Walking Together
St. Paul Lutheran Church and School
Catonsville, MD
November 2026

ALL THINGS MUST END

The leaves are clogging the storm drain on my street. I spent a good bit of time the other day raking and sweeping, trying to clean out the curbside gunk—dead leaves, grass clippings, and sludge. The trees are beginning to shrink and turn into scarecrows. My garden, which I pinned so much hope on last spring, turned into a maze of tangled vines, rotting tomatoes, and weeds. I pulled it all out and threw it in the garbage.

I guess that means it is fall. The great message of autumn is: all things must end. It can't be green and blooming year-round.

The church year, the Scriptures, and the hymns we hear in November tell us much the same thing. All things must end. Starting with All Saints' Day and running through the Last Sunday of the Church Year and on to the First Sunday in Advent, the theme is endings. The saints who have gone before us reached the end of their lives. We, too, will run our course and join them in the graveyard. The world itself will end, say the Scriptures. We hear of the heavens passing away with a roar, of sudden destruction, of the end of the heavens and the earth. Jesus will return with the voice of an archangel. Scary stuff.

But after November comes December and that brings more than just a deep freeze. December brings Advent. And just as the turning of nature's seasons carries us from fall through winter and eventually into spring, so the harsh message of the end of the church year gives way to a season of hope.

Like a seed must be planted in the ground and die before it rises again as a flower or a stalk of wheat, so we must first hear the message of mortality and endings. We must pass through the darkness of the Law, which exposes our sin, before we can see the first glimmer of light in December.

If all things must end, even so, there is a new beginning. And that beginning shines just barely over the horizon. In the cold depths of December, there is a baby born. A light shines in the darkness.

All things must end, yes. But our God is a God of life and new beginnings. All things must end, yes, but in Christ, we are a new creation. All things must end, yes, but the virgin will bear a child and soon it will be spring and we will plant gardens and the trees will bloom and Christ will rise from the dead.

Pastor Alms

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT

It's fall! You know what that means…changing leaves, pumpkin spice, and cooler temperatures. It's a beautiful time of the year and we get to prep for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

There's a lot going on around church. Here are a few updates:

- The learning cottage is progressing. We are now working on getting electrical, water, and sewage run out to the learning cottage location. This means more variances, more permits, and more work. Mike Marino was hired to help push this project through to completion and has been great working with all the right people to get this done.
- The cemetery house has been sold! After a bit over 2 years, we closed on the sale at the end of September. While the house was listed for $349,000, we ended up selling for $301,291.56. After commissions and fees, we ended up making $274,846.70. After all cemetery house expenses (sub-dividing the property, surveys, and repairs), we ended up with $254,894.11. That money will be invested, until it is determined what it will be used for. Council will provide recommendations to the voters when the time comes.
- The council is forming a building committee. This committee will work to help turn the vision of our Ministry Expansion Campaign into a reality. They will move the ideas and vision that have been presented on additional space into realistic and specific ways forward. We are looking for an additional 1-2 volunteers to join the 4 people already on the committee. If you are interested, please contact me or Pastor.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about anything feel free to contact me.

Blessings to all,
Aaron Nelson

WORKDAY IS NOVEMBER 21st COME HELP!

The St. Paul's Property and Maintenance Committee meets at St. Paul on the third Saturday of every month 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. DYI home improvement experience a plus but not required! If you are interested in helping out, giving back to St. Paul, and bonding with your fellow congregation members, please contact Brad Johnson and let us know you'll be attending! The next workday is November 21.

MINISTRY EXPANSIONL CAMPAIGN-UPDATE-NOVEMBER

Thank you, St. Paul, for the joy and participation we have seen throughout the inform and inspire phases of this Ministry Expansion Campaign. Members of our congregation have shared stories of visiting the school on a busy day, serving children at recess in the cold and rain, and remembering past stewardship efforts, such as those that have supported past building renovations and expansions. And each week, the prayers that have been sent out by email and weekly news and tied to the campaign theme have kept us grounded in Christ.

We have also heard encouraging feedback from the congregation. There is real excitement about seeing the mortgage paid off, along with a clear request for guardrails so that funds raised go toward ministry expansion rather than maintenance repairs. We have had and look forward to more enthusiasm and engagement: Trunk or Treat (Oct 31) will help our neighbors learn about our growth, a new outreach at the Santa House in December will give us a chance to serve hot chocolate to the community and bear witness to Christ's love for all (and the students are planning to write thank-you notes to our local firefighters), the youth have partnered with our 5th grade class to design a future playground, and the Kid's Corner after each Sunday service has been a blast for children and adults alike, with everything from growing a plant from a clipping to building playgrounds out of playdough and pipe cleaners.

Two important gatherings mark this season. Our leaders will meet for the Leadership Commitment Event on October 30, and our hospitality team has done a wonderful job coordinating that evening and the Commitment Celebration on Sunday, November 15. During the worship service, everyone is invited to bring their pledges and commitments forward. A harvest-themed gathering will follow, where we will announce the full pledge total and celebrate all that God has done for St. Paul and where He is leading us. Then, on Sunday, December 6, we will gather for First Gifts Sunday, when our initial offerings officially launch the St. Paul Ministry Expansion Fund and our promised commitments become active ministry.

Our campaign website, https://stpaulministryexpansion.org/, has updated FAQs, resources, and information. If you have questions or feedback, or would like to help during the fulfillment phase, which oversees activities, and the direction of the funds raised, please contact Cameron Jones. May we continue to be *Firmly Rooted, Boldly Building*, to His glory.

CONGREGATION MISSION BRUNCH JAN 2027

Save the date for next year's brunch which will be held on Sunday, January 24th immediately following worship. Plan to join us for food, fellowship, and a presentation by guest speaker Rev. Lucas Witt, the Executive Director of the Lutheran Mission Society. More info to come!



CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS & THE YOUTH GROUP!

On Saturday, November 14th, the Young Adult Group and the Youth Group will combine forces to take on community service, caramel apple making, dinner, and a Bible Study. We will be raking leaves in the afternoon, so bring gloves/ rakes for that. If we have time, we may even have our highly anticipated Young Adult vs. Youth Group Kickball game! Stay tuned for more details. Please reach out to Vicar at vicardemlow@stpaulcatonsville.org with any questions. See you there.

JOSHUA BIBLE STUDY

Vicar Demlow will begin a new Bible Study on the book of Joshua starting on November 29th. We will explore the lives of the Israelites as they move from wandering in the wilderness to inhabiting Canaan, the Promised Land. We will also see how Joshua, Moses' successor, prefigures Christ. Please join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall!

LUTHERAN BOOKS AND BEER IS NOVEMBER 19TH AT 7 P.M.



This is a week earlier than usual on account of Thanksgiving. We are meeting at our new location at the Bavarian Brauhaus located in Hanover. The address is:

7304 Parkway Dr S,
Hanover, MD 21076.

The website is:
https://www.thebavarianbrauhaus.com/

Our reading assignment is chapters 3 and 4 of "Has American Christianity Failed." By Bryan Wolfmueller. We will meet at the Brauhaus at 7 p.m.



ADVENT: PEOPLE OF THE PROMISE

Eve. Sarah. Elizabeth. Mary. They were all people of the promise. Faith in the promise of Christ is what each person's story proclaims. Faith in Christ is what shapes us as Christian people. All of these figures serve as "role models" for us. They show us what it means to hear the Word of God in faith and, through faith, to receive Christ. They will be our focus during Advent Midweek services. Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16, at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

WOMENS GUILD

Ladies, please mark your calendars our November meeting date is the 17th at the home of Pat Wesselman.

We will be having our annual cookie walk on December 13th. We will once again be putting together food bags for St Thomas for delivery on Saturday December 19th. Check news and notes in the weeks to come for more information on both of these events.

KIDS CHRISTMAS MORNING - SAVE THE DATE!



Mark your calendars for St. Paul's annual Kids's Xmas Morning event. It will be held Saturday, December 12th, 9:00 - Noon. Stay tuned for more info and volunteer opportunities. Contact Karyn Borth to join the planning Committee. We welcome you!

ST. PAUL MEN'S GROUP: NOV. 14TH (RAKING LEAVES)

The men of St. Paul will meet again on Saturday, November 14th at 8:30 am in the fellowship hall for food, prayer and Bible study. All confirmed men and friends of St. Paul are welcome. Let Jim Baeder know if you plan to attend. After our meeting, please hang around to help rake leaves at St. Paul (if you have a rake, please bring it) to keep our grounds clean! We will not be meeting on the second Saturday in December as that will be Kid's Christmas Morning; our next meeting will be on January 9th.

ST. PAUL WALKS!



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

The next date is Saturday, Nov 14th, 10:00am

Great news… Trolley Trail #9 has reopened! We'll meet at the trailhead entrance adjacent to the Trolley Stop Restaurant (6 Oella Ave, Old Ellicott City). There is free public parking available in Lot A.

All are welcome! This scenic, gentle, 2.2 mile roundtrip walking trail is fun for all ages. Join us for fresh air, fellowship, and some light exercise.

Contact Heather Krakat or Karyn Borth if you have any questions.

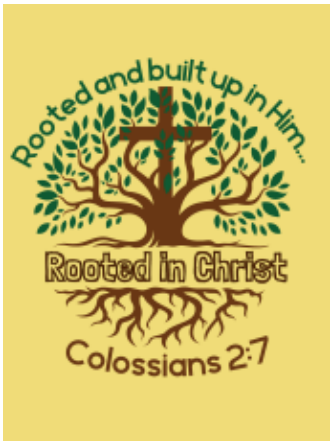
HARVEST CELEBRATION- NOVEMBER 15

Celebrate as we "harvest" the blessings of our congregation. We rejoice in the time, talents and treasures that our St. Paul family brings to this ministry of growth for ourselves and for God's Kingdom. This is a time to bring in and celebrate your commitment to the ministry campaign. Join us for Harvest nibbles of special food, pies and snacks after the church service. Think apples, corn, berries, squash- and the variety that can be made! We'll join together in the Fellowship Hall after church on Sunday, November 15, to Celebrate a Harvest and announce the total pledged for our campaign.



There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Consider bringing a special harvest snack or pie to share. If you prefer, please bring a non-perishable food item (protein needed!) for Faith & Work- a harvest for them also.

OUR SCHOOL IS ROOTED IN CHRIST



Giving Tuesday is just around the corner! We will use the money raised at this time for our Media Campaign that runs from November to August. Specifically, this money is earmarked for spots that tell our listeners about opportunities to worship with us during the Advent and Christmas season. We saw this payoff last year with several Christmas families that don't otherwise worship with us. Thanks for helping keep St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Catonsville, MD, part of the community's conversation. We'll take donations the entire month of November; there are special envelopes in the narthex for this purpose. You may also give online; just make a note on the memo line that your donation is to go to the Giving Tuesday Campaign. Our goal is to raise $2,000 for this campaign.

We're ready for a bumper crop to tour our school at our **Open House for Prospective Families**, Thursday, November 5, from 9:00-11:30 AM. The classes are prepared, particularly our kindergarten class, where seats will again be limited. We're as anxious as you to meet the people God has chosen for our school. Please do your part and let your family and friends know our doors are (metaphorically) open, and we are ready to accept kindergarten applications now.

Our schoolchildren will be doing their part by filling and collecting **Operation Christmas Child** boxes beginning November 8. You can participate by picking up a box to fill as you leave church between November 8 and November 22. Please return all boxes to the narthex by November 23. We'll pray these boxes reach children in need and bear witness to our faith.

NEWS FROM THE ELDERS

Welcome New Members

The Board of Elders for 2026-27 consists of Kevin Dungey (Chairman), Jim Baeder, Norm Giguere, Roy Krakat, Bill Oldhouser and Jeff Piegols. Bruce Staudinger has resigned from the Board.

St. Paul continues to grow! During the Divine Service on September 27, we welcomed six new members into our congregation. Below is some information that they have graciously shared to help us get to know them better.

Dwayne Anderson grew up in a small agricultural community in Wyoming. He later joined the US Military was stationed around the world, and retired after 25 years of service. Our former interim pastor, Tom Foelber, suggested that St Paul might be a good fit for Dwayne while they were discussing biblical translations. Dwayne shared that he is interested in strengthening his faith, first and foremost, along with learning, primarily in the realms of theology, history, and zymurgy (I looked it up so that you won't have to: zymurgy is a branch of applied chemistry that deals with fermentation processes (as in wine making and brewing beer)).

Happily married to her wonderful husband for 33 years, with whom share shares two adult daughters, **Bettyann Gotte** recently relocated to Catonsville from New York, where she and her husband had lived their entire lives. Her husband recently retired as Deputy Chief from the City of New Rochelle Fire Department after 38 years of dedicated service, and the Gottes decided to make a new home in Maryland to be closer to their daughter and her family and to help care for their nine-month-old grandson. Bettyann feels very fortunate to have found a home within walking distance of her daughter's. She attended St. Paul the weekend after Easter this year and immediately felt at home. "Everyone was so warm and welcoming, and discovering that St. Paul has a bell choir sealed the deal for me! I had been a member of the bell choir at my previous church for more than 25 years and ringing bells has been a very special part of my life. I'm excited to begin this new chapter in Maryland and look forward to getting to know everyone at St. Paul and becoming part of this wonderful community."

Born in Baltimore and raised in Arbutus, **Arnold Holz** lived in Catonsville and finally in the Valley Mede neighborhood in Ellicott City. He graduated from Catonsville High School and the University of Baltimore, became a CPA, and worked in public accounting and as a financial executive. After 65 years of marriage, his wife was called home. Arnold has two sons and a daughter, three granddaughters and four grandsons – his family continues to grow. He came to St Paul at the invitation of his friend Betsy Mitchell. Arnold reports that he looks forward to continued spiritual growth and meeting new friends at St Paul.

Lucy Peterson grew up in Pennsylvania and met her future husband, Cole, in middle school; they have been together for almost seven years now and recently survived their first year of marriage. Lucy found Lutheranism and St. Paul through Cole: "A while back, Cole realized he was Lutheran, and I have been attending LCMS churches with him ever since. I have always been a Christian, but never Lutheran. The people at St. Paul won me over, and I am excited to join as a member!" Outside of church, Lucy is a microbiologist. She prepares biology experiments for college classes

and researches the effects of spaceflight on bacteria. She enjoys learning and teaching about how God loves even the smallest of His creatures, which is why she wants to become a college professor one day. Lucy also works for St. Paul's after-school care program and, in her free time, likes hanging out with her best friend, Emily.

Sela Plummer told us that she is excited to be joining St. Paul together with her partner, **Connor Heimerman**. Originally from Central Pennsylvania, Sela moved to Baltimore after graduation to work at an engineering firm in the area. She grew up going to a non-denominational church in Pennsylvania and is looking forward to getting to know more about the Lutheran faith and the community at St Paul. Connor is from the great state of Wisconsin, where he went through 12 years of LCMS schooling, elementary through high school. He moved to the east coast in 2023 to be closer to family and now works with the YMCA in the before- and after-school program.
If you have not already done so, please introduce yourselves to our new members, welcome them to our congregation and pray for their spiritual growth as they worship and serve among us.

In His service,
Bill Oldhouser,
Board of Elders



DID YOU KNOW ST PAUL SUPPORTS MISSIONARIES IN ROMANIA?

Well, we do! Benjamin and Ella Goehring serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the Eurasia region, based in Braşov, Romania. In this role, Benjamin teaches English as a second language to non-native English speakers. These classes provide practical assistance while also serving as a vehicle for the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Benjamin and Ella are both from Rochester, N.Y., and their home congregation is St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clarence Center, N.Y. Benjamin holds a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Russian from the University of Rochester (2018) and a master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Ella also attended the University of Rochester to study Linguistics and Russian. During her time at the university, she served as a workshop leader for linguistics classes and volunteered by visiting elderly Russian-speaking Jews in the community. In their free time, both Benjamin and Ella enjoy playing the fiddle and learning languages.
Pray for Benjamin and Ella as they serve in Romana that they would forge strong connections with people - both those in Romania and those in the United States - and that the Holy Spirit would open the hearts of everyone they meet to the Gospel. Give thanks to God for sending Benjamin and Ella to serve His children in this part of the world..

THANK YOU FROM COMPASSION PLACE

Thank you for your continued support of Compassion Place. We are so grateful to God and to St. Paul for working alongside with us to provide tangible support to our greater community.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Order poinsettias to help beautify our worship for Christmas. Orders are $16.00 each. Envelopes will be on the credenza in the narthex, and orders can be left in a box there or in the offering plate. Orders are due by November 30th. Contact Janet Lister with any questions. Thank you!

DAILY READINGS

ALL SAINTS' DAY	Nov. 1	All Saints' Day	Rev. 7:(2–8) 9–17	Psalm 149	1 John 3:1–3	Matt. 5:1–12
	Nov. 8	Twenty-third S. after Trinity	Prov. 8:11–22	Psalm 111	Phil. 3:17–21	Matt. 22:15–22
	Nov. 15	Twenty-fourth S. after Trinity	Is. 51:9–16	Psalm 126	Col. 1:9–14	Matt. 9:18–26
	Nov. 22	Last S. of the Church Year	Isaiah 65:17–25	Psalm 149	1 Thess. 5:1–11	Matt. 25:1–13
THANKSGIVING	Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day	Deut. 8:1–10	Psalm 67	Phil. 4:6–20 *or* 1 Tim. 2:1–4	Luke 17:11–19
New Church Year Starts Here (2026–2027)						
ADVENT 2026	Nov. 29	First S. in Advent (Ad Te Levavi)	Jer. 23:5–8	Psalm 24	Rom. 13:(8–10) 11–14	Matt. 21:1–9

SERVING IN OCTOBER

	Cantor	Reader	Greeter	Usher 1	Usher 2
Nov 1	Jim Baeder	Jay Barringer	Bruce Staudinger	Bill Oldhouser	Cole Peterson
Nov 8	Caleb Ferry	Michelle Johnson	Irene Giguere	Cameron Jones	Jim Wedeking
Nov 15	Caleb Ferry	Pastor Roemer	Robbin Dungey	Bruce Staudinger	Chris Meyer
Nov 22	TBD	Alicia Dreessen	Betsy Mitchell	Paul Lubell	Brian Erwin
Nov 26		Vicar Demlow			
Nov 29	TBD	Karyn Borth	Dave Carnes	Bruce Staudinger	Chris Meyer

SERVING THE LORD IN THE

Dominican Republic (DR)

NEWS FROM STAN & DANA STIGDON

Sep/Oct 2026



Stan.Stigdon@lcms.org
Dana.Stigdon@lcms.org

Praise & Prayers

- *Praise:*
  - *Baptism of Suleny.*
  - *Wonderful supporter visits (church & individuals) while on Home Service.*
  - *Fellow missionary Robin is well enough to return home after treatments. Continued prayers for healing.*
  - *Five new LAC missionaries arrived and in orientation.*
- *Prayers:*
  - *For Stan's heel to completely heal from the break he suffered in September.*
  - *Make it possible for more men to attend the seminary here.*
  - *God would provide project / program managers for the region.*

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

Spread the Gospel + Plant Lutheran Churches + Show Mercy

We remind you often of the three pillars and how they work together to grow and encourage the community of believers. What an encouragement to recently witness a beautiful example of the ways these three pillars are intertwined. You may remember the eyeglass clinic that we hosted last year. In addition to providing glasses, the gospel was shared, and the church faithfully followed up with the participants. This past Sunday, one lady who was introduced to the clear gospel and the church at that clinic, was baptized into the family of God. We praise Him for this blessing. We thank you for supporting us in this mission.



Photo credit: Kris Shaver

View from the Regional Business Managers Desk

Constituent Relationship Management (CRM)….What is that?

Note: There is a request for action at the bottom of this article.

CRM is a new phrase for missionaries. We need to communicate accurately and regularly with our constituents (you!), the people that pray, talk about the mission, and donate funds. Our new CRM system will help us do that better. Until now, information about the mission and missionaries is in different places, making it difficult and time consuming to find and share accurate and timely information.

We are in a multi-year process to integrate our mission "story" to better inform you, save missionaries time, and improve our stewardship of financial resources. The first element is a new way to manage donations and the second one will be for the distribution of our newsletters. This has required new donation links and all credit card based recurring donations must be reestablished with the new link.

I am looking forward to the benefits the new CRM approach will bring to the mission team!

Action: Try out our NEW link below to start or restart a recurring donation or make a new donation. Thank you very much for your support!

www.lcms.org/missionary/stigdon

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

Orphan Grain Train

COAT COLLECTION
November 1 – December 15

Orphan Grain Train will again be collecting warm winter coats and jackets . The garments will be distributed to those in need throughout inner city Baltimore and the surrounding communities. We ask for new or gently used winter coats/jackets for men, women and children. Please make sure coats are clean and free of rips and tears.

Coats and jackets can be taken to the Orphan Grain Train Warehouse:
621 East West Blvd, Millersville, MD 21108

Drop off times: Mondays, Tuesdays: 9 a.m. – 12 noon
Evening hours: Tuesdays, 5 – 7 p.m.
Saturdays: November 14 & December 12: 9 a.m. – 12 noon

ALSO Norm Giguere's red truck (a.k.a. the Coat Mobile) will be in the church parking lot every Sunday in November and on December 6 & 13, from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Bagged coats can be put in the bed of the truck.
Contact Irene Giguere, (410) 747-1619 for more information.



Orphan Grain Train Maryland Branch
October 20, 2026



To All OGT Friends and Supporters

We want to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who cast a vote for us in the BIG Give Back event sponsored by the Mid- Atlantic Region of the Thrivent Member Network. While we did not gather enough votes to come in first place, we did capture second, securing a grant of $5,000. This could not have happened without your support. This money will allow us to continue our mission of serving the poor here in the United States and around the world!

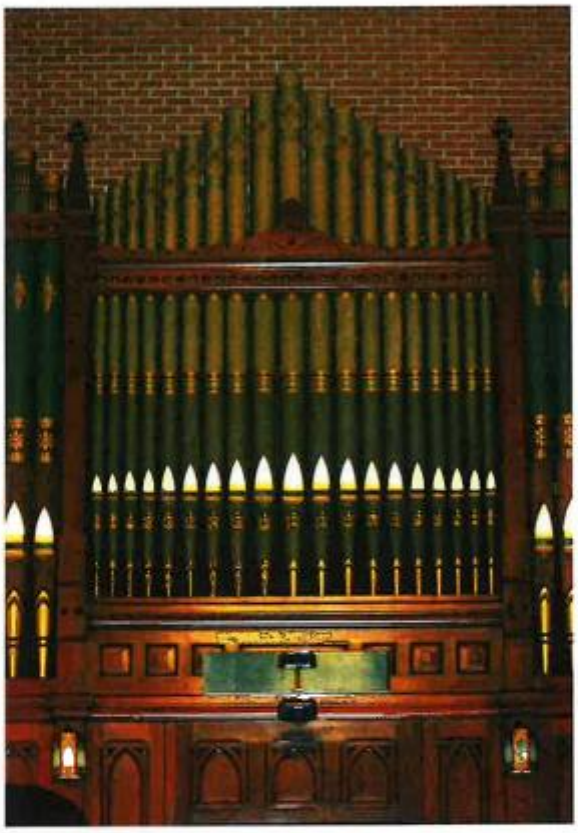
God bless you all!

Organ Concert and Hymn Sing

Celebrating our Roosevelt Organ's
150th Birthday and Restoration

Six local organists performing

God's Faithfulness through the years:
Singing the hymns of the church



Sunday, November 1, 4:00 p.m.

Martini Lutheran Church
100 West Henrietta St.
Baltimore, MD 21230
www.MartiniLutheran.org
410.752.7817

Reception to follow

Plenty of parking