



St. Paul
Lutheran Church

Walking Together

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Catonsville, MD

April 2023



Holy Week

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

Flower Opportunities!

Easter Lilies

Remember to purchase lilies that will beautify the sanctuary on Easter morning and then beautify your home. Each plant is \$12.50. Orders are due on Sunday **March 26th**.

Easter Flower Cross

Bring your LIVE flowers and bouquets (no plastic please!) on Easter Sunday to the outside of the church near the red doors where we will cover a wooden Lenten cross with fresh flowers. The flower cross will be a beautiful testament to the resurrection of Jesus and the new life He brings by his victory over death. So don't forget. . . bring flowers for Easter!



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 Pastor's Desk

In Praise of Maundy Thursday

When it comes to Holy Week, Good Friday is the big attraction. And well it should be. Jesus dies on the cross for our salvation. The whole world is rescued from sin and death by his blood. The Son of God, God himself, dies in human flesh. The cosmos shudders and recoils in horror even while the church calls it "Good".

But let me put in a good word for the night before. Thursday. It is a service that can get overlooked.

When one is parceling out one's church attendance budget (how much time do I have to spend in church) Easter Sunday is a must and Good Friday tends to hog the rest of the time. But I suggest that Maundy Thursday is well worth your attention. Here Christ gives a precious gift and what the cross means and how Christ's suffering comes to us and the victory and joy that results becomes perfectly and personally and tangibly clear. Together we receive the very body and blood of Christ.

Here is a short description of the Maundy Thursday service. Hope to see you there.

The service is in four parts:

1. **The Service of Reconciliation** marks the end of Lent. On Ash Wednesday we confessed our sin in a special way and tonight we are absolved, forgiven. We share the peace with one another (shaking hands) indicating that we seek to forgive as God has forgiven us.
2. **The Service of the Word** where we hear of the Thursday before his crucifixion when our Lord gave the gift of his body and blood to us for the forgiveness of our sins.
3. **The Service of the Lord's Supper** where we go to the table of the Lord where he gives us to eat of his suffering and the fruits of the Cross.
4. **The Stripping of the Altar.** The altar represents Christ and is laid bare, made desolate. The service ends with the suffering and agony of Christ on the cross and leads us into Good Friday.

Pastor Alms

Easter Egg Hunt

Coming soon!!! April 8th, 10 a.m. – 12 noon. Registration is online and entrance is timed. [Register HERE.](#) Volunteers will present the Easter Gospel, hide eggs, welcome guests and share information about church and school ministries. Our "Bubble Man," Ron Bennett, is coming to entertain those waiting for the "hunt". Look for volunteer opportunities - sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.



Save the Date

Outdoor Worship and Church and School Picnic will be on Sunday, May 21st. Mark your calendars!.

From the Congregational President

March is here and that means spring...but it's cold...but it's hot...the temperatures are making me confused! We lost an hour of sleep already, and we need to prep for allergy season. There is a lot going on at church as well.

I wanted to take a moment and thank the members of the congregation who jumped into action when we had a couple of incidents during service over the past month. It shows how much we love and look out for each other. We know that the temperature variations outdoors and the less than nimble heating and cooling system indoors can make things a bit hotter than we care for. To try and mitigate this, we have lowered the temperature on the thermostat and are running the system fan during service. Additionally, we are opening the windows prior to service to get some fresh air into the sanctuary. Once again, thank you to everyone who has helped out.

If there happens to be any future incidents, everyone should also know that St. Paul has an AED device kept in a red carrying case on top of the coat rack across from the women's lavatory. The device talks the user through its use and does not require CPR training in order to use it. We have passed this information along with videos on how to use the device ([here](#) and [here](#)) to the usher team and the elders. It is also good to know in case you are at church and there aren't ushers or elders around.

Now let's discuss the budget. You have seen the dates before and here are the remaining dates for this year:

- 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

That's some of where we are going, but what have we been doing? Well, if you remember, we passed a large deficit budget last year. I'm pleased to say that we are doing better than we had expected, and instead of a budgeted \$94K deficit, we are currently at \$74K, and very likely at a \$54K deficit by the end of the year. This is better than planned, but still a deficit. The school has made wonderful improvements in its faculty, curriculum, and technology and is meeting the goals we set for this year. Enrollment is good, the income isn't quite there yet, but we are trending in the right direction. The investment in the school is needed and over the next 2 years we will continually reassess our plan. Running at a deficit is not sustainable, but it's something we need to do in the short term to reach our goal of a sustainable school mission. Over the next couple of months we will provide more detail on these numbers and goals, but I want everyone to know that we are accomplishing what we set out to do.

We also want to provide a high-level update on where we are at with our surplus funds. We had about \$308K in surplus at the end of last year. If we take out the principal payment on the mortgage of \$26K, that puts us at \$282K left. We passed a \$94K deficit, which put us at \$188K, however, as mentioned above, that could be down to \$54K which means we have \$228K left.

We also approved money to be spent on remodeling the storage room, media center, a new sound system, and a site review, totaling \$148K. That would leave us around \$80K of surplus funds going into this next year. That number will likely be a bit higher considering what was spent on the remodeling efforts and sound system. Details on what was spent on these efforts, with more exact numbers, will be available in the future.

The church council is working hard on the next budget and we look forward to presenting that to you in May and June. We will also be looking to vote on the following positions:

- Council President
- Council Vice President
- Council Secretary
- Asset Management Board
- Mission Board
- School Board

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, or you have questions about them, let myself or the board chair know.

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 April 18th, 2023 at 7pm.

Blessings to all,
Aaron Nelson
nelsaar@yahoo.com

News From the Elders

New Elder. Roy Krakat, newly retired and in desperate need of something to do, has agreed to join the Board of Elders. Roy previously served as an Elder for many years and we are thrilled to add his experience and wisdom to the Board. Watch for an announcement of a special voters' meeting in the near future at which we will request Roy's formal election as an Elder by the congregation.

Confirmands. We have a group of seven junior confirmands this year: Carter Dungey, Michael Hemmeter, Rachel Johnson, Charlotte McKay, Gretchen Nelson, Ella Nelson and Khourtney Orujov. Please keep them in your prayers in the coming weeks as they complete their studies, undergo their Elders' interviews, and prepare to confess their faith publicly in the Rite of Confirmation during the worship service on June 11.

Holy Week Services. Please plan to attend Holy Week services as we follow our Lord to the cross and the tomb and celebrate His resurrection. The worship schedule for Holy Week is:

Sunday, April 2	Palm Sunday	10:00 am
Thursday, April 6	Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm
Friday, April 7	Good Friday	7:00 pm
Saturday, April 8	Easter Vigil	7:00 pm
Sunday, April 9	Easter Sunday	7:00 am Easter Sunrise Service 10:00 am Easter Festival Worship

In His service,
Bill Oldhouser,
Board of Elders

Invite Someone to Easter Services!

Your neighbor or friend or co-worker or family member might be thinking about church this Easter season. They just need an invitation. Invite them. We have St Paul Easter postcards with service info and times you can use to share or mail or give to anyone. Pick yours up at church. Also we will send out a digital version.



What Do Your Offerings Do?

The St. Paul Board of Elders

The role of the St. Paul Board of Elders is to assist Pastor with all aspects of worship at St. Paul and with the care of each member. Your offerings, whenever and however you give them, make all those aspects of our worship at St. Paul possible, from serving and receiving communion and taking part in every aspect of worship at each service, to hearing and taking part in the sacred music that we all feel blessed to enjoy, to providing the very bulletins we use to worship.

Your offerings support the salary of our Pastor and provide for his family. Your offerings further support our church staff: our operations manager, Steve Haar, and the other church office staff, Dana Stigdon and Debbie Oldhouser, who ensure that communications go out in a timely way, that we have worship bulletins, that the life of St. Paul is organized so that each one of us can be a functioning part of the St. Paul family, and that our budget process is transparent and effective.

Your freewill offerings support our organist and choir director, who coordinates the worship music that has been for so many years a glorious aspect of our worship, and ensure that St. Paul's marvelous organ is in good repair and in tune.

Finally, your freewill offerings have made it possible for St. Paul to stream worship (how essential that was during the pandemic) to those who cannot attend services or who are part of our worship community even though we may not see them.

All the elders join in thanking you for your generosity. Know that it supports and enables the life of Godly worship we enjoy at St. Paul.

Ladies Guild

Upcoming Meetings

- Tuesday, March 28th at 10:00 AM at Pat Wesselman's Home. Bring a bag lunch and plan on staying afterwards for some fellowship.
- Tuesday, April 25th at 7:00 PM in the Learning Center at church.

Spaghetti Dinner

Ladies please mark your calendars, the Spaghetti Dinner will be on Thursday April 27th starting at 5:00. We will need to be at church by 3:00 that afternoon to set up tables and prepare the food.

From the Asset Management Board

February was the first month that we received solar credits from Neighborhood Solar on our electric bill. In addition to the credits we receive from our part of the solar farm, we also receive a credit from Neighborhood Solar of \$25 for anyone who signs up with them and uses our referral code. If you have an interest in reducing your electric bill and signing up with Neighborhood Solar, please use our referral code when you do so. If you go to <https://ns.solarforall.io/signup.cfm> and enter *haar* in the Subscriber Referral Code box, the church will receive the credit.

The lighting contactor for the sanctuary has been replaced recently, so we can go back to using the controller to switch the lights.

We are still looking for another 2 or 3 people to help out with the flower beds. Please contact June Harris if you would be willing to help.

In His Service,
Suzanne Giguere

A Respite Break

Embracing Exceptional Kids and Their Families

If you or someone you know is looking for a safe, fun place for your child or teen with special needs or disabilities while you get a break, look no further! Faith Lutheran Church in Eldersburg, Maryland is hosting "Parent's Night Out" (for ages 4 mos - 21yrs & their siblings) once a month on either a Friday Evening or Saturday Day. (See Below For Dates)Lutheran.

The day/evening will be packed full of fun & engaging activities. Includes lunch/dinner, refreshments, fun craft activity & take home item. Our leadership team and volunteers have been fully trained through Caring Communities Respite Care Program. <https://caringcommunities.org> Multiple trained CPR/First Aide providers will be on premises at all times.

Registration and intake process IS required to attend. Please allow a minimum of 2 weeks to process. Space is limited! For more information and to sign up, contact: Sharon Ihde at 443-622-5983 or smihde@comcast.net

When: Friday Eve: 6pm-9pm
Saturday: 11am-2pm

Where: Faith Lutheran Church
1700 St Andrews Way
Eldersburg, MD 21784

Dates: February 17, 2023 (Friday)
April 21, 2023 (Friday)
June 16, 2023 (Friday)
August 18, 2023 (Friday)

March 18, 2023 (Saturday)
May 20, 2023 (Saturday)
July 15, 2023 (Saturday)
Sept 16, 2023 (Saturday)

Mission Board News

Diaper Collection

Thank you to all who brought in children's diapers during February. The St. Paul community brought in almost 3,000 diapers! These were given to the local branch of ShareBaby to distribute in the Baltimore area. Special thanks to Grace McDonald and Dasha Frech, who (several times) brought our donations to the local drop off location. What a wonderful community outreach- and opportunity to help some of the most vulnerable in our society.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Our winter session ends on March 30. We had a chance to share culture and language with the 10 - 12 people who came regularly, as well as to pray for each other. We plan to have several "field trip" experiences during the spring and summer. Thank you to assistants Joyce Waibel, Brian Erwin, Martha Wagley, Mary Techau (Our Savior) and community volunteers Betsy Whipps, Toni Hiteshew and Lisa Risaul. We couldn't have the program without the dedicated commitment of those willing to give this gift of time.

Students this year came from Pakistan, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, El Salvador, Columbia, South Korea, China, and Myanmar. Age range this year? Our youngest was an 8th grader and oldest, a returning gentleman of 76! Some will go on to more challenging English programs, while others return year after year, enjoying the fellowship, learning and pace of our classes. Our Fall session begins on Monday, September 18. If you are interested in finding out more, talk with Irene Giguere (lead teacher).

Shred Event

Clear out those desks and home offices after tax season. Our free community Shred Event is Saturday, May 6th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Let your friends and neighbors know.

Shine Jesus' Light

VBS will be back again this year. It will take place June 26th-30th from 9am to 12pm. The theme this year is Stellar VBS in SPACE! Shine Jesus' Light! Your help and support is needed with this exciting



experience to help kids praise God and learn more about the wondrous things He does. If you are willing and able to serve this year or know someone who is, please reach out to Kirsten Hall at 925-605-9263 or Kirsten.hall@splscatonsville.org. There are many ways to get involved.

Volunteer Positions:

- Helping with decorations (creating/setting up/taking down)
- Leading a group of kids around to the stations (Preschool or Elementary aged kids)
- Leading a station for the elementary groups or preschool groups (Imagination Station, Video, Games, Snack, Bible Story)
- Helping with the Opening/Closing (leading songs or helping with message)
- Tech Assistants (photography, videos)
- Welcome crew (welcoming/guiding families in the morning)
- Donating food and supplies