



Walking Together

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Catonsville, MD

October 2026

PRAYER

In the last few weeks, our church community here at St. Paul has heard a lot about the Ministry Expansion Campaign. Some aspects of the campaign are clear: offer your time, talents, and donations, as much as you are able to. Another aspect of the campaign is equally important, but perhaps not so clear: prayer. Sometimes, I suspect, prayer can lose its importance when compared to our other concerns. Will we raise enough money? Will we have the space for an elevator? All of these questions about the unknown often shift our focus away from prayer.

Prayer can be overshadowed by any number of other things, even outside of the context of the Ministry Expansion Campaign. We have all experienced this! We have all, at some point or another, forgotten to pray. Whether it's the easiest thing to forget before going to bed, or if it's the first thing to go when your schedule gets tight, prayer can easily fall to the wayside.

Yet when we forget to pray, or simply choose not to, we are really shooting ourselves in the foot. What we are really missing out on when we forget to pray is the daily provision that God grants us through the gift of prayer. God gives us His name so that we can call upon it in every trouble: in prayer, in praise, and in thanksgiving. We are exhorted to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17) and reminded that we "ought always to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1), for prayer is the very place we can go to for strength, for guidance, and for encouragement.

This is especially true when we consider the God-given side of prayer. Luther says it best: "Our prayers as our own work would not amount to anything or accomplish anything; but what makes it amount to something is the fact that it proceeds on the basis of His commandment and promise." This is certainly true not only of prayer, but of every aspect of our human lives: no work that we do is of any value unless it comes from God and is blessed by Him. We may plant seeds for the Ministry Expansion Campaign through our time and talents, we may water it with donations and prayer, but we know that it is "only God who gives the growth" (1 Cor. 3:7).

So as we continue to move forward, both in the Ministry Expansion Campaign and in our lives as Christians, let us always remember to turn to our Heavenly Father in prayer. Let us receive the gifts that God desires to give to us when we rely on Him rather than on our own works.

Let us ask God for guidance and support as we continue our Campaign, living in the confidence that "if we ask Him anything according to His will, He hears us" (1 John 5:14).

Vicar Nate Demlow

MINISTRY EXPANSIONL CAMPAIGN-UPDATE-OCTOBER

On September 13, we officially launched our *Firmly Rooted, Boldly Building* Ministry Expansion Campaign with a congregational potluck breakfast following the worship service. What a joy it was to gather around tables, share a meal, and hear the vision for what God is calling St. Paul to do together. A heartfelt thank you to our hospitality committee for making that morning warm, welcoming, and memorable.

We are now in the **inform phase** of the campaign, and there is much to watch for in the weeks ahead. Each Sunday, you will hear from members of our own congregation sharing what St. Paul means to them and why this campaign matters. Look also for bulletin notices, weekly prayers sent out on behalf of the campaign, and opportunities for our children and youth to get involved and make this campaign their own.

We have also launched a dedicated campaign webpage, linked from St. Paul's website, which includes a growing list of Frequently Asked Questions. This FAQ is a living document, where new questions are added as they come in; so if something is on your mind, ask. Chances are someone else is wondering the same thing.

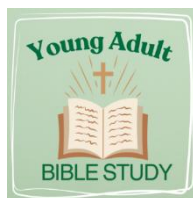
Looking ahead, **October 30** is our **Leadership Commitment Event**, when the leaders of our congregation will gather, hear the vision once more, and make the first pledges of the campaign. Those commitments will be announced the following Sunday as an encouragement and inspiration before the broader congregation makes their own commitments in early November. If you would like to attend the Leadership event, please send your RSVP to Cameron Jones or notify Pastor or the church office by October 15.

More than anything, we want this campaign to be what it truly is: a joyful, celebratory response to everything God has already done at St. Paul. This is not a campaign born of crisis or anxiety; it is an act of faith and gratitude. We trust the words of Ephesians 3:20, that God is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think. *Firmly Rooted, Boldly Building* is our congregation's yes to where He is leading us: to reach the lost in our community, to serve our neighbors, and to build room for the mission He has already placed in our hands.

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 YOUNG ADULTS!



The Young Adult Group will meet per usual on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays in October (10/10 & 10/24). From now on, we will begin at 4:00 PM rather than 5:00 PM. All young adults 18-30 are invited to attend. Please reach out to Vicar Demlow at vicardemlow@stpaulcatonsville.org for additional information.

FAITH AND WORK (THE CENTER AT 1500)

Four of the St. Paul family (Ed Cohen, Linda Jones, Dwayne Andersen and Irene Giguere) attended the first Faith in the Field gathering on August 25. Approximately 30 people gathered together as Pastor Sorenson, from Emmanuel, led us in outdoor worship. Following that we enjoyed a meal- lots of wonderful chicken, salads, pasta, etc. The next Faith in the Field was supposed to occur on September 22 but was postponed due to rain. We'll let you know when the next date is advertised!



LeChelle and the Center are sponsoring a Coat and Toy Drive. Orphan Grain Train has helped in the past and will continue to do so this year. If you would like to donate money to help LeChelle with this drive, you can mail a donation to: Faith and Work Enterprises, 929 Ingleside Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228. Or you can Google "Faith and Work Enterprises" and give online, indicating you want the money to be used for the Coat and toy Drive.



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.

WOMENS GUILD

Ladies important date changes we normally meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month, for the remainder for this calendar year we will be meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Octobers meeting date will be October 20th at the home of Pat Wesselman.

NEWS FROM THE ELDERS

Ministry Expansion Campaign and Prayer

On Sunday, September 13, we St. Paul congregation members enjoyed the “eggsellent” breakfast celebration and kick-off meeting for our Ministry Expansion Campaign. The campaign itself had actually begun a couple of months before that, led by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund representative Pastor Brent Hartwig. Everyone with a role in the campaign met with Pastor Hartwig during the summer. I had my one-on-one meeting with Pastor Hartwig several weeks ago. My role in the campaign is Prayer Coordinator. Pastor Hartwig told me then that the goal is to “bathe the campaign in prayer.” And indeed, the campaign is entering the phase called “inspiration,” a word that has deep meaning for us Christians. It means “a divine influence that is directly and immediately exerted upon the mind or soul,” or God-breathed. It is clear that we at St. Paul are responding to God’s call to us because of all the ways that our ministry has grown faster than our physical space. The Ministry Expansion Campaign is a congregational response to God’s call, but I believe that each one of us is also being asked to pray unceasingly for God’s support and guidance as the campaign goes on. You will see weekly prayers for the campaign circulated on our Prayer Chain, featured in Pastor’s Friday email, and posted in the Sunday bulletin. Please join in praying those prayers and in praying your own prayers that God will bless our efforts in ensuring that we grow our ministry physically so that St. Paul has the space we need to engage in the wonderful ministries that God has provided.

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. If you would like to join the Prayer Chain and receive these requests to pray for others, please email me 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.

In His service,
Kevin Dungey,
Board of Elders



OFFICE STAFF UPDATES

St. Paul has welcomed several new staff members over the past few months.

We have already introduced our part-time bookkeeper, Joann Francavilla. Joann works remotely and keeps track of all things financial. She is doing an excellent job, and we are fortunate to have her on our team.

We recently hired a new Office Manager, Ellen Cooper. Ellen brings a wealth of experience in human resources, payroll, benefits, management, and office administration. At St. Paul, she will oversee payroll and benefits, office management, electronic recordkeeping, network and digital connectivity support, vendor coordination and payments, and other administrative responsibilities. We are excited to have her with us.

Mike Marino has also joined us on a part-time basis to oversee the permitting, siting, connection, and deployment of the Learning Cottage. Mike brings extensive construction and administrative experience to his role here at St. Paul. He has four grandkids who are students in our ECC and elementary school.

Please join us in welcoming Joann, Ellen, and Mike to St. Paul when you have the chance!

THE YOUTH GROUP



The Youth Group will have its first gathering on Saturday, October 3rd from 4:00-7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

We will have a devotion, dinner, and time to play some games/ sports. Pizza and drinks will be provided, please feel free to bring other snacks or fruit.

Additionally, we will be hosting a Youth Group trunk for Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, October 31st from 3:00-5:00 PM. We would love to see you there! Feel free to bring a friend or two as well. If you have any questions, please reach out to Vicar Demlow at vicardemlow@stpaulcatonsville.org.

FIRST ESL CLASS



With the rain coming down, it looked like a wash out. However, 16 students and 7 teachers huddled together in the first grade classroom for our first session of English class on September 21. This year's students come from places like China, Japan, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Pakistan, and Myanmar. And yes, we need some more space and tables! But we'll work it out. The students are enthusiastic and just lovely people. What a blessing!

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 shady 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:

October 10th at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting Location:

Centennial Park
10000 Clarksville Pike
Ellicott City, MD 21042



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

Heather Krakat

OUR SCHOOL IS ROOTED IN CHRIST



What a wonderful privilege and blessing it is to work here in harmony with halls filled with faith, knowledge, and compassion. And what a blessing for our students to attend a school where God's grace and forgiveness are freely received and given.

We have hired a new Office Manager, Ellen Cooper, whom you will likely meet in the coming days and weeks. She will be in the office Tuesday - Friday. She's sure to prove to be an asset to our community, and we're blessed to be working with her.

Mike Marino has been hired to coordinate the Cottage installation and is moving that project forward. We will have the necessary work done to apply for the permits after October 27.

Our students are as anxious as you to see the building on campus. Under Ms. Maria's guidance, our AfterCare program is hopping! Our students spend 3-5:30 with a snack, homework or a craft, and time outside for play. We do have an aide opening Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 3:00-5:30 to work alongside Ms. Maria. If you or someone you really like 😊 would enjoy spending time with really nice kids while earning some Christmas money, give me a call in the school office. (410) 747-1924, and we'll hook you up. (Must be 18 and have a high school diploma to apply)

Our ECC is also a busy place for little ones. We have several spots available in our preK-3 class. If you or someone you really like is interested in enrolling a child, give us a call at the school office to schedule a tour and sign-on. Our children enjoy some free play, directed play, circle time that introduces letters, numbers, colors, and the calendar, art, and best of all, daily time to learn about Jesus and his love for us.

Finally, we will have our Open House and Kindergarten Enrollment day on November 5. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

DAILY READINGS

Oct. 4	Eighteenth S. after Trinity	Deut. 10:12–21	Psalm 34:8–22	1 Cor. 1:(1–3) 4–9	Matt. 22:34–46
Oct. 11	Nineteenth S. after Trinity	Gen. 28:10–17	Psalm 84	Eph. 4:22–28	Matt. 9:1–8
Oct. 18	Twentieth S. after Trinity	Isaiah 55:1–9	Psalm 27:1–9	Eph. 5:15–21	Matt. 22:1–14 or Matt. 21:33–44
or	St. Luke	Isaiah 35:5–8	Psalm 147:1–11	2 Tim. 4:5–18	Luke 10:1–9
Oct. 25 (Observed)	Reformation Day (Oct. 31)	Rev. 14:6–7	Psalm 46	Rom. 3:19–28	Matt. 11:12–19 or John 8:31–36
or	Twenty-first S. after Trinity	Gen. 1:1–2:3	Psalm 8	Eph. 6:10–17	John 4:46–54

SERVING IN AUGUST

	Cantor	Reader	Greeter	Usher 1	Usher 2
Sept 6	Jim Baeder	Jay Barringer	Robbin Dungey	Paul Lubell	Brian Erwin
Sept 13	Caleb Ferry	Michelle Johnson	Dave Carnes	Don Easton	Ken Waibel
Sept 20	Caleb Ferry	Pastor Roemer	Barb Johnson	Jim Kyne	David Nguyen
Sept 27	TBD	Karen Eichelman	Pat Wesselman	Kevin Dungey	Taylor Dungey

Orphan Grain Train

Shipments

We have a new recipient! On August 6, we added First Baptist Church in Wellsboro PA to our list. The church distributes medical equipment to the local rural community in Tioga County. We were blessed to drive the truck up and resupply their “walkout” program and will continue to do so in the future.

August 14 we shipped to Mission Gardens of Christ in South Sudan. Among the 18,800 pounds of relief aid were 1,000 pairs of orthopedic shoes (donated to us by Samaritan’s Feet). Aside from clothing, the contained held sewing machines and fabric, school supplies, church paraments, linens, feminine hygiene kits, and medical equipment and supplies.

On August 26, we delivered 61 boxes of Bombas socks to St. Thomas Lutheran Church in west Baltimore. The almost 7, 000 pairs of socks will be distributed to the homeless.

Upcoming: September 29- Cameroon

Please VOTE for OGT!

Orphan Grain Train-Maryland Branch has been selected for a Thrivent Big Give Back grant. There are 5 grant awards, with the largest being \$10,000. To win the \$10,000. OGT needs to have the most votes. Anyone can vote!(you don’t have to be a Thrivent member). Voting takes place October 11- 17. We will send out information with a link to the form once we get it from Thrivent. There are 5 organizations listed on the Form. Select Orphan Grain Train and follow instructions.

Restaurant Fundraiser: Wednesday, October 7, 4-9 pm
Squisitos Pizza, Magothy Gateway,
147 Ritchie Hwy, Severna Park