



Walking Together

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Catonsville, MD

September 2026

ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. Colossians 2:6-7

The Capital Campaign Committee picked these verses for our Ministry Expansion. Then I found out that these are also the verses the LCMS suggested for our school chapels this year. The school will be hearing, singing, and learning these verses just as we in the church use them to move forward in our church life. God must be saying something.

What is He saying? Well, let's look at the Bible verses themselves. Even more closely, let's look at the verbs in these verses. The verbs carry the message. And the message is what God has done for us, His people.

Received: "As you received," St. Paul writes. We received Christ by God's overwhelming grace and goodness. Won for us on the cross, given in the Word, washed over us in Baptism—that is how we received Christ. God did it for our salvation.

Walk in Him: This strong mercy changes us. We are not the same people we would be if Christ had not died for us and if we had not been baptized. We walk differently. We live differently. Like a person with a knee replacement who suddenly can walk straight and without pain, we have been transformed by the work of God for us. We joyfully follow God's commands.

Rooted, built up, and established: The salvation we have received becomes our strength in life. The children of Israel sang this when they had crossed the Red Sea: "The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." (Exodus 15:2) We have crossed the Red Sea of sin and death, and the Lord is our strength. We are rooted in Him by hearing His Word, and through the faith the Holy Spirit gives, we can withstand storms, sins, and evil.

Just as you were taught: We bring nothing to our Christian life but what we have received. We are taught, given to, and spoken to. It is all in the Word communicated to us.

Abounding in thanksgiving: We are left with thanksgiving, worship, and praise. That is what chapel is in the school. That is what the Capital Campaign is also: our abounding thanksgiving to the God who has done all things for us

Pastor Alms

SAVE THE DATE: MINISTRY EXPANSION/CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

Something incredible is on the horizon! Join us for a special presentation as we unveil the vision for our upcoming ministry expansion, Sunday, September 13th.

Sign Up For Breakfast!

We want to make our capital campaign start-off eggstra special. September 13, after our church service, we'll gather for a potluck breakfast: eggs of course, egg bakes, and other breakfast/brunch goodies. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Planning for St. Paul's Ministry Expansion Campaign, *Firmly Rooted, Boldly Building*, continues to move forward. Our executive leadership team (Cameron Jones, Christina Nelson, and Jon Brooks) has been meeting regularly with our LCEF consultant, working through the details and documents that will shape this campaign and bring it to life. We are grateful for the careful, prayerful process and for the partnership LCEF has provided along the way. While we are not yet ready to share all the specifics, we are excited about what God is doing and where He is leading St. Paul. The full vision for this campaign, including the "what," the "why," and the financial goals, will be unveiled at our **Campaign Kickoff on Sunday, September 13**, immediately following the worship service as a congregational potluck. We hope every family will plan to be there. In the meantime, we invite you to pray for this process, for our leadership team, and for open and generous hearts across our congregation. Questions can be directed to Cameron Jones.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL START ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH.

Mark the date!

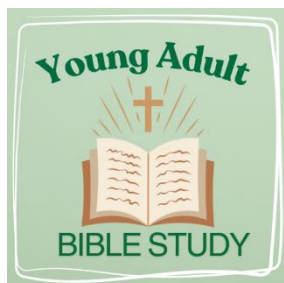
GET YOUR ISAIAH DISCOVERY GUIDE NOW

We'll be studying all 66 chapters of Isaiah over 12 weeks, which works out to about five to six chapters each week. Read the chapters each week before class. Each week, you'll receive (via the Friday email or Sunday morning in the Narthex) an introduction and guide to your reading. For the first week, read Isaiah chapters 1–5, review the discovery guide. Then we'll come together on Sunday at 8:45 to discuss what we've learned, answer questions, and go over the material together. Sound good? Get your Isaiah material now (online) or in the Narthex and come ready to learn!

CALLING ALL YOUTH (AND PARENTS!)

Vicar Demlow will be starting up the Youth Group again this Fall. All youth ages 12-17 and their parents are invited and encouraged to attend a planning meeting for the upcoming year. Your ideas and preferences for the year are appreciated. Please join Vicar Demlow and Pr. Alms in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 30th, at 4:00 PM to get the year started! If you have any questions, please reach out to Vicar Demlow at vicardemlow@stpaulcatonsville.org or via the church phone at 410-747-1897.

CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS!



Vicar Demlow will be taking over the Young Adult Group starting on Saturday, September 12th, at 5:00 PM. The Young Adult Group is designed for adults ages 18-30, and consists of fellowship time, either at a host house or in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a Bible Study. Meetings are scheduled to take place on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, and topics will be determined by interest as the year goes on. The first topic will be the Book of Philemon, we would love to see you there! If you have any questions, please reach out to Vicar Demlow at vicardemlow@stpaulcatonsville.org or via the church at 410-747-1897.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN SCHOOL- YOU ARE INVITED!

School & ECC Events

- ☐ Every Wednesday — Chapel — 8:30 AM
- ☐ Advent Morning Midweek Services — Music Program Preludes — 11:00 AM
- ☐ December 11, 2026 — ECC Christmas Program — 10:00 AM
- ☐ December 17, 2026 — Elementary Christmas Program — 1:00 PM dress rehearsal; 6:00 PM
- ☐ Lent Morning Midweek Services — Music Program Preludes — 11:00 AM
- ☐ March 5, 2027 — Cardboard Arcade — 6:00 PM
- ☐ March 18, 2027 — Talent Show — 6:00 PM
- ☐ April 22, 2027 — Social Studies Fair — 6:00 PM
- ☐ May 7, 2027 — Music Concert and Art Expo — 6:00 PM
- ☐ May 26, 2027 — 5th-Grade Graduation — 6:00 PM



ST. PAUL WORKDAYS

The Property and Maintenance Committee meets on the third Saturday from

9 AM until 12 PM. They take care of odd jobs around the campus, such as minor weeding and

landscaping of the grounds, spot cleaning, changing light bulbs, touch-up painting, and identifying areas for future repair or improvement. DIY home improvement experience a plus but not required! If you are interested in helping, giving back to St. Paul, and bonding with your fellow congregation members, The next workday is September 20th.



**Church
Work
Day**

NEWS FROM THE ELDERS

Bible Study and Fellowship

We are all fed spiritually and emotionally by being together in our Sunday Communion services. We get to hear the loving Word of God in the Bible texts designated for that day and in Pastor's sermons and sing the glorious hymns appointed for that day of worship. It is another great joy to join together in Bible study with others. On Sunday mornings before church, 8:45-9:45 AM, Pastor Alms will lead a study of the prophet Isaiah starting on September 13 and running through the end of November. On the fourth Thursday of each month this fall, people will be meeting at 7 PM in the Rathskeller restaurant in Elkridge, Maryland, to enjoy authentic German foods and beverages while discussing the book *Has American Christianity Failed* written by Bryan Wolfmuller. I will be leading a discussion of the gospel of John in the sacristy at St. Paul from 10 – 11 AM every other Thursday of each month. In September, that will be September 3 and 17. In addition, Vicar Demlow will be leading the Young Adult Group; this will include fellowship time and Bible study. We are indeed blessed to have so many opportunities at St. Paul to get to know each other better as we meet to discuss the Bible.

St. Paul Prayer Chain

The St. Paul Prayer Chain is an email ministry that informs Prayer Chain member of the prayer concerns of our members, family, and friends. At this point, we have 48 Prayer Chain members; not all St. Paul members. Let me know and I will add your name to the distribution list. It is a profound blessing to be linked together in praying for others to our loving God.

Causes for Thanksgiving

As part of the Elders' duties, each year we recommend to the voters people who want to join the St. Paul family. We give God thanks for the good numbers who have been joining St. Paul each year. This year, New Member Sunday will be September 27. There will be a reception (with delicious food and treats) in the Fellowship Hall after the service to celebrate those who are joining us. We also and especially give thanks for all the little ones (aka "babies") who have been coming into the world and who will be baptized as members of our St. Paul family

In His service,
Kevin Dungey,
Board of Elders

WOMENS GUILD

Ladies hard to believe but summer is over and our 1st meeting of the fall will be on September 22nd at the home of Pat Wesselman. Meeting starts at 10 please bring a bagged lunch and plan on staying for some fellowship following the meeting. This is an important meeting as we will be discussing our plans for the upcoming year.

Mark your calendars our LWML sisters at Galilee Lutheran Church will be hosting the Christian Growth Workshop on October 10th. Scripture cards and Prayer Pocket Pillow more information to follow.

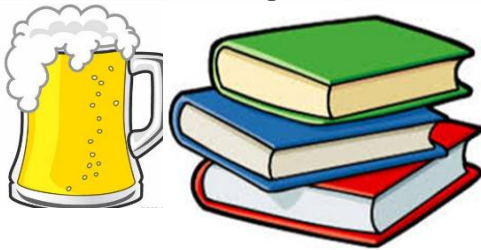
TRUNK OR TREAT!

This year's event will be held on Saturday, October 31st at 3pm. It is always such a fun family event with trunks, games, and fun. There are several ways you can help! You can join the planning committee, host a trunk to decorate, donate candy, or facilitate a game. Please contact Kirsten Hall (kirsten.hall@splscatonsville.org) if you are interested in volunteering.



LUTHERAN BOOKS AND BEER STARTS AGAIN THIS FALL

This year we will read and discuss together “Has American Christianity Failed?” by Bryan Wolfinueller. The author asks the question: has American Christianity lost sight of Christ’s finished work? He explores the weaknesses of revivalism, pietism, mysticism, and enthusiasm, then points readers back to the certainty of God’s Word, forgiveness, and the promises of Jesus. The book is available on Amazon. Our first meeting is September 24th at 7 p.m. at the Rathskellar in Elkridge (5782 Main St, Elkridge, MD 21075). Read the first chapter and come on the 24th.



LET’S GO O’S!

On Saturday, Sept 19th the Orioles play the Brewers at 4:05pm. This is their last weekend homestand of the season, so it will be an exciting and a fun outing for the congregation. Please call our church secretary Linda (410-747-1897) or email at secretary@stpaulcatonsville.org by Friday, Sept 4th, to say how many tickets you'd like to purchase. We'll have bleacher seats, \$42 each, including taxes and fees. Join Pastor and Suzanne for a great night of fun and fellowship. Hope to see you at the game... Let's Go O's!



ESL (ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE)



Fall session begins on Monday, September 21 and ends on November 30. We meet on Monday and Thursday 7:15 – 9:00 pm. The class is topic driven. After a lesson is presented, the volunteers work one-one with the students with the content. Volunteers are always needed. You can come both nights, only on one of them, as a substitute. It's a great way to share God's love, help others feel "at home" in our country, to meet new people. See Irene Giguere if you want to volunteer.

CARE NEEDED!

We have several people in our church/school family who can use the love gift of food. Others who need rides to appointments. And others who might need a call or visit. If you can bring a meal, please leave a note with your name, the ingredients and directions for cooking/reheating. The meal can be left on the bottom shelf of the kitchen freezer. We also hope to send out meal requests using an online calendar, so you can sign up for a given day, as well as getting any specific instructions. Questions? Contact Debbie Oldhouser, Carolyn Loudon or Irene Giguere. If you know of anyone who needs a meal, ride or visit, please let Pastor know.

ST. PAUL WALKS!

Lace up your walking shoes and join us for **St. Paul Walks!**

While our past hiking location is under construction, our monthly walks for September and October will be held at Centennial Park. This beautiful setting offers scenic paths and a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, stay active, and share fellowship with one another. The walk is a little over **2.5 miles**.

Meeting Dates and Time:

September 12th and October 10th at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting Location:

Centennial Park
10000 Clarksville Pike
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Parking:

Please park in the Centennial Park Amphitheater Loop Parking Lot, where we will gather before beginning our walk.

We look forward to seeing you there for fellowship, fresh air, and exercise. Everyone is welcome!

Heather Krakat

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generous donation to Orphan Grain. This donation helps us send aid to Appalachia, Ukraine, and Ethiopia. God's gift abound. Thank you for helping share the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



ST. PAUL 2030 UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 2026

As many of you may remember, back in February the Council presented the St. Paul 2030 Strategy, a document intended to help guide and direct our efforts as a congregation. It paints a picture of where we hope St. Paul will be by 2030. You can review the document here.

<https://tinyurl.com/yc566p5h>

As we continue moving forward, here is an update on some of the work already underway.

1. The Capital Campaign is at the Center of Our Efforts

St. Paul 2030 identifies several important priorities, including enhancing our school ministry, expanding our outreach programs, and strengthening spiritual formation. The Ministry Expansion/Capital Campaign will touch on and strengthen all of these areas. When the campaign is unveiled, you will see how the efforts connected with it align closely with the goals of St. Paul 2030 and will play a major role in helping us achieve them. September 13 is the big reveal!

2. Creation of a New Ministry in the Baltimore Area

St. Paul 2030 envisions our congregation helping to launch a new ministry in the Baltimore area. St. Paul has been conducting conversations with our ministry partners in the circuit and with the Southeastern District of the LCMS (SED-LCMS). At present, the effort is focused on the possibility of planting a church in northern Carroll County, an area that currently has no LCMS congregation. We are working to schedule another meeting in September or October, when representatives from the Southeastern District can share their expertise and resources and help us determine the next steps for moving this project forward.

Stay tuned! If you would like to be part of this effort, please consider joining us at the next gathering.

The possible campus ministry at UMBC has not disappeared, but for now it is taking a back seat to the Carroll County project. There are still people interested in and working toward reaching students and others in the UMBC community.

3. Strengthening Spiritual Formation

We are working toward this goal in several different ways. New groups are beginning to form at St. Paul, including the Young Adults Group and the Walking Group. Discussions are also underway about additional Bible studies, educational opportunities, and spiritual formation groups. Possible topics include parenting, family life, relationships, and other areas that can strengthen individuals and families in their faith. These opportunities could be offered not only to members of St. Paul, but also to our school families and the wider community.

All of these efforts require resources. Physical space and additional staff will be important as we work toward accomplishing these goals. Please continue to pray for St. Paul, for these efforts, and for the many volunteers who are giving their time and talents to help move them forward.

To God be the glory!

DAILY READINGS

Sept. 6	Fourteenth S. after Trinity	Prov. 4:10–23	Psalms 119:9–16	Gal. 5:16–24	Luke 17:11–19
Sept. 13	Fifteenth S. after Trinity	1 Kings 17:8–16	Psalms 146	Gal. 5:25–6:10	Matt. 6:24–34
Sept. 20	Sixteenth S. after Trinity	1 Kings 17:17–24	Psalms 30	Eph. 3:13–21	Luke 7:11–17
Sept. 27	Seventeenth S. after Trinity	Prov. 25:6–14	Psalms 2	Eph. 4:1–6	Luke 14:1–11
Sept. 29	St. Michael and All Angels	Daniel 10:10–14; 12:1–3	Psalms 91	Rev. 12:7–12	Matt. 18:1–11 or Luke 10:17–20

Dine to Donate
Wednesday, September 23rd

Kelsey's is proud to partner with BFJ Financial Group in raising funds for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

**10% OF "ALL" SALES
WILL BE DONATED TO
MAKING STRIDES
AGAINST BREAST
CANCER**

All Day!
Dine In or
Carry Out

**MUSIC
Bingo!**
23 7 7PM 45 28

BFJ FINANCIAL GROUP
Build a Better Future

KELSEY'S

American Cancer Society

MAKING STRIDES
AGAINST BREAST CANCER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 ● 8:45am Bible Classes ● 10am Sunday Worship ● 12pm Oromo Worship ● 2pm Oromo Fellowship ● 4pm Youth	31 ● 7:30pm AA Small Group	1 ● 7pm Day School Board M	2	3 ● 10am Bible Study	4 ● Pastor Alms' Day Off	5
6 ● 8:45am Bible Classes ● 10am Sunday Worship ● 12pm Oromo Worship ● 2pm Oromo Fellowship	7 ● 7:30pm AA Small Group	8 ● 7pm Elder's Meeting	9	10	11 ● Pastor Alms' Day Off	12 ● 5pm Young Adult Bible S
13 ● 8:45am Bible Classes ● 10am Sunday Worship ● 11am Capital Campaign K ● 12pm Oromo Worship ● 2pm Oromo Fellowship	14 ● 7:30pm AA Small Group	15 ● 6pm Bell Choir Practice	16	17 ● 10am Bible Study	18 ● Pastor Alms' Day Off	19 ● 9am Work Day
20 ● 8:45am Bible Classes ● 10am Sunday Worship ● 12pm Oromo Worship ● 2pm Oromo Fellowship	21 ● 7:30pm AA Small Group	22 ● 6pm Bell Choir Practice	23	24 ● 7pm Books and Beer at R	25 ● Pastor Alms' Day Off	26 ● 5pm Young Adult Bible S
27 ● 8:45am Bible Classes ● 10am Sunday Worship ● 12pm Oromo Worship ● 2pm Oromo Fellowship	28 ● 7:30pm AA Small Group	29 ● 6pm Bell Choir Practice	30	1 ● 10am Bible Study	2 ● Pastor Alms' Day Off	3