



St. Paul
Lutheran Church

Walking Together

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Catonsville, MD

March 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

Lent, In the Plural

In our culture almost everything gets boiled down to I, me, mine. We live in a place and time where we think and approach and live in a very individualistic way. Most matters (pleasure, career, money, politics, etc.) are viewed in terms where the individual, the lone person, is primary.

Religion is no different. Salvation becomes a matter of me and Jesus. Prayer is primarily thought of as me praying to God. "I" do good works, "I" follow Jesus, "I" am a Christian, mostly in ways which are solo, private, personal.

The Scriptures by and large think in a different way. There, the "people of God" are primary. God chose an entire nation to be his. The story of the Old Testament is the story of an entire group which God dealt with and provided for and guided. The New Testament as well. Jesus came to be the cornerstone for a building built of individual stones but joined as one temple, one building. The church is the body of Christ and individual members of it cannot live without being connected to the whole.

It is now the season of Lent. I want to encourage you to approach Lent in a way which is less individualistic, less all about you alone as a Christian. Less singular and more plural. A Lenten season as a congregation. During Lent we focus on Christ who gave himself us to make a holy people, who gathers us into his church as a body, where together we know his salvation and together live out his call.

Lent in the plural means focusing on being together in midweek and Sunday services. Lent in the plural means praying together as families and as a church. Lent in the plural means praying for those in our congregation, in our families and in our communities. Lent in the plural means being willing to forgive and to admit sins and mistakes, and being willing to say, "I don't have all the answers." Lent in the plural means sacrificing and sharing for those who are connected to you and those who are around you. Giving up something for Lent should mean the extra you now have you share. Maybe someone in the congregation is hurting, maybe someone in your neighborhood has a need or a difficulty you can help with, maybe a church member needs a visit or phone call.

During these next few weeks let us travel *together* to the cross and to the joyful celebration of the Resurrection.

Pastor Alms

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.

LENTEN SERVICES

Lent Midweek Services Wednesdays -- 11 am and 7 pm

Theme: Baptismal Waters Cover Me – Old Testament Stories of Water

Midweek 1, March 1 – Creation: Genesis 1

Midweek 2, March 8 – The Flood: Genesis 6-8

Midweek 3, March 15 -- The Red Sea: Exodus 14

Midweek 4, March 22 – Namaan, Washing in the Jordan: 2 Kings 5

Midweek 5, March 29 – Jonah 1 and 2



Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, April 2nd 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday April 6th, 7 p.m. with Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 7th, 7 p.m.

Easter Vigil, April 8th, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunrise, April 9th, 7 a.m.

Resurrection of Our Lord Festival Worship, April 9th, 10 a.m. with Lord's Supper

Past Services

Check it out and share with others!

Did you know. . . that all our past services are available to stream anytime? Link is [HERE](#) or <https://stpaulcatonsville.org/about-us/recent-online-services/>. Did you know, also. . . past sermons are available to listen to as audio files [HERE](#) or https://stpaulcatonsville.org/information/sermon_audio/

News From the Elders

These are the Elders for 2022-2023; contact any of us with personal concerns: Kevin Dungey (Chairman), Jim Baeder, Norm Giguere, Roy Krakat, Bill Oldhouser, Jeff Piegols, and Bruce Staudinger

The Glory of the Handbells

The elders assist the Pastor with everything to do with our worship services. We are therefore very thankful that a group of steadfast volunteers have brought the handbell choir back into our worship services. We know how much time it takes to rehearse and practice and want to say here how beautiful the handbells sound and what a gift they are to worship.

Altar Care Volunteers Needed

We are certain you have read the appeals in the bulletin for volunteers to help with altar care. This is typically a monthly volunteer stretch. A team of two people is ideal because sometimes altar care requires changing the paraments, the altar cloths, to reflect the colors appropriate to each season of the church year. Duties also include preparing and removing the wine and wafers for communion, placing the flowers on the altar, and refilling the candle receptacles with oil. If you are able to help, talk with Kevin or Robbin Dungey. We need help beginning in April.

The Brunch for Southeastern District President Harmon

Many thanks to all who volunteered to make the brunch for SED President Harmon such an uplifting success. We thank those who set up and took down the tables and chairs, those who brought food, and those who directed all those attending.

Adult Education

As we have written in prior newsletters, the Elders and Pastor want to increase every member's access to adult education at St. Paul. Our subcommittee has met and as a result we are offering three different Bible studies this spring. The elders have also discussed offering special non-Sunday Bible studies to discuss such topics as the challenges of being a Christian in our society. Please let Kevin Dungey or Pastor Alms know of any topics you would enjoy learning more about.

In His service,
Kevin Dungey,
Board of Elders



Thy Strong Word

Pastor Alms will be on the KFUO radio Program "Thy Strong Word" on Tuesday March 28th at noon. The topic will be Judges, chapter 2. The program livestreams at kfuo.org and will be available to access on demand after the show has aired.

Thanks from Beans & Bread Center

St. Vincent de Paul thanks us for supporting them with 245 bagged lunches! With our gift, we invest in their mission to ensure that individuals and families have the resources and opportunity to care for themselves and build a better future. Thanks to all who participated.

From the Congregational President

How can it already be February? With the warm weather and so little snow, I hope we are not getting lulled into a false sense of spring frolicking only to get walloped by some late winter precipitation. Although, I am sure the kids would love to have a day off so they can shovel the driveway...hahaha.

The church recently received a generous gift from the estate of Mary Uhland. We are thankful to both Mary and Bruce for this gift, and will ensure that it is used in a manner to glorify God's grace.

Church Council will be meeting in February to start our budget process. Here is the schedule for our budget preparations (once again):

- February 28th – INPUT for budgets due from Ops Manager and Principal to AMB and SB respectively
- March 21st – DRAFT budgets due from boards to Council
- April 18th – REVISION budgets due
- May 16th – FINAL budget for voters in June
- May 21st – Reports and budget available to voters to review
- June 4th – Voters Meeting after church in fellowship hall

As a reminder we need to following positions to be filled around the church:

- Council Vice President
- Offering counters
- Streamers for the Stream Team
- Altar Guild

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

Moses: Live On Stage

Sign up now!

Tickets are very limited to see "Moses" at the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA on Saturday, April 29th. Together we will experience one of the Bible's most epic stories. Price is \$84.55 each, to be paid by check made out to John Borth. Please sign up to attend [HERE](#) or call Dana in the church office at 410-747-1897 to reserve your seat. There is also a sign-up sheet near the water fountain.

The show begins at 3:00 PM and runs 2 hours and 30 minutes. Travel time is approximately 1 and 1/2 hours each way. We will drive individually and/or carpool from church at Noon and return around 7:30 PM. Light snacks and drinks are available at the theater. Please plan accordingly if you want to stop for lunch or dinner with your carpool.

Link to sign up: [Sign up here](#). Deadline to sign up: March 18th.

News From the Day School Board

2023/2024 School Year Enrollment

- Early Childhood Center (ECC) – Infant through 4 years
 - Expected to be at capacity for the 2023/2024 school year at 72 students
- Elementary Kindergarten to 5th Grade planned enrollment is 72 students
 - 5th Grade – 12
 - 4th Grade – 9
 - 3rd Grade – 18
 - 2nd Grade – 11
 - 1st Grade – 10
 - Kindergarten – 12

Media Center Changing to the Learning Center – The Ministry of St. Paul is Growing!

On February 19th after the 10 AM worship we dedicated the “new” Learning Center. We have enclosed the media center with glass walls to create a new learning environment. This room is used for Music, STEM, Aftercare, Small Group Student Sessions, 1:1 Student Sessions, Bible Study, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Please stop by and tour/enjoy this new space.

Scripps National Spelling Bee

This will be the 3rd year that St. Paul Catonsville will host the Baltimore Area Lutheran School (BALS) Spelling Bee. Each school will hold their own Spelling Bee to determine who participates in the BALS Bee on March 9th. The St. Paul Spelling Bee will be on Thursday, February 23rd.

School Spirit Yard Signs - \$25 Donation

Show your support and advertise our school by placing a sign in your yard or buy a sign for a school family to use in their yard. Sign Up at [YARD SIGN](#). After we order the signs, we will collect the \$25 donation.

\$500 New Family Bonus

Refer a family to St. Paul and when they enroll they will receive a \$500 tuition credit. The credit will be applied to their tuition account in December of 2023. Ask the family to mention your name when they contact the school. The family can eMail principal@stpaulcatonsville.org or call the school office at 410-747-1924 for enrollment information.

“New” Teacher (2023/2024) and NEW Afterschool Program Offerings

Our current part-time music teacher, Ms. Turmel, completed her master’s degree in Music Education this past summer. Congratulations! And job well done! Ms. Turmel will join our team full-time in the 2023/2024 school year. Ms. Turmel will continue to lead our music program and support our resource teacher. Additional responsibilities will include establishing the Catonsville Youth Music Conservatory (CYMC), Director of Afterschool Enrichment programs, and substitute teaching. The CYMC will offer after-school music lessons (vocal and instrumental) and hold student recitals throughout the year. Afterschool enrichment programs under consideration are chess, reading, and Lego/robotics clubs. These clubs will be held in addition to and separate from aftercare.

From the Asset Management Board

As everyone has noticed, costs have risen a great deal and continue to do so. This also affects the church expenses, especially our energy costs. Energy costs for commercial establishments are even higher than for residences, so please make sure lights and fans, etc. are turned off when you leave.

In an effort to help reduce our energy costs, the church has signed up with Neighborhood Solar as our electric supplier. The church has a share in a solar farm and this earns us credits on our BGE bill. This will give us approximately a 5% reduction in the electric portion of our bill.

Plans are underway at this time to move forward with the renovation of the storage room in the lower level. As was passed by the voters last June, we will be turning the storage room into a classroom for the ECC. At this time we are finishing plans for permit and will soon be getting bids from contractors. The work should be done later this year.

Spring is fast approaching and that means that it is time to start thinking about the flower beds around the church. Anyone who has an interest in gardening or would like to help keep our property beautiful, please see June Harris or contact her at 410-499-6266 or by email, juneharris531@aol.com. We are always in need of volunteers to help out.

In His Service,

Suzanne Giguere

What Do Your Offerings Do?

St. Paul Lutheran School

The generosity of talents (monies) that members of St. Paul provide each week makes it possible to continue its calling and mission of over 65 years of delivering Christ-centered care and learning to families within our local community. The building, maintenance of the property, insurance and utilities are paid for in total by the congregation. The congregation also funds the operations manager and bookkeeper positions critical to our daily and fiscal operations. The cost of this support averages to be \$1400 per student. St. Paul is a Nationally Accredited Lutheran School and a Maryland Credentialed Childcare center. The generous financial support for the school ministry provides an affordable and high-quality care and educational option for preschool and elementary-age children within our local community.

However, most importantly, the dedicated staff of St. Paul provides the care and teaching of children in the context of a Biblical-based Christian worldview. Our total student population for the 2022/2023 school year is 146. This equates to sharing the Christian worldview and Gospel with over 400 persons (parents, siblings, grandparents, and other family members) in our community on a daily basis. Over 95% of our students are not members of St. Paul and approximately 70% of our school families indicated they are NOT connected with a community faith.

God provides for in amazing ways for the St. Paul school ministry on a daily basis. We look forward to seeing the amazing things He has planned for the future through your continuing dedication and support. We ask that you keep this ministry in your prayers on a regular basis.

Ladies Guild

Upcoming Meetings

- Tuesday, February 28th at 7:00 PM in the Learning Center at church.
- Tuesday, March 28th at 10:00 AM at Pat Wesselman's Home. Bring a bag lunch and plan on staying afterwards for some fellowship.

Blind Ministries

We will be serving a meal for the blind ministries at Martini Lutheran Church on March 25th. We will decide on a menu at our February meeting. We will need cooks and servers. Many of you have participated with this outreach when it was held at St Thomas, it is truly a rewarding experience.

LWML Prayer Breakfast

LWML prayer breakfast will be held on Saturday March 4th at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Laurel. Check News and Notes in the bulletin closer to the event for more information.

Altar Care Committee

The Altar Care Committee continues to seek congregation members willing to set up and clear off the altar on Sundays. This altar work goes easiest if two people do this on a Sunday, so we especially welcome couples who are willing to volunteer. Each pair/couple will commit to one month (or even two!) during the year. The duties include the following:

1. Set up the altar with wine and wafers and clean up after
2. Change altar paraments and banners when appropriate
3. Take linens home and launder them if they become stained with wine
4. Set out what is needed (water in the font, etc.) when there is a baptism

Don't worry! Training is available. One of our current volunteers will help you until you feel comfortable with the duties.

If you are willing (you don't need to be part of a pair or couple), please contact Robbin Dungey at marthadungey@gmail.com or call her at 410 698-2766.



Community Craft Day

Please join us for Craft Day on Saturday, March 4th. Whether you want to sew, crochet, cross stitch, scrapbook, paint, or _____ (fill in your favorite creative activity) you are welcome to come! Enjoy fellowship while you pursue your creativity. The Fellowship Hall will be open from 9-4 that Saturday, with plenty of space and tables to spread out your projects. We look forward to seeing you!

A special treat this month, join us for a **Beginner Watercolor Lesson** series: Saturday March 4th from 1pm – 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall during Community Craft Day. We will be watching a couple of videos and working through them at our pace during our time together. All supplies this month will be provided, but please let Heather know you are coming (443-768-2483 or heather.krakat@gmail.com) so she can bring in enough supplies.

Easter Egg Hunt

Eggs on the Lawn!

Our community Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday, April 8, from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. Last year we hosted 148 children and their families at this event. We were able to share the Gospel with our Resurrection Egg Trunks before we invited them to gather eggs around our property. Lots of volunteers and donations are needed. Starting in March, there will be a collection bin for candy and plastic eggs in the entry way, and a volunteer sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs.



Orphan Grain Train

Support to Turkey

On February 9, the Maryland Branch was able to add our donations, along with those of other individuals and organizations, of quilts, winter coats, winter clothing and blankets/linens to a special airlift to Turkey. The airlift was undertaken by the Turkish Embassy and OGT is thankful we could contribute 47 boxes of winter clothes, 31 quilts, 93 boxes of linens, and almost 300 warm winter coats. We understand that the items were to arrive on February 13 and be distributed. It's a blessing we could help in this way.

Concordia Preparatory School

Did you know we have an excellent accredited secondary school in our area named Concordia Preparatory School? St Paul is actively involved in supporting the mission of Concordia Preparatory School in Towson, Maryland through its Mission Budget with portions of the church's tithe plus sending our students to the school post graduation from St Paul Elementary School. Concordia Prep opened its



CONCORDIA PREP

doors as Baltimore Lutheran School in 1965 offering an excellent, quality education. We are proud to have this school in our area and have had a rich affiliation with the school since it was founded. We have counted many St Paul Members as alumni and have had numerous members on their staff and teaching ranks. Concordia Prep is grateful for

the support from our congregation. It reaches more unchurched students with the gospel each and every year just like St Paul! Please pray for the excellent Christian Education available in our area that these institutions will continue to plant the seed of Christ in each student's heart!

Missions Brunch



St Paul welcomed SED President Rev. Dr. Bill Harmon and his wife Gayle to our first annual Mission Brunch on Sunday, Feb 12th. After sharing the Word and Sacrament together in worship, we enjoyed a fabulous brunch and then a presentation on how the SED serves its congregations and people. Pastor Harmon shared with us the Mission and Vision of the SED, “connecting people to Jesus so that lives are transformed and God’s Kingdom grows.” The district’s theme verse this year is from Ephesians 3 where we hear that

God can do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine. Pastor Harmon challenges each of us to use the gifts of God that he has blessed us with to do immeasurably more. What a blessing that would be! Before leaving, Pastor and Gayle were kind enough to leave their handprints as we’re Growing Together in Christ!



It was a wonderful event with about 75 in attendance. Thank you to the many volunteers who prepared and served food, shopped for supplies, worked to set up and clean up, and organized behind the scenes. We look forward to our 2nd annual Missions Brunch next February.

-Irene Giguere, Mission Board

SED Prayer Requests

President Harmon left us with a picture of the vast outreach opportunities we have to the 33 million people that live within the Southeastern District and asked us to pray for the following:

- That the Lord would give us every opportunity to connect people with Jesus.
- That through the mission and ministry of the SED, lives would be transformed.
- That through the mission and ministry of the SED, God’s Kingdom would grow.
- That the Lord would bless every congregation, every school,, every service organization, every worker, with every resource needed to do immeasurably more than they can ask or imagine.
- That every worker and their families would have the blessings of the Holy Spirit upon them and within them.
- That the Priesthood of Believers would be empowered through the Spirit to give witness to their faith in their communities.
- That the Spirit of the Living God would create faith in the hearts of the 33 million people living within the boundaries of the SED.



Ramirez Family Missionaries

The Ramirez Family is grateful to start 2023 in Peru. South of the equator it is summer, so the new year has brought a break from school, sunshine and hot weather. Praise the Lord. Abraham is taking soccer and swimming lessons and Eliana has been hanging out at church with mommy. We were able to purchase a car in January to allow us to travel and support the different ministries around the city.

As we shared in December Jeancarlos' once again needs treatment for his Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM). We give thanks for an initial exploratory procedure which was completed during January. He will be having a surgical procedure done in the coming months. We know that our Lord is faithful and trust in Him. We are grateful for your prayers during this time.

Read more about their ministry in there January & February Newsletter found [HERE](#). Don't forget to look for them on Facebook for more updates, photos and videos from the mission field. www.facebook.com/RamirezMissions

Good Friends, Good Theology, Good Beer

Lutheran Books and Beer will meet March 23rd at 7 PM at the Rathskellar in Arbutus. We are discussing [Grace Upon Grace](#) by John Kleinig.

Cemetery Committee Report

Yes, St Paul Lutheran Church has a cemetery. Is it possible that some of you did not know that? It is located at 1022 Joh Ave, about six miles from our church. The area is known as Violetville and the city line goes through our property. We have owned it since 1882.

The cemetery is approximately 80% filled and about 1,500 people are interred there. The Cemetery Committee manages sales as well as the upkeep of the property. The price of a plot for Church Members (and all Lutherans) is \$500. This is certainly the least expensive cemetery in the Baltimore area. The price includes perpetual care of the grounds.

Admittedly, the purchase of cemetery property is not the highest priority for most people. However, it should be. We plan for our retirement, but we often do not plan for our eventual demise, even though this is a certainty. I encourage you to tour the grounds and make a purchase. Consider also, the cost of funerals. These are much higher than cemetery costs and plan for these as well. I am ready to educate and assist you in this vital area.

Paul D Lubell, Chairman
443-612-9956

Fellowship Hour Refreshments

Sign up to provide Fellowship Hour Refreshments. There are open Sundays throughout March and April.



Fellowship