



St. Paul
Lutheran Church

Walking Together

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

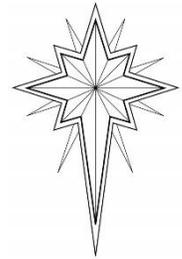
Catonsville, MD

January 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

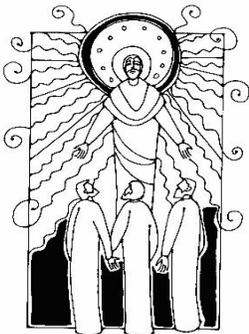
Look For the Light

The Epiphany season is one that easily gets lost in the church year. It is not as flashy as Christmas. Advent has made a huge comeback with calendars in every shape or size though they don't have much to do with Jesus, it seems. Lent and Easter are central to the faith, pointing to the death and resurrection of Jesus. But Epiphany: what is it even about?



One thing it is about is light. Epiphany focuses on the light of Christ's presence which comes into the world. Epiphany means revelation or manifestation. It all begins with the bright star guiding the Magi to Jesus to worship him. And it goes on from there to his Transfiguration where He is filled with divine light shining out to the disciples.

So, look for the light. It is an Epiphany challenge. The Epiphany season lasts until February 19th. Look for references to light in the prayers, Scripture readings and hymns. You will be amazed how often the theme of light comes up. It happens over and over again.



Epiphany is the season of light which means mission. We are filled with the light of Christ and we reflect it out. The Magi were Gentiles. Jesus shows and gives himself to sinners and lost people. Light shines in the darkness and calls all people out of darkness into the light of God's love. We are called to look for the light and shine the light. Christians receive God's light and reflect God's light.

So that's the Epiphany challenge. Look for the light and shine that light in your daily life!

TRANS.
FIGUR.
ATION

Pastor Alms

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

Life Sunday 2023 – Blessed For Life – will be observed on January 22nd. We will have a special insert, prayers and information concerning the value and dignity of all human life.

Jesus calls us to be a Lutheran community gathered around Word and Sacrament and sends us to reach the lost, disciple the saved, and care for our neighbors everywhere.

From the Congregational President

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! It's 2023!!!

Church Council had a relatively short meeting in December (clocking in at 35 minutes). Here are a few things we discussed:

- We are still moving forward with selling the cemetery house and working on rezoning the land.
- Approved motion for AMB to spend up to \$3000 on a facility evaluation report to help determine the most important things to fix and time frames for when we need to fix them.
- Altar guild will be buying more paraments with the paraments fund.
- Budget prep dates and Voters Meeting date scheduled
 - o February 28th – INPUT for budgets due from Ops Manager and Principal to AMB and SB respectively
 - o March 21st – DRAFT budgets due from boards to Council
 - o April 18th – REVISION budgets due
 - o May 16th – FINAL budget for voters in June
 - o May 21st – Reports and budget available to voters to review
 - o June 4th – Voters Meeting after church in fellowship hall

Council is still in need of a Vice President. Is 2023 the year you want to be the VP? It is a light commitment with council meetings and you chair the personnel committee. If you are interested in this position, send a carrier pigeon.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns you would like to see addressed, please let us know. Our next church council meeting is February 28th, 2023 at 7pm.

Blessings to all,
Aaron Nelson
nelsaar@yahoo.com

From the Asset Management Board

We have continued to have problems with various parts of our heating system, including a problem with a pump that was replaced last year and valve problems with a couple of the classroom unit ventilators. Work is being done to correct these problems so please have patience with us as we work to get everything back working as it should. We have also had a problem with the lighting controller in the sanctuary. Parts have been ordered and this will be replaced along with some switches. That is why some of the switches are currently blocked from use.

Work began on the new media center walls on December 20. The walls are framed out, the glass has been installed, and the electrical rough-in has been done. The doors need to be installed, the drywall completed and the trim and finishing still need to be done. Soon the work will be completed, so stop by to see the new look.

In His Service,
Suzanne Giguere

News From the Elders

Welcome New Members

We were blessed to receive a large group of new members into our congregation on December 11. They have all been kind enough to share some information about themselves to help us to get to know them better. I think you'll agree that this is a very interesting group.

Don Easton was born in West Baltimore and raised in Arbutus. He lived in Catonsville and now lives in Eldersburg with his wife, **Carolyn McDaniel**. Don's parents were Lutheran, and he was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran church. He had two brothers and has many nieces and nephews. He was educated in public schools and the University of Maryland. Don worked at the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and the Social Security Administration and is now retired. He is interested in European history and English literature, and enjoys reading Sherlock Holmes stories, James Herriot, and J.R.R. Tolkien. Don is also interested in genealogy and enjoys listening to classical music, Gilbert & Sullivan, and bluegrass. His favorite day trip is up to Gettysburg; a trip to England, Scotland and Germany is on his bucket list. Don came to St. Paul because it has solid Missouri Synod Lutheran theology, sound preaching, beautiful hymns and music, and friendly people.

Born and raised in Lexington, Kentucky, **Carolyn McDaniel** completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Kentucky and her graduate studies at the University of Arizona. After completing her graduate work, she provided outpatient psychotherapy for individuals with various mental health disorders. In August 2002, she accepted a position as an Advanced Practice Nurse-Clinical Specialist in Psychiatry at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, where she provided psychoeducational classes/groups for outpatients with various mental health disorders. Carolyn took a somewhat circuitous route to Lutheranism. Raised in a Baptist family, she later joined an Episcopal church, but it wasn't until she began attending a Lutheran Church with her husband, **Don Easton**, that God led her to a church community whose doctrine and beliefs coincided completely with hers. She believes that the seven mission priorities of the LCMS support her belief that God will prevail despite the challenges of these post-Christian times. Carolyn feels completely at home at St. Paul and is grateful to God, and to everyone at St. Paul, for providing her the opportunity to join our community of faithful Christians. She looks forward to joining in the many activities and service groups at St. Paul.

Kirsten Hall grew up in Livermore, California going to church at Our Savior Lutheran Church. She then moved to Nebraska to attend Concordia University, Nebraska and graduated with a degree in Elementary Education, which brought her to St. Paul to be our first-grade teacher. Since she moved to Maryland she has been involved in church and school activities, such as Trunk or Treat and Kids Christmas Morning and even led her first VBS during the summer of 2022.

Diane Jaeger is a retired schoolteacher, a mother of two (her son, JB, is a member of St. Paul) and grandmother of two (soon to be three). Her best moments are spending time with them. Diane enjoys reading, decorating, her cat, and visiting with friends. Music has always been a big part of her life, especially Lutheran hymnody (and she has graciously filled in as a substitute organist when asked). She really enjoys studying the hymns.

Kaitlyn (“Kaity”) Parsons recently married Chris Parsons and over the last year of their engagement she traveled up on the weekends from Norfolk, Virginia where she was stationed as a naval officer. She is still in the Navy and enjoys not having to make the I-95 trip. :) Kaity grew up as an Army kid and spent much of her childhood seeing the world with her six siblings. She has a degree in math and enjoys puzzles, including the optimization of their garden for next spring.

Mike and Kathy Schmidley joined St. Paul after moving to Maryland from Hawaii this past August. Mike is from Louisiana and Kathy is from Michigan, and they met while stationed together in the Air Force. Mike left the Air Force after 10 years to be a stay-at-home dad. Mike and Kathy are the proud parents of their three children, **Rachel** (10), **Joe** (8) and **Bruce** (5). Rachel enjoys reading and creative writing. Joe enjoys math, reading, and board games. Bruce enjoys building things and school (though he won't admit it).

Originally from Washington DC, **Carol Taylor** now lives in Woodstock with her husband Kevin. They have two grown sons, Greg and Alex, who live in Arizona and West Virginia. Carol attended Gettysburg College initially as a music major, but changed and graduated with a BA in Spanish, which she speaks fluently thanks to a year abroad in Medellin, Colombia. Carol also earned an MBA from the University of Maryland. She retired a couple years ago from a career in international and commercial banking. Carol keeps busy in retirement by performing in several community based musical ensembles and serving on several boards of directors, including Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries (retirement communities). She came to St. Paul during the first Advent during the pandemic in search of a non-Zoom Lutheran church.

Please introduce yourselves to Don, Carolyn, Diane, Kaity, Mike, Kathy, Rachel, Joe, Bruce and Carol, welcome them to our congregation, and pray for their spiritual growth as they worship and serve among us.

In His service,
Bill Oldhouser,
Board of Elders

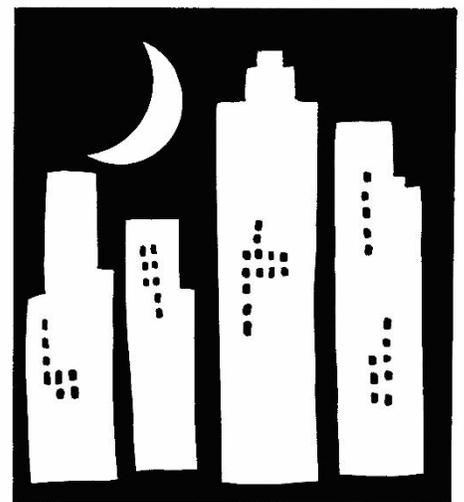
Welcome SED President Bill Harmon!

Rev. Harmon will join us for a Mission Brunch on **February 12th** following worship. We will have a congregational meal together and hear how President Harmon sees the mission situation in the SED. We will celebrate the opportunities we have to impact the world with the Gospel. Plan now to join us.

Mission Trip 2023

There will be a presentation during Adult Bible class on January 8th about our mission trip to Kentucky in 2022. We will also have a meeting on Tuesday January 24th at 7 p.m. to discuss a mission trip for 2023. Plan to be a part of making a difference for others.

NONE OF US LIVES TO OURSELVES



WE ALL LIVE TO THE LORD

Family Fun Night Mission Project

We will have a Family Fun Night on January 25th to gather and put together lunches for the shelter at St. Vincent DePaul in Baltimore. The time is 6:00 to 7:15 pm. This is a joint school and church project. Watch the bulletin for ways the church family can contribute. And, plan to come and help us put together 200 lunches!



New Adult Bible Classes Beginning February 5th

Beginning next month, three Adult Bible classes will be offered on Sunday mornings from 8:45 – 9:45. These classes will run through May.

- The Gospel of Luke, led by Pastor Alms
- A discussion based class on the four gospel accounts of Jesus' final few days in Jerusalem, his crucifixion, and his resurrection, led by Kevin Dungey
- Women's study of Great Women of the Bible, led by Michelle Johnson

Volunteer Opportunities

Help us stream our services. We are looking for a team of people to assist with the streaming of our service online. It's not complicated, and it is important work that gets the message of Christ out into the world. You don't need any computer or technological expertise... just a willingness to help. Contact Aaron Nelson or Pastor Alms to help.

Counters needed. Please consider serving the St. Paul congregation by joining the counters. Two people meet after church to count the offerings and deposit money at the bank. Each counter only needs to volunteer for one Sunday a month and it only takes between 30 - 60 minutes. Please contact Christina Nelson or Steve Haar for more information

Lutheran Books and Beer

will meet Thursday, January 26th at 7 p.m. at The Rathskellar located at 5782 Main Street, Basement Unit, Elkridge, MD 21075. We will continue to discuss John Kleinig's book *Grace Upon Grace: Spiritually for Today*. All are welcome and you can jump into the book easily! If you still need a copy, purchase it [HERE](#).

Moses: Live On Stage

Coming soon is a congregational fellowship event to go see "Moses" at the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA on April 29th at 3 p.m. We have 30 tickets (the most we could obtain). Each ticket is \$84.55. Sign up is coming soon as well as transportation and meal information.

Ladies Guild

Thanks to all our bakers, they made our annual cookie walk a great success. Thanks to all those who purchased those delicious cookies. Your generosity will enable us to send over \$300 to Orphan Grain Train to purchase luci lights for Ukraine as well as giving the ladies over \$300 to support outreach opportunities both in our community and beyond.

Caravan to St. Thomas on Saturday morning December 17th, Pat Chinn, Bill Beggs, Irene and Norm Giguere, Rich and Sally Foks, Carolyn Loudon, and Betsy Mitchell delivered 28 food bags and 28 hams as well as angel tree gifts for 21 children. None of this would have been possible without the wonderful people of St. Paul who filled those food bags and took angels off the tree. This is a wonderful way to share God's love with our neighbors in need.

January Ladies Guild meeting will be held on the 24th at the home of Pat Wesselman. We will begin the meeting at 11:00. Bring a bag lunch to stay for some fellowship after our meeting.

Carolyn Loudon



What Do Your Offerings Do?

Part Two

Last month we learned about what our offerings do in regard to missions. This month we address what our offerings do with the physical buildings and grounds. We collect our offerings usually in either a white envelope or a blue-edged envelope (what we call the blue envelope). Offerings in the white envelopes go toward the basic operating costs of the church, while the blue envelopes are designated mainly for the mortgage payments and are also authorized for the utility bills.

Operating expenses paid for by your offerings include the BGE bill, the phone bill, and the water and sewer bills. Other expenses include our cleaning service, lawn cutting, trash removal, snow removal, landscaping, pest control, and floor and kitchen services. We also pay for property and liability insurance for the church and school, and we have a number of inspections and licenses that must be maintained. Another important place where offerings go, and one that you have heard of recently with our many repairs to the heating system, is to make repairs and maintain our equipment and facilities. As our building ages many things need to be repaired or replaced, or even freshened up with new paint.

While these expenses may seem mundane, they are an important part of our ministries. Everything that we do here from weekly worship, to the school and daycare, to community events, to meetings and Bible studies, relies on our facilities. Our beautiful building and grounds allow us to fulfill our mission and reach out to our community in practical and visible ways. Your offerings make that happen.

Youth News

Senior High Youth Sunday School meets every Sunday morning at 8:45 in the classroom behind the organ. It is currently being taught by Cameron Jones and they are looking at “false christs.” This is based on content from the book *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?* written by Pastor Matthew Richard and published by CPH. (The book is not needed for the class.)



Junior High Youth Sunday School meets at the same time in the Media Center with Jeffrey Hemmeter.

Upcoming Youth Events:

January

Laser Tag, Dinner, and Looking Forward – January 21st from 12:30 to 5:30
Volunteer at Family Fun Night on Wednesday, January 25th at 6:00 pm. Help put together 250 bagged lunches for a rescue center in Baltimore.

February

Super Bowls Subs – sell to congregation on January 29 and February 5, get together to assemble subs on Saturday, February 11th, hand out to congregation after the service on February 12th.

March

Event: coming soon!
Middle School District Youth Gathering in Williamsburg, VA March 24-26
Registration ~\$100. Sign-up [HERE](#).

April and May:

Events: coming soon!

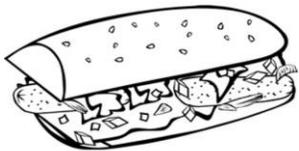
June

Volunteering at the Maryland Food Bank: June 3rd

July

Middle School + High School Summer Mission Trip in Blue Ridge Mountains, NC
July 4-9th with St. Paul's Glen Burnie
Please register your interest [HERE](#). This does not commit you to attending.

Super Bowl Subs



The Youth will be taking orders for Super Bowl subs on Sunday, January 29th and Sunday, February 5th. They will be delivered on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12th.

Amazon Smile

Did you know that you can support St. Paul every time you make an Amazon purchase? Sign up through <https://smile.amazon.com> and choose St. Paul Lutheran Church of Catonsville MD as your supported charity.

St. Paul Day School News

On December 14, at 1:15 PM, and again on December 15 at 6 PM, the students of St. Paul presented ***The Story of Christmas as Told by Mary***, a musical offering in seven scenes created by Marian R. Klundt and directed by Ms. Megan Turmel. Student actors acted out the seven scenes; each scene was narrated by another student. All this activity occurred against a painted backdrop of Bethlehem's buildings covered in snow.

All the students processed in, the Kindergarteners last with their angel wings and halos. The Mary trio then sang *Emmanuel, Emmanuel*, and Grade 2 sang *Oh, Come all Ye Faithful*. Scene 1 featured Mary and the angel Gabriel. As the narration went on, the actors portrayed the majestic angel and a very surprised Mary. Then the dancers, each dancer holding a stick topped with long ribbons, danced to the Pentatonix song *Mary Did You Know* with beautiful flowing gestures. Scene 2 featured a very fearful Joseph seeing the angel while the handbell players played *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* in beautiful harmony. Grade 3 sang *O Little Town of Bethlehem* to a piano accompaniment as Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem in Scene 3.

Scene 4 was the birth of Jesus. While Mary narrated what was happening, a baby Jesus suddenly appeared in the manger, and Grade 1 sang *Away in a Manger* with beautiful, authentic childlike joy in their voices. Scene 5 featured the Kindergarten angels, complete with wings and halos, appearing to the shepherds. Their small clear voices lifted in praise as they sang *Angels We Have Heard on High*. In Scene 6, the shepherds then visited the baby Jesus at the manger. The shepherds were visibly excited as Mary lifted the baby Jesus out of the manger so the shepherds could see him. In full lovely voice Grade 4 sang *Silent Night* in clear, two-part harmony. In the final scene, Scene 7, those same shepherds did what we are all asked to do as Christians by sharing the good news of Jesus' birth with strangers they met. Grades 4 and 5 sang an up-tempo, rousing gospel version of *Go Tell it on the Mountain*. The musical drama ended with *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* as once more the dancers danced and the singers sang harmony as they clapped down the aisle.

Overall, it was a magnificent feast for the eyes and ears. Each window in the church was decorated with small stained-glass windows hand-colored by the students. Heaven, by all accounts, involves singing. The fortunate audience of this musical play therefore had a foretaste of the singing feast to come as they joined the children in singing *Joy to the World*.



The St. Paul Day School Board

From the Mission Board



Kid's Christmas Morning – December 10th

Thank you to the St. Paul community for your mission spirit! Many volunteers are always needed to make this event happen: set-up Friday; publicity/registration/signage; ordering; planning; hosting and working on Saturday. We had 66 children plus parents and grandparents, gave out information on our church and school, and were able to offer up prayer requests for 3 people. This year we had more people from the community at our event, so there was a wider outreach of the Gospel.

Thank you to: the planning committee - Maria Frantz, Kate Baeder, Karyn Borth, Betsy Mitchell, Irene Giguere; PR and registration - Dana Stigdon, Pam Johnsson, Stan Stigdon, Cameron Jones; and to all the "elves" who, along with those already mentioned, worked one or both days (or prep before) - Christina Unglesbee, Josh Unglesbee, Kevin Dungey, Norm Giguere, Paul Baeder, Brian Erwin, Jim Lister, Suzanne Giguere, Grace MacDonald, Dasha Frech, Kirsten Hall, Linda Klingmeyer, Sam Napoleone, Sally Foks - And to our substitute Santa, Jim Baeder.



ESL (English as a Second Language)

Our Winter session begins on Monday, January 23. Looking for a ministry opportunity? See Irene Giguere to volunteer.

Orphan Grain Train Coat Collection

The OGT Coat Collection officially ended on December 15, but donations are still coming in. On November 10, 420 coats were shipped to Ukraine. Since then another 534 have been distributed locally through St. Thomas, Faith & Work, Sharp-Leadenhall School, Nazareth LC, St. Vincent de Paul Church, and Linda's Legacy. Thank you for your support – 954 and still counting!