



St. Paul
Lutheran Church

Walking Together

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School
Catonsville, MD
May 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

St. Paul Lutheran Church and the Holy Spirit

Sometimes it is hard to connect the everyday life of a congregation with the high-sounding profound truths of Scripture, church year and catechism. Here on the ground, we crunch numbers for a budget, mop the floor, have long meetings, chase children at recess, beg for volunteers and try to get along with our families. Every week, every year, the work continues.

But we hear in the Bible and in preaching of spiritual matters like the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, the holy Christian church, communion, and redemption. These words and concepts are impressive and important and often very unlike the day-to-day life of a bunch of people trying to do the best they can at being a Christian congregation.

But the festival of Pentecost helps us tie the two together. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the church by the triumphant ascended Jesus and the apostles preached the gospel and the church went forth in mission to the world. On May 28th we will celebrate Pentecost and we will sing this antiphon with the Psalm:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

That refrain connects the hum drum everyday life of a congregation with the important life-giving matters of the Bible and the Christian. The Spirit comes and fills us. The Spirit fills us with Christ and his grace and power. By faith the Spirit gives us all that Christ has and is and does. These are the very things that we hear of in preaching and teaching and the liturgy of the church.

But the Holy Spirit also creates in us: love. Love toward others. Love for those around us, our families, our community, our fellow church members. Love for those who need to hear the Gospel.

The Holy Spirit ties together doctrine and preaching with the everyday life we lead. Faith and love. At St. Paul the Spirit is at work among us filling us with Christ and his gifts. And filling us with love to serve others. Praise the Lord for the gift of the Holy Spirit here now among us that we might trust in our Savior and reach out and make a difference in our families and community and congregation!

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.

From the Congregational President

We are flying through spring, going from April to May. Easter was wonderful, celebrating our Savior's victory over death and the grave. A few more months and we will be full steam into summer. Where does the time go?

I know I have been writing a lot about the budget lately, and this newsletter is no different, however, I want to take a moment to point out how AMAZING God is!!! He provides for us all the time. Look around...despite COVID and worship attendance going down nationwide, our attendance has increased around 20 percent since 2020. We expected a deficit budget last year of \$94K and now we are looking at a positive result...our latest projection looks to bring us in around \$32K in the negative...which is \$60K better than expected!!! God is AMAZING!!!

With attendance up and our budget for this year in the black, I want to point some things out that will be discussed at our voter's meeting in June. Our overall giving is up slightly from last year (including special one-time gifts) but is not up to what we budgeted. We ended up in the black largely from grants we received for the school. But these grants are not something that we can bank on every year. In fact, with societal and political views contradicting church values, we won't be receiving these grants much longer. But look what God has done...he provided for the church and school even with giving down a bit. That is AMAZING!!!

The budget that will be presented this year will once again be a deficit budget. The expenses are a reflection of what it takes to run the church and school. There isn't room to cut the budget if we want to continue in this time of growth. The school is growing and the church is growing, and this budget is what is required for this growth model. We know God provides...but this doesn't mean we should put him to the test. Imagine what God can do if we are able to give more! Who knows? Let's find out. What does this mean? We want to challenge the congregation to give more. Not because we need to or we shut things down. Not because you are forced to. We want the congregation to give more so we can see God do more! Here are the two challenges we will present to the congregation.

1. 100 DOLLAR A MONTH CHALLENGE – The first thing the council is challenging the congregation with is to give an extra \$100 per month. If every envelope gives an extra \$100 per month, our deficit budget decreases immensely. Do it if you can. If you can't, we understand. Let's see what God can do when we step up to the challenge of running our church and school in this forward leaning growth model.
2. CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO PAY OFF THE MORTGAGE – The second thing the council will bring to the voters in June is a motion to run a Capital Campaign. Our goal with this campaign is to eliminate our mortgage payment and kick-start a base fund to maintain and update our facilities. There is much that can be done to improve our facilities and we need to start prepping and being proactive with our efforts. If we can raise enough funds to eliminate our mortgage, that will reduce our yearly expenses by roughly \$40K. Let's get back on a positive income track and sustain the growth of our church and school. If we give more, who knows what God will do...let's find out!

I know this is a lot to ask. But I can't tell you how excited I am to see what God has done over the years and where we are going. The school is growing. The church is growing. We have the opportunity to continue our mission and reach the lost, disciple the saved, and care for our neighbors everywhere. We can absolutely do this and I'm excited to see where we will be next year. God is AMAZING!!!

There will be more to come over the next few months...once again here are the dates:

- May 16th – FINAL budget for voters in June
- May 21st – Reports and budget available to voters to review
- June 4th – Voter’s Meeting after church in fellowship hall

Once again...remember that we are looking to fill the following positions. This is a wonderful time to join the council and help us grow the school and church even further:

- Council President – currently myself, willing to run again
- Council Vice President – currently vacant
- Council Secretary – currently Jay B., won’t be running again
- Asset Management Board – currently Suzanne G., won’t be running again
- Mission Board – currently Irene G., won’t be running again
- School Board – currently Carolyn L., considering running again

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 May 16th, 2023 at 7 pm.

Blessings to all,
Aaron Nelson
nelsaar@yahoo.com

On May 21st, Don’t Go to Church, Go to the Park!!

Sunday May 21 will be our Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic. Don’t go to church that Sunday, go to the park! There will be no Sunday School or Bible class on that day.

We will gather at Shelter 706 at the Pickall Area of Patapsco Valley State Park. Dress casual and stay for picnic fun after the service. This is a church and school event!

Fun and food will follow after the worship service. Hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks and desserts will be provided. Please bring a side to share. A playground and a basketball court are on site. All sorts of games! Don’t miss this time of fellowship with our church and school community!

The Pickall Area is about a ten minute drive from St. Paul. Directions from church:

Worship in the Park!



- Turn right onto Old Frederick Road towards Rolling Rd.
- Turn left onto North Rolling Rd. toward Security Square Mall.
- Go 2.5 miles, turn left onto Fairbrook Rd.
- Go 1 mile, turn left on Johnnycake Rd.
- groupGo 1.5 miles to Park Entrance on the left.

Or follow your GPS to: 8125 Johnnycake Road, Woodlawn MD 21244
GPS 39.31159 76.79091

News From the Elders

These are the elders for 2023; contact any of us with personal concerns via email, phone, or in person: Kevin Dungey (Chairman), Jim Baeder, Norm Giguere, Roy Krakat (made official by his election by the congregation on April 16, 2023), Bill Oldhouser, Jeff Piegols, and Bruce Staudinger.

Confirmation

The elders will interview the seven confirmands on June 7th and/or 8th, 6-8 p.m. This is not an oral exam but a chance for the elders and confirmands to discuss the faith they share and the privilege they also share in serving the Lord. Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for June 11th. The junior confirmands are Carter Dungey, Michael Hemmeter, Rachel Johnson, Ella Nelson, Charlotte McKay, Gretchen Nelson, and Khourtney Orujov.

Welcome to St. Paul Event

It is a great blessing that we have people who have been attending our services who have indicated to Pastor that they want to join the St. Paul congregation. Therefore, on Saturday, June 10th, the elders will host a Welcome to St. Paul event. Please plan to attend to show a warm welcome to our new members.

Easter Service

Our Easter service on April 9 was a wonderful celebration to conclude Holy Week. It was quite wonderful to see the sanctuary so full. We give God the glory that in a time when there are widespread church closings, St. Paul has been growing and is therefore better positioned to spread the Good News of the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. Thanks to all who made the services of Holy Week so beautiful and so meaningful.

In His service,
Kevin Dungey,
Board of Elders

St. Paul Annual Congregational Meeting

...will be on June 4th following worship. This is our once a year “voters” assembly. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Anyone who has been confirmed and is a member of St. Paul is a member of the “voters” assembly. We will celebrate and rejoice in the gifts God has given us, review the past year, pass a budget for the coming fiscal year (August to July), elect officers and look to the future with planning and actions to joyfully do the work of the church.

Community Shred Day

Invite your family members, friends and neighbors. On May 6, from 10:00 – 12 noon, St. Paul will host our FREE shred day. Looking for more involvement? Join us by volunteering to help that day. See Brian Erwin or Irene Giguere if you have questions. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs.



Mission Trip News

The mission trip with Samaritans Purse to Western Kentucky has been postponed due to scheduling details. A new week for the mission trip in August-October will be announced soon.

Women's Guild

The last meeting before summer will be a Salad Supper to be held on the 23rd of May at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Irene Giguere. All ladies are invited. We will be discussing the LWML Fall Rally. Watch for more information in the bulletin.

Community Craft Day

May Craft Day is approaching! We will again be in the Fellowship Hall on May 6, from 9-4, so folks can work on whatever crafting project they would like. There will be shredding in the parking lot that day but we will still be crafting away inside!



Also available, for anyone interested, is a watercolor class hosted by Heather Krakat from 1-3 pm. No experience needed!! Heather will bring all necessary supplies, for which she is asking \$5. Signing up is important so Heather knows how much to bring; please contact secretary@stpaulcatonsville.org to confirm.



White Envelopes? Blue Envelopes? Electronic?

At St. Paul there are a variety of ways to give and it can be confusing. Here is a short explainer.

White Offering Envelopes: In the box of envelopes you received, there are normal, every Sunday “white envelopes.” When you use these envelopes, your offering goes directly to the general fund to pay for the whole ministry and mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School: everything from electricity and salaries to school books and bulletins.

Blue Offering Envelopes: are the envelopes in your envelope box that are outlined in blue and say “Together in Faith We Build.” Any offering placed in these “blue” envelopes goes towards the mortgage and interest payments we have.

Electronic Giving: If you choose to give electronically through our website (<https://stpaulcatonsville.org/donation/>), you can give to the General Fund which is the same as the white envelopes. (There are also “special occasion” options in the drop down button.) If you text to give an offering (410.888.0161) that is also the same as the general fund white envelopes.

Please feel free to contact the church office with any other questions you have!

Easter Egg Hunt

Thanks to all in the congregation for your support in this event. Your donations of candy and plastic eggs helped fill over 2,200 eggs!

The day was breezy, but comfortable. One hundred fifty (150) children (plus parents and grandparents) learned about Jesus' death and resurrection as they stopped at Resurrection Trunks and received special eggs with crosses, edible stones and "empty". Thanks to Jim Baeder, Suzanne Alms, Grace McDonald and Pastor Alms for their Gospel narratives.

There are so many of you who helped make this event a success. People helped with preparation, decorating trunks, egg filling, publicity, set up, clean up, hiding eggs, greeting visitors, check-in, manning tables, perimeter patrol- and the list goes on! Thank you to the following:

Robbin Dungey	Kathy Schmidley	Dave Carnes
Pat Wesselman	Alma Vaught	Linda Klingmeyer
Linda Cook	Josh Unglesbee	Christopher Unglesbee
Norm Giguere	Brian Erwin	John Borth
Christina Unglesbee	Janet Lister	Hye Kyong Stern (ESL)
Chris Parsons	Kaity Parsons	Yvette Prince
Amanda McKay	Danny McKay	Charlotte McKay
Kirsten Hall	Carolyn Loudon	Pam Johnsson
Dana Stigdon	Cameron Jones	

A special thanks goes to: Steve Haar for being announcer extraordinaire; Ron Bennett who, with wife Betty and grandson Levi, gave us our bubble show; Jim Lister for always being willing to take photos, and to our Community Events Committee for the planning and organization: Karyn Borth, Betsy Mitchell, Maria Frantz, Kate Baeder, Irene Giguere.

Five people left prayer requests and these were shared with the Prayer Circle. There were 7 requests for church information, several with questions about Baptism. God certainly blessed us!

Shine Jesus' Light



Stellar VBS

June 26th – 30th from
9 a.m. to 12 noon

Join us for a cosmic quest where we'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Register for this out-of-this-world adventure [HERE](#).

If you would like to serve at VBS this year, please reach out to Kirsten Hall at 925-605-9263 or Kirsten.hall@splscatonsville.org. There are many ways to get involved.

3rd Annual Memorial Day Celebration

St Paul Lutheran Cemetery
1022 Joh Ave
Baltimore, MD 21229
9:00 AM Monday, May 29, 2023



On Memorial Day at 9:00 am, at St Paul Lutheran Cemetery, we will have a special commemoration for all the war veterans that are buried there. Pastor Alms will offer prayers and I will talk about the origins and meaning of the holiday. All war veteran's graves will be decorated with American flags and we will have a musical rendition of "Taps".

Flags will remain up through July 4. If you can't make it on Memorial Day, come visit until then.

Let's again have a good turnout.

Maps are available in the Narthex. Park in the center roadway. Use the right-hand roadway if the center roadway is full.

Paul Lubell, for the Cemetery Committee

Sunday Morning Bible Classes

Join us every Sunday morning from 8:45 – 9:45. Everyone, both young and old, should meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall at 8:45. Classes will be dismissed from there. Classes for school aged children will run through May. New adult classes will begin in June.

Study	Leader	Location
Gospel of Luke	Pastor Alms	Learning Center
The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus: A study of the harmony of the Gospels	Kevin Dungey	Room 204 (4th Grade)
Names of God (Women's Study)	Michelle Johnson	Conference Room
High School	Cameron Jones	Room 301 (behind organ)
Middle School	Jeffrey Hemmeter	Room 203 (3rd Grade)
Elementary School	Andia Orujov	Room 206 (1st Grade)

St. Paul Lutheran School Key Dates

Join us for these special end of the year ceremonies and celebrations:

- * ECC Moving Up – Friday, May 26th at 9:00 a.m.
- * 5th Grade Graduation – Thursday, June 1st at 6:00 p.m.
- * Closing Chapel – Friday, June 2nd at 10:30 a.m.
- * Kindergarten Celebration – Friday, June 2nd at 11:15 a.m.

Lutheran Mission Society

As part of the Kingdom Growth Fund, our congregation supports the Lutheran Mission Society and their Compassion Place ministries. From their headquarters in Brooklyn, LMS provides services throughout Maryland and in the York, PA area. LMS has centers in Annapolis, Essex, Fells Point, Havre de Grace, Hickory/Bel Air, Hyattsville, Immanuel Church, La Plata, and in York.

At these centers, clothing & food are offered free of charge to those in need, along with spiritual care. The centers also operate thrift centers where patrons can purchase all types of donated household goods, including furniture, clothing, books, jewelry and toys. LMS also offers Christian-based counseling services for families and youth to assist in addressing the many, prevalent, troubling issues in today's world. The counseling services are not free but the counseling center does accept both state and private insurance plans. To inquire about counseling services, you can call 443-400-7018 or email info@lmscounseling.org.

The Lutheran Mission Society appreciates volunteers as well as donations of nonperishable food items: clothing, housewares, furniture, and vehicles. To donate or serve, you may call 410-636-0123 or visit the website - compassionplace.org.

Ramirez Family Missionaries

He has Risen! Cristo ha Resucitado! Christ has risen indeed.
Read all about our Easter joy in Peru in our newest newsletter.

[April Newsletter](#)



Jeancarlos had a successful surgery in March 2023 to treat the Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM) in his brain. We give thanks to the Lord for His care in this matter. The doctor has indicated that we should continue with a final treatment of radiation to shrink the malformation. We believe we are nearing the end and a cure. Praise the Lord. Thank you for joining us in prayer during this time.