore of Maryland. There, as he says, he fell away from the church. However, he was working as a waiter at a Ruby Tuesdays restaurant and had a non-denominational pastor and a member of his staff sit at one of his tables. They talked with him about God and encouraged him to join them in worship, which he did. He graduated from Salisbury State in 2021 having majored in Education and last year did a teacher training year in the second grade at Arundel Christian School. He also put his resume up on Indeed and was hired by St. Paul. This is his first year of teaching. He says he loves it here. St. Paul has a very professional environment, and he feels that he has excellent support. He also loves the children in his fourth-grade class of 14 students.

The Day School Board

Thanksgiving Day Worship

Thanksgiving Day Worship Service is on Thursday, November 24th at 10 am.

Advent Events and Happenings at St. Paul

Advent Midweek Services: Stop, Look and Listen

Dates: November 30, December 7, December 14

Times: 11 am and 7 pm

The Story of Christmas – Sunday Bible Class

Come study and dive into the Christmas story in the Scriptures in Advent. Kevin Dungey will lead a deep look into the birth of Jesus, how it happened and what it means. Sundays at 8:45 am in the Fellowship Hall, November 27 through December 18.

Congregational Decorating of the Sanctuary

Saturday, December 3rd at 4 pm. Sponsored by the Youth Group.

Kids Christmas Morning

Saturday, December 10th 9 am to 12:00 noon.

Christmas Eve Services: 7 pm and 10 pm

Christmas Day Services: 10 am (No bible class or Sunday School)

New Years Day Service: 10 am (No bible class or Sunday School)

In Christ Alone

St. Paul will be singing a new hymn this November entitled “In Christ Alone”. The hymn was written in 2001 by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, both writers of Christian hymns in the United Kingdom. “In Christ Alone” has been published recently in the new LCMS hymnal *One and All Rejoice* and is also included in the WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) hymnal *Christian Worship* published in 2021. The tune has a contemporary feel while the lyrics are a strong statement of the substitutionary death of Christ and his atonement of sinners by his death and resurrection. Here is one verse:

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.

Check out this [video of the song with lyrics.](#)

Can You Count? Do You Want To Make A Joyful Noise?

Then come to a meeting on Monday, November 7th! There is interest in getting a handbell choir together. Playing handbells does not require a lot of musical knowledge or expertise. It is just fun and easy. We will meet and talk about how that might work, how much interest there is and hopefully get bells ringing!



Welcome Table

The Mission Board is hosting a Welcome Table for Sunday visitors in the narthex. The table is to the right as you face the sanctuary. Our purpose is to have visible materials for visitors that will help them know more about our St. Paul community. This information is found in our Welcome Booklet that is on top of the table (and remains there for any visitor to the building, whether on Sunday or throughout the week.) Other materials include: our newsletter, a pamphlet on what Lutherans believe, and a family devotion booklet. These are found in the bins just under the glass. We hope to have the Welcome Table manned each Sunday, so that the Greeter and Ushers can direct visitors there. We also hope to make our signage a little more prominent. Members are encouraged to take home our magnet and any booklet/pamphlet on the table - to keep or to share.

The word "Welcome" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive font. The letters are connected and have a classic, flowing style. The 'W' is particularly large and decorative, with a long tail that loops under the 'e'. The overall appearance is warm and inviting.

Giving Tuesday – November 29, 2022

This year, **Giving Tuesday**, the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving, falls on November 29, 2022. Giving Tuesday is a global generosity movement that encourages the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and therefore the world. Giving Tuesday began in 2012 as a day that encourages people to be generous. It has since grown into a global movement that has inspired hundreds of millions of people to give, to collaborate, and to celebrate the power of generosity.

Our aim for Giving Tuesday at St. Paul is to ask for gifts of whatever size in support of the mission that is the St. Paul School/Early Childhood Center.

Total Giving Tuesday Goal - \$4000

- **New Music Offering - \$800**

Since Keyboard/Piano is being offered as a NEW elective, we purchased 10 keyboards at the cost of \$1500. We have a \$700 gift by one donor and need **\$800 more dollars** to cover the cost of this investment.

- **Additional Outdoor Play Equipment - \$700**

9 Square in the Air: This game is the best large-group game for children because it allows many children to play at the same time and it is not too competitive. Check it out: <https://www.9squareintheair.com/blogs/blog/the-best-group-game-for-children>

- **New Books to Refresh our Library Collection - Phase 1 - \$2500**

The estimated total cost to refresh our library collection is \$15,000; this year we would like to raise \$2500 to start the process.

As we get closer, please follow our announcements on the church website. But you do not have to wait until the day itself. If you would like to give a gift, you may put your gift in a Giving Tuesday envelope and either put it in the Sunday collection plate or send it to the St. Paul School office.

Thank you for your generosity!
The St. Paul Day School Board

From the Asset Management Board

You may have noticed by now that the sanctuary is warm again, and for that we give thanks! During the past month or two we have had a lot of work done on the heating system and discovered some unexpected problems. The work included a new controller and new sensors for the boiler, a new valve, repair of various leaks in the piping, and a new pump for sanctuary zone. Our heating system is part of the original building and has been expanded and changed with each subsequent addition. It includes the boiler and a number of zones, each with its own pump. The Asset Management Board and Property and Maintenance Committee are working on plans to make some major changes to the system that will allow us to have some redundancy and prevent the loss of heat to a section of the building if a pump stops working. These changes will be costly, but will enhance our system. As we come up with a workable plan and rough estimates of the cost, those will be presented to the congregation so that we can develop a plan and schedule for implementing the changes.

As we have been talking about generosity and are approaching Thanksgiving, consider how you might express your thankfulness for all the blessings you have been given by finding ways to serve in the church. Part of our generosity involves giving of our time and abilities in service to the Lord and each other. There are many ways to serve in the church and all of them are valuable and needed. Helping out with the care and upkeep of our facilities is an important way to give, and it helps benefit all of our ministries. Each of us has some talent, ability, knowledge, or experience that is given to us by God and is useful in the work of the church.

There are many ways that we need help to take care of the church and cemetery buildings and grounds. They range from specific knowledge or skills in construction or maintenance to simple cleaning. Regardless of your skills or abilities, a willingness to help is the most important factor in service, and we can use people of all skills and abilities. Property and Maintenance has a workday on the third Saturday of each month from 9am-12pm. If that doesn't work with your schedule, contact Steve Haar or Michael Puls and they can find a time and task that does. Please let them know that you are willing to serve so that they can contact you when a need arises.

June Harris would like to get a group of ladies together (though men would be welcome!) to periodically clean and spruce up the sanctuary. This is especially important to prepare for the holidays when we have a lot of guests. Let us show them how much we love our God by how beautiful and well kept our sanctuary is. If you have an interest in helping out, please contact June. Other areas where we need help include raking leaves, cleaning out flower beds, and painting railings.

Let us all be thankful for the wonderful facilities that we have, and let us all find ways to keep them running smoothly and looking good. Asset Management Board would also like to express our thanks for all those who have helped out in various ways, for those who serve faithfully on the Property and Maintenance and Cemetery Committees, and for our Operations Manager.

In His Service,
Suzanne Giguere

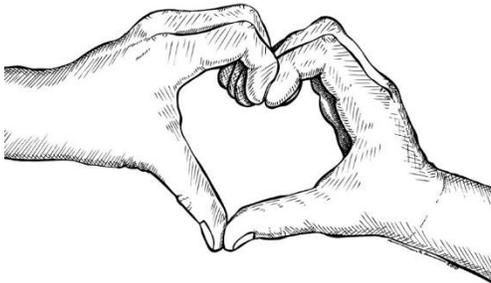
Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild will be putting together food bags for St. Thomas. The ladies will provide the bread and meat, if you would like to get together a bag with nonperishable items it would be greatly appreciated. Last year we put together 17 bags and we would like to beat that number for this year, the need is great. Items needed per bag:

- 1 box stuffing
- 1 box instant potatoes
- 2 cans corn
- 2 cans green beans or peas
- 1 can sweet potatoes
- 1 jar gravy
- 1 jar peanut butter
- 1 jar jelly
- Cake mix and icing OR brownie mix

The November meeting will be held on November 29th at 10:00 am at the home of Pat Wesselman. Bring a bag lunch and plan on staying for lunch and some fellowship.

Caring Hands Needed



The CARE Committee, a committee that falls under the Elders, tries to reflect the caring of the St. Paul community for its members in need. We provide meals, visits, and sometimes transportation. We can use more meals for our church freezer, and also more crocheted prayer shawls. If you are willing to donate meals or shawls, please contact a member of the CARE committee. This is a wonderful way to help others - a heart and hands endeavor. Thank you!

CARE Committee (Carolyn Loudon, Debbie Oldhouser, Irene Giguere)

Operation Christmas Child

In November we will be collecting shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Operation Christmas Child provides gift-filled shoeboxes to over 160 countries. It is used as a tool for evangelism and discipleship in local churches around the world. At Operation Christmas Child outreach events, children hear the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ and receive a tangible expression of God's love through one of your prayerfully packed shoeboxes.



November 13th is the last Sunday to drop off the filled shoe boxes.

Circuit 5 Delegate

Paul Lubell has been elected as Circuit 5 delegate to the 2023 LCMS national convention in Milwaukee in July.

Orphan Grain Train

COAT COLLECTION: November 1 – December 15



Orphan Grain Train will again be collecting **winter coats** and **jackets**. The garments will be given to several inner city Lutheran churches to distribute to their surrounding communities. They will also be distributed through local relief organizations. We have need of new or gently used winter coats/jackets for men, women and children – **but this year especially, for children.**

Coats and jackets can be brought to St. Paul any Sunday morning from 9 – 11:30 a.m. starting **November 6** and continuing until **December 11**. The Giguere **COATMOBILE** (i.e. red pickup truck) will be in the parking lot. Bag your coats and put them in the bed of the truck. You may also place other items for OGT (bedding, clothing, fabric, medical equipment, shoes, soft toys, children’s books, etc.) in the truck.

If you desire, coats can also be brought to the OGT Warehouse, 621 East West Blvd, Millersville on Tuesdays, 9- 12 noon, 5 – 7 pm.

New Banner Project...Thanks!

St. Paul has beautiful new banners for all the church year seasons which will hang on the front walls on either side of the chancel. We are grateful to Mrs. Janet Conklin and the Ladies Guild for providing funding for these banners. Also, thanks to Karyn Borth for working to bring this project to completion.

Special Thanks



Thank You to Irene Giguere for attending the Chesapeake District LWML convention in Gaithersburg, MD. She had a wonderful message to all on behalf of Orphan Grain Train. Irene also participated in the Mission Pledge Walk which raised \$1945.00 for missions!!! Thank you Irene!!! You truly serve the Lord with gladness & we appreciate you!!

Susan Sohn

