



St. Paul
Lutheran Church

Walking Together

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

A Joyful Lent?

Quite a few years ago I came across a Lutheran church that was advertising its Lenten services. The theme was “A Joyful Lent”. I was offended! Not really but I thought, “Wait, a joyful Lent?”. I thought that Lent was supposed to be for repentance and mourning over sin and the great price of suffering and bleeding and crucifixion that Jesus paid for what we have done wrong? Isn’t Lent supposed to be miserable and wretched and sad?

As the years have passed, I have reconsidered my reaction. Yes, Lent is indeed a time to consider our sin, our broken natures, that lead to the fallen lives we lead, the crooked world that has lapsed into sin and the need we all have for pardon and mercy. Lent is also a time to focus on the cross and the passion of Jesus, his sufferings for us and his substitution on our behalf.

But Lent is also a time for joy. Yes, joy. Joy that roots itself in sins forgiven. Joy that springs from knowing that the suffering of Christ beats down and triumphs over Satan who seeks to wreck our connection with God our Father. Through the cross Satan is defeated! Joy that wells up in the heart of a believer who kneels in confession and hears the beautiful words “I forgive you”. Joy that knows that through the death of Christ there is life, even eternal life, for all who trust in Him.

So yes, go ahead and have a joyful Lent!

Pastor Alms



Midweek Lent Services

"A Ransom For Many" – The story of Christ’s suffering and death as told in the Gospel of Mark, Chapters 14-15. Services are on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. 3/6, 3/13, 3/20

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, March 24, 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday March 28th
7 p.m. with Lord’s Supper

Good Friday, March 29th 7 p.m.

Easter Sunrise, March 31st 7 a.m.

Resurrection of Our Lord Festival Worship, March 31st 10 a.m. with Lord’s Supper



From the Congregational President

I am ready for spring. It's time to start warming up. What is going on right now?

The sale of the cemetery house progresses. The land survey has been completed and we look to subdivide the property to sell the house. This is a long process and we will keep everyone updated.

Council is starting the budget process. Current dates are as follows:

March 11 th – DRAFT budgets due from committees to treasurer

April 8 th – REVISION budgets due to treasurer

May 14 th – FINAL budget voted on by council

May 19 th – Reports and budget available to voters for review

June 2 nd – Voters Meeting (please mark your calendars)

Council and the Capital Campaign committee is meeting on February 24th to discuss goals, priorities, and strategies. This will help shape and define what the Capital Campaign is going to be and what we will be working towards.

Council has also worked on a broad Social Media Policy that will cover digital media guidelines for the school and church.

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

Ladies, thanks to all who baked, bought and worked on the cookie walk, because of its success we were able to add an additional \$200 towards the purchase of the new refrigerator bringing our total contribution to \$1700.

The ladies at the January meeting packed boxes for our college students filled with goodies and a personal note of encouragement. They were mailed or hand delivered to each of the 6 students.

Mark your calendars, March meeting will be held on March 26th at the home of Pat Welsseman. Meeting begins at 10, bring a bag lunch and plan on staying after the meeting for some fellowship.

Carolyn Loudon

Welcome Linda

Welcome to Linda Jones who will be our new Church Admin. She has been in training for the last couple of weeks and will begin her permanent position on March 12th. Linda will be in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. You can reach her by email at Linda.Jones@splscatonsville.org. Please make her feel welcome.

News From The Elders

The elders for FY 2023-2024 are Kevin Dungey (Chairman), Jim Baeder, Norm Giguere, Roy Krakat, Bill Oldhouser, Jeff Piegols, and Bruce Staudinger. Please contact any of us with personal concerns via email, phone, or in person.

- The Covid Pandemic of 2020 interrupted the church attendance of all St. Paul members (recall how excited we were to have the Easter service of 2020 conducted in our parking lot) and caused us to lose touch with many who had been members up to that point. Some time ago, the elders asked the voters to remove former members who had not attended in over 5 years for abandonment, which means that we could not contact them. The elders recently sent letters to all members on our rolls who had not attended in at least the last 3 years requesting that they notify us by phone or email if they wished to remain members. In that letter, we said that if we did not hear from them, we would ask the voters to remove them from membership in the June 2024 voters meeting. Two different members have responded that they wish to remain members, and one member requested removal since they are attending another church. Please pray that more of our absent members will respond positively and begin attending St. Paul once again.
- We rejoice to report that we have received transfers into membership at St. Paul from other LCMS congregations, namely the Chinnapan family (Isaac, Jayanthi, Spencer, and Joanna), Ben Allston, and the Reverend Carl and Dorothy Roemer. We further rejoice to report that other potential members are enrolled in Pastor's Catechism class running on Monday evenings and that St. Paul has had repeat visitors who have expressed interest in joining the St. Paul congregation. We hope to announce a Welcome New Members Sunday sometime after Easter. In the meantime, please introduce yourself and make our visitors feel welcome.
- Lenten services at 11 AM and 7 PM will occur every Wednesday from February 21 to March 20. Palm Sunday is March 24, Maundy Thursday is March 28, Good Friday is March 29, and the two Easter services (Sunrise and 10 AM) are on Sunday, March 31.

In His service,
Kevin Dungey,

Red Letter Challenge



Currently the adult Sunday School class and High School Youth are studying 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.

From the Day School Board

School Choirs Singing during Lent

We are excited for the school choirs to be participating at the 11 AM Lenten Services. Each week of Lent a choir will sing at the beginning of the service.

Lutheran School Week & Talent Show

Lutheran School Week (School Spirit Week) will be the week of March 4th. A different fun activity will be scheduled each day and the week will end with a ice cream social and talent show. Please join us for the Talent show at 6 PM on Friday March 8th.

2024/2025 Enrollment and School Promotion

We are advertising on Shine FM and across the web via digital advertising. Over the last several weeks we have had two to three tours per week and it looks like most of those who have toured the school will be registering for next year. So far we have 7 Kindergartners registered. Our target is 15. We expect to enroll 5 new students in grade 1-4 for the 2024/2025 school year in the coming weeks.

Whenever you get the chance please promote our wonderful program to your neighbors, friends, and family.

National Lutheran School Accreditation Renewal

Every five years we need to renew our accreditation. We have started that process. This a great opportunity to take an inside look at the why, what, and how we perform as a Christ-centered school educating the whole child. In the Fall/Winter 2024 an independent validation team will visit our school at take an outside look. We look forward to the renewal of our accreditation. God has a talented and dedicated team supporting the education ministry of St. Paul.

School Security

Over the past several months we have been improving the security systems around the campus. Several cameras have been added to improve monitoring both inside and outside the building. Due to a recent incident we have decided to install an alarm system. There will be open/close sensors installed on the exterior doors and motions sensor inside the building. These measures are being taken so that we have better awareness of the security of the spaces within our building and have the ability to be alerted to undesired access to the building.

Carolyn Loudon
Day School Board Chair

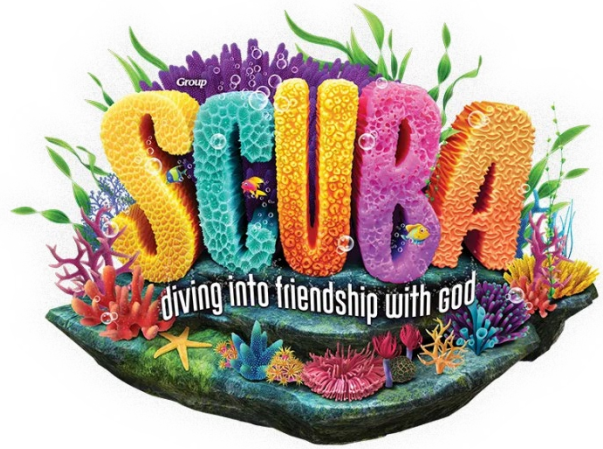
Vacation Bible School

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 fill out the volunteer registration [HERE](#) or call Kirsten Hall at 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!

Altar Care

I would like to thank those church members who are donating their time to take a month to prepare the altar for communion services and to change the altar paraments as needed. The schedule follows:

January: Irene and Suzanne Giguere

February: Robbin and Kevin Dungey

March: Karyn and John Borth

April: Doreen and Greg McDonald

May: Melissa Sunstrom

June: Betsy Mitchell and Christina Unglesbee

July: Open

August: Bruce Staudinger

September: Melissa Sunstrom

October: Open

November: Barb Haar and Lynette Frech

December: Debbie and Denise Frech

Helpers/Substitutes – Christina and Aaron Nelson / Andrea Wellington

As you can tell from the list above, volunteers are needed to provide altar care in the months of July and October. If you are willing to assume the responsibility for either one of these months, please contact Robbin Dungey at 410 698-2766 (or see me at church), and I will add you to the list and see that you get training.

Robbin Dungey

Asset Management Board

Greetings from the Asset Management Board!

We are proud to announce that cleaning and reinforcement of the Rose Window has been completed! You may notice how much brighter the window looks now, and no additional damage to the window or surrounding structure was found, so it should be protected from the elements for the next several years! We were also fortunate not to need the entire amount granted by the voters to cover the work, so we will be asking the voters to allocate those remaining funds to a future project in the coming months..

Speaking of future projects, a committee has spent the past year planning the renovation of our Sacristy. The scope of the project has been defined, estimates for the work are being collected, but funding for the project is still to be determined. We are also looking into quotes for getting some of the sidewalks around the church repaired, as numerous sections are becoming safety concerns due to potential trip hazards. Both of these projects will cost several thousands of dollars, so if you would like to contribute specifically to either of these projects as your offering, please place your donation in a plain envelope with a note describing how you would like the money to be used!

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

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).



Missionary Visit

Mark your calendars for April 14 during Sunday School. Our new missionaries Stan and Dana Stigdon will be giving us an overview of LCMS Missions around the world and specifically a presentation on the work of the Lord happening in the Latin America and Caribbean Region.

LCMS Disaster Response

Are you interested in helping a community recover after a natural disaster and showing the love of Christ to people in need? Have you ever volunteered for a Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT)? Your opinion can help LCMS Disaster Response and Training improve its organization and training of LERT volunteers so that they are ready to deploy when a natural disaster strikes. Please take a brief survey at lcms.org/lert-survey-congregation and let us know how you think we can improve LERT training and provide relief more effectively to natural disasters.

Mission Brunch Recap

We wish to thank all the volunteers who brought food and helped with setup and cleaning for the congregational potluck on January 28 with Rev. Dr. Alexey Streltsov and his wife, Elena. Dr.



Streltsov presented an overview of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society, and shared with us stories of how God is working through men and women in Siberia to bring His message of hope and salvation to many. Dr. Streltsov also shared some of the challenges the Siberian church has faced over the last 30–40 years and some of the difficulties in rebuilding. The pressures and vastness of the mission field are extensive, and we encourage you to continue praying for Dr. Streltsov and the SELC. We are grateful for the ministry of the SELC and the opportunity to spend time in meal and fellowship with our guests. Acknowledgements also to Thrivent for their donation to help offset costs and make this an enjoyable afternoon with plenty of food

for the nearly 100 St. Paul members and guests in attendance. More information on the SLMS is here: [The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society - Home](http://TheSiberianLutheranMissionSociety-Home) You may also follow the activity of the SELC on Facebook: www.facebook.com/siberianelc/



Thank You

Thank you for your generosity St. Paul.

- We collected \$3,305 to support efforts through the SELC church and seminary to spread the Gospel in Siberia.
- We raised \$648.58 for The Wyneken Project from St. Paul Oktoberfest.
- We assembled 308 Health Care Kits for the Lutheran Mission Society of MD.

Thrivent 101

Everything You Need To Know About Your Thrivent Membership

Tuesday, February 27 6:45 PM Fellowship Hall

As a Thrivent member, you have access to a suite of tools and resources designed to help you be wise with money and live a more content, confident and generous life. From helping you be wise with money to supporting your desire to live generously, Thrivent is here to guide you on your journey.

Join the Northeast Advisor Group Engagement Leaders for a special online event designed to orient you to our Thrivent Member Experience, and to learn the first steps towards activating your Thrivent member benefits.

We'll cover it all, from Thrivent Action Teams to Thrivent Choice, to Thrivent's new Mobile App. We will also include educational resources, free and discounted services and other support that is available to you as a Thrivent member to make an impact on the communities where you live, work, and worship. Whether you're a new member or just need a refresher, you won't want to miss this event.

No Products Will Be Sold. Member benefits and programs are not guaranteed contractual benefits. The interpretation of the provisions of these benefits and programs is at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Thrivent reserves the right to change, modify, discontinue, or refuse to provide any of the membership benefits or any part of them, at any time. You should only purchase and keep insurance and annuity products that best meet the financial security needs of you and your family and never purchase or keep any insurance or annuity products to be eligible for nonguaranteed membership benefits.

Food Drive For Catonsville Emergency Assistance

During March the St. Paul community (church and school) is collecting nonperishable food items for Catonsville Emergency Assistance. CEA is a local organization that serves greater Catonsville residents with emergency food and utility turn-off intervention. They rely on donors. Each Wednesday at chapel the school families will bring in donations. Each Sunday at worship (March 3-24) the congregation will collect items in the narthex. Please see the list below for recommended things to donate.

Urgent Needs

Boxes of Cereal
Jelly
Dry Soup
Rice

Baking Mixes
Oatmeal
Canned Meals
Spaghetti Sauce

Pasta
Pasta/Rice Side Dishes

Always Needed

Coffee and Tea
Canned Vegetables (please no green beans or corn)
Canned Meats
Mashed/scalloped potatoes
Pancake Mix and Syrup

Pasta/Spaghetti Sauce
Toilet Paper
Boxes of Mac and Cheese
Boxes of Hamburger Helper
Peanut Butter
Ziploc bags – Gallon

Toiletries
Small Can Tomato Products
Paper Towels
Sugar
Canned Fruits
Baked Beans

