

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
*Newsletter*  
*May, 2021*

**The Pastor's Focus**

“ 9 my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;  
my flesh also dwells secure....  
11 You make known to me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”  
(Psalms 16:9,11 ESV)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing this message to you from my office looking at a beautiful spring morning. Through the windows, I see green leaves on the branches of the trees dancing with the blowing wind and shining light with the bright sunshine. I thank God who carried us through the last twelve months. Most of us are vaccinated and resuming active life cautiously. We have an opposite perspective from last April about this spring and summer season. Last April, we were looking at the months ahead with fear and uncertainty. This April, we are praising the Lord for vaccines, slowing down the pandemic, and the possibility to resume active life in our environment. God created us in a garden, not in a confined house. We are going to be engaged in the community God placed us.

St. Paul's prayerfully plans to have a joyful outdoor fellowship on Saturday afternoons. We call it Oasis at St. Paul's. We expect oasis will be God's means to hydrate our life that has been dehydrated in the desert of the world. As David sang, God's presence, protection, and guidance bring joy to our whole being. We plan to have a time of games including basketball, songs, prayers, meditations, devotions, and movies. The Lord is generous to give us absolute joy and robust fellowship. Please pray and plan to come with your family and friends. Let us meet for a joyful fellowship at the parking lot- "Oasis at St. Paul's".

Pastor Teklu

## **May Recognition**

The tradition of choral music at St. Paul's has always been a welcomed part of our collective worship experience and has been greatly missed over the past 12 plus months due to the Covid virus. Suffice to say, the congregation was treated to a wonderful April 2nd Maundy Thursday reopening choral anthem performed by the St. Pauli's Girls. Their collective voices sounded glorious, even while wearing masks!

This month we recognize St. Pauli's Girls, led by Jane Felsentreger, whose members include:

Charlotte Angeli  
Dana Brown  
Sandi Corwin  
Penny Courtney  
Linda Craig  
Cyndie Dixon  
Bernice Prescott  
Joan Spencer  
Dawn Watson  
Betsey Wolford

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to St. Paul's mission and ministry.

Blessings,  
Zac



## **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. Please contact Cindy in the office at [info@StPaulsCrofton.com](mailto:info@StPaulsCrofton.com) if you have any questions!**

### ***Long-Term Prayers:***

John Abel (health issues); Charlotte Angeli; Preston Arnold; John and Monica Bagley (health issues); Phyllis Ball (health issues); Barry (family and health issues); JoAnn Breitbach (health issues); Peta Capello (health issues); Marianne Foreman (health issues); Marilyn Harris (health issues); Jackie Hitchens (recovering from surgery); Jay (health issues); Wayne K. (health issues); Janet Mox (health issues); Phil Myer (health issues); Sally Myer (health issues) Kay Rudolph (health issues); Brian Spencer (health issues); Dick Sulken (health issues); Michael Zimmer Jr. and family (health issues). ***Please pray for our members and friends serving in the military:*** Jake Godboldte, Dylan Harris, Rachel MacCumbee, Scott MacCumbee, Dan Mitchell, Brian Wolford, and their families.



### **Monday, May 17, 7:00 pm, Zoom Meeting**

The book being discussed this month is “The Four Winds” by Kristin Hannah. Please contact Dana Brown or Sandi Corwin for ZOOM log in and book information.



Music in the Parking Lot will resume Saturday, May 8th & 15th at 3:30pm - 5:00pm. Band musicians (brass, woodwind, & percussion) of all ages are welcome to participate. This event is an opportunity to share your love of music with fellow musicians from the community. We will explore music from American patriotic to spirituals, to classical and modern genre, to arranged hymnal music. June’s rehearsal date will be announced during rehearsal in May.

Please contact our organist, Charlton Henry, for more information if you or a loved one chooses to participate. Phone: 443 -995-2646, Email: [cthenry006@gmail.com](mailto:cthenry006@gmail.com)

See you soon,

Charlton T. Henry /Music in the Parking Lot @ St. Paul’s Lutheran

### **Lutheran Hour Ministries**

Daily devotions are available through Lutheran Hour Ministries devotions; [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org). These were used during Lent and were well received. You are encouraged to connect via the link or download the app to your phone.

# OASIS AT ST. PAUL'S

Join us for an evening  
of games, movies,  
meditation, music  
and prayer!

Saturday,  
June 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>  
at 4:00 p.m.



St. Paul's is excited to announce the beginning of a new outreach/fellowship event called **“Oasis at St. Paul’s” on Saturday evenings**, in addition to the Traditional (8:15 a.m.) and Contemporary Worship (10:30 a.m.) Services held each Sunday. “Oasis at St. Paul’s” is planned as an outdoor outreach to the community and a fellowship time for St. Paul’s congregation.

We will be offering a mix of opportunities for families to come together informally in a safe place for devotion, games for all ages, movies, meditation, music, and prayer. We will begin on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., and meet again on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 p.m. – 5 p.m. Different activities will occur each week.

An Oasis is a place where you can find refreshment in the desert; it is the location of the well water necessary for the survival of a tribe or village. In the Bible, the well is where the community gathered, where Jesus taught, a place where people could obtain refreshment and a respite from their day-to-day lives. We hope that St. Paul's will be that well to the surrounding community, a place where people can gather in fellowship, fun, and the spirit of Christianity, and leave refreshed.

Please invite your families, friends, strangers, and neighbors to come to this event. Please help support this mission in service, fellowship, and prayer! If you are interested in helping to assist in this mission, please contact Pastor Teklu at [Pastor@stpaulscrofton.com](mailto:Pastor@stpaulscrofton.com), Michelle at [music@stpaulscrofton.com](mailto:music@stpaulscrofton.com), or Charleton at [cthenry006@gmail.com](mailto:cthenry006@gmail.com).

## WHAT'S IN A NAME??

So, what is your name? How did you get THAT name? How do you feel if someone mispronounces your name or doesn't say it correctly? If you're like me, you get annoyed. Fortunately, Pastor Teklu and his family are very understanding and gracious and are forgiving of having their names taken for granted and mis-used on a frequent basis. Let me explain. In the West's tradition, names are rendered: First Name, Last Name (usually same as Father's Last Name). Most of us carry our father's Last Name, with most of our mothers having taken their husbands' last names upon marriage. I am Penny King Courtney, with King as my father's Last Name and my mother's last name after her marriage to him. In the West tradition, I took Jack Courtney's Last Name when we married. The naming traditions of Old Europe are well established throughout our country. But those are not the ONLY naming traditions that exist.

In Ethiopia, the regular naming convention is: First Name, Father's First Name. This is the tradition for both boys and girls. So, Pastor Teklu Ketema is Teklu (child of) Ketema. Tsion's lineage as indicated by her name is Tsion (child of) Endalkachew. It is not Ethiopian tradition for women to take their husband's name upon marriage; rather they keep their birth names through their lives. And what about Jonah and Selah? Why, they are Jonah (child of) Teklu and Selah (child of) Teklu. In that small family of 4 people there are 3 separate names that we, in the West, recognize as Last Names. Wow! That's something new to learn and get used to! Tsion is very aware that the correct pronunciation of her first name, with proper emphasis, is difficult for Americans. So that is why she does not mind being called "Zion" – a word more familiar to the American ear.

I appreciate Tsion's explanation to me about 'why and how all those last names?' when I asked her. We have much we can learn from each other. And now, you know, too!

--- Penny Courtney



**Ladies Breakfast** will resume on Thursday, May 27th, at 8:30 a.m. by the picnic tables in the St. Paul's parking lot. Bring your breakfast and a chair. We will discuss the possibility of returning to a restaurant. Come join the fellowship and bring a friend.

Any questions or thoughts call Jane Felsentreger at (410-721-7519) or e-mail [mjfelsentreger@outlook.com](mailto:mjfelsentreger@outlook.com).

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

We are updating the Congregational directory. The current directory is available on our web page on the Members tab. (Contact Patrice Jenstrom for the password to the Members tab.) Please check your contact information and submit any changes, including a new photo if you wish, to Jen Houck at [jennifer.houck@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.houck@gmail.com), no later than May 23<sup>rd</sup>. After that date, new directories will be printed, and the updated directory will be loaded to the web page. If you want a printed copy, please request one from our Office Manager Cindy Drabick at [cdofficemngrstpauls@verizon.net](mailto:cdofficemngrstpauls@verizon.net) or 410-721-2332 after May 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **What a great day to do the Lord's work!!**

Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> was a beautiful morning to hold a food and baby supplies drive. The Outreach Team and helping friends collected about 300 pounds of non-perishable food; 500+ diapers, wipes, and other supplies; and \$300 in checks and gift cards for the Food and Baby Pantries sponsored by Crofton Christian Caring Council.

The volunteers who helped: Sandi Corwin, Penny Courtney, Tsion Endalkachew, Jen Houck, Patrice Jenstrom, Jerry Kane, Marj Kane, Bernice Prescott, and Selah Teklu.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped and contributed to the morning's success!!!



**Tsion Endalkachew and Selah Teklu**



**Jen Houck, Sandi Corwin, Bernice Prescott, and Marj Kane**

## Church Reopening!

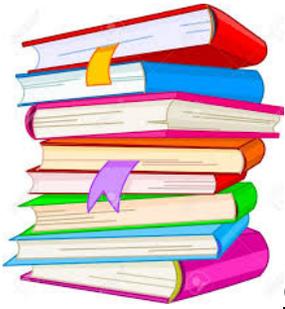
If you haven't been to church this month, come and see how we are doing! If you have been coming, we are so glad to see you in person again! Please spread the word that we are open and welcome worshipers to our services. Based on COVID statistics in Anne Arundel County, state and local guidance, and CDC recommendations, we reopened in-person church on Maundy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Going forward, we expect to continue holding in-person church services at 8:15 and 10:30 every Sunday, with an education hour at 9:30 for both adults and children. We are continuing to take precautions to protect our members and guests from the virus. These include (but are not limited to) social distancing, wearing masks, taking attendance for contact tracing and extra cleaning. We are also making use of the screens to project the service so that those who don't wish to handle items in church don't have to. In turn, we ask that you continue to monitor for virus symptoms, and stay home if you or a family member become ill or are exposed to someone who is ill. As of April 27, the Anne Arundel County Executive lifted limitations on social gatherings. We will therefore be considering when and how to welcome you back for Fellowship events. The first such gathering will be our outdoor Fellowship and devotional service, Oasis at St. Paul's, planned for June 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm and discussed elsewhere in this newsletter. Groups who would like to use the Fellowship Hall or other facilities are encouraged to put together a plan and request space. We will be welcoming back the AA groups and other outside activities in May.

Don't feel comfortable returning to church in person yet? That's okay too! We hope to meet your needs as best we can. We continue to live stream the 10:30 Praise and Worship Service, and are now posting a video of the 8:15 Liturgical service on Sunday afternoons. Both are available from our website. We are still working towards live streaming the early service. Bible study for adults is still available via Zoom. If you have any questions about reopening or how the services are being handled, please contact Diane Segelhorst at 410-991-4386 or [diane.segelhorst@verizon.net](mailto:diane.segelhorst@verizon.net).

**Want to Volunteer?** There are some small and one time opportunities just for you! Check out the Member page for a list of them!

If you want to add some church volunteer opportunities to the list, just email Patrice at [Web@StPaulsCrofton.com](mailto:Web@StPaulsCrofton.com) or text (or call) 443-254-6765.





### **Church Library to Open May 1st**

The Education Committee is pleased to announce that the renewed church library is ready to open. It is located on the credenza in the lower level hallway. Please take a look. There are some very interesting books available. Books are grouped by categories and color coded. A master list is in the blue binder on the shelf.

All books are shelved and labelled pretty much according to subject.

One person at a time browsing. Please use hand sanitizer before handling books.

If you would like to borrow a book, please sign out on the card in the back of the book and leave it in the box provided. There is no real due date, but please return books when you are finished with them.

Please use your own pen.

There will be a bin marked "Returns". Please return any books to that container. Books will be wiped down prior to being returned to the shelf.

If you have any books that you would like to donate, please contact either Judy Tribby or Sandi Corwin.

### **Virtual Communion**

We have made a virtual communion video available for all members, especially for those members who livestream services from home. To access the video, follow the steps listed below... Please contact Patrice Jenstrom at [web@stpaulscrofton.com](mailto:web@stpaulscrofton.com) or call at 443-254-6765 if you do not have the password.

Here are the steps to access the communion video:.

1. Go to [www.stpaulscrofton.com](http://www.stpaulscrofton.com)
2. Log in to Members tab (get the password from Patrice if you do not have it).
3. Click on "Virtual Communion Video".

The communion video lasts for 14 minutes. You will need to have available the following:

1. Wine or grape juice in a small glass or cup for each person
2. A small piece of bread
3. A willing spirit and faithful heart

The Order of Service is from the LCMS Pastoral Care Companion.

**Did you know you can now fill out a CONNECT card online to:  
record attendance,  
obtain information about what St. Paul's offers that you may be interested in,  
ask questions, or  
request a chat with Pastor?**

**Did you know you can now fill out a Prayer Request card online?**

To fill out either card, go to the CONNECT tab on our website, click the buttons on the online worship page, or use the link in the description box below the Youtube video for both the CONNECT and Prayer Requests. All information is sent directly to Pastor's email.

Please help us by using these new resources and telling friends, family, and guests to fill out a CONNECT card!

Although we have returned to in-person worship, we will maintain the online links as well as provide paper cards.



If you or someone you know is interested in technology, interested in a place to use and/or improve their tech skills, and would like to participate as a tech team member, please let us know.

Email- Charlie Frater at [Tech@StPaulsCrofton.com](mailto:Tech@StPaulsCrofton.com). We are in search of more helpers to grow this Ministry team. All are welcome! We will provide training!

As part of the team, we will all share in God's mission work for St. Paul's, but we need your help!

## **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 when you can. Judy Parker and the Ronald McDonald House thank you!

### ***Are you aware that St. Paul's offers three ways for online giving?***

Setting up your profile and payment methods is simple, follow these easy steps.

1. On our website, click the donate button- The menu button on the right on the top menu or the "donate now" button at the bottom of the Home Page will take you to the Church Planning Center Giving page. Set up your payment methods one time, and set up your recurring donations here.
2. Download and give via the church center app for mobile- Set up your profile and link to St. Paul's of Gambrills and Crofton. Enter your payment method(s) one time, then you can donate at any time easily and quickly. You can also set up recurring donations and pay the fee.
3. Text to give- text \$ amount to 84321- You still need to set up your payment methods.

### ***Are you aware that St. Paul's is charged fees for online giving?***

**Please cover the fee!**

If you want the church to receive your full donation, you may want to pay the fee. Once you input the amount of your donation and payment method, the processing fee will be calculated and you can click on the box to add it. This would save our church money in fees, and the amount covered by the donor is usually small relative to the size of their donation.

Example: If the donor wants to contribute \$100.00 through their checking account, you can cover the (ACH) fee of 25 cents. The year-end tax statement will show that you gave \$100.25 to the church. The church pays the 25 cents for the processing fee, receiving \$100.00.

Credit card fees are slightly higher as it is based on a percentage of the amount donated plus a 30 cent fee.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Charlotte Angeli at [treasurer@StPaulsCrofton.com](mailto:treasurer@StPaulsCrofton.com).