



St. Paul
Lutheran Church

Walking Together

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

IT'S ALL ABOUT GRACE

So, I am doing another Adult Catechism class now.

Quick advertisement: we just started. We have only done one session so you are welcome to join us. It is online, Monday at 7 or 7:15 p.m. Next class is September 8th. Drop an email to Pastor Alms and you're in!

God has blessed St. Paul so much that I have done so many adult catechism and membership classes since I got here five years ago. This is the seventh to be exact. It is one of my favorite things I do as a pastor. The great truths of the Catechism (which are simply the truths of God's Word) never get old or routine.

In the Catechism class, the first slide in the power point is always this: It's all about grace. Being a Christian, Lutheran doctrine, the Small Catechism, the liturgy, prayer, Holy Communion, Baptism, Law and Gospel, Holy Week, Christmas, your life of good works, facing the awful judgment seat of Christ at the end of time: it's all about grace.

Grace is a word which means gift, undeserved favor. Grace is God's attitude and actions toward us. It is why and how we become and remain God's children. Why does God love you? Not because you do good or come to church or follow the rules. No, none of that. God loves you because He is kind and merciful and loving and full of grace and gives you that undeserved love in Christ Jesus.

Such undeserved love defines who God is. Grace is not a decision God makes as if He could change His mind. Grace and mercy and love are who God is.

Consider these verses:

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Psalm 103:8.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. I John 4: 8c-10

That is our God. The only God that exists. The true God. The Holy Trinity. The God of love.

Pastor Alms

NEWS FROM THE ELDERS

What a Great Summer!

At St. Paul, we are not talking about wonderful vacation trips but about the wonderful things that were accomplished at St. Paul over the summer.

- We had an awesome Vacation Bible School program, ***True North – Trusting Jesus in a Wild World***. Thanks especially to our VBS leader, Kirsten Hall, as well as all the St. Paul volunteers who worked together to make VBS special for all the children who attended.
- St. Paul sponsored a great mission trip to North Carolina August 3-9 to assist with hurricane recovery. Thanks to Heather and Roy Krakat for organizing this trip.
- Nine of our youth and 3 adult chaperones attended the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. Thanks to all who organized that wonderful, meaningful trip.
- We give thanks that Vicar Thomas Malmstrom has joined St. Paul to serve in ministry. Thanks to all who made his installation such a festive, happy time in the Fellowship Hall.
- Different study leaders offering different topics enriched our summer Sunday Bible study in the Fellowship Hall before church. This gave Pastor Alms a good rest and allowed for some stimulating, different topics.
- Thanks to all those St. Paul members who prepared the parade float and marched in the Catonsville 4th of July parade. We won a trophy! It is on display in the church office. We get to keep it for a year.
- We give thanks that the Horlebein Fund awarded JB Jaeger a \$5,000 grant from Estelle Horlebein's bequest to study to be a pastor. JB is taking classes from the AALC (American Association of Lutheran Churches) seminary. The AALC is in complete altar and pulpit fellowship with our own Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

Altar Care Needs Helpers

Each week, St. Paul team members serve to get the altar ready for Sunday. Team members come in on a Saturday or early Sunday to prepare for Holy Communion by preparing the communion wafers, filling the chalice and small cups with wine, and refilling the candles with fresh oil. Typically, volunteer teams serve for a month at a time. At present, all the months are covered with volunteers except for April and May. If you would like to volunteer to help prepare for communion for either April or May or are willing to fill in as needed, please speak with, call, or email Robbin Dungey. Robbin will be happy to provide training!

Thursday Bible Study Begins

Our continuing study of the Gospel of John will begin on Thursday, September 11. We will meet in Pastor's office at 10 AM.

In His service,
Kevin Dungey,
Board of Elders

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT

It is back-to-school time! This summer seems to have gone by super-fast. Seems like it wasn't that long ago that school ended for the kids. Council has a few updates.

The learning cottage for the school is moving forward. We now have the plans and have submitted for our permits. We are hoping to have everything ready to go in the upcoming months. It's taking a bit longer but will be great to have to create consistency in our classrooms for our teachers.

The church has been blessed with a generous gift from Vernon and Mildred Klein. As part of their trust, St. Paul Lutheran Church received a sizable gift for the church and for the cemetery. The Kleins were invaluable members of our congregation, serving St. Paul in so many ways. We express our sincere gratitude and thanks for the generous gifts the Kleins made to the church and to the cemetery.

This fall, the council will be looking to update our personnel manual, job descriptions, and finalize our 10-year strategy. We are looking forward to a blessed year and can't wait to see what God will provide to our congregation.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about anything feel free to contact me.

Blessings to all,
Aaron Nelson

GAME NIGHT FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH!!!!

On Saturday, September 20th, 6-8pm, there will be a game night for the St. Paul High School Youth in the Fellowship Hall. If there are any games you would like to bring and play, please bring them. Otherwise, games will be provided from our game library. If interested, please let the Nelsons know at church between now and the 20th.



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.

GREETINGS FROM THE ASSET MANAGEMENT BOARD!

Learning Cottage Update

St. Paul's school year started on August 18th, but as you may have noticed, there is no learning cottage by the parking lot. Delays prevented us from having the LC ready for the first day of school, but the School and Operations Manager are working diligently to move things along. We are receiving the necessary plans from the vendor and submitting them for permits, with the hopes that the footings will be installed and the LC delivered by the end of September or early October. There will still be other logistics to coordinate, such as connecting to electricity, data, and plumbing, before the LC can be operational, but we are hoping everything will be ready by the end of the calendar year.

Meanwhile, the School has done a great job improvising and making the best use of the space we have until the LC is available. Please pray for patience, understanding, and flexibility for our teachers, staff, students, and their families as they navigate the beginning of the school year.

We will provide monthly progress updates on the Learning Cottage via the newsletter.

Cemetery House Sale

We have faced numerous challenges in the sale of the Cemetery house, from clerical errors that occurred during the rezoning of the property to physical damage done to the house by the previous tenants. Pastor and the Cemetery House Sale committee have been working hard over the summer to figure out how to resolve the clerical error and believe that resolution is nearly at hand. Once complete, they can refocus on the condition of the property and preparing the property for listing.

Blessings to all,
Brad Johnson

OUR ONLINE DIRECTORY: BREEZE

Did you know St. Paul has an online directory called Breeze? You can find members phone numbers, email, address and pictures. It is a closed, members only directory. Only St. Paul members have access.

It is available online at stpaulcatonsville.breezechms.com or as an app on your phone.

(search for "Breeze"). You must create an account to gain access. Instructions are below.

We are in the process of updating our database for our members if you have not created an account. Listed below is a link for you to follow to set up an online account with Breeze. Once you click on the link it will ask you for your name. Enter your name and email. Breeze will send you an email to create a login. Follow the instructions to finish your login.

<https://stpaulcatonsville.breezechms.com/login/create>



THANK YOU!

Thank you all for your generous and warm welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church and School! Though I have moved many places many times, it can still be challenging to make new friends and settle into a new home. Coming here, though, was different. When I was assigned as your vicar, I had no idea that there would be several familiar faces in the crowd. As if that weren't enough, even before I came to Maryland, people were already reaching out to greet me and get to know me, and even now it is a blessing to call this place my home. This congregation has already shown great warmth and the genuine love of Christ, and it is truly a joy to serve you all as your vicar. I give thanks to God for all of you, and pray He will continue to bless you. Thanks to your generosity, I have no need for concern over any necessity. May God continue to bless you, and may He keep you always, as all of us together run the race, enduring with one another through the great and wondrous mercies shown to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Peace be with you all!

Vicar Tom Malmstrom



CHURCH CHOIR

Next to the Word of God, Music deserves the highest praise! – Martin Luther



If you enjoy singing . . . please, consider joining the Church Choir!

Youth and Adults are welcome!

We will be happy to see you face and hear our voice!

Rehearsals are from 7:30 pm – 9 pm in the Choir Loft and resume on the

Wednesday after Labor Day Weekend, September 3rd.

We begin singing the following Sunday, and continue singing Anthems through Holy Trinity Sunday.

Christmas, Holy Week and Easter are exciting highlights for each year.

If you are interested, please, contact Organist/Choir Director, Renata O'Reilly.

Soli Deo Gloria

LUTHERAN BOOKS AND BEER IS COMING IN SEPTEMBER



Lutheran Books and Beer is Coming in September.

Our new book is Luther: Man between God and the Devil, a biography of Martin Luther written by Heiko Oberman available [here](#). Our first meeting this fall will be the 4th Thursday (our normal meeting day) September 25th, 7 p.m. at the Rathskellar in Elkridge. Start reading and join us!



WOMEN'S GUILD



Ladies mark your calendars! Our 1st meeting after the summer break will be held on Tuesday, September 23rd, at the home of Pat Wesselman 67 S. Hilltop Rd. Ellicott City 21043. Meeting begins at 10AM. Bring a bag lunch and plan on staying for some fellowship. Drinks and dessert will be provided. Hope to see you there. Remember we are serving dinner for the blind on Saturday,

September 27th, at Martini Lutheran Church. We'll meet at church and carpool downtown. We will discuss at our September meeting a time to meet and the amount of food needed. The menu is chili and corn bread. Special thanks to all who prepared food, helped with set up and clean up at our last two receptions. Everything was wonderful.

Carolyn Loudon

TRUNK OR TREAT –

This year's event will be held Saturday, October 25th at 3pm. It takes many helping hands to run this fun event. There are several ways you can help. You can join the planning committee, host a trunk, donate candy, or volunteer to facilitate a game. Please contact Kirsten Hall to volunteer and keep an eye out for more information.



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, class begins on Monday, September 22 and continues 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.

THE BALTIMORE BULLETIN

A copy of The Baltimore Bulletin is in the Narthex for anyone who would like a copy.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Concordia Preparatory School's Annual Saints Golf Tournament will be held on September 29, 2025, at Greystone Golf Course. After playing golf, enjoy time with friends and supporters of Concordia Prep at the BBQ Blast, which includes lunch, drinks, awards and raffles for additional prizes. We hope that you can join us for one of the first community events of the year as we celebrate the School's 60th anniversary!

Click on the link Saints Golf Tournament, visit <http://www.concordiaprepschool.org>, or contact Advancement@concordiaprepschool.org for more information



We are ready to have a great year!



SCHOOL NEWS

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

We thank God continually for your support of the school and its mission to develop and nurture children in a Christ-centered environment. Your efforts in this area are touching the lives of our students by providing for them a safe and constant environment of God's love and peace. Please mark your calendars now to avoid missing out on some of the opportunities for our students to showcase their talents as we spend time together as a community.

November 26 8:00 am Thanksgiving Chapel
December 12 10:00 am ECC Christmas Program
December 18 6:00 pm Elementary Christmas Program
March 6 6:00 pm Cardboard Arcade
March 25 10:00 am ECC Spring Music Program
March 27 6:00 pm Talent Show
April 17 6:00 pm Science Fair
May 8 6:00 pm Music and Art Expo

May 28 6:00 pm Graduation

SERVING IN SEPTEMBER

| | Reader | Greeter | Usher 1 | Usher 2 |
|---------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Sept 7 | Ken Waibel | Debbie Oldhouser | Kevin Dungey | Taylor Dungey |
| Sept 14 | Karen Eichelman | Bruce Staudinger | Brian Erwin | Jeffrey Hemmeter |
| Sept 21 | Pastor Roemer | Betsy Mitchell | Cameron Jones | Chris Meyer |
| Sept 28 | Kate Baeder | Robbin Dungey | Don Easton | Bill Oldhouser |

Daily Readings

| | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| | Sept. 7 (Prop. 18) | Thirteenth S. after Pentecost | Deut. 30:15-20 | Psalm 1 | Philemon 1-21 | Luke 14:25-35 |
| | Sept. 14 (Prop. 19) | Fourteenth S. after Pentecost | Ezek. 34:11-24 | Psalm 119:169-176 | 1 Tim. 1:(5-11) 12-17 | Luke 15:1-10 |
| | or | Holy Cross Day | Num. 21:4-9 | Psalm 40:1-11 | 1 Cor. 1:18-25 | John 12:20-33 |
| | Sept. 21 (Prop. 20) | Fifteenth S. after Pentecost | Amos 8:4-7 | Psalm 113 | 1 Tim. 2:1-15 | Luke 16:1-15 |
| | or | St. Matthew | Ezek. 2:8-3:11 | Psalm 119:33- 40 | Eph. 4:7-16 | Matt. 9:9-13 |
| | Sept. 28 (Prop. 21) | Sixteenth S. after Pentecost | Amos 6:1-7 | Psalm 146 | 1 Tim. 3:1-13 or 1 Tim. 6:6-19 | Luke 16:19-31 |





Praise & Prayers

• Praise:

- Celebrating the 125th anniversary of the first LCMS missionary in Latin America.
- Celebrating 20 years in the Dominican Republic
- Dana's last check up at the dermatologist found no new spots of concern.

• Prayers:

- That we would know best how to serve the local missionaries.
- Thanksgiving and health for daughter-in-law Adriana and baby girl due in the fall.
- Health for Dana's mom Lavonne, who will be getting a pacemaker.
- The Lord would raise short term teams to serve in the Dominican Republic next year.

Expanding the Spanish Footprint

Ben and Isaiah, two students from Concordia Seminary St. Louis, whole heartedly jumped into their Spanish studies. By the end of the six weeks, they participated in services with Ben doing the readings and Isaiah preaching. There is a huge need for bilingual pastors in the US and we pray this program will help fill some of those needs.

Celebrating 125 Years

125 years ago, the first missionary was sent from the LCMS to what we now call the Latin America Caribbean Region, LAC. That first pastor was sent to Brazil. The mission there grew to more churches and large enough to become a district within the LCMS. Eventually, the church in Brazil became strong enough that they became their own Synod, in fellowship with the LCMS. Today, Brazil hosts a seminary and sends missionaries who work hand in hand with the LCMS missionaries.

We came together as a region to celebrate for a time to Remember, Repent, and Rejoice over God's amazing work throughout the region. We celebrated with the president of the IELB, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil, at the Concordia Historical Institute. If you are in St. Louis, don't miss stopping by the CHI to see the exhibit. We also learned about the history of the LCMS church in America.



A View From the Regional Business Managers Desk

In addition to closing FY25 and starting FY26, the business office has assisted with the transition of 5 missionary families – two to the Dominican Republic (DR), one to Belize, one to Guatemala, and one to Puerto Rico. We are working with and getting things ready for three new missionaries – a vicar in the DR, a pastor in Panama, and a Volunteer Coordinator in Belize. We continue to work on finding a property for the Pueblo Nuevo church (DR) and have 4 potential sites identified. Also, we completed several building projects at the seminary. These included stairs to the dormitory, reinforcement of the school's playground walls, and we started renovating the bathrooms.

If you would like to view the photo album/scrapbook of our second year of missionary work [ACCESS IT HERE](#)



There are many mission service opportunities open to all, both short-term and career. Check out the current list at lcms.org/service.

Local mailing address
(for cards or letters only):
Stan & Dana Stigdon
Apartado 1356
Santiago de los Caballeros
51000 Dominican Republic

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Stan & Dana. Give securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/Stigdon
Or make checks payable to **Mission Central**
40718 Highway E 16 Mapleton, IA 51034
On the memo line include *Stigdon-Dominican Rep*

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN (OGT) HAPPENINGS

This summer we took a shipment of Bombas Socks to St. Thomas Lutheran Church in southwest Baltimore. The 6,500 pairs of socks will be distributed over the next months through various churches and organizations in the city. The Bombas Company donates a pair of socks to charity for every pair purchased by customers. We are blessed to be part of this charitable venture. In August, a 40 ft. container was trucked down to Appalachia- to Hazel Green, Kentucky- one of the poorest areas in that region. This included winter clothing, shoes, coats, hard and soft toys, craft items, etc. In September, a shipment is planned to South Sudan. Tentative date is Thursday, September 18. If you can help load the container, please talk with Norm Giguere.

Bowling, Bowling, Bowling! All support for OGT comes from donations, whether items or money. Monetary gifts come from churches (like St. Paul), individuals, organizations or fundraisers. Our fundraiser this year is a Bowling Event. So SPARE some time, STRIKE out together, and ROLL on down to Severna Park Lanes. Consider a family fun night and join us on Saturday, October 25, from 5 – 7 p.m. The attached flyer gives information on how to register. There will be pizza, dessert and a Silent Auction, too! Questions? Ask Irene Giguere or Linda Klingmeyer.

“SPARE No One – Helping the Needy”

BOWLING FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 25 – 5:00-7:00

Severna Park Lanes – 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

Questions? **Contact Marie Fries** 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*



MISSION NORTH CAROLINA

We started off the deployment not sure where we would be working for the week. Through God's grace and plan we were tucked in exactly where we were needed and when we were needed.

Monday and Tuesday - we worked with <https://www.projectskyline.org/about> a non-profit working to get the community back in their homes. We were working at Skyline Village Inn at the hotel's manager's apartment removing flooring that was damaged during Helene. The inn was an integral part in the very early days of Helene, opening their doors to the community to offer their 4,000 daily freshwater spring and the only cell service in the area. The roads were destroyed so nobody was getting on or off the mountain. The inn has housed community members while the nonprofit built tiny homes for them to go back to until their houses were re-constructed. Tuesday afternoon we helped finish installing a ceiling at Camp Linn Haven in their tool garage.



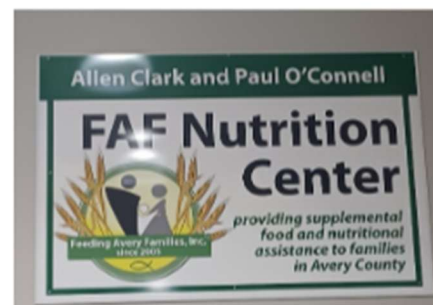
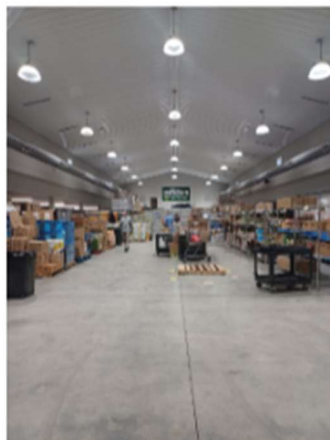
Wednesday - <https://www.mountainaidproject.org/>. Their focus is a hub for the community to obtain necessary supplies. We washed out a shed someone was living in due to Helene and THIS shed was flooded out due to a flood the Friday before we arrived. We also helped create a platform to store tools. Theft is a problem in the area - this will help secure the items.



Thursday Morning - we took apart a porch/deck that was considered unsafe. There is a 3 year wait for carpenters.



THE food pantry for the county. We were able to help with organization and pack “to school kits” - which are food items that teachers can pass out to the kids. They also prepare backpacks of food to be sent home on the weekends when school is in session.



If our team leader’s contact hadn’t fallen through with placing us - we would not have been able to minister to these 3 groups. Through our deployment - 3 new organizations for LERT (Lutheran Emergency Response Team) were now connected.

