



**STRETCH**

# Walking Together

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Catonsville, MD

November 2025

A while back our esteemed congregational President Aaron Nelson wrote in this newsletter that it is good for us stretch every now and again. He was writing in reference to giving and offerings but the phrase stuck with me. Stretch.

It is good to stretch physically, to loosen up and be flexible. It is good to stretch personally and try new things as people, do something out of your comfort zone.

It is good for our Christian life also: to stretch, to reach for new goals, to pray the Lord give strength to grow and deepen your spiritual life and your response to his goodness. How can you stretch as a Christian? We will all probably have different ideas but here are some suggestions:

- + **Stretch to a regular prayer and devotional life.**
- + **Stretch to come to church every Sunday.**
- + **Stretch to being a part of a Bible study at St. Paul**
- + **Stretch your giving and offerings and time that you devote to the church and to others**
- + **Stretch to praying for someone who needs Christ and a church home**
- + **What is your stretch?**

It is good for a congregation to stretch as well. What are some ways St. Paul can stretch, expand, engage those around us and our own members? Here are some ideas I have. You will probably be hearing about some of there in the near future.

- + **Stretch to start a bible study at UMBC.**
- + **Stretch to start “SPRINGFEST 2026” at St. Paul**  
**(really this is the Mission board not me!)**
- + **Stretch to create a Walking/Hiking Group**
- + **Stretch to form a worker wellness committee for staff emotional and physical and spiritual wellness**
- + **Stretch to send a large group on our Mission Trip next year**
- + **What is your idea for a stretch?**

What are your ideas for St. Paul? What group would you like to see? What activity can you create and lead and maintain? Where can you fit in or do something that you’d like to do and be a part of? I’d like to hear it. Or tell the congregational president or the head of the Elders or the Mission Board. We at St. Paul can’t do everything but who knows what will happen when we stretch?

Pastor Alms

## **NEWS FROM THE ELDERS**

### **Networking St. Paul's Reach**

At the elders meeting in October, Pastor raised with the elders the idea of partnering with other churches and LCMS-affiliated organizations in our immediate area to reach out to the campus of the University of Maryland – Baltimore County (UMBC) to offer Bible study to interested students. While the end goal would be to offer Bible study to students at UMBC, the process of partnering with other LCMS organizations is as important as offering a Bible study. In the same way, the process of hosting a vicar at St. Paul has broadened and strengthened St. Paul congregation's interaction with the Lutheran Mission Society.

### **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 47 members of the Prayer Chain. If you would like to join and receive these prayer requests, please contact Kevin Dungey in church or email Kevin 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 for others to our Loving God.

### **New Member Sunday**

New Member Sunday will be held on November 16. We will have a reception for the new members in the Fellowship Hall. Some new members are taking Pastor's adult catechism class online, some are transferring their membership from other LCMS churches, and some are joining via affirmation of faith. This is not a time or place for names, but we have a considerable list of names, more than 10 probably. And for the gift of new members joining and for all the visitors we have been having attend our services, we give thanks to the Lord

In His service,  
Kevin Dungey,  
Board of Elders

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Church and school will be putting together shoeboxes this year. Boys and girls will receive what may be their first gift ever! They go to children in need around the world together with the message of the Gospel. Empty shoeboxes will be placed in the Narthex beginning Nov. 2, along with guidance for gifts and instructions for packing. We are asking all filled shoeboxes to be brought back on Sunday Nov. 16. Boxes from the church will be combined with those collected from the school families and delivered to a collection site on November 18. As with previous years, there is a recommended \$10 donation to help cover shipping and project costs; instructions are provided with the included label. Any questions can be directed to Cameron Jones or Suzanne Alms.



## **NEW MEMBER SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 16th**

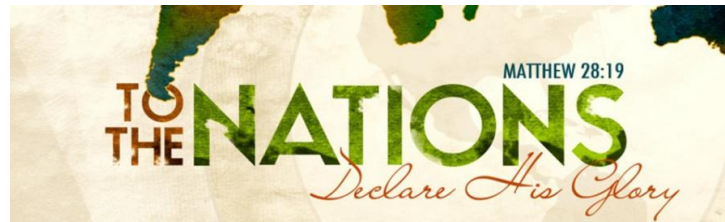
Make sure to be here to celebrate and welcome new members who are joining our congregation. It will be a great day.

## **ST. PAUL MEN'S GROUP: NOVEMBER 8TH**

The men of St. Paul will meet again on November 8th at 8:30 am in the fellowship hall for food, prayer and devotion. We will also start thinking about the Ladies Tea for this spring. All confirmed men and friends of St. Paul are welcome! Let Jim Baeder know if you plan to attend. We will finish by 9:30 am so that we can rake leaves, so bring a rake or let us know and we will have extras! We will also meet on December 13th!

## **MISSION TRIP 2026: INTEREST MEETING**

Have you ever felt called to serve on a mission trip? Whether you're ready to pack your bags or simply curious about what's involved, we invite you to an informal interest meeting on Tuesday, November 18 @ 7 PM. We'll explore potential destinations, share ideas, and discuss how we can make a meaningful impact—no commitment required! This trip is open to everyone, so feel free to bring a friend or neighbor. Let's dream and plan together! Questions? Contact Roy or Heather Krakat for more details.

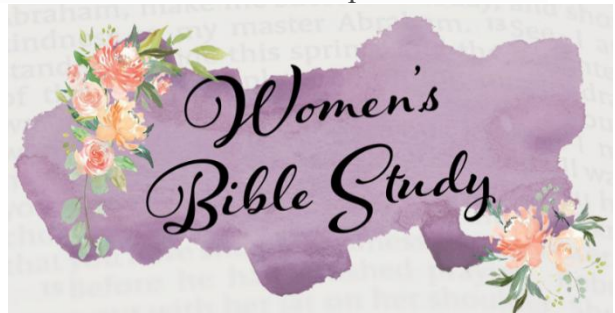


## **INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY SERVICE WITH THE LCMS?**

Are you open to the possibility of full-time international missionary service with the LCMS? There are ongoing recruitments for such positions such as business managers, communications specialists, project managers, and volunteer coordinators. A wide range of skills and experiences can be useful on the mission field. Here is the link to the International Mission Service Opportunities website (<https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/international/missionary-service>). Contact Rachel Krause at [Rachel.Krause@lcms.org](mailto:Rachel.Krause@lcms.org) for more information.

## **PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR CHRISTMAS – WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Join us for a special 3-week Women's Bible Study on Sunday mornings, November 30–December 14, as we prepare our hearts for Christmas! Each week we'll explore themes of hope and faith from the Winter 2021 Lutheran Woman's Quarterly. In week one, we'll reflect on Martin Luther's beloved Christmas Eve hymn, "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come." Week two focuses on God's faithfulness through all generations, and in week three, we'll learn how to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus amid the season's busyness.



## **THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE AT 10 A.M. ON NOVEMBER 27 TH**

St. Paul hosts Thanksgiving Day service at 10 a.m. to praise God from whom all blessings flow!

## **GREETINGS FROM THE ASSET MANAGEMENT BOARD!**

### **Learning Cottage Update**

We are still making progress on the Learning Cottage, but it is going slower than we would like. Recently we had a new concrete pad poured so that we can move the existing dumpster away from the Learning Cottage's eventual home. We also had a civil engineer come to inspect the site where the Learning Cottage will live and gave us positive feedback; we are hoping to have a site plan in place very soon.

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

### **Cemetery House Sale**

Like the Learning Cottage, the sale of the Cemetery House is taking longer than expected due to complex state regulations and paperwork concerning deeds and property designations. The Cemetery House Sale Committee is doing everything possible to keep the process moving forward.

### **Other Updates**

We recently had to purchase a new freezer for the kitchen, as the old freezer was failing and repairing it would not have been cost effective. Thanks to the Women's Guild and an anonymous member of the congregation for helping to cover some of that cost.

We've also been making some roof repairs, primarily around the bell tower near where T-Mobile's equipment is installed. T-Mobile has covered the repairs in that area.

Finally, we are working on making some upgrades to our video surveillance system and discussing an improved camera at the Fellowship Hall door as well as a new keypad and camera for the fire escape door. Much of this work will be covered by various grants.

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

Blessings to all,  
Brad Johnson

## **LUTHERAN BOOKS AND BEER**

We will be meeting a week earlier than usual on account of Thanksgiving. The date is Thursday, November 20th at 7 p.m. the Rathskellar. The chapters we will discuss are: Chapter IV: "The Road to Wittenberg: Decisions before the Reformation" Chapter V: "The Reformation Breakthrough".



## NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOL

Hard to believe we're already looking forward to our 2026-27 school year, but we certainly are. We're hosting an Open House on November 6 from 9:00 am -11:30 am. While we'll welcome parents of children of all ages, we're specifically looking to reach the families of our future kindergarteners. We plan to offer tours and give families the chance to reserve their child's seat for the 2026-27 academic year. If you know of a family hoping to enroll their child here, please tell them not to delay—November 6 is the day!

Our elementary and ECC are working together in various ways:

- Our school continues to worship each Wednesday -our first offerings went to Kezia, our Comfort Dog.
- We'll be working with you by collecting Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes in November.
- Our 5th-grade students are continuing to take the trip to ECC each Friday to read to the preK-3 and preK-4. We're discovering there really isn't that much difference between the ages after all, and friendships are being made.
- ECC will be Trick-or-Treating around the elementary classes and our offices on Friday - look for pictures coming soon!
- Teacher and class highlight: Mrs. Ann Zum Brunnen and the pre-k-4 room. Miss Ann works teaching our ECC by morning and as our LSEM teacher for our elementary in the afternoon. We thank God for Miss Ann and her efforts on our behalf.



## HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE TO THE CHURCH?

Sometimes a question like this comes up. There are a lot of answers. The Old Testament talked about tithing, giving 10 percent of your income. But that is not a law binding on Christians today. Some promote proportional or percentage giving of your take home pay as a good discipline. The answers vary depending on our own personal situations and finances. But here is an answer to try out. How much should I give to church? **Probably more than you are now.** Maybe a little more, maybe a lot more. Now it's possible that is not true. You may be furloughed, you may have bills you did not expect or other extreme circumstances. But St. Paul pays the light bill and salaries and support missions all over the world. That's where the offerings go. So, this next year when you are figuring out how much to give, well, it should probably be more than you are giving now, maybe a little, maybe a lot.





## WOMENS GUILD

Ladies please pay attention to news and notes over the next few weeks as we begin to gear up for the Holiday Season.

Carolyn Louden



*Thank you*

## THANK YOU

We want to take a moment to express our heartfelt thanks for your gifts for our LCMS Missionary, Ben and Ella Goehring. Your prayers, encouragement,

and contributions are a vital part of the work being done on the mission field. Through the work of our Missionaries, lives are being touched, hearts are being transformed, and the Gospel is reaching places throughout the world. May the work of Saint Paul Church and each member be richly blessed as you continue to serve.

Edie Homaker

## SERVING IN NOVEMBER

	Reader	Greeter	Usher 1	Usher 2
Nov 2	Jay Barringer	Pat Wesselman	Ben Haberi	Jim Baeder
Nov 9	Karyn Borth	Ed Cohen	Kevin Dungey	Taylor Dungey
Nov 16	Pastor Roemer	Debbie Oldhouser	Brian Erwin	Jeffrey Hemmetrt
Nov 23	Kate Baeder	Bruce Staudinger	Cameron Jones	Chris Meyer
Nov 27	Ed Cohen			
Nov 30	Michelle Johnson	Betsy Mitchell	Don Easton	Bill Oldhouser

## Daily Readings

<b>ALL SAINTS' DAY</b>	Nov. 2 (observed) or (Prop. 26)	All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) Twenty-first S. after Pentecost	Rev. 7:(2-8) 9-17 Isaiah 1:10-18	Psalm 149 Psalm 130	1 John 3:1-3 2 Thess. 1:1-5 (6-10) 11-12	Matt. 5:1-12 Luke 19:1-10
	Nov. 9 (Prop. 27)	Twenty-second S. after Pentecost	Ex. 3:1-15	Psalm 148	2 Thess. 2:1-8, 13-17	Luke 20:27-40
	Nov. 16 (Prop. 28)	Twenty-third S. after Pentecost	Mal. 4:1-6	Psalm 98	2 Thess. 3:(1-5) 6-13	Luke 21:5-28 (29-36)
	Nov. 23 (Prop. 29)	Last Sunday of the Church Year	Mal. 3:13-18	Psalm 46	Col. 1:13-20	Luke 23:27-43
<b>THANKSGIVING</b>	Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Day	Deut. 8:1-10	Psalm 67	Phil. 4:6-20 or 1 Tim. 2:1-4	Luke 17:11-19
<b>ADVENT 2025</b>	Nov. 30 2025	First S. in Advent	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 122	Rom. 13:(8-10) 11-14	Matt. 21:1-11 or Matt. 24:36-44

# Orphan Grain Train



COAT COLLECTION: November 1 – December 15

Orphan Grain Train will again be collecting 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 morning from 9 – 11:30 a.m. starting November 9 and continuing until December 14. 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. If you desire, coats can also be brought to the OGT Warehouse, 621 East West Blvd, Millersville on Tuesdays, 9- 12 noon, 5 – 7 pm.

