



St. Paul
Lutheran Church

Walking Together

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

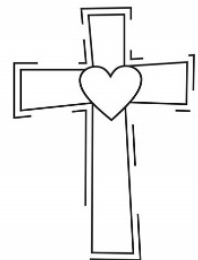
Our Unchanging God

It finally got cooler here in Maryland. We got a lot of rain. We went from the 90's to the 70's and it felt good.

Changes in the weather remind us that things do in fact change. What we take for granted, what we count on, will not always be around. We can think of our health or our families or our job situations. We act as if things will always remain the same, but the truth is they don't. Things shift, move around.

One of the great blessings of being a Christian, a Lutheran Christian if I may, is the reliability of God's grace and mercy. At the end of the month, we will celebrate Reformation Sunday and give thanks to God for the work of Martin Luther and other reformers. One of the great insights they had is the unchangeableness of God's grace. Our connection to God is not influenced by our piety or good works, it does not move to and fro with our emotional ups and downs.

God's grace is constant, consistent and we can trust in it. Christ died on the cross once for all. Our worship reflects this. Our time together on Sunday morning revolves around Scripture, Gospel, sacrament, and prayer. That rhythm doesn't change. While each Sunday is a little different, the great truth of God's presence with us and his mercy toward us are always front and center.



The weather changes. It can be hot or cold, wet or dry. Today we may feel great, tomorrow not so much. But God's mercy in Christ, his promise to be with us never varies. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Alms

Adult Education Classes Update

Sunday morning classes are held from 8:45 – 9:45 AM. All students, young and old alike, begin in the fellowship hall with a song and a prayer (and maybe a treat)! Please sign in your attendance on the attendance sheet or the chrome book sign-in.

End Times wraps up on October 15th. Pastor Alms will be leading **The Relentless Grace of God: Jonah** in the Fellowship Hall beginning October 22nd. The Women's Bible study continues their study of Joseph and meet in the upstairs conference room. Watch for information on a daytime Bible class to start after Christmas.

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.

Lutherans For Life – Interested?

There will be a meeting of those interested in beginning a Lutherans for Life chapter at St. Paul on October 22nd after church.

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, Bill Oldhouser, Jeff Piegols, and Bruce Staudinger.

- In response to the Council's strategic planning initiative, Pastor and the elders have begun discussing how St. Paul might work with other LCMS congregations in the Baltimore community so that, for example, we might be able to share the cost of having a vicar (someone training to be a Pastor) from one of the seminaries or a Director of Christian Education (DCE) intern in Baltimore. Having a vicar, for example, would cost \$2,000/month in salary as well as the cost of lodging and health insurance for a year.
- The pandemic caused St. Paul to lose track of congregation members. The elders have been writing letters encouraging absent members to return to worship and have in some cases asked the congregation to remove those who have not been in church in more than 5 years. We now ask each of you to reach out to any absent members you may know to see how they are and to encourage them to return to worship at St. Paul.

St. Paul Men's Group

After a fairly long interruption caused by the pandemic, the St. Paul Men's Group had its first meeting convened by Jim Baeder on Saturday, September 16, with breakfast, prayers, and a devotion. Fourteen men attended the meeting in the Fellowship Hall. All men of St. Paul, male friends, neighbors, and teens are invited to the monthly Men's Group breakfast and Bible study meeting, which will be held on the second Saturday of each month at 8 AM (meetings last an hour). Our next meeting will be Saturday, October 14. The Men's Group plans to participate in service projects to help those in need.

In His service,
Kevin Dungey,
Board of Elders

All Saints Sunday

Remembrance of the Faithful Departed is November 5th

If you have any Christian family or friends who have passed away since All Saints Sunday 2022 you can submit them to the church office. We will mark each name with a toll of the bell and a Scripture verse. Please email dana.stigdon@splscatonville with the name and relation of the departed, or call the church office at 410-747-1897.

Youth News

Watch the bulletin for information about attending a Corn Maze in the month of October. More info to come!

St. Paul Lutheran School

The St. Paul campus is again resounding with jubilant sounds and vibrant activities of learning and growing in God's word, academics, and relationship building. We have over 130 children in attendance each day from Infants through 5th grade.

School Year Theme

Our theme this year is CONNECTED (Faith, Family, School, & Church) and our theme verse is "I am the vine, and you are the branches" Matthew 15:5

CONNECTED

Weekly Chapel – Wednesday's at 8:30 AM - All are welcome

We have chapel weekly on Wednesdays at 8:30 AM. All are invited to attend. Join us if you are in the neighborhood and share in hearing God's word about being CONNECTED. We have heard about being CONNECTED through faith, to forgive, by grace, and to authority. We looked forward to strengthening our connection to God's word and will throughout the year.

Upcoming Events

09/28-29	Parent-Teacher Conferences
10/05	5 th Grade Field Trip to Fort McHenry
10/19-20	Southeastern District Teacher's Conference (School Closed)
10/25	Concordia Prep Leads Chapel
10/26	5 th Grade Shadow Day at Concordia Prep
11/21	All School Thanksgiving Lunch
11/23-24	Thanksgiving Break (School Closed)

A Bible for Every Student & Family Project – Donations Requested

Every Student with a Bible

We are ordering new Bibles for the 2nd through 5th grade classrooms so that all classrooms can access the same Bible and translation. Over the years, the Bibles have worn and gone "missing."

A Bible for Every Family

The education ministry's main purpose is to share the love God and His word with our school families. We will be gifting a Bible to every Elementary student to take home and share with their family. Each kindergarten and 1st grade student will receive the Concordia Publishing House "[The Story Bible](#)". Each 2nd through 5th grade student will receive the "[Growing in Faith Bible](#)". Also, each elementary teacher will get a copy of the Growing in Faith Bible to use in the classroom with our Enduring Faith Religion curriculum.

If you would like to support the Bible for Every Student & Family Project, you may donate online using [THIS Bible for Every Family Donation Link](#), scan the QR Code, or use a specially designated envelope available in the narthex.:



Greetings from the Asset Management Board!

We don't have a lot to report this month. We have several planned projects in the works, including maintenance on the sidewalks and roof as well as renovation of the Sacristy and engineering for a new HVAC solution for the entire building. We will keep everyone updated on the progress of these projects throughout the year.

We also wanted to thank those faithful servants that give of their time and talents on our Saturday workdays. In September, our volunteers picked up trash around the grounds, weeded flower beds, trimmed the decorative grass that was blocking the front of the stone sign, hung a wall cabinet, painted hand railings, replaced a bent basketball rim, helped to close a stubborn window, and did some spot cleaning of the carpet in the Learning Center.

Anyone who is interested in helping on the third Saturday of each month between 9 and noon can simply show up and surprise us, or contact Steve by calling the church office or by sending an email to steve.haar@splscatonsville.org.

If you have any questions or concerns for the Asset Management Board, please e-mail Brad Johnson - bjohnson2@comtechnologies.com.

Blessings to all,
Brad Johnson

Women's Guild - LWML

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.

The LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness. To learn more about the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, check out [THIS VIDEO HERE](#). Join our LWML Women's Guild, typically we meet the last Tuesday of each month. Meetings alternate between the morning and the evening. The next meeting will be on **October 24 at 7:00 pm** in The Learning Center at church.

Trunk or Treat



This year's event will be held on Saturday, October 28, 3:00 – 4:30. Last year we had 15 decorated trunks, and welcomed over 200 children. We hope to have even more this year! If you would like to host a trunk, contact Karyn Borth (k.borth@comcast.net). We'll also ask for candy donations when the date gets closer. Watch News & Notes for more information!

St. Paul Lutheran Oktoberfest

Come celebrate the autumn season with Oktoberfest! Enjoy fellowship and German food and drink at the home of Pastor and Suzanne Alms on October 28th from 6-9 pm. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Wyneken Project. <https://wynekenproject.org>

Menu for the evening will be:

- Assorted schnitzel & wurst
- Potato Cakes
- Pretzels
- Curry-seasoned fries
- Red cabbage
- German slaw
- Spatzle & Cheese
- Assorted German beer & wine



Tickets for Oktoberfest are \$30/person for those who would just like to enjoy food and \$40/person for those wishing to also have German beer/wine. Tickets will be sold from September through October 17, with a limited number available. You may [purchase Oktoberfest tickets here](#) or look for ticket envelopes in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor, JB Jaeger, or Chris Parsons.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

The Lord provides abundantly! So was our response as we welcomed a Media Center full of students at our first English class on Monday, September 18. Our 2nd class on Thursday was equally full! As of today we have 35 registered students, the largest group ever. What a blessing and what a challenge. If the pattern continues, we will have about 26 students each night and will need two classrooms. Of course, we know the numbers change as weather gets bad and work demands change. So, this is the time to volunteer! Think about joining us in this adventure. Let Irene know if you can help out either night.

From the Mission Board

Kingdom Growth Ministry

In our budget, under Mission Board, are listed several ministries under the heading Kingdom Growth. The donations for these ministries are our St. Paul tithe. Eleven percent (11%) of our offerings from white envelopes, loose plate and holiday collections (all of these are general fund) are used for our kingdom growth donations. These offerings are given to missions outside of our congregation. In February, Pastor Harmon, our Southeastern District President, visited and gave us a wonderful overview of how our funds help at the district level. Over the next church year, we will be highlighting the other missions and we will provide some “hands-on” opportunities.

Concordia Prep School

Concordia Prep (CP) is a co-educational Lutheran Middle and High school located in Towson. It has a strong, rigorous academic program, and is "... a compassionate, Christ-centered community of servant leaders" (from website Welcome). It offers a faith-based education, with opportunities for fine and performing arts, available college and AP courses, a varied sports program (including 5 championships in the past 5 years!) and is home to a campus church. This year the school has over 420 students. St. Paul has long been a financial supporter of CP. We are members of the Baltimore Lutheran High School Association and pledge support annually. Students from our church and school receive a tuition credit because of our connection. Over the years, many grade school graduates and church members have gone to the school, even with the distance. This past year, three of our 5th graders were accepted (and Ogtay Orujov - Scholar Athlete, Principal's Award -- was a 2023 graduate!)



Concordia Prep was opened in 1965. It was then named Baltimore Lutheran High, with name change coming in 2014. St. Paul was not one of the first Association churches, but over the years we have been part of the history:

- Dottie Frech's father (Debbie and Denise's grandfather), William Rach, was instrumental in starting Baltimore Lutheran (William Rach Lutheran Activity Center-LAC- named for him)
- Allan Schmidt, St. Paul's 1st principal, later became teacher, principal and Executive Director
- Present congregation members have taught there: Dottie Frech, Steve Haar, Roy Krakat, Irene Giguere, Norm Giguere
- STAR Program (now Giguere) for students with learning disabilities founded by Irene in 1981
- Board of Directors: John Borth (now president), Kevin Dungey (past president), Debbie Frech, Dottie Frech
- Distinguished Alum recognition: John Borth, Debbie Frech, Suzanne Giguere

A church-plant, a partnership of CP and First Lutheran, Towson, was started in 2020. The name New Thing, based on Isaiah 43:18 – 19, meets for worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. on campus. Pastor Couser serves both the church and Concordia Prep.



On **October 15**, a representative will be at St. Paul to share the ministry of the school. They will speak during our service time and be available after, during our Fellowship Hour downstairs.

To focus on this Kingdom Growth mission, we have an October Concordia Prep prayer calendar. It will be available on the narthex credenza. Please take one and lift up their faculty, staff and needs to the Lord. If you Google "Concordia Prep", their website has pictures of the staff (to help focus your prayer). Their ministry is part of OUR mission- so prayer, support of fundraisers, and attending campus events are ways we can reach out to strengthen their witness and purpose.

News from the Ramirez Family

Check out the [FULL NEWSLETTER](#) FROM THE Ramirez family serving the Lord in Peru. They are happily awaiting the arrival of their 3rd child, another boy, due the end of October. You can follow them on FaceBook at www.facebook.com/RamirezMissions for more updates from the mission field.

Helpers Needed

Debbie and Denise are looking for some help with a few things at Dottie's house:

- Several fence posts need to be replaced and the fence reattached.
- The forsythia bush needs to be trimmed.
- The deck railing could be painted.
- The ceiling tiles in the small bathroom need to either be replaced or cleaned really well.
- The screen on the door leading to the pool needs to be replaced.

Any help would be greatly appreciated. Please call Denise at 410-302-9124 if you can help with any of this. Thank you!

HANDS to WORK



HEARTS to GOD





Amish sayings

From Holy Nativity – Mentors Wanted

The Family Life Ministry at Holy Nativity Lutheran Church has just embarked on a new program: The Boyz 2 Men Program. The objective is to train boys to live as Godly men and to encourage participants to utilize what they have learned by passing it on to others through their voluntary leadership roles within the church and community. Holy Nativity is looking for men who may be interested in a compensated mentoring position for this program. If interested, please contact Karen Tsambikos, Family Life Ministry Director at 410-242-9441 or youth@holy-nativity.com.

SED Relocation

The Southeastern District office has officially moved to a new location in Richmond, VA. Their new address is: 230 N. Parham Rd, Suite 200
Henrico, VA 23229

Stay connected with the SED on  Instagram – [sedlutheran](#)  Facebook – [sedlutheran](#)
 phone – (737) 971-9371  email – sed@se.lcms.org

The Lutheran Witness

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