



# Walking Together

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School  
Catonsville, MD  
March 2026

## ON THE SEASON OF LENT

“Repent! It’s Lent!” Sound familiar? Many tend to view Lent as a time for misery, when we “grumpy German Lutherans” become even more grumpy, as an acquaintance of mine once put it, but I think there is more to it than that. Think of it this way; to what end is our Lenten fast? The season of Lent is preparatory, that is, it fixes our eyes on Jesus. In particular, it narrows our gaze as we remember the sacrifice of our dear Lord Jesus Christ. It prepares us as we contemplate Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, then the night on which He was handed over as a lamb for slaughter, then was wounded for our iniquities and gave His life as a ransom. To be fair, there is nothing wrong with acknowledging the fact that suffering and misery exists. It is no sin to experience anger, hunger, etc.; rather, the sin lies in letting those things drive us to harm others in thought, word, or deed. Certainly, we all have need of repentance and of God’s forgiveness!

Our suffering is not the point of Lent. The point is the suffering of our Lord, God in the flesh, for each of us. We fast in Lent, not because the guy who started the tradition was a glutton for punishment, but so that we would be disciplined – not in the sense of punishment, but for the sake of self-control – and better able to focus on the sheer scope of what our God has done. God did not save your soul only, but your body as well. God the Father did not create just a spiritual realm, but a physical world and physical people. God the Son did not die in spirit, but in the flesh, as He gave Himself up in your stead. God the Holy Spirit does not just point to a spiritual reality, but a physical one, too. What is more, Lent is not the end, and neither are the sobering, somber events of Good Friday. Lent is preparing you for what is to come: life after death.

Lent is preparing you for the events of Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord, for since He rose from the dead, so will we. On Easter, the fast ends, and life is breathed once more into your lungs. On Easter, God makes all things new. Sin and death are buried, for they were put to death with Christ, who became those things for your sake. And now His victory, His righteousness, is given to you. That’s what Lent is pointing you towards: the forgiveness of sins. And when we see our own sins, the very sins that required Christ’s sacrifice, we repent and look to the cross in faith, trusting the promise that our sins are forgiven.

In Christ,  
Vicar Tom Malmstrom

## **NEWS FROM THE ELDERS**

The elders for FY 2025-2026 are Jim Baeder, Kevin Dungey (Chairman), Norm Giguere, Roy Krakat, Bill Oldhouser, Jeff Piegols, and Bruce Staudinger. Please contact any of us with personal concerns via email or phone, or, better, speak with us in person in church.

### **Progress in Expanding Our Mission Outreach and Strengthening Relationships at St. Paul**

The two outcomes of the “St. Paul 2030” document that the elders have fully embraced and will take responsibility for are expanding our mission outreach programs and strengthening St. Paul congregation’s ability to help its members grow and develop spiritually.

**\*Expanding our mission outreach programs** means that St. Paul will partner with other LCMS churches and organizations in order draw new people to Christ and connect them with our Lutheran community. On Sunday, March 22, Pastor Alms will hold a circuit outreach meeting at St. Paul at 3 pm. Representatives will discuss developing an outreach to UMBC, partnering to set up a men’s shelter, expanding the LCMS northern Carroll County presence from the base at Faith-Eldersburg and aiding the existing Sandtown Ministry with Bible Study and preaching.

**\*Strengthening St. Paul’s Relational and Social Fellowship Ministry** has already begun, I am pleased to report. Vicar Malmstrom has convened a Young Adult (defined as 20-35 years of age) Bible Study that will meet on the 3rd and 4th Saturday of each month at 5 pm (dinner is involved). The vicar has also convened a Friday Youth Bible Study and Game Night.

JB Jaeger has also started a Young Men’s Group.

St. Paul congregation and the Lutheran Mission Society have again jointly applied to have a vicar for the fiscal year 2026-2027.

### **Easter Is Coming**

Easter is coming this year on Sunday, April 5th. Christmas and Easter comprise two moments in the church year when people will think of going to church; some show up as visitors at St. Paul. As Easter approaches, let us be friendly and reach out to those who visit St. Paul so that they might be moved to become members with us as opposed to one-time visitors.

In His service,  
Kevin Dungey,  
Board of Elders

### **JOINT SUNRISE EASTER SERVICE: ST. PAUL AND EMMANUEL, CATONSVILLE**



This year St Paul and Emmanuel Lutheran churches will have a joint sunrise Easter service. Emmanuel will host this year and St. Paul next year and we will alternate going forward. We will join our sisters and brothers at Emmanuel in welcoming the Risen Lord in our midst!

Details:

- Easter Sunrise Service on April 5th at Emmanuel Lutheran (929 Ingleside Ave, Catonsville, MD 21228)
- Time: 6:45 am
- Pastor Matt Sorenson, Pastor Greg Alms and Vicar Tom Malmstrom will lead the service.
- All are invited to Easter Breakfast at Emmanuel following the service.

## PREPARING OUR HEARTS: AN INVITATION TO JOIN MEMENTO70

During Lent, the Church invites us into a time of repentance, reflection, and preparation. To help us prepare for this holy season; JB Jaeger has organized a **Memento70** fraternity for the men of our congregation.

### **What is Memento70?**

Memento70 is a period of focused spiritual discipline designed specifically for men. Spanning the days leading up to and moving through Lent, it is built around three core pillars:

- **Daily Prayer and the Word:** Committing to daily devotions, Scripture reading, and reflection on the Lutheran Confessions.
- **Ascetic Discipline (Fasting):** Willingly giving up certain modern comforts (such as social media, television, alcohol, and meals) to strip away worldly distractions.
- **Fraternity:** Meeting weekly as brothers in Christ to study, pray, and hold one another accountable.

### **Why Do We Fast?**

As Confessional Lutherans, we know that our salvation rests entirely on the finished work of Christ crucified. We do not fast, pray, or deny ourselves comforts to earn God's favor or merit grace—Christ has already won that for us completely. Fasting is something entirely voluntary.

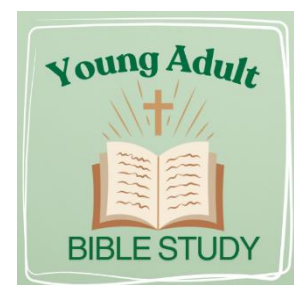
We take up these disciplines to curb the Old Adam. We fast to remind our flesh who is in charge, to create more time for the Word of God, and to sharpen our focus so we can better serve our neighbors in our God-given vocations as men, husbands, fathers, and brothers.

### **Join the Fraternity**

You do not have to walk through this season of repentance alone. Iron sharpens iron, and this fraternity is an opportunity to be encouraged by your brothers as we fix our eyes on the cross of Christ together. If you are interested in joining the Memento70 fraternity, or if you simply want to learn more about what it is, please reach out to JB Jaeger.

## YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

During the month of March, the Young Adult group will be meeting at our regularly scheduled times – the second and fourth Saturdays (March 14 and 28) – at 5:00 p.m. Please let Vicar Malmstrom know if you plan to attend, and feel free to bring a friend or two!



## YOUTH GROUP BIBLE STUDY AND GAME NIGHT

Let's get this party started! We will be planning an event for March, in addition to our regular meeting time of 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month, where we will do our Bible Study and game night. Youth group is open to Confirmation and Confirmation age students as well as high schoolers as an opportunity to grow in the faith together. Please let Vicar Malmstrom know if you will be attending the regular Bible study.

## **THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

Please join us in the sacristy for a discussion-based Bible study of the Gospel of John. In March we will meet Thursday March 12 and March 26 from 10 -11 AM.

## **LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES: DEAR CHRISTIANS, ONE AND ALL, REJOICE**

St Paul Lent Midweek services will use Martins Luther's hymn as a guide to our Lenten meditation. Luther traces the story of our salvation from the chains of Satan and sin to the heavenly treasure Christ wins for us by his suffering and death. Each week we will sing and consider one or two verses of the hymn. The order of service will be a simple spoken order of responsive prayer, catechism, Scripture, preaching and hymns. Dates and times are February 25 through March 25 at 11 am and 7 p.m.

## **FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2026 IS UP!**

Please note: There is a new 2026 sign-up sheet for Altar Flowers on the bulletin board. Sign up to honor and to celebrate people in your life and to beautify our sanctuary for worship.

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

Our winter semester classes continue in the first grade classroom- thank you Kirsten Hall for your flexibility with all this! We have 11-14 students on a consistent basis. Some of our students come from the Asian countries (China, Japan, Pakistan), while others come from countries that include Mexico, El Salvador and Guatemala. A wonderful gift is that we have 8 teachers/assistants also. We're thankful for volunteers: Joyce Waibel.

Kirsten Hall, Brian Erwin, Toni Hiteshew, Mary Techau, Betsy Whipps, Martha Wagley and Irene Giguere. Some of our volunteers come both evenings, while others come on one of the nights only. It's an enriching experience for all of us, whether student or teacher.



## **PASTOR ALMS WILL SOON START AN ADULT CATECHISM CLASS**

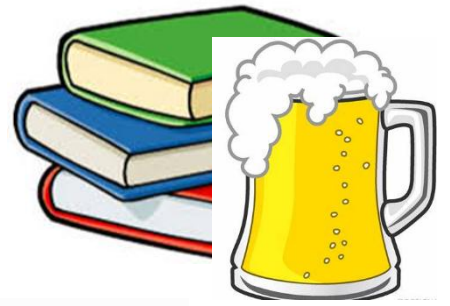
Are you interested in learning more about Lutheran beliefs, what the Bible teaches, and how we live as Christians? If so, this class is designed for you.

The course will follow Luther's Small Catechism, helping participants gain a solid understanding of the basics of the faith.

If you or someone you know would like to join, please let Pastor Alms know.

## LUTHERAN BOOKS AND BEER

We will meet on March 26th at 7 p.m. We will continue our discussion of Luther: Man Between God and the Devil. Meetings are at the Rathskellar in Elkridge. All are welcome!



## WOMEN'S GUILD

Women's Guild will meet at the home of Pat Wesselman on March 24th. Meeting begins at 10. Bring a bag lunch and plan on staying for some fellowship following the meeting.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Believe it or not, Spring is coming!! Plans are underway for St Paul's annual Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 - Noon, Saturday, April 4th. It's a fun-filled morning for the entire family... hearing the Easter story, visiting the "Resurrection Trunks," games, prizes, and of course the 'Big Hunt' itself. This community event is always popular, so many volunteers are needed. Take a look at the sign-up sheet in the hallway and consider how you can help. Candy donations are also being accepted in the foyer. Be sure to take a candy list so you know exactly what is needed. Contact Keegan Guyett with questions or more information.



## SPRING FEST ON MAY 2, 2026, FROM 11 AM TO 3 PM!

This year, St. Paul will host a Spring Fest, a welcoming, family-friendly gathering that invites members of the surrounding community to interact meaningfully with church members, school faculty, and ministry volunteers. We will offer a blend of service-oriented resources and joyful activities, including a sponsored health screening van, a visit from the South Eastern District (SED)'s comfort dog, Kezia, a bookmobile/book exchange, food trucks, children's attractions, outdoor games, and possibly a craft fair. Through both practical service and relational engagement, Spring Fest will seek to create natural opportunities for conversation, connection, and witness to Christ's love in action. The event is sponsored in part by a generous grant from the SED. Look for volunteer opportunities and sign-ups in March and April.



## **SCHOOL NEWS**

It's a great time of year to see your school in action.

Music for Lenten Midweek Services Our students are scheduled to present a selection of music at the beginning of each of the Lenten midweek services, Wednesdays at 11:00. They really scoot in and out for that, so don't be late!

Lutheran Schools Week – Come Tour the School! Lutheran Schools Week is March 1-6. We'll have our rooms open on Sunday for you to tour after church. Beyond that, we would like to invite you to see our school in action and join us for chapel on Wednesday, March 4. You can tour the school at 1:30 and chapel begins at 2:00.

St. Paul Hosts the Baltimore Area Lutheran Spelling Bee - on Thursday, March 5, we invite you to join us and cheer on students from many of our Lutheran schools in the area at the Baltimore Area Lutheran Schools Spelling Bee, hosted again in our Chapel. The elementary bee begins at 11:00, and the Middle School Bee is expected to begin at 1:15. Looks like the field is wide open this year, so it should be an exciting event.

Looking forward to seeing you during the school week soon!

## **ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN**

Orphan Grain Train Maryland loaded a container for Cameroon on the February 3, 2026. Mercy House of Hope in Douala, Cameroon is the recipient for this container of goods. Over 19,000 lbs. of clothing and shoes for men, women and children, 1,200 pairs of new rubber slide shoes from Samaritan's Feet International, medical equipment, and linens were sorted, boxed and loaded onto the truck. In addition, 200 Luci lights, 16 bicycles, plus sewing machines, fabric and supplies were also part of the inventory.

Our next shipment will be to Ethiopia. Target is for a March shipping date. Talk to Norm Giguere if you can help load.

Restaurant fundraiser on March 26 at Little Carmine's, 523 Benfield Rd., Severna Park. It's a great (and delicious way) to support the work of OGT!

## **ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN THANK YOU!**

Thank you, St. Paul, for your generous donation. Your donations are helping us help others. We depend on donors and volunteers to help us help others. Our branch is staffed entirely by volunteers and our mission is to share the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Visit our website at [www.ort.org/md](http://www.ort.org/md) for more stories, photos and details.

## **FOOD DRIVE FOR FAITH AND WORK – CHURCH AND SCHOOL**

Faith and Work Enterprises is a Lutheran organization that provides hope, resources, and the good news of Christ in the Sandtown neighborhood of Baltimore. They focus on creating sustainable opportunities and change in a difficult neighborhood. One resource F/W provides is a food pantry. St. Paul Lutheran Church and School will host a canned food drive March 1 through 15<sup>th</sup> to benefit the F/W food pantry. The need that is most acute is canned protein: tuna, salmon, chicken, chili, Spam, beans, split pea soup, refried beans, etc. The school will collect items March 2<sup>nd</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> and the church will accept items on Sundays March 1, 8, 15.

## **SUNDAY MORNING LENT BIBLE STUDY: INVASION OF THE FORMLESS VOID**

Often, we read Jesus' temptation in the wilderness as a simple morality play: Jesus was hungry, Satan offered Him a sandwich, Jesus said "no"; and we should try to be like Him.

But when we look at the 40 Days in the Wilderness in the ancient near eastern context that the Apostles and early followers of Christ would have, we see something far more terrifying and triumphant. This wasn't just a moral test; it was D-Day. It was an invasion. We view the desert as sand, scrub brush, and scorpions. But for Jesus the Wilderness was the domain of death, chaos, and the demonic.

Leader: Seminarian JB Jaeger

Dates: February 22 – March 29th

Theme: Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness as a cosmic reclamation of creation from the powers of darkness.

Core Texts: Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13, Mark 1:12-13 Isaiah 11, 34 & 35

Week 1: Into the Haunt of Jackals

Week 2: The Son vs. The Serpent

Week 3: The Kingdoms of the World

Week 4: The Pinnacle of the Temple

Week 5: The Departure (For Now)

Week 6: The Ultimate Weapon (Review & Application)

## **RAINFOREST VBS**

Get ready to explore the nature of God at this year's Vacation Bible School. June 22-26 from 9am-12pm.

There are many ways to serve at VBS. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering this summer, please contact Kirsten Hall

at [kirsten.hall@splscatonsville.org](mailto:kirsten.hall@splscatonsville.org)



## SERVING IN MARCH

|          | Cantor     | Reader           | Greeter          | Usher 1          | Usher 2       |
|----------|------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| March 1  | Jim Baeder | Jay Barringer    | Irene Giguere    | Roy Krakat       | Caleb Ferry   |
| March 8  | Jim Baeder | Michelle Johnson | David Carnes     | Jeffrey Hemmeter | Keegan Guyett |
| March 15 | Jim Baeder | Pastor Roemer    | Pat Wesselman    | Bill Oldhouser   | Cole Peterson |
| March 22 | Jim Baeder | Kate Baeder      | Ed Cohan         | Cameron Jones    | Jim Wedeking  |
| March 29 | Jim Baeder | Ed Cohen         | Debbie Oldhouser | Bruce Staudinger | Chris Meyer   |

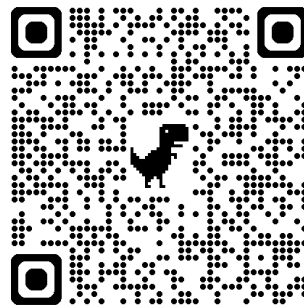
## 2026 MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

Samaritan's Purse is ministering to Buncombe County, NC in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. In September of 2024, Hurricane Helene tore through western North Carolina, dumping extreme rainfall and causing catastrophic damage, leaving parts of the region in ruins. Far beyond the physical help you will extend to the homeowners, the spiritual and emotional support you offer to them is even more important. Rebuild volunteers will work to rebuild and repair homes damaged during this event.

If you would like to be on the information list and to receive more information about the trip, please follow the QR code or the link below to the St. Paul sign up form. For planning, please respond by 2/4/2026. Spots are filling up already!

Included in the form is a request for contact information and to indicate your preference for trip dates. Please reach out to Roy Krakat or Heather Krakat if you have questions.

<https://forms.gle/2FUEK9k7nDF33TdFA>



## DAILY READINGS

|          |                                 |                               |                                  |                              |  |
|----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| March 1  | Second S. in Lent (Reminiscere) | Gen. 32:22-32                 | Psalm 121                        | 1 Thess. 4:1-7 or Rom. 5:1-5 | Matt. 15:21-28   |
| March 8  | Third S. in Lent (Oculi)        | Ex. 8:16-24 or Jer. 26:1-15   | Psalm 136:1-16 or Psalm 4        | Eph. 5:1-9                   | Luke 11:14-28  |
| March 15 | Fourth S. in Lent (Laetare)     | Ex. 16:2-21 or Isaiah 49:8-13 | Psalm 132:8-18                   | Gal. 4:21-31 or Acts 2:41-47 | John 6:1-15  |
| March 22 | Fifth S. in Lent (Judica)       | Gen. 22:1-14                  | Psalm 43                         | Heb. 9:11-15                 | John 8:(42-45) 46-59   |
| March 29 | Palm Sunday (Palmarum)          | Zech. 9:9-12                  | Psalm 118:19-29 or Psalm 31:9-16 | Phil. 2:5-11                 | Matt. 21:1-9 or John 12:12-19 (Procession)<br>-----<br>Matt. (26:1-27:10) 27:11-54 (55-60) |

SERVING THE LORD IN THE

# Dominican Republic (DR)

NEWS FROM STAN & DANA STIGDON



Jan/Feb 2026



## Praise & Prayers

### • Praise:

- Over 10 interested and prospective students for the 26/27 year at the seminary from Mexico, Colombia, and Cuba.
- Last 2 new students at the seminary this year finally received their visas and are now studying in person.

### • Prayers:

- Safe travels for Stan and Pastor Krey headed to Taiwan to help with the ministry there.
- Healing for Dana's toe/ toenail injury.
- Smooth transitions and thanksgiving for missionaries completing their service and new missionaries beginning this spring and summer.
- Fellow missionary Robin fighting breast cancer.

## Seminary Students

Did you know that seminary students are required to take music class every week at The seminary? They may not have musicians at the church where they will serve and this skill will be necessary. The new Spanish hymnal includes guitar chords for all the music, be it liturgy, psalm, or hymn and the music Classes include guitar. These new pastors-to-be may have many jobs at their new churches!



## January

It was great to spend time with family and friends in December...and of course, celebrating the greatest and most precious gift from our loving God and Savior! Then January happened. January marked the one year anniversary of working full time in our respective jobs as a Volunteer Coordinator and the Regional Business Manager and although every day seems different, we are beginning to recognize a rhythm to the year.

January is a flurry of activities. We have our annual in-person meeting for all the professors, students, and prospective students in our pastoral remote learning program (FPH), followed by the Concordia St. Louis Seminary Students short-term team visit focused on learning about church planting and exposure to a call to the international mission field. Dana also welcomed two ESF deaconess students. Spanish ministry in the USA continues to expand and we welcome these Spanish language students.

## View from the Regional Business Managers Desk.

January ended with the first of two annual Regional Leadership team meetings. Reports on the achievement of 2025, setting goals for 2026, and reviewing FY27 budget needs. This year, we had the St. Louis recruitment team join us to better understand the talents needed to serve as a missionary in LAC. Many pastoral and lay workers are needed throughout our field. [Serwenow.lcms.org/opp/lcms-missionary](http://Serwenow.lcms.org/opp/lcms-missionary) has the details online. Reach out...and we can chat about the exciting opportunities to serve.

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Stan & Dana. Make checks payable to LCMS at:

Mission Central  
40718 Highway E 16  
Mapleton, IA 51034  
On the memo line include  
Stigdon-Dominican Republic  
or call a donor care  
representative: 888-930-4438.

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



QR code to switch to  
newsletter by email +  
access to photo album



THE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI SYNOD

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

# LENTEN SERVICES

Lent Midweek Services Wednesdays -- 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Theme: "Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice"

March 4, 2026

March 11, 2026

March 18, 2026

March 25, 2026



*Holy Week and Easter*

Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 7 p.m. with Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunrise, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:45 a.m. @ Emmanuel Lutheran at Catonsville

Resurrection of Our Lord Festival Worship, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. with Lord's Supper

# Thrivent Choice Dollars Benefit OGT

## Deadline for designating Choice Dollars March 31st

**thrivent**<sup>®</sup>

## Thrivent Choice<sup>®</sup> – Generosity strengthens communities

Thanks to Thrivent and its clients with membership,

**Orphan Grain Train - Maryland Branch**  
has received **\$53,218** Choice Dollars<sup>®</sup> grant funds since **4/8/2011**.

### Grant funds distributed nationally

The Thrivent Choice program has helped support churches and other nonprofit organizations since 2010:



**More than \$619 million**  
in Choice Dollars grant  
funds distributed



**Over 670,000**  
clients participated



**Over 49,500**  
organizations received  
outreach funding

### Help strengthen communities and change lives

Eligible Thrivent clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable outreach funds by directing Choice Dollars.

### You can have an even bigger impact

Clients and others can also make personal donations. Thrivent, in partnership with Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing<sup>®</sup>, provides an online platform for donations to enrolled organizations. Thrivent will cover all the processing fees, so 100% of your donation goes to help.\*

To learn more, visit [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or contact:

**Liberty Team of Thrivent -- Arnold Abel & Teresa Powell**  
**Call/text (410)705-2718 or email [libertyteam@thrivent.com](mailto:libertyteam@thrivent.com)**

\*Thrivent will pay up to \$300,000 in online processing fees per calendar year for personal donations made through Thrivent's online giving platform.

The Thrivent Choice<sup>®</sup> charitable grant program engages Thrivent clients with membership and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars<sup>®</sup> is subject to the program's [Terms and Conditions](#) available at [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice).