



St. Paul  
Lutheran Church

# Walking Together

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School  
Catonsville, MD  
October 2025

## **ON THE REFORMATION: 1517 TO TODAY**

What was the purpose of the Reformation? When Martin Luther wrote his 95 Theses and posted them on the door of the church in Wittenberg that fateful day in 1517, he had no intention of starting a new branch of Christianity, nor was it ever his intention to split from the Church of Rome. In fact, at least one of his works was dedicated to the Pope of that time -- Leo X -- and addressed him with all respect and kindness, imploring him to correct the errors of the church's doctrine. Unbeknownst to Luther, even the Pope was tied into these errors, and it was because of this that Luther's faithfulness to God's Word would lead to his excommunication.

Lutherans never left the true faith, as many Roman Catholics might say of us ; rather, the Pope sought to twist the truth to preserve his own power and authority, authority which had never truly been given him from God in the first place. In a sense, we are still Catholic; however, we never have been and never will be Roman Catholic. This can be plainly seen in the Augsburg Confession, Luther's Small and Large Catechisms, and even the Smalcald Articles, in addition to the other Lutheran Confessions. The goal has never been - nor will it ever be - to eschew anything and everything even remotely resembling the Church of Rome. Rather, we are to remain faithful to the Word of God which endures eternally. After all, the marks of the true Church are that the Word of God is preached in all truth and purity and that the Sacraments are administered rightly.

The spirit of the Reformation is not to make something new, but to remain faithful to the Word of God – hence, the battle cry of the Reformation was *Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum*, that is, the Word of the Lord remains eternally, or, as the Psalmist once wrote, the Word of the Lord endures forever. So, then, to preach God's Word in all truth and purity is to deliver God's Word exactly as He said it, that is, to teach all that Christ has commanded us (Mt. 28:16-20), and in so doing, receive our baptisms and the body and blood of Jesus Christ. As these things must be taught, we look not to our own understanding, but to God's Word. What is more, we have been blessed with the Small Catechism and all the Lutheran Confessions that are faithful expositions of God's Word, so that we would more fully understand what God has done, for in that, we may know who He is.

What sets us apart as Lutherans is simply this: everything is given to us from God as a gift, including salvation and even our faith. Jesus did everything necessary for salvation and gives it to us as a gift in Word and Sacrament. May God keep you steadfast in the one true faith.

Vicar Tom Malmstrom

## **NEWS FROM THE ELDERS**

### **Adult Education Opportunities**

While we are all fed spiritually and emotionally by our Sunday service, by the reading of the Bible texts for that day, by the sermon, by communion, by being together in worship, it is another great joy to study the Bible with others. Sunday morning before church, 8:45-9:45 AM, Pastor Alms is leading a study of First Corinthians that will run through the end of November. In addition, Pastor tells me that you may still join his adult Catechism class that meets online Monday evenings at 7 PM to study Luther's Small Catechism; please contact him if you want to join. On the fourth Thursday of each month, at 7 PM, people meet at the Rathskeller restaurant in Elkridge, Maryland, to enjoy authentic German food and this fall to read and discuss the book Luther: Man between God and the Devil, a biography of Martin Luther. I am leading a study of the gospel of John in the sacristy at St. Paul from 10 – 11 AM every other Thursday of each month. In October, we will be meeting on October 9 and 23. We are indeed blessed to have so many opportunities at St. Paul to meet with each other to discuss the Bible.

### **St. Paul Prayer Chain**

The St. Paul Prayer Chain began and exists to inform St. Paul members of the prayer concerns of our members, family, and friends via email. At this point, there are 46 members of the Prayer Chain. If you would like to join and receive these prayer requests, please contact me in church or email me at [kdungey49@gmail.com](mailto:kdungey49@gmail.com) to be added to the distribution list. This is a powerful ministry of St. Paul. It is a profound blessing to be linked together in praying to our Loving God for others.

### **Members Directory Coming Soon**

The elders are busy helping to compile the new 2025 St. Paul Members Directory. We may be contacting you for information about our members. One thing I will say at this point is that the new directory will be quite a bit larger than the previous directory. We are so thankful for all our guests and visitors and for the loving way they are greeted at St. Paul. Since we do have quite a few visitors (at least 10 in our visitors' book since early July), please be sure to say hello and make our visitors feel welcome.

In His service,  
Kevin Dungey,  
Board of Elders

### **ST. PAUL MEN'S GROUP: OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

The men of St. Paul will meet again on October 11th at 8:30 am in the fellowship hall for food, prayer and Bible study. All confirmed men and friends of St. Paul are welcome! Let Jim Baeder if you plan to attend. We will also start planning for raking leaves in November and the Ladies Tea this spring. We will also meet on November 8th and December 13th!

## **EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, CATONSVILLE**

Rev. Matthew Sorenson is our new Senior Pastor beginning September 27th! Pastor Sorenson needs a nearby temporary residence while he makes the permanent transition to the Catonsville area. If you live in or within a 20-minute drive of Catonsville and have a spare/guest room in your home where Pastor Sorenson could stay, even for a couple of weeks, please notify Tricia May at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Catonsville.

## **CONFLICT AND COMMUNITY: A LOOK AT 1 CORINTHIANS**

Coming in September: You think life for churches is challenging today! The Corinthian church had to navigate being a new church plant, deep divisions, sexual immorality, idol worship, bizarre worship practices, speaking in tongues and more. Pastor Alms leads a study of Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth. We begin on September 7th at 8:45 am in the fellowship hall.

## **MISSIONARY SUPPORT UPDATE:**

As the Rameriz family serving in Latin America is now funded two years in advance, our missionary gifts through Mission Central are now being routed to support new missionaries serving in Romania, Mr. Benjamin Goehring and his wife Ella.

Benjamin and Ella are both from Rochester, NY and their home congregation is St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clarence Center, NY. Benjamin holds a BA in linguistics and Russian from the University of Rochester (2018) and a master's degree in teaching English to speakers of other languages. Ella also attended the University of Rochester to study linguistics and Russian. During her time at the university, she served as a workshop leader for linguistics classes and volunteered by visiting elderly Russian-speaking Jews in the community. In their free time, both Benjamin and Ella enjoy playing the fiddle and learning languages.

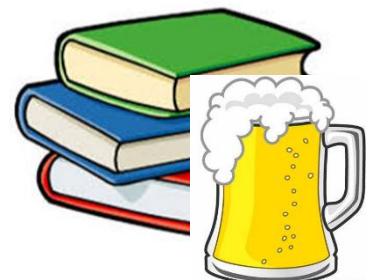
While in Romania, Ben will be teaching ESL and through these classes, he will be able to connect his students with God's Word. Please add them to your prayers as they serve God in this new environment. Learn more about them and their mission here: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/goehring>.

## **WE NEED TREATS**

We need treats for coffee/fellowship hour. Open dates are October 5, 19, 26 and November 2, 9, 23 and 30. Sign up on the bulletin board.

## **LUTHERAN BOOKS AND BEER**

Our new book is Luther: Man between God and the Devil, a biography of Martin Luther written by Heiko Oberman available here. We meet September 25th, 7 p.m. at the Rathskellar in Elkridge. Start reading and join us!



## **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY AND REMEMBRANCE OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

All Saints will be observed at St. Paul on November 2nd. If you have names of any Christian family or friends who have passed away \_since All Saints Sunday 2024\_ 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 [linda.jones@splscatonsville.org](mailto:linda.jones@splscatonsville.org) with the name and relation of the departed or call the church office at 410-747-1897.

## **LWML SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 5th**

We will give thanks to God for the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League at St. Paul, in our country and across the world.

## **WOMEN'S GUILD**

Ladies mark your calendars October 5th is LWML Sunday so please wear your purple to church that day. October 28th will be our regular monthly meeting at the home of Pat Wesselman. Items up for discussion are the cookie walk and food bags for St Thomas.



Carolyn Loudon

## **TRUNK OR TREAT IS GOING TO BE GREAT!**

All members are invited to join us on Saturday, October 25, 3:00 – 4:30, in the parking lot. Support St. Paul as we welcome the neighborhood to this very popular community event! Last year we had 22 decorated trunks, and over 268 children. We hope to have even more this year. Consider hosting a trunk...it's easy and fun! Or consider other ways to help. If you would like to be involved, contact Kirsten Hall ([kirsten.hall@splscatonsville.org](mailto:kirsten.hall@splscatonsville.org)). Candy donations are accepted all month in the foyer collection bin. Watch News & Notes for more weekly updates!



## **ESL (ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE)**

Our English class is a ministry to the immigrants in the Catonsville area. We provide a place to learn the language, interact with Americans, learn culture, and be introduced to Jesus. This Fall, classes began on Monday, September 22 and will continue through November 24. We meet every Monday and Thursday nights, from 7:15 – 9:00 pm. Volunteers assist with the lessons by reinforcing the concepts presented in small groups. Some students may benefit from one-on-



one attention. You can volunteer on both nights, one night only, or come in occasionally when a helper is absent. If interested, talk with Irene Giguere.

## **SCHOOL NEWS**

It's wonderful to have our halls and classrooms filled with students, never a dull moment during the week. We have quite a few new families in our school. It's a blessing to watch their expressions change over time, from doubt and unease to satisfaction and ease, as they become part of our community.

Our ECC has enjoyed a basketball camp. Who knows, but the next basketball star might be on campus today. We do have a spot or two in our two and three-year-old classes. If you know anyone seeking care, please refer them to us.

Our elementary teachers are heading to the National Lutheran Educators Association convocation in early October. Lutheran teachers gather like this every three years to learn from the best in their fields. We are proud that two of our own teachers will be leading workshops there!

We hosted a "Free Book Friday" for both our ECC and elementary families. The idea is relatively simple: we put tables on the lawn and cover them with books that the children can take home and enjoy. Hundreds of books have found their way into new homes.

Looking forward:

Our families will be joining in on the fun of Trunk or Treat on October 25, from 3-4:30.

We will be hosting an Open House for families looking to enroll their children here for the 2026/27 school year. We will be emphasizing our Kindergarten and ECC programs on this day, so please have the young families you know mark their calendars now.

*We are ready to have a great year!*





## SERVING IN SEPTEMBER

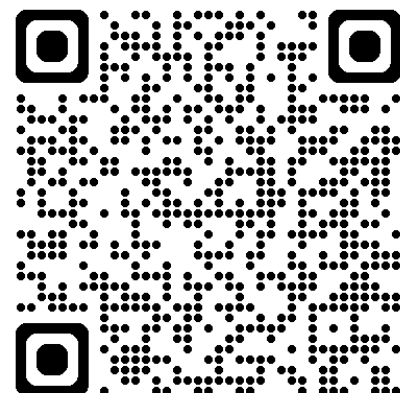
	Reader	Greeter	Usher 1	Usher 2
Oct 5	Jay Barringer	Karen Borth	Jeffrey Hemmeter	Jon Brooks
Oct 12	Ed Cohen	Joy Brooks	Bruce Staudinger	Paul Lubell
Oct 19	JB Jaeger	Irene Giguere	Jim Kyne	David Nguyen
Oct 26	Suzanne Giguere	Dave Carnes	Roy Krakat	Ed Kester

## Daily Readings

	Oct. 5 (Prop. 22)	Seventeenth S. after Pentecost	Hab. 1:1–4; 2:1–4	Psalm 62	2 Tim. 1:1–14	Luke 17:1–10
	Oct. 12 (Prop. 23)	Eighteenth S. after Pentecost	Ruth 1:1–19a	Psalm 111	2 Tim. 2:1–13	Luke 17:11–19
	Oct. 19 (Prop. 24)	Nineteenth S. after Pentecost	Gen. 32:22–30	Psalm 121	2 Tim. 3:14–4:5	Luke 18:1–8
<b>REFORMATION</b>	Oct. 26 ( <i>observed</i> )	Reformation Day (Oct. 31)	Rev. 14:6–7	Psalm 46	Rom. 3:19–28	Matt. 11:12– 19 <i>or</i> John 8:31–36
	<i>or</i> (Prop. 25)	Twentieth S. after Pentecost	Gen. 4:1–15	Psalm 5	2 Tim. 4:6–8, 16–18	Luke 18:9–17

## Orphan Grain Train +

Scan the QR code for the latest Newsletter from the Maryland Chapter of OGT. Find out all the fun stuff that happen this summer and what is planned for fall. <https://conta.cc/4nxINML>



## **BOWLERS NEEDED!**

Join us at the Severna Park Lanes on October 25 to help support Orphan Grain Train. Deadline to sign up is October 12. See Irene Giguere for more information OR if you want to go old school and fill out a PAPER registration form, she has them! Remember, your support and generosity keep shipments going out to those in need.

# Orphan Grain Train

**"SPARE No One – Helping the Needy"**

## **BOWLING FUNDRAISER**

**Saturday, October 25 – 5:00-7:00**

**Severna Park Lanes – [Gobowlingsevernapark.com](http://Gobowlingsevernapark.com)  
840 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park**

***Your Registration includes:***

**Two Games and Shoe Rental (Ten Pin or Duck Pin Lanes)**

**Pizza, Soda, Dessert**

**Great Silent Auction, Raffles, Prizes – Sponsorships Available**

**\$45 per person (max. 5 per lane)**

**\$30 non-bowlers (includes pizza and soda  
ticket)**

**REGISTER at [www.ogt.org/md](http://www.ogt.org/md)**

Questions? Contact Marie Fries [weezie68@verizon.net](mailto:weezie68@verizon.net)

*Founded in 1992, Orphan Grain Train is an all-volunteer ministry to the needy, here and around the world. Visit us at [www.ogt.org/md](http://www.ogt.org/md)*



## **THRIVENT -11 RED FLAGS TO HELP IDENTIFY SCAMS**

### **1. You're contacted out of the blue.**

Unsolicited phone calls should always be treated with caution. If you're in doubt, hang up, or better yet, don't answer. You shouldn't receive a call from tech support if you didn't initiate an interaction. The same goes for winning prizes or money—you can't win a sweepstakes or lottery you never entered.

### **2. It sounds too good to be true.**

If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. If you're approached about a long-lost relative who left you money in their will, an investment with no risk or unusually high returns, or being awarded a loan or grant you don't remember applying for, it's probably a scam. These are the types of tactics scammers regularly use to get their hands on peoples' money and personal information.

### **3. There's a sense of urgency to act.**

Scammers know fear works in their favor. They want you to panic and act quickly without taking time to ask questions, verify information and evaluate the situation with a clear head.

### **4. Threat tactics are used.**

If you receive a phone call, email or text message from someone claiming to be with a government agency, law enforcement organization, utility company, financial institution or health care facility who says you'll face legal action, deportation, immediate disconnection of utilities or arrest if you don't immediately pay or provide your financial information, then you've likely been targeted by a scammer. Scammers use threats to cloud your judgment and prompt you to respond or act quickly.

### **5. Spelling and grammatical errors are made.**

Be very suspicious of "official" documents with misspellings, poor grammar or logos that don't look legitimate. Real entities take time to proofread and review their correspondence. If scammers aren't well educated or don't speak English as their first language, they are likely to have several errors in their correspondence.

### **6. An upfront investment or payment is required.**

Scammers often claim advanced payment of taxes or fees is needed to clear funds or release money you've "won." Never pay fees or taxes in advance, especially if you don't have clear documentation of what the payments are for. Legitimate sweepstakes or lotteries do not request any form of payment in advance to claim your winnings.

### **7. Untraceable payment methods are requested.**

Scammers may avoid traditional banking methods to cover their tracks. They often direct consumers to provide payment in the form of wire transfers, prepaid debit cards, gift cards, cryptocurrency or even gold bars. Another tactic is to request the funds via applications like PayPal, Zelle, Venmo or others. They prefer methods that are nearly untraceable, so once the money is sent, it's gone for good.

### **8. You're required to provide personal information.**



In rare circumstances, banks, government agencies and legitimate companies may ask you to provide personal information to verify your identity, but they generally don't call you to request this information. Scammers, on the other hand, may attempt to impersonate an entity to lure consumers into providing their private information so they can use it to commit fraud. Never provide your private information in response to an unsolicited call, email or text message. Instead, call the entity at a phone number found on its website, on the back of your credit or debit card, or on official correspondence like your monthly utility bill.

#### **9. Pop-ups or links are used.**

If you get a pop-up message to call tech support, even if it appears to be from a known company like Microsoft or Apple, ignore it. Some pop-up messages about computer issues are legitimate, but never

call a number or click a link that appears in a pop-up message warning you of a computer problem or virus. Close the pop-up and contact tech support via a local or known, trusted channel. Do not give remote access to someone you didn't contact first. Don't share passwords or login information with anyone, not even tech support.

#### **10. They refuse to let you see them.**

If you meet a new friend or romantic interest online, take it slowly and ask questions. Watch for inconsistencies in information they share. Look for red flags such as promising to meet in person but later canceling or refusing to appear on camera. If they ask for money so they can visit you or pay for some other emergency—even if they offer to repay you—don't comply. Limit the amount of personal information you provide and talk to family and friends about the person to see if they have concerns.

#### **11. They ask you to keep a secret.**

Scammers often use secrecy to prevent you from getting a second opinion from trusted family, friends or other professionals, such as your Thrivent financial advisor, attorney or banker. By keeping things secret, scammers maintain power over you and make it harder to expose the scam. They might even imply that revealing the information could lead to negative consequences, which puts additional pressure on you to stay silent. Always check with someone you trust before acting—especially if it seems too good to be true!

