



St. Paul  
Lutheran Church

# Walking Together

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

## From the Pastor's Desk

It's August and the living is easy. There once was a song something like that. The living may or may not be easy, but it's definitely August. School will start soon here at St. Paul and across our communities. We will get into a busier schedule at home and at church.



Some advice for August:

1. Remember that if Christ died for you and gives himself to you in grace in the "easy" days of vacation, He will do the same in the busier days of fall. As Isaiah 51 says, The heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment but my salvation will be forever.
2. Come to church every week if you can. The blessings of the Christian life are cumulative. Repetition is the point. God wishes to give His lifegiving Word to you and strengthen your faith. Listen. Receive.
3. Look around at what is happening at St. Paul and give thanks:
  - A. Reach out. Stretch your faith. Serve others. Invite others. Welcome new people when you see them. Be part of the community activities that are coming up: Lunch on the Lawn, Trunk or Treat. Pray for those going on the mission trip. Plan to go on the mission trip next year. Join the Prayer Chain.
  - B. Sing along with our amazing choir and organist and singing congregation and musicians.
  - C. Be a part of the 100 dollar a month challenge. Together we can fund every bit of the mission God is putting in front of us.
  - D. The school is growing and is strong and the joyful voices of children in the halls give witness to the goodness of God.
  - E. Participate in Adult Education. Fill out the survey. Bring your kids to Sunday school and your teens to youth events and Bible class.
  - F. Stay tuned for and participate in the Capital Fund drive.
  - G. Pray for St. Paul and the people that work full time here and those who volunteer and serve on boards and committees and offices. They are all amazing servants.

It's August and the living is easy? I don't know. But I do know this: I am glad to be here at St. Paul and thankful for what God is doing and for the grace of God which comes to us here through Christ.

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

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Summer is coming to an end! While we started off on the mild side, it is not hot and humid and what I would expect for summer weather.

Thank you to everyone who attended the voter's meeting and volunteered for our open positions. We are going into the next year with a full church council! Huzzah! Here are your officers and board chairs:

President – Aaron Nelson  
Vice President – Greg McDonald  
Treasurer – Paul Lubell  
Secretary – Sally Foks  
Asset Management Board – Brad Johnson (Amanda McKay voted in as new member)  
Mission Board – Cameron Jones  
School Board – Carolyn Loudon

We will have installation of officers during service on 13 August for all elected positions on council and boards. We will have a meeting in August and are working to set a date for that.


I look forward to the new church year!!

Blessings to all,  
Aaron Nelson  
[nelaar@yahoo.com](mailto:nelaar@yahoo.com)

## Sunday Morning Adult Education - Summer

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Our summer Sunday morning Bible class continues to meet in the fellowship hall every Sunday at 8:45 a.m. Each Sunday features a stand-alone topic led by a different teacher. This accommodates the various different summer schedules and allows us to explore new and various topics. Upcoming classes:

	August 6	Digital Missionary	Stan Stigdon with Simon Seow, CRU
	August 13	Lectionary	Steve Haar
	August 20	Five Great Psalms	Pastor Alms
	August 27	Lectio Divina – Sacred Reading	Dana Stigdon
	Sept 3	Islam	Jay Barringer

## What Would You Like to See in Adult Education?

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### We want to know!

The Adult Education Committee has put together a survey to hear from you about what kind of topics, formats, times places, types of classes and so on you are interested in. Please take this survey either [ONLINE HERE](#) or fill out a paper copy in the narthex and put it in the box in the Narthex. Thanks!



...as we head into the new fiscal year, we want to challenge everyone to give \$100 extra per month. Stretch. Limber up. Let's get ready to GIVE!

## Treasurer's Note

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There will be no detailed report in this month's newsletter. With a press deadline of July 24, we are only one week from the conclusion of the fiscal year and publishing eleven-month data would not be very useful. In the September newsletter, I will provide a detailed report for FY-23 which concluded on July 31, 2023. It has been a good year financially and the members of St. Paul would be very happy if FY-24 performs as well as the year just finishing. The working staff would be pleased as well.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions that need an immediate response, please get in touch with me.

Paul  
443-612-9956  
PDL40zb@gmail.com

## Church Council and Boards Installation

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Church Officers and Board members will be installed on August 13<sup>th</sup> in worship. Please pray for these volunteers and servants that God would bless their work and our life together as a congregation. Also thank God for those who are ending their service. We are grateful for all their work!

## Women's Guild

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Ladies, please mark your calendars: we are hosting the LWML Fall Rally on **Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** from 9 until 12. We will be serving a light breakfast and lunch. Registration begins at 8:30, breakfast will follow. Our guest speakers are from Faith and Works Ministries. I hope many of you will be able to attend. This happens before our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting after summer break so please be looking for future emails coming in late August asking for help setting up, serving and cleaning up as well as for donations of breakfast foods and salads for lunch.



Our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the fall will be on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

## From the Mission Board

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### Lunch On the Lawn – Sunday, September 17, 12 noon – 2:00 pm

The Mission Board is again planning an event for church, school and our Colonial Gardens community. You're invited to bring your blanket or lawn chair and enjoy a picnic on our church grounds on Sunday, September 17, from 12 noon – 2:00 p.m. Burgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided. You are welcome to bring a side dish or dessert to share (but not required). This is a wonderful chance to fellowship together and to connect our St. Paul community with our neighborhood community. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, starting the end of August.

### ESL (English as a Second Language)

Our Fall session begins on Monday, September 18 and continues through November 20. The classes meet every Monday and Thursday evenings from 7:15 – 9:00 p.m. Please consider volunteering on Monday OR Thursday evenings (or both!). Assistants work with small groups and help with activities that support the presented lesson. It's a wonderful opportunity to reach out to our immigrants! See Irene Giguere for more information.

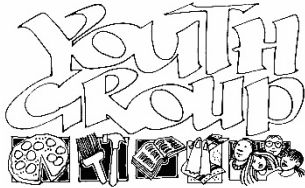
### Orphan Grain Train

A special fundraiser is scheduled for October. OGT will be the recipient of funds raised at a Memorial Race Event, in memory of Paul Overton, a young man who died as the result of a motorcycle accident. The Walk/Run will take place on Saturday, October 14 at 8:00 a.m., at Severna Park High School. Your participation supports the ministry of Orphan Grain Train. Email [www.paulrovertonvision.org](http://www.paulrovertonvision.org) for more information.

# Youth News

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## Let's Plan to Gather Together – Save the Dates!



Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM: All Senior High (and confirmed) *youth and parents* gather at church to discuss plans for the coming year. Donuts provided.

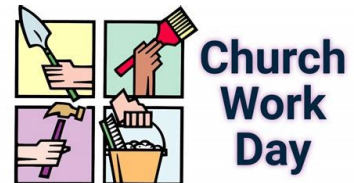
November 3 – 5, 2023: Southeastern District High School Youth Gathering. Experience what it means to be “ROOTED” in Christ. Join with other high school youth from all over the SED for fun, fellowship, worship, and growth at Watermarks Camp, a beautiful setting with many activities that will be a marvelous backdrop to our program topic. Check out the camp at <https://watermarkscamp.com/>

## From the Asset Management Board

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We wanted to update the congregation on a few items as we head into the new fiscal year.

1. We are coming up on one year since we changed out all of our lighting to LED throughout the building. We are happy to say that we have found a significant reduction in our electric usage because of the change. At this point we have saved approximately half the cost of the change out and should be seeing a return on our investment in another year. Many thanks to Bill Loats, Michael Puls, and June Harris for all their work on that project.
2. In addition, we have been receiving credits on our electric bills from Neighborhood Solar, our electric supplier, totaling \$546.44 in savings so far this year.
3. We have begun work with an engineer to redesign the boiler and pumps for our heating system to come up with a more efficient and redundant system.
4. We welcome new members Andrea Wellington and Karen Eichelman to the Cemetery Committee. Thank you for your willingness to serve.
5. We want to thank Dave Carnes for being a regular and faithful volunteer on our work days on the third Saturday of the month. We encourage anyone who is willing to help to come out on a work day. You can come for the entire time from 9am to 12pm, or for just an hour if that is all the time you have. We have jobs for all skill levels and abilities. Please let Steve Haar know if you will be coming out on August 19. [steve.haar@splscatonsville.org](mailto:steve.haar@splscatonsville.org)
6. The new Asset Management Board chair beginning in August is Brad Johnson. Asset Board Members for the 2023-2024 year are Brad Johnson, Jim Kyne, and Amanda McKay.



In His Service,  
Suzanne Giguere

# St. Paul ECC and Elementary School

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## **PRAISE GOD for our Education Ministry at St. Paul CONNECTED to our Local Community**



CONNECTED is our theme for this year. The theme verse is John 15:5, I am the vine you are the branches. St. Paul School is a time-proven integral part of the mission and ministry of this congregation. It is through the continued generosity and commitment of the St. Paul congregation that the Early Childhood Center (ECC) and Elementary School daily connect with over 140 children and their families to God's personal message of His love for all. This is made possible by over 40 dedicated team members who support the education ministry both as professionals and volunteers.

The most important connection for any child (of any age) is with Christ. The Good News of Christ connecting Himself to us in our Baptism and through His Word is the focus of the daily activities of St. Paul School. Also, St. Paul School connects with families, emphasizing that Lutheran education is always a partnership with the home and that we consider them as part of the family of St. Paul.

The academic year of the ECC and Elementary programs starts the week of August 21<sup>st</sup>. Come join us for chapel any Wednesday at 8:30 AM, starting August 30<sup>th</sup>, in worship and hear more about being Connected to God and each other!

## Sunday School and New Adult Education Classes

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### **Beginning September 10th**

A new year of growing and strengthening our faith and learning God's word begins on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 am. Classes for Kindergarten through High School and three new adult education classes will all kick off. Plan to be part of it!

## A St. Paul Lutheran Octoberfest Celebration??

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Yes, it's coming! Yes, in October. More information soon.

# Lutheran Books and Beer: The Screwtape Letters

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We will tackle this C. S. Lewis classic this fall at Lutheran Books and Beer. Lutheran Books and Beer is an opportunity to enjoy discussion of Lutheran theology and enjoy good German beer. Yes, C. S. Lewis was an Anglican not a Lutheran, but he had many important insights and we will discuss the book from a Lutheran viewpoint. So, join us. Generally, we meet every fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at The Rathskellar restaurant in Arbutus at 5782 Main Street. The first meeting is September 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Crisis Resource

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## Did you ever consider serving in the church?

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### **Are you thinking about a second career in full-time church work?**

Many LCMS pastors, teachers, deaconesses and commissioned church workers held other successful careers before pursuing a second career in service to Christ's church. You could do the same!

Have you been praying about a full-time vocation in the church? You can use your experience and skills from your current work as a second-career church worker.

Ready to learn more about opportunities to pursue a second career in full-time church work? Our seminaries and Concordia universities are happy to answer your questions. Visit [lcms.org/sas](https://lcms.org/sas) for more information.