



Walking Together

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Catonsville, MD

April 2026

EASTER WATER

Did you know that around the world Easter is associated with strange folk customs involving water?

- Dyngus Day is a Polish Easter tradition celebrated on the Monday after Easter, (also known as “Wet Monday”) where people playfully douse each other with water. Its more modern variants involve water guns, balloons, and buckets.
- “Jutrowna Woda” is a Wendish custom, where young women go to a creek in complete silence before sunrise on Easter to collect water. The water must be collected in silence on the way and on the way back. The “Easter water” was then sprinkled on family to wake them up to a joyful Easter. (Wends are Slavic group from Germany and Poland and now the US).
- There is a similar tradition in parts of Maine where residents rise early on Easter to gather “l’eau de Paques,” or “Easter water.” It’s a Catholic tradition brought over from France and was thought to have healing and restorative powers.
- On the Greek island of Corfu, water is thrown out the window onto streets to welcome spring and new crops.
- In some parts of Germany water poured on a boy on Easter was thought to hasten a wedding proposal. It was also used to protect against skin and eye problems if one washed with the water on Easter Day.

So why go on about weird Easter water customs? First, because it is fun and educational! But more importantly because it points us to a great truth about our celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. It is baptismal celebration. It is a water thing.

Baptism is an Easter thing, and Easter is a baptism thing. In baptism we die to sin and we rise with Christ (Romans 6). As Jesus went down into the grave and came up new and alive, we go down in our baptism and come up alive and forgiven as new people. As the Israelites went down into the Red Sea and marched forward with the Egyptians dead on the shore, our enemies of sin and death are put away in the water. Each day we live our Baptism by putting sin behind us and living a new “baptized” life.

Of course, these traditions above of water with healing and restoring powers are superstitions. They aren’t true. But they are memories, echoes of a great and profound truth. Baptism, which is connected to Christ’s resurrection, does cleanse us from all sin and makes us clean and holy.

So don’t go throwing water on people this Easter but throw water on yourself — baptismal water. Water that has Christ’s word and promise attached, water that “works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation”.

Pastor Alms

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.

Adult Education Opportunities Upcoming at St. Paul

The Elders sub-committee on Adult Education met on March 17, 2026, to discuss the educational offerings at St. Paul. We are pleased at the variety of classes and Bible studies available. St. Paul, of course, has the 8:45 AM Sunday morning class that meets before the 10 AM church service. We have managed to have different instructors presenting on various topics so that our Pastor can enjoy being a participant in addition to being a presenter. Pastor will be offering 5 classes (April 19-May 17) on Religious Organizations and Movements (known at ROM); you will see the survey sheet he has with all the many choices listed so you can select the top five as topics for his classes. St. Paul also has my bi-monthly Thursday morning (10-11 AM) discussion class on the Gospel of John in the sacristy, Lutheran Books and Beer at the Rathskeller the fourth Thursday of each month, and our Vicar's Young Adult Bible class offered on the second and fourth Saturday and his Youth Group (open to Confirmation and Confirmation-age students as well as high schoolers) that meets at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month featuring Bible Study and games. Summer Sunday classes will begin May 31 and run through August 30. As happened last summer, various presenters will be offering classes then, typically one Sunday per presenter. A particularly favorite topic is exploring the lessons of that given Sunday. We give thanks that we have so many people willing to teach, fifteen by our count.

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 being a visitor. Last year, St. Paul communed close to 150 people on Easter Day.

In His service,
Kevin Dungey,
Board of Elders

MEN'S GROUP MEETS APRIL 11TH

The Men's Group at St. Paul will meet again on Saturday, April 11th from 8:30-9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall (consider St. Paul Walk beginning at 10 am at the Trolley Stop). We will start with some food and fellowship. Following that we will continue our Bible study of Noah, using a video series from Lutheran Hour Ministries. We will finish with some prayer time. Please RSVP to Jim Baeder. Our next meeting will be May 9th. All confirmed males at St. Paul, as well as friends, are welcome.

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!

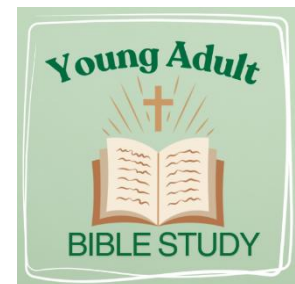
Details:

- 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.



YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

For the month of April, we will continue to meet on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at 5:00 p.m. Please bring a Bible, and feel free to bring a friend or two! Dinner to follow.



YOUTH GROUP BIBLE STUDY AND GAME NIGHT

For the month of April, we will have our regular game night and Bible study after compline on the fourth Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Parents, feel free to join us for compline! Please let Vicar Malmstrom if you plan to attend.

SERMON TRANSCRIPTIONS AND SERMON AUDIO

Ed Cohen transcribes the Sunday sermons from St. Paul and offers them to anyone who wishes to receive them. Contact him to be put on that email list. The audio for Pastor Alms' sermons is available on the St. Paul website here:

https://stpaulcatonsville.org/information/sermon_audio/. The video streaming of each service is available here: <https://stpaulcatonsville.org/about-us/recent-online-services/>.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Please join us in the sacristy for a discussion-based Bible study of the Gospel of John. In April we will meet Thursday April 9th and April 23rd from 10 -11 AM.

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.

ADULT CATECHISM CLASS BEGINS THURSDAY APRIL 16TH AT 7 PM

If you are interested contact Pastor Alms.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Ladies, please mark your calendars April 17th is our spaghetti dinner. Looking for help to serve and to help with prep and clean up. We will meet at church at 3:00 for prep and set up. Adult tickets are \$12.00, children 3 to 12 years of age are \$6.00 and for a family of 4 tickets are \$30.00. We will begin serving at 5:15 ending at 6:30.

April 18th St Paul Glen Burnie is hosting the LWML Spring Rally.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Reminder: Come out this Saturday, April 4th, 10-Noon for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! It's a fun morning and great chance to meet our neighbors and share the Resurrection story. We thank everyone who has signed up but can always use more help. Hope to see you there!



SCHOOL NEWS

Baltimore Area Lutheran Schools Spelling Bee: Our school hosted this event on March 5. Our own Dominic Ptaszek from fourth grade earned third place in the elementary portion of the Bee. A graduate of ours, Ari, was awarded first place in the middle school portion of the Bee.

Science Fair: The students are busy conducting their experiments and procedures, which will be presented at the Science Fair on Friday, April 17. The evening will begin at 5:15 with a spaghetti supper prepared by our church Women's Guild. Please contact Carolyn Loudon or one of the ladies in the guild for tickets. Dinner service will begin at 5:15, and the fair doors will open at 6:00.

Enrollment: We're busy keeping up with our ECC and elementary enrollment. It's a blessing to watch God's hand at work as we go through our days and years working with the children and families. Thank you for your continued support of our teachers, families, and your school here at St. Paul

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

Join us for an afternoon of fun, games, food, and more. We will also be hosting a craft fair. If you are interested in having a booth to sell your crafts, sign up using the link below.

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 at: <https://tinyurl.com/yc6dv8zc>



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



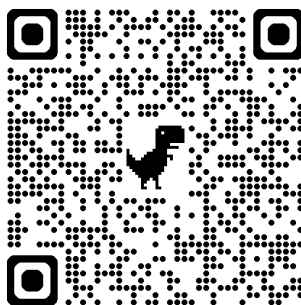
<https://tinyurl.com/4bc59m2a>



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. 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>

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

With more than 390,000 pounds of material goods shipped in 2025, the Maryland Branch of Orphan Grain Train will continue its commitment in the coming year to support those in need across the world, here in the United States, and those within our local community. We remain dedicated to serving individuals across the globe and doing our best to ensure that those we serve receive the goods they need. With God's blessing—and through your ongoing support and generosity—Orphan Grain Train plans to carry forward its mission as the Hands and Feet of Christ Jesus, reaching out to the less fortunate and underserved of the world. To fulfill this mission, we rely deeply on the continued involvement of our local community; your prayers, service, and donations are absolutely essential to sustain and grow our outreach efforts. With a shipment to the people of Cameroon already accomplished in January, we now turn our attention to our mission partners in Ethiopia, Ukraine, South Sudan, Ghana, Liberia, and Kenya, as well as our domestic partners in Appalachia, Maryland, and our local community. Please accept our thanks and deep gratitude for all you do to support this mission and accept our invitation to help the Maryland Branch continue its mission into 2026. We deeply appreciate your contributions of time, skills, gifts, and donations – they are indeed a blessing to all.

James 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

Anthony Rodriguez
Assistant Branch Manager for Operations
OGT Maryland Branch

A FUNDRAISER



to Support

Orphan Grain Train †



Thursday, March 26th

11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Lunch and/or Dinner, Carry-out or Dine-in

523 Benfield Rd., Severna Park

410-432-6160 – <https://lilcarmines.com>

A portion of the proceeds will benefit Orphan Grain Train. Please let your server know you're benefiting OGT.

SERVING IN MARCH

	Cantor	Reader	Greeter	Usher 1	Usher 2
April 2, 2026		Pastor Roemer	Irene Giguere		
April 3, 2026			Joy Brooks		
April 5, 2026	Caleb Ferry	Ken Waibel	Bruce Staudinger	Paul Lubell	Brian Erwin
April 12, 2026	Steve Haar	Karen Eichelman	Karyn Borth	Don Easton	Ken Waibel
April 19, 2026	Steve Haar	JB Jaeger	Betsy Mitchell	Jim Kyne	David Nguyen
April 26, 2026	JB Jaeger	Suzanne Giguere	Robbin Dungey	Kevin Dungey	Taylor Dungey

DAILY READINGS

April 2	Holy (Maundy) Thursday	Ex. 12:1–14 <i>or</i> Ex. 24:3–11	Psalm 116:12–19	1 Cor. 11:23–32	John 13:1–15 (34–35)
April 3	Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13–53:12	Psalm 22 <i>or</i> Psalm 31	2 Cor. 5:14–21	John 18:1–19:42
April 5	The Resurrection of Our Lord (<i>Sunrise</i>)	Isaiah 25:6–9 <i>or</i> Ex. 14:10–15:1	Psalm 16 <i>or</i> The Song of Moses and Israel	1 Cor. 15:1–11 <i>or</i> 1 Cor. 15:12–25	John 20:1–18
	The Resurrection of Our Lord	Job 19:23–27	Psalm 118:15–29	1 Cor. 5:6–8 <i>or</i> 1 Cor. 15:51–57	Mark 16:1–8
April 12	Second S. of Easter (Quasimodo Geniti)	Ezek. 37:1–14	Psalm 33	1 John 5:4–10	John 20:19–31
April 19	Third S. of Easter (Misericordias Domini)	Ezek. 34:11–16	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:21–25	John 10:11–16
April 26	Fourth S. of Easter (Jubilate)	Isaiah 40:25–31 <i>or</i> Lam. 3:22–33	Psalm 147:1–11	1 Peter 2:11–20 <i>or</i> 1 John 3:1–3	John 16:16–22



Im Sunday, March 29th 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd 7 p.m. with Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 3rd, 7 p.m.

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

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