



St. Paul  
Lutheran Church

# Walking Together

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

## The End of All Things

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You know what has been on my mind lately? The end of all things. We had a Bible class the last six weeks on the end times. It is All Saints Sunday on November 5<sup>th</sup> where we think of those have gone before us into eternity, and the last weeks of the Church Year in November focus on the second coming of Christ and the last day. So yes, I've been contemplating the end of the world.

The end of the world is a classic bad news scenario. All we have will go away. Our lives, the only things we know, will disappear. At the end we face a future that is unknowable: the Bible only gives us glimpses of what eternity will be like and judgment day seems very scary even for Christians. We don't want to come to the end. We want to go back to the beginning.

So how do we face the end of things, judgment day, our own death, the changing world, the loss of things and people we hold dear? With faith, that's how. Faith in the Crucified One who took and felt all our endings in his own flesh. Faith in the Risen One who punched a hole in the end of death and brought in life and light and forged a new path forward, into a new heaven and new earth. We walk that path trusting Him for He is with us now and leads us to the life where there are no endings and there is the bright song of the angels praising the Lamb.

Until that day we join even today in heaven's songs and we hold on in faith to the Victorious One, Jesus.

Pastor Alms

## Upcoming Special Worship Services at St. Paul

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All Saints Sunday: November 5th with Remembrance of the Faithful Departed  
Thanksgiving Day Service: 10 am

Advent Midweek Services: Mary: Example For Us  
Dates: December 6, December 13, December 20  
Times: 11 am and 7 pm

4th Sunday of Advent, December 24: 10 am (No Bible class or Sunday School)  
Christmas Eve Services, December 24: 7 pm and 10 pm  
Christmas Day Service, December 25: 10 am  
First Sunday After Christmas, December 31: 10 am (No Bible class or Sunday School)



## From the Congregational President

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Fall is here, leaves and temperatures are falling. Football is in full swing, some of our teams aren't doing well and others are. The school year is going by fast, fall sports are starting to wrap up and kids are looking toward winter sports beginning.

Council this year is focusing on strategy. The boards are looking at what can be done to help each of the other boards, what we can do in the next year and what we want to aim to do beyond that. We will be meeting in November to focus on these strategic discussions.

We will be having a voter's meeting after church on 12 November to look at reallocating some of the surplus funds from last year. It should be a relatively short meeting downstairs in the fellowship hall.

The Capital Campaign is still looking for someone to lead the effort. We have the committee, just not a lead. I have already emailed LCEF and they are ready to meet with us when we have our entire committee together. Hopefully we can get that started before December.

Other efforts we are looking into is selling the house attached to the cemetery and reviewing our digital media policy. We will continue to keep everyone up to date on these.

As always, feel free to email or call me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Blessings to all,  
Aaron Nelson  
nelsaar@yahoo.com.

## Women's Guild - LWML

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Ladies, our November meeting date is Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup>. We will be meeting at Pat Wesselman's house at 10:00, bring a bag lunch and stay for fellowship after the meeting. The Ladies Guild will be putting together food bags for St. Thomas. The ladies will provide the bread and meat, if you would like to get together a bag with nonperishable items it would be greatly appreciated. I have added what is needed for the food bags for St Thomas. The bags will be delivered on Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup>, so they need to be returned to church prior to that date.

The Women's guild will provide the meat and bread needed for each bag. Other items needed for each bag are:

- 1 box of stuffing
- 1 box of instant potatoes
- 2 cans of corn
- 2 cans of green beans or peas
- 1 can or jar of gravy
- 1 box dessert (brownies, or cake mix and cake frosting)
- 1 jar of peanut butter
- 1 jar of jelly

If you have any questions please see me or any of the guild members.

The big mite box will be in the Narthex the 1st Sunday of each month.

Carolyn Loudon

## Voter's Meeting

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Please come to the Fellowship Hall for a quick Voter's Meeting after worship on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Kid's Christmas Morning

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Watch the bulletin for more information about how you can help with Kid's Christmas Morning scheduled for Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Community Craft Day

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A time and space to work on any craft you choose to bring. Great time to work on those Christmas crafts and have some time of fellowship also. The Fellowship Hall will be open for Craft Day on Saturday November 11 from 12:00 – 4:00 and on Saturday December 2 from 11:00 – 4:00.



We've stretched! Now it's time to grow into the giving!

## News From the Elders

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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.

The following words head our agenda at each meeting and serve to guide what we elders do in serving St. Paul: **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. With the Pastor, using Word and Sacrament ministry, we assist members to mature as disciples of Jesus.**

You are very familiar with seeing two elders assisting Pastor with communion at each communion service, one elder communing Pastor, and both assisting by serving wine from the common cup or individual cups.

You can also see that we are charged with helping Pastor create a Lutheran community, which means a community that is built around our common understanding of the Word of God as expressed in the Bible (for example, that we are saved by Jesus' death on the cross and God's love for each of us and not by any works of ours) and a community in which members care for each other.

As an aspect of this caring for our faith community, each elder has a "flock," a group of St. Paul members they specifically keep in touch with. Elders track attendance through Breeze to try and spot any flock member's unexplained absence from worship. We also work to be aware of any need for prayer so that we may refer this need to the St. Paul Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain consists today of about 43 members (not all St. Paul members) whom I will email as needed with requests for prayers for our own members, for family and friends of members, and for any other issues in the world that are helped by prayer. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain and add your prayers when emailed, please email me at [kdungey49@gmail.com](mailto:kdungey49@gmail.com), and I will add you to the distribution list.

We are also working very hard to locate members we have lost track of. The pandemic stopped worship in our sanctuary for several months, changed the way we distributed communion, and caused some members to attend remotely or not at all. You yourself may miss someone you used to see at church regularly. Please reach out to that person in a loving way inviting them to rejoin us or tell one of the elders anything you may know so that we can reach out.

In His service,  
Kevin Dungey,  
Board of Elders

## Positions Opening at St. Paul

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A search committee has been formed to begin the search for a new Principal for the 2024-2025 school year. If you know any qualified candidates that you would like to recommend, please contact Carolyn Loudon. We are also beginning the process to hire a new administrative assistant. That part time position for Administrative Assistant will be posted on Indeed.com in December. If you know any qualified candidates you would like to recommend, please contact Pastor Alms.

# St. Paul Lutheran School

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## Embracing Our Mission – Connected "I am the vine, you are the branches." - John 15:5

With great joy, we are excited to announce that we've completed the first quarter of our 66th school year at St. Paul Catonsville! For over six decades, our congregation's unwavering support has been the cornerstone of providing Christ-centered education to the local community. This year, we're proud to have more than 130 students attending daily, ranging from infants to 5th graders.

At St. Paul, our mission is deeply rooted in the Lutheran Christian perspective of Grace Alone, Faith Alone, and Scripture Alone. Now, more than ever, it's crucial for our students, families, and community to understand that it is through God's love alone that we find forgiveness and the promise of heaven. Our dedicated staff tirelessly conveys this message by CONNECTING with our students through daily interactions, devotions, and Bible study. Our hope is that these students, in turn, will take this message home (CONNECT) to their families and friends.

## Introducing Our New PE Teacher, Mrs. Morrell

We are delighted to introduce Mrs. Morrell, our new Physical Education Teacher for Kindergarten through 5th grade, who started with us on October 11th. With a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts and Biology from the University of Maryland and extensive experience in recreational therapy since 2015, she brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to our school. We are also thankful to Ms. Turmel for her valuable service as the PE teacher and her assistance during Mrs. Morrell's transition. Please join us in extending a warm welcome and support to Mrs. Morrell in her new role. We give thanks to God for His continuous provision and care.

## Annual Teacher's Conference: October 19th & 20th

Our dedicated elementary teachers recently had the privilege of attending a two-day educators' conference alongside their peers from Lutheran schools spanning from Delaware to South Carolina. The theme for this year was "We Can Achieve Immeasurably More Together." The conference covered a range of topics, including Christian character formation, STEM education, literacy enrichment, the science of reading, nurturing spiritually vibrant children, collaborative creative writing, wellness coaching, and more. It was an opportunity for professional development and a time of networking, fellowship, and fun.

## Enrollment and School Promotion for 2024/2025

We've already started planning and promoting for the 2024/2025 school year at St. Paul. We aim to have 72 students in our Elementary School, with a minimum of 15 students entering Kindergarten each year.

As an added incentive, new families enrolling by December 20th will enjoy the current year's registration and tuition rates, resulting in a substantial \$500 savings.

Stay tuned for our exciting Radio and Digital promotional campaign, set to launch in December. Families will hear about our school through Bright FM (Radio and streaming) in conjunction with advertising on social media and the web. We're excited to share that on October 23rd, Tracey Tiernan, the Morning Show host of Bright FM, visited our school to better understand how to promote what we have to offer to the community. We eagerly anticipate God's blessings upon our promotional efforts and the benefits of our partnership with Brighter Media.

## Greetings from the Asset Management Board!

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Did you know that St. Paul owns a house on our cemetery grounds in Baltimore at 1022 Joh Avenue? We have been renting the house out to tenants for the last several years - some years the Church made money on the rental, and other years, due to vacancy or required repairs, the Church has lost money. The Cemetery Committee has been considering the possibility of selling the house for the last year or two, but this month they engaged an architecture engineering company about how to proceed with rezoning and putting the property up for sale. This will undoubtedly be a long and involved process, but we will keep the congregation updated along the way.

At the church, a committee has been working for over a year on a plan to renovate the Sacristy, and we are getting close to putting that plan into action! We are also looking to use some available money from surplus funds to repair the Rose Window, which is leaking under certain conditions and incurring damage. We hope to have updates on both of these projects for you in the coming months.

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

Blessings to all,  
Brad Johnson

## Maryland Lutherans For Life

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**Come Join Us** to see what Maryland Lutherans for Life is all about!

The Maryland chapter of Lutherans for Life (MDLFL) formed more than five years ago to assist local congregations in building *Life Teams* or individuals in being *Life Advocates*, equipped to be a Gospel-motivated voice for a variety of life issues.



In addition to materials for people in crisis considering abortion, we can also direct congregations and individuals to Scripture-based resources on a variety of life issues, including substance addictions, end-of-life issues, human-trafficking, abuse, helping new mothers, birth control, abstinence, gambling addiction, suicide, and other sanctity of life topics.

**Our next gathering** will be held at *St. Paul Lutheran Church* in Catonsville, MD on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 am-noon. Come a little early to enjoy some coffee and refreshments. Stay to hear presentations by:

- Irene Giguere on the ministry and service activities of Orphan Grain Train, and
- Maryland State Delegate Kathy Szeliga on life-related issues in Maryland legislation.

All attendees are asked to **bring diaper donations** for Women's Center West, the Catonsville Pregnancy Center. To learn more about us or contact us, visit: [www.mdlfl.org](http://www.mdlfl.org).



The next meeting of the St. Paul LFL will be on Sunday, November 19, after worship.

# From the Mission Board

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## ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN-MARYLAND BRANCH



Orphan Grain Train (OGT) is an organization that collects, packs and ships needed humanitarian aid to people in areas hit by natural disaster, or that live in areas of extreme poverty. We ship both nationally and internationally. All funding comes from donations, all

the work is done by dedicated volunteers, and all shipped items are donated. The Maryland Branch was founded in 2006 and presently has a warehouse in Millersville. OGT is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS and has a four star Charity Navigator rating.

Since April of 2006, there have been 107 shipments, both domestic and international – the majority occurring since the 2016 building of the warehouse.

- International shipments: Cameroon, Cuba, Ghana, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, India, Liberia, Moldova, Nicaragua, Philippines, Puerto Rico, South Sudan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.
- Domestic shipments have included: Afghan Resettlement in New Jersey, Baltimore Dream Center, Christian Appalachian Project, Helping Up Mission, Linda's legacy.
- Winter coats have been distributed through: Lutheran Church of Saint Andrew, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Martini Lutheran, Nazareth Lutheran, Our Savior Lutheran, St. Thomas Lutheran, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, and Sharp Leadenhall Elementary School.

There is a free Walk-Out Program of used medical equipment that benefits the community. Such items include: hospital beds, walkers, rollators, canes, commodes and wheel chairs. People can come in or phone in and request the needed items.

During the early years of operation, OGT held 2 major mass packing events yearly, and the people of St. Paul frequently participated. Now people are invited to come to the Warehouse to sort- and – pack on Tuesdays from 9 – 12 noon, or 5 – 7 p.m. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month is also a packing day. These are also times that donations are accepted. During November and early December, OGT is collecting coats and warm jackets. See attached flyer for more information. A list of items accepted for donations is also available in the narthex during November.

Orphan Grain Train-MD Branch is one of 27, located all over the country. The Grain Train movement shares personal and material resources with the needy and is "...a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as Servant and His love for us." (National website) Look for a St. Paul packing event and Warehouse visit this church year!

## Visual Faith Opportunities

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The Visual Faith® Ministry Team invites you to a gathering event at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church on Saturday, November 11th from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm. It will include visual prayer, a Make and Take Thanksgiving garland, and sharing about advent practices. Cost is \$10. Sign up [HERE](#). Carpooling from St. Paul is available. Contact Dana, [dstigdon@gmail.com](mailto:dstigdon@gmail.com) for more information or call the church office.



## Advent by Candlelight

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Saturday, December 2 · 9:00 am – 11:00 am  
St. Paul Catonsville

Advent by Candlelight is an opportunity to intentionally step away from the secular preparations for Christmas in favor of preparing hearts and minds for the Advent of our King. A gathering centered around fellowship, seasonal music, and God's word. We will walk through Old Testament and New Testament promises of God and prepare a simple Advent project to help you jumpstart your journey into Advent. As you meditate on the fulfillment of God's promises in the arrival of Baby Jesus, you may find that your celebration of Christmas Day will take on all new meaning this year. All supplies will be furnished. \$5 will be collected at the door to cover the cost of supplies. Sign up [HERE](#).

## News From Augsburg

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The Independent Living Residents of Augsburg received a letter from the National Lutheran Communities & Services (NLCS) in October explaining that Augsburg is planning to be sold to a for profit organization in December. You may read that letter [HERE](#). Regarding this news, there have been two informational meetings. The most recent meeting, on October 17, was attended by representatives from National Lutheran Communities and Services (the current owner), the prospective new owners, Maryland Department of Aging, three state senators, residents and family members.

I have advised the Mission Board as developments surface. Cameron Jones has been provided with contact information of the Mission Advancement Director at National Lutheran Communities and Services. Questions can be addressed to Cyndi Walters, NCLC president and CEO - [cwalters@nationallutheran.org](mailto:cwalters@nationallutheran.org).

Submitted by Sandra Hayes



# Orphan Grain Train †



## COAT COLLECTION

Orphan Grain Train will again be collecting warm **winter coats** and **jackets**. The garments will be given to several inner city Lutheran churches to distribute to their surrounding communities. They will also be distributed through local relief organizations. We have need of new or gently used winter coats/jackets for men, women and children - **but this year especially, for children**.

Coats and jackets can be brought to St. Paul any Sunday, starting November 5. The Giguere **COATMOBILE** (i.e. red pickup truck) will be in the parking lot. Bag your coats and put them in the bed of the truck. You may also place other items for OGT (bedding, clothing, fabric, medical equipment, shoes, soft toys, children's books, etc.) in the truck.

**Coats will be collected November 1 – December 15**

*Thank you for thinking of those in need.*