



St. Paul
Lutheran Church

Walking Together

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School
Catonsville, MD
June/July 2023

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](#).

Helpers – still welcome. Looking for song leaders, snack helpers, preschool station leaders, registration helpers, extra hands. Set up helpers on June 25th. Clean up helpers on June 30th. 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.

If you have any Space décor we could borrow, please contact Kirsten, or give to her on any Sunday leading up to VBS.

VBS Training – June 10th at noon. Pizza will be provided.

Set up for VBS – June 25th at 2:30



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". Let's again have a good turnout.

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

Park in the center roadway. Use the right-hand roadway if the center roadway is full.

Paul Lubell, for the Cemetery Committee

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

Go On Vacation But Don't go On Vacation

If you're like me when it starts to become late May, you are thinking about time off, a trip away, some down time. Summer is for vacation, whatever form that may take: the beach, the mountains, the back yard. Wherever vacation is, we look forward to it. Time off and away is vital and important to our well being. So go ahead, take a vacation. Get away. These times are gifts from God.

All this gets me thinking about time off. First thing that comes to mind is a reason to be thankful and to praise God: he doesn't take vacation! Yes, He rested on the seventh day but even so, He keeps the world turning, the grass growing, the food on our table and breath in our lungs. Even when He rests, He rests to give us rest. His eternal work of redemption and forgiveness through the death and resurrection of Jesus never stops. God doesn't take a vacation and we praise and thank Him for that.

Another thought is that while we do go on vacation there are parts of our life we shouldn't leave behind. So, while I just said you should go on vacation, there are some matters that we should not "vacate".

Don't go on vacation: from receiving God's word and mercy and grace in worship. Make every effort even while traveling or doing special things to be in contact with God's word, to gather with the saints in worship. If corporate worship is impossible, try devotions, online worship, scripture readings, regular prayer.

Don't go on vacation: from giving. Those around you still need your gifts, your caring, your effort, your love. Your church needs your offerings and gifts and support. Those in need around you benefit from your prayers and sacrificing and the time you give to them.

Don't go on vacation: from your faith, from knowing and believing and relying on and rejoicing that God the all-powerful One has come in the flesh, has put away your sin by His death, has baptized you and promises to be with you to the very end of the age.

So, sure, yes, go on vacation this summer. But don't ... go on vacation. If you know what I mean!

Pastor Alms

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.

Generous God, Generous People

Our God is a generous God! Do you recall spending some time considering your own generosity? Reminder to watch your mail in June for the return of your personal generosity form.



From the Congregational President

Here we go, barreling into summer...I don't know where the time has gone. We are days away from the voters meeting, so put on your voting pants and get ready for the most efficient voter's meeting we've ever had!

Previous newsletter articles have gone into budget and giving challenges and what we need to do moving forward with our church and school missions. These are important and I'll touch on them briefly, but I want to talk about giving of your time and talents. Our church has been blessed with wonderful people with giving hearts and everyone chips in and does what they can to help in our various ministries. There is a lot that goes on at our church and I'm always amazed at how much is going on. At our voters meeting we will be looking for people to fill positions on our council and boards. We need a VP, secretary, and members for each board. Boards meet regularly and council meets approximately 6 times a year. Personally, I would prefer not to go with vacant positions this year. If you are interested and not sure about the time commitment...run for the position and give what you can give. We value the input and thoughts of everyone as we work to grow our mission over the upcoming years. Think about joining in one of these positions.

Now we join our regularly scheduled newsletter with discussion on our budget. You will be presented with a deficit budget. This is not a bad thing. This is a position where we can step up and meet the challenge God has placed in front of us. We can give more, reach more children, more adults, and bring more people into God's kingdom. Is this deficit budget sustainable...no. But we can take this opportunity to create a sustainable budget. We can do it! What if we don't? What if we fail? It could happen. We have the account balances to lean back on this year and we can course correct depending on how close we get. And we will course correct either way. That's what we do. We change with the times and we will continue to grow this mission. God has a purpose and a reason for this church and every member of this congregation will play an integral part in His purpose and reason. So what's the plan moving forward?

- We look to increase giving...not because we HAVE to...because we WANT to! We want to see what God can do when we meet the challenge.
- We lower our long-term costs through a capital campaign, hopefully eliminating our mortgage and prepping for future improvements.
- We invest in ministries...our school and our church. We don't let missions erode, but build them up to continue long term.

I know it's a lot to ask, but I know we can do it. So come to our voter's meeting with an open heart and ready to make decisions for the future of our church and school. I look forward to seeing everyone at the voters meeting on June 4th!

Blessings to all,
Aaron Nelson
nelsaar@yahoo.com

Year End Report From the Elders

The mission statement for the Board of Elders is: With the pastor, using Word and Sacrament ministry, we assist members to mature as disciples of Jesus.

The Elders are: Jim Baeder
 Kevin Dungey (Chairman)
 Norm Giguere
 Roy Krakat
 Bill Oldhouser
 Jeff Piegols
 Bruce Staudinger

Summary of Board activities for 2022-23:

Changes on the Board. Kevin Dungey was elected the new Chairman (succeeding Bill Oldhouser) and the Elders recruited Roy Krakat to serve on the Board.

Care of Members. The Elders sought to assist the pastor and serve the congregation by caring for the members of St. Paul through prayer, contacts with members and visitation. The Elders have contacted all of their flock members to make sure they know who their Elder is and to review the purposes/ministry of the Elders.

Adult Education. The Elders have worked to expand the opportunities for adult Bible study at St. Paul. This spring three adult classes were offered on Sunday morning.

Youth/Young Adults. The Elders have been discussing the reasons why young people leave the church and how we might address this issue.

Inactive Members. The Elders have worked toward presenting a list of inactive members to the voters for removal from membership (see separate list of recommendations for action by the voters).

Service on Committees. Elders have served on the following committees during the past year:

- Personnel
- Worship
- School Endowment Fund Scholarship
- Pastor and Staff Care
- Pastor Annual Review
- Conflicts of Interest Policy
- Stewardship

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Additions:

Hope Dreesen (baptism)
Don Easton (reaffirmation of faith)
Kirsten Hall (transfer)
Diane Jaeger (transfer)
Sigrid Jaeger (baptism)
Carol McDaniel (adult confirmation)
Kaity Parsons (adult confirmation)
Yvette and Aaliyah Prince (baptism)
Mike, Kathy, Rachel, Joseph and Bruce Schmidley (transfer)
Carol Taylor (reaffirmation of faith)

Removals:

Tom and Karen Bok (transfer)
Peggy Brannan (death)
Charlie Dell (release)
Megan Goldberg and children (release)
Ron Loudon (death)
Suzanne Middleton (release)
Andrew Sohn (transfer)
Susan Sohn (transfer)
Paul Toelle (death)
Ellen Watsic (death)



Confirmation and New Member Sunday

On Sunday, June 11th we will welcome Andrea Wellington as a new member, joining via Affirmation of Faith. We also welcome 7 new confirmands:

Carter Dungey

Michael Hemmeter

Rachel Johnson

Charlotte McKay

Ella Nelson

Gretchen Nelson

Khourtney Orujov

Representation at 68th Regular Convention-Milwaukee, WI

Our treasurer, Paul Lubell, will be representing Circuit 5 churches, including St Paul, at the 68th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) to be held July 29th through August 3rd in Milwaukee, WI (beer country). The other churches in Circuit 5, Southeastern District are Christ the King (Owings Mills), Crosswalk (Columbia), Emmanuel (Catonsville), Faith (Eldersburg), Holy Nativity (Arbutus), and Pilgrim (Gwynn Oak). Paul has also been selected to be on Floor Committee 13, Registration, Credentials, and Elections. He is one of only four people from the Southeastern District who have been appointed to a floor committee and is honored to have been chosen. He is a voting Layperson and will help select all the leaders of the LCMS including leaders at the District level. This will be a very busy time for Paul as everyday will start with breakfast at 6:15 am with the other members from our district. Much of the time at the Convention will be used to prayerfully consider the Resolutions that will be presented to the assembly and, if adopted, will guide the administration of the LCMS during the next three years. We are thankful for Paul's service and pray that he is guided by the Holy Spirit while serving us at the Convention.

Women's Guild

Ladies thank you so much for all your hard work at the spaghetti dinner, it was a huge success.

Enjoy the summer break, but mark your calendars: we will be hosting the LWML Fall Rally on Saturday, September 23rd. The day begins with a light breakfast and then a presentation by the folks at The Faith Works Center in Baltimore followed by lunch. Since this occurs before our 1st fall meeting, you can expect to be hearing from me via email throughout the summer.



Our 1st meeting of the fall will be on September 26th.

Carolyn Loudon

St. Paul ECC and Elementary Programs

Growing and Expanding, Praise God and Thank you!

Early Childhood Center: The ECC is near capacity for the 2023/2024 school year. This past year, we added an enrichment program that includes music, art, and dance. Pastor holds weekly chapels designed specifically for the younger children.

Congratulations to the ECC staff who completed the qualifications to receive a State of Maryland Excels Quality Rating 1. We will continue to work over the summer to achieve a Level 3 rating. The Maryland EXCELS program is an optional program that identifies programs that exceed state licensing requirements and are committed to continuous quality improvement and providing quality care for children. This program is a metric of excellence some families look for and helps St. Paul on its continuing path to excellence in early childhood care and education.

Elementary Program Enrollment: From 2009-2019 the average elementary enrollment was 49 students. Since 2019 our average enrollment has been 72 students; as of this month, we have 73 enrolled students for the 2023/2024 school year. God continues to provide daily and richly for our ministries at St. Paul.

Program Offerings Expansion: This year we refreshed our English and Mathematics curriculum. We are also in the process of refreshing our library collection and implementing an online card catalog. Next year we will update our Social Studies curriculum, expand our Music offerings, afterschool programs (e.g. chess, robotics, reading), and add a 2024 Summer Camp.

Facilities: Enclosing the Learning Center created an improved environment for our Music, Library, Digital Citizenship, STEM, and afterschool Enrichment offerings. It also was very useful to have staff meet with small groups of students who needed additional help in reading or math.

This year we added a GaGa Pit and 9 Square Game to provide additional options for the students to play group games together during recess. Also, our PE teacher did a fundraiser for the American Heart Association that (again) provided for the purchase of new PE equipment.

We received a grant to add central air conditioning to several areas of the facility currently served by noisy window air conditioners. We look forward to that happening this summer to be ready for school starting in the Fall!

Thank you again for your unwavering support of the education ministry at St. Paul.

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.

From the Mission Board

Shredding Event

Thank you to all who volunteered on May 6 for this outreach activity. We served 144 cars, with 4 walk-ins. Thirteen people left prayer requests, which is the largest number we have had. It tells us of the needs and hurts among our neighbors- and the desire for God to hear and help. We are blessed to live in this community and our neighbors are thankful for us hosting this event.

Special thanks to the following: Brian Erwin, Andrea Wellington, Paul Baeder, Kevin Dungey, Roy Krakat, Suzanne Giguere, Barb Haar, Steve Haar, Tommy Stigdon, Norm Giguere, Irene Giguere.

Partnership with Thrivent



Thanks to Thrivent, we were able to obtain 15 water filter kits. The kits were made by Wine to Water, a non-profit whose mission is to improve the lives of people by helping provide the means to clean water. Volunteers assembled the kits during our Church-School picnic, wrote a note to recipients, and then the finished products were sent back to Wine to Water. From there, they will be sent out to people in countries in Africa or Asia or areas experiencing natural disasters. Thank you Thrivent and willing volunteers!



From the Asset Management Board

Property and Maintenance has a couple of projects that they will work on this summer for which volunteers are needed. A couple of strong men are needed to help with the repair of the red doors. Also, one or two volunteers are needed to help with painting the exterior railings. If you don't want to do the painting, help is needed to clean and prep the railings.

If you can help out with these or other projects, please contact Steve Haar. Catch him at church or email him at steve.haar@splscatonsville.org

In His Service,
Suzanne Giguere

Sunday Morning Adult Education - Summer

Sunday morning Bible class will meet in the fellowship hall every Sunday at 8:45 a.m. beginning on June 4th. Each Sunday will feature a stand-alone topic led by a different teacher to accommodate the various different summer schedules. The classes will comprise a variety of Bible Stories, Topical Studies, or Lectionary Studies. June includes two topical studies and two Bible Stories:

June 4	Visual Prayer	Dana Stigdon
	(Explore ways to connect with God's Word in a way that helps us to focus our prayer time.)	
June 11	Hezekiah	Steve Haar
June 18	Elijah	Cameron Jones
June 25	Mormonism	Pastor Alms

Sunday Morning Sunday School - Summer

Children's Sunday School will be on break throughout the summer. However, there will be a table set up with children's activities if you would like attend Adult Bible Class and yet supervise your child during the Sunday School hour. We welcome the whole family, children are welcome to join parents in the adult study. Children's Sunday School will start again in late August or early September.

New Hymn for the Summer

We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God (LSB 941)

We will sing a hymn new to St. Paul a few times this summer. This is a "new" hymn that is actually an "old" hymn. It is a versification of the Te Deum, a Latin hymn which is one of the oldest in Western Christianity. Many Lutherans will be familiar with the setting of the Te Deum from the TLH and LW Matins service where it was sung immediately after the sermon.



The Te Deum was written in the 300's AD by an unknown author. It has been in continuous use since then and Luther considered it on par with the Apostles Creed as a statement of faith. The Te Deum has three sections: the first praising God in his heavenly glory, the second outlining the saving accomplishments of Christ in His incarnation and the third a prayer that the Holy Spirit would assist us, who have been bought with the price of His blood, and bring us to everlasting glory.

This versification in LSB 941 was written by Stephen Starke, a current LCMS pastor who has written many hymns. The hymn tune (THAXTED) is a portion of a symphonic work by Gustav Holst called The Planets. It is the fourth movement: Jupiter. I think you will find the tune to be a strong, majestic and inspiring match to the words of the Te Deum. You may listen to the hymn [on YouTube, here](#). Let us sing and rejoice! -- Pastor Alms

Take Me Out to the Ballgame on July 2



Join St. Paul for an evening of fun watching the Bowie Baysox play the Somerset Patriots (NY Yankee affiliate) on Sunday, July 2nd. The game starts at 6:35 pm, so we can have a tail-gate of sandwiches, chips and soft drinks / water starting at 5:30 pm in the Baysox parking lot. That way we have plenty of time for fellowship and can get into the stands with plenty of time to get ready for the beginning of the game. Fireworks shortly after the game! Tickets are only \$13 each with an additional \$5 for the tail-gate food and drinks. Everyone had a great time last year! Look for a signup sheet at church. If you have questions call Jim Baeder (301-775-0111).

Mission Trip News

The mission trip is still open for folks to join. We will be going with Samaritans Purse to Western Kentucky either in September or October. Dates are still being decided by Samaritans Purse. Contact Pastor Alms if interested.

Lutheran Books and Beer

Lutheran Books and Beer is on vacation for the summer. Our theology book club will resume in September. Stay tuned for what the new book is and plan to join us!

Southeastern District - LCMS

From President Bill Harmon

Please find the Semi-Annual Report prepared for you [at this link](#). This report includes information about mission and ministry in the Southeastern District and its impact as we seek to connect people with Jesus so that lives are transformed, and God's Kingdom grows.

The purpose of this report is to keep you informed of our mission partnerships. I pray that as you read through these pages, you will join me and all of your sisters and brothers in the SED in giving thanks to God for the opportunities He is placing on our hearts in this region of the LCMS to proclaim the Gospel and shine His glorious light.