



St. Paul
Lutheran Church

Walking Together

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School
Catonsville, MD
February 2024

A Ransom for Many

When the season of Lent rolls around there is much attention on the suffering and death of Jesus. Holy Week is built around it. We read the story on Palm Sunday and on Good Friday. The Sunday readings in Lent dwell on the cross. The hymns and prayers we use seem to have the passion of Jesus front and center.

It can be dark and upsetting. The tender and giving Jesus betrayed by his friends, mocked by soldiers, spit on, bleeding, dying. We might wonder, "Why, why did all this have to happen?" St. Mark gives the theological meaning of the suffering and death of Jesus in chapter 10:45: "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." That saving motivation lies behind every verse of the story of Jesus' crucifixion. What seems to be a human story of weakness and failure is a story of divine strength and triumph. We are captives to sin and death, unable to free ourselves. Jesus gives himself as our ransom price. By bleeding, being beaten and betrayed and dying, Jesus wins the victory over sin and death and provides redemption and new life for us.

Human weakness but divine strength. A death which is the victory over all death. A condemned, crucified man who is the Lord and king over all, even over Satan and hell. May these truths be the center of our Lenten thoughts this season.

Pastor Alms

Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday is February 14th. Services will be at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. The 7 p.m. service will be a service of Holy Communion.

"A Ransom For Many" is the theme for our midweek Lenten services this year. We will follow Christ in his suffering as told in the Gospel of Mark, chapters 14-15. Services will include confession and forgiveness, portions of the Small Catechism, preaching and prayer.

Services are on Wednesdays, February 21st through March 20th. Times are 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.



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 Day School Board

School Year Status

The ECC and Elementary school Academic year is in the second half of the year. The students have enjoyed having snow this year (we didn't have any last year) and we had two days off last week due to the snow. No worries, those days are built into our school calendar and we remain on track for an end of May completion of the school year.

Mid-year parent teacher conferences are this week for both the ECC and Elementary programs. We enjoy having the opportunity to discuss the progress of each student with their families.

Church and School Service Project

On 1/24, the Church and School joined together for dinner and service project. Thank you to the Women's Guild for hosting the dinner. The service project was to put together over 200 Hygiene kits to give to the Lutheran Mission Society to distribute to those in need. The school seeks to do three service projects together with the Church each year. This year we did the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes, the Hygiene Kits, and in the Spring we will collect canned goods for the Catonsville Food Pantry.

Lutheran Schools Week

Our next major all school activity will be Lutheran Schools week, March 4th through the 8th. This is a week each year where we celebrate being a Lutheran School. Each day of the week there will be a different "FUN" theme and we will end the week with an all school ice cream social!

2024/2025 School Year

Planning and enrollment has begun for the 2024-2025 school year, please get the word out to anyone you may know who is looking for a Christ centered education for their child and have them call the school office or visit our website and request a tour.

The ECC is already near capacity for the next year and we have a waiting list for most classes.

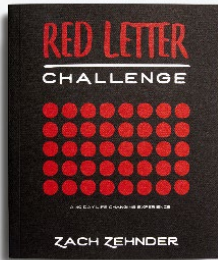
The Elementary program has started the re-registration process for existing students and has an active promotion campaign on Bright FM and Online to attract and recruit new families.

With the "retirement" of our second grade teacher, Mrs. Miller, and with Mrs. Alms accepting the call to be our next Principal, the search committee is actively looking for up to 2 teachers for the 2024/2025 school year in Grades 1 through 5. Names for these positions can be submitted to the school office or given to me directly.

Please keep the education ministry in your prayers that God may fill the school with families and staff so that we may continue to share the Good News!

Carolyn Loudon
Day School Board Chair

Red Letter Challenge



During the Lenten season, the adult Sunday School class will embark on the Red Letter Challenge, a 40-day discipleship challenge that explores five principles of Christian discipleship: Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, and Going as guided by Jesus' words (the red letters in your Bible). Books will be provided for each participating family at no cost, but a donation of \$20 would help the church offset expenses. First class is February 18th.

Women's Guild

Ladies, thank you for providing soup for the mission event on January the 24th. Remember the big Mite Box will be in the Narthex on February 4th and our meeting for the month will be held at church on February 27th at 7 p.m. in the media center. Planning will begin for the April spaghetti dinner.



Carolyn Louden

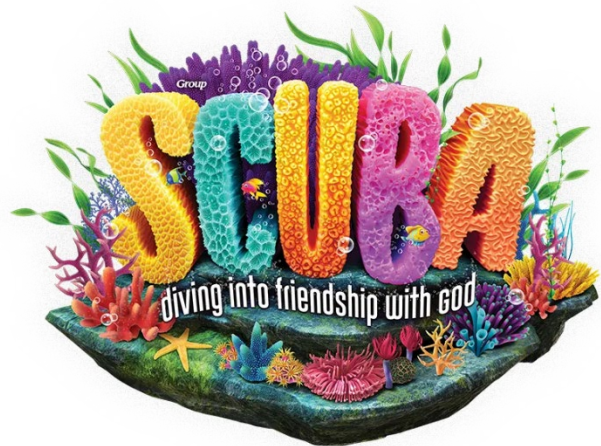
Vacation Bible School

Join the St. Paul VBS team as we get ready to scuba dive into friendship with God this summer.

June 24th - 28th from 9am to 12pm.

Your help and support are needed with this exciting experience to help kids praise God and learn about the fin-tastic things He does.

If you are willing and able to serve this year or know someone who is, please reach out to Kirsten Hall at Kirsten.hall@splscatonville.org or 925-605-9263



There are many ways to get involved:

- Decorations (creating/setting up/taking down)
- Leading a group of kids around to stations (Preschool or Elementary age)
- Leading a station for the elementary groups or preschool groups (Imagination Station, Video, Games, Snack, Bible Story)
- Helping with the Opening/Closing

Hope to SEA you there!

Women's Center West

The St. Paul's Lutherans for Life group is helping support the Women's Center West on Ingleside Avenue in Catonsville. The Center is an independent, nonprofit organization that provides pregnancy testing, sonograms, parenting education, and material assistance to women. They provide alternatives to abortion, assist women in crisis pregnancies, provide material assistance and work with other organizations to help pregnant women. You may learn more about them at [Women's Center West - Baltimore, MD - Home \(womenscenterwest.com\)](http://WomensCenterWest.com).

At this time, the Center is in need of **\$25 Wal-Mart gift cards**. During February, we will have a collection box in the narthex for money donations or the Wal-Mart gift cards.

We thank you in advance for the support and the love for our neighbor.



Mark Your Calendars: Easter Egg Hunt

Our community Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, March 30th, from 10:00 - 12 Noon. This annual Mission event is always popular with families in our St Paul Community and surrounding neighborhood. Watch News & News for more information in the coming weeks! Contact Karyn Borth for additional information (k.borth@icloud.com).

St. Paul Men's Group

Calling all men (from recent confirmands on up) to gather together on Saturday morning, February 10th at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a time for food and fellowship followed by prayer and study. Guests are well to come so feel free to invite and bring a friend! Please sign up on the list at church on the bulletin board or contact Jim Baeder (baeder@umd.edu), so that we can plan for food. A special thanks to those who helped rake leaves back in November!

News from the Mission Field in Peru



The Ramirez family has been blessed with the birth of Ian. New Year, New Excitement. Read all about it in their newest newsletter [HERE](#).

Thank You, St. Paul!

- For bringing in coats for the Orphan Grain Train winter coat collection. 945 coats were distributed to churches, schools and charities to give out to the homeless during November and December
- For buying Christmas gifts for children in the surrounding St. Thomas community. 60 presents were given to 20 children
- For collecting food for Christmas baskets. 20 bags of staple food items, plus hams and bread fed needy families over the Christmas holidays

Your generous spirit showed the love of Christ to many!



Gifts & Food Baskets



Bringing in hams



Coats for distribution



Delivery crew for St. Thomas baskets and gifts:
Rich & Sally Foks, Irene & Norm Giguere, Carolyn Loudon, Pat Chinn and Bill Beggs