



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Of Crofton and Gambrills*



*Newsletter
February 2023*

February 2023 Services at St. Paul's

- February 5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
8:30 am Sunday School, Youth Group, Adult Forum
9:30 am Worship Service
- February 12 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
8:30 am Sunday School, Youth Group, Adult Forum
9:30 am Worship Service
- February 19 Transfiguration of Our Lord
8:30 am Sunday School, Youth Group, Adult Forum
9:30 am Worship Service
- February 22 Ash Wednesday
7:00 pm Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
- February 26 First Sunday in Lent
8:30 am Sunday School, Youth Group, Adult Forum
9:30 am Worship Service

Sanctuary Flowers

The **sanctuary flowers** sign-up board for 2023 is posted in the narthex. If you would like to provide the flowers for a Sunday during 2023, please write your name on the board for the appropriate Sunday. Please sign up as early as possible, but no later than one week before your chosen Sunday. The cost is \$10.00. Please make your check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and forward or hand it to Bernice Prescott. Please write "Sanctuary Flowers" on your check.

Providing flowers for the sanctuary is a wonderful way to honor a special occasion or person, remember a loved one, or give glory and thanks to the Lord. You may remove the flowers after the second service, or they will be appropriately donated. Flowers are not placed during Lent or Advent. If you have any questions, please contact Bernice at 410-570-5277 or bernice.prescott@yahoo.com.



Prayer Requests

If at all possible, please list the need for the prayer. If the request requires long-term prayers, please indicate so and let the office know when it should be removed. Prayer request cards can be found in the narthex and on-line. Please contact the office at info@StPaulsCrofton.com if you have any questions! *Long-Term Prayers:*



Bob (health issues); John Abel (health issues); Fay Baase; John Bagley (health issues); Sadie Becoate (health issues); The Blake Family – Dave and John; JoAnn Breitbach (health issues); Michael Capello (health issues); Peta Capello (health issues); Christopher Chaise; Harley Coleman; Nicole Copinger (health issues); Penny Courtney (health issues); Craig; Deb Disharoon (health issues); Betty Falstich; Erich Fallstich; Marianne Foreman (health issues); Einar Jenstrom (health issues); Sev Kellam (health issues); Pastor Teklu Ketema (health issues) and his family; Bob Larkin (health issues); Tom Miller (health issues); Janet Mox (health issues); Connie Myer (health issues); Sally Myer (health issues); Jackie Blondin-Oetken (health issues); Al Oetken's sister Mary Ann (health issues); Erna Pleinis; Jim Q. (health issues); Kay Rudolph (health issues); Dr. Jim Smith (health issues); Brian Spencer (health issues); Dick Sulken (health issues); Toni, Linda Craig's sister (health issues); Will Toepper; Michael Zimmer Jr. and family (health issues).

Please pray for our members and friends serving in the military and as first responders: Jameel Barrows, Melissa Barrows, Joe Felsentreger, Jake Godboldte, Dylan Harris, Rachel MacCumbee, Scott MacCumbee, Dan Mitchell, David Sturgeon, Brian Wolford, and their families.

Worship Team

Jane Felsentreger, mjfelsentreger@outlook.com

Volunteers are always needed as Pastoral Assistants and Ushers. Please contact Jane Felsentreger by calling 410-721-7519 or emailing mjfelsentreger@outlook.com.

Education Team

Cyndie Dixon, cyndixon99@yahoo.com

Education, which consists of Sunday School, Youth and Adult Forum, has been busy on all fronts! The meeting time of all of these groups changed to 8:30am on Sunday mornings. A little early, but the activities will wake you up fast! The **Youth group**, under the direction of Chad and Andrea Muntz, has lively discussions and fellowship. Future activities include attending a Toby Mac concert at George Mason in February! Drivers will be needed. Watch for more info.

Erin Mitchell, the leader of **Sunday School**, makes sure the children get great Biblical instruction in a fun environment. These foundational lessons will last a lifetime! Give your child this firm foundation.

The **Adult Forum**, formerly Adult Bible Study, meets in the Fellowship Hall. Presently we are watching informative and inspiring videos produced by Focus on the Family and taught by Ray Vander Laan. Pastor Wackett provided them before he left St. Paul's. Here is a link to an example you can preview on You Tube. ([7\) Faith Lessons Volume 12 - Walking With God in the Desert by Ray Vander Laan - Promo - YouTube](#)). Hope this whets your appetite and see you there!

Questions? See Chad, Andrea, Erin or Cyndie

Christian Symbolism

In the monthly newsletters last year, we talked about the use and meanings of the liturgical colors in the sanctuary. We see them every week, and it was good to stop briefly and remember their meanings. This year we will talk about the Christian symbols. Every Sunday we see various Christian symbols reflected in the sanctuary, on the paraments, the communion rail cushions, the banners, and elsewhere. We likely give little thought to them because we see them as part of the surroundings so often. However, they have varied and significant meanings, and if we know their significance, we can appreciate them more.

The most enduring symbol of Lutheranism is the seal that Luther himself designed to represent his theology, which we call Luther's Rose. By the early 1520s, this seal began to appear on the title page of Luther's works. Our church building has a stained-glass Luther's Rose window, visible from the outside, above the front door. This symbol also appears at the top of the newsletter each month.



Here is how Luther himself explained its meaning:

“First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn’t destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17). The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.”

(From: Letter from Martin Luther to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530)

Outreach Team

Winter Relief

A consortium of Crofton churches sponsor Winter Relief annually for 25 homeless AA County residents. The clients are physically hosted overnight at Seton Parish; other churches support the effort by supplying 3 meals a day for 7 days among other items.

This is how St. Paul's participates in Winter Relief:

The Quilters provide individual quilts and frequently bed pillows. The Outreach Team collects new men's regular and thermal underwear along with travel toiletries. Additionally, Outreach organizes meal support for one morning's breakfasts for 25 men, 1 day's lunches for 25 (done this year by Sunday School and Youth Group), and one evening's supper for 40 people (clients and support staff). Judy Tribby leads the Breakfast Team, Penny Courtney leads the Supper Team.

Winter Relief takes place this year from the evening of February 6th until the morning of February 13th. If you would be interested in helping out in this year's Winter Relief, please contact Bernice Prescott or Penny Courtney.

Service Opportunity – Youth and Children Needed!

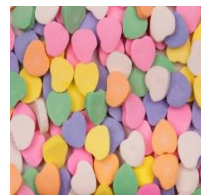
All youth and children are invited to **help pack lunches for Winter Relief** on Wednesday, February 8th at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The efforts should take about half an hour. Supplies will be provided, but we need many hands to make this happen! Contact SundaySchool@stpaulscrofton.com with any questions.

Love Boxes for our college students



St. Paul's has a long tradition of sending LOVE Boxes in February to our young adults in college. This year we have three college students--Caitlyn Houck, Anthony MacCumbee, and Kollin Crislip.

If you would like to send them some good wishes and encouragement, there's a box in the narthex, labeled LOVE BOXES. You can drop in notepads, pens, highlighters, desk supplies, gift cards for fast food or coffee, individually wrapped snacks, Valentine's greeting and personal notes of encouragement.



The LOVE Boxes will be packed and mailed in mid-February so **please make your contributions by February 12.** Thank you for sharing LOVE with our young adults working hard on their educations!

CCCC Food Pantry

CCCC Food Pantry Collection for February -- St. Paul's has been assigned **RICE/NOODLE SIDEDISHES** (other than macaroni and cheese). There's a collection box under the tall table in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity!

AND - many thanks from the Food Pantry for the generous contributions of cereal last month!



Help is needed!! Looking for a simple way to serve the community?? St. Paul's would love your help!

St. Paul's needs a new person to deliver foods to the CCCC Food Pantry located at Seton Parish on Davidsonville Road. The task is simple - gather up all the food collected at St. Paul's and deliver it to the pantry on a Mon, Wed, or Friday at NOON. The food pantry volunteers will help unload your car and then you're on your way. See, simple! There are no meetings to attend. A couple of trips a month is sufficient. If you are interested in helping out in this way, please contact Bernice Prescott to volunteer your time!! Thank you!!

Thank you for helping out wherever you can!

Save Your Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

The aluminum pull tab project that supports Ronald McDonald House is still alive and active. Please continue to save them and bring or drop off at church. Judy Parker (bob.judy@comcast.net) and the Ronald McDonald House thank you!



2023 MaryAnne and Jake Folk Scholarship

MaryAnne and Jake Folk were members of St. Paul's for over 30 years, during which time they both made huge contributions to St. Paul's in many different ways. When Jake passed away in February, 2007, MaryAnne decided to use the money in his memorial fund to set up a scholarship in his memory. The first scholarships were awarded in the spring of 2008. In December of 2008 MaryAnne passed away suddenly after a brief illness. The Folk children, Teri Folk, Jeff Folk, Toni Hetzer, and Kimberley Levine, decided to honor both their parents by combining memorial funds into the MaryAnne and Jake Folk Memorial Scholarship. It is now time to think about the 2023 Folk Memorial Scholarship.

The intention of this scholarship is to promote and provide opportunities for higher education to the active youth of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The scholarship, which is an award up to \$500, is open to all active high school seniors at St. Paul's who are graduating in 2023 and are committed to attend any institution of higher learning.

Applicants will be required to complete a short application and write a one-page essay on a topic chosen by the Folk family. The Folk family is responsible for selection of the winner, based solely on the essays, which are given to the Folk family anonymously. High school seniors may contact Judy Tribby (410-721-2453 or jatribby@msn.com) for an application. Applications and essays are due to Judy by April 1; the award will be presented at a later date.





Men's Coffee – Weekly, Every Wednesday

Come join us at the Nautilus Diner on southbound Route 3 every **Wednesday mornings at 9:00** for coffee, breakfast if desired, and conversation. All men are welcome! For more information contact Bill Corwin, 443-223-5921.



Ladies' Breakfast – Monthly, Fourth Thursday

We will meet on **Thursday, February 23, 8:30 a.m.** at Rip's Restaurant in Bowie, MD. Come and bring a friend. We all need fellowship! Any questions or thoughts call Jane Felsentreger at 410-721-7519 or email mjfelsentreger@outlook.com.



Book Club



Monthly, Third Monday

St. Paul's Book Club will be discussing *And Then There's Margaret: A Laugh Out Loud Family Dramedy*, by Carolyn Clarke, via Zoom on Monday, February 20th, at 7:00. All are welcome to join in the discussion. For more information, please contact Dana Brown, dreildc@gmail.com, or Sandi Corwin, sacorwin1001@gmail.com.

Ladies' Lunch – Monthly, Second Wednesday

The next Ladies' Lunch will be **WEDNESDAY** noon, February 8th, at Eggspectation, 2402 Brandermill Blvd. (Waugh Chapel Shopping Center), Gambrills.

All ladies are invited to attend and are encouraged to bring a friend. We will meet at the restaurant. Please contact Marj at kane3426@verizon.net or call her at 410-721-3426 by Sunday February 5th so the restaurant can accommodate our group. Hope to see you there!



From Zac Huffman, St. Paul's Congregation President:

Please Meet Our New Southeastern District President

As some may know, SED President, Rev. Dr. John Denninger, retired last summer after 10 years of service in that role. During the 39th Convention of the Southeastern District, Rev. Dr. William Harmon was elected to serve in that position.



"Growing up at Emmanuel in Baltimore and attending Concordia Prep, I never imagined that one day I would be given the honor of serving as President of the Southeastern District. I am humbled and honored and I look forward to our partnership in the Gospel as together we place our confidence in the God who can do immeasurably more as we seek to connect people with Jesus. "

President Elect Bill Harmon

Rev. Harmon was installed August 13, 2022, at King of Glory, Williamsburg, VA. The following core values will lead his presidency for the Southeastern District:

Our Mission: Connecting people with Jesus.

Our Vision: Lives are transformed, and God's Kingdom is growing.

Our Scriptural Focus: Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

As we continue to pray for Pastor Teklu and his family, please take a moment to reflect on Rev. Harmon's message for the New Year.

New Year's Prayer: As we enter this New year, I invite you to add the following requests to your prayer list as we seek to honor God and fulfill the calling He has placed on our hearts in this region of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod:

- That the Lord would give us every opportunity to connect people with Jesus. (Mission)
- That through the mission and ministry of the SED, lives would be transformed.

(Vision)

- That through the mission and ministry of the SED God's Kingdom would grow.

(Vision)

- That the Lord would bless every congregation, every school, every service organization, every worker, with every resource needed to do immeasurably more than they can ask or imagine. (Scriptural Focus).
- That every worker and their families would have the blessings of the Holy Spirit upon them and within them.
- That the Priesthood of Believers would be empowered through the Spirit to give witness to their faith in their communities.
- That the Spirit of the Living God would create faith in the hearts of the 33 million people living within the boundaries of the SED.

Thank you for who you are and for all that you do in the name of our Lord!

Bill Harmon

God's blessings to all,
Zac