



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Of Crofton and Gambrills



Newsletter

January 2023

January 2023 Services at St. Paul's

- January 1 First Sunday after Christmas
9:30 am Festival of Lessons and Carols
- January 8 Baptism of our Lord
8:45 am Sunday School, Youth Group, Adult Forum
9:30 am Worship Service
- January 15 Second Sunday after Epiphany
8:45 am Sunday School, Youth Group, Adult Forum
9:30 am Worship Service
- January 22 Third Sunday after Epiphany
8:45 am Sunday School, Youth Group, Adult Forum
9:30 am Worship Service
- January 29 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
8:45 am Sunday School, Youth Group, Adult Forum
9:30 am Worship Service

Altar Guild

Bernice Prescott, Bernice.prescott@yahoo.com

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); Preston Arnold; Fay Baase; John Bagley (health issues); Phyllis Ball (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); Craig; Deb Disharoon (health issues); Betty Falstich; Erich Fallstich; Marianne Foreman (health issues); Jon Hakulin (health issues); Ruth Hakulin (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); Tracy, Linda Craig's sister (health issues); Marge Ware (Bill Corwin's Aunt); Dawn Watson and her husband (health issues); Will Toepper; Michael Zimmer Jr. an 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.

A Note from President Zac Huffman czhuffman@yahoo.com

May peace and love be in your heart as we begin the new year.

2022 has been a year unlike any St. Paul's has ever experienced; some (a lot) good, some not so good. We shed tears at the passing of our sister Marilyn and our brothers Phil and Don. We said our goodbyes to Sharon and Bonnie who moved to be closer to family. We were shocked to learn of Pastor Teklu's cancer diagnosis, and we continue to pray for God's healing and his return to us.

Through it all, we continue to be a caring, loving and most generous congregation. Throughout the year **YOU** have demonstrated this with donations and contributions of your time, talent, and treasure, which included:

- Winter Relief
- Community food drives in support of the CCCC food pantry
- International refugee and disaster relief initiatives
- Care bags and support for our elderly and infirmed shut-ins
- Thanksgiving and Christmas Sharing for families in need
- Reemergence of an active Sunday school and Youth group program
- Continuing support for Pastor Teklu's family
- Outreach and fellowship participation:

The Well, Trunk or Treat, Tech and multiple fellowship events

- Worship service support - worship assistants, musicians, and singers
- Church beautification through the Altar Guild
- Church office clerical support

...and many, many more!

"Keeping, sharing and living the faith in our community and world."

St. Paul's is truly blessed!

Congregational Voters' Meeting

For those who were not able to attend the December 11, 2022, Congregation Voters' Meeting, the following is a short review. The meeting minutes will be sent to all via email in early January.

Pastor Kevin Wackett opened with prayer and praised the congregation for being the "hands and feet of God" remaining devoted to God's church in Pastor Teklu's absence.

St. Paul's financial picture through October was very good. Income vs. expenses was a positive ~\$27,600.00.

The 2023 budget was reviewed and approved at \$193,764.25.

Reports from the following teams were presented:

- Worship, Education, Sunday School, Youth, Outreach, Fellowship, Tech, and Property

The 2023 Slate of Officers was presented and approved as follows:

President - Zac Huffman

Vice President - Bernice Prescott

Secretary - Cyndie Dixon

Members at Large - Carol Cook, Judy Tribby, Madonna Howard, Patrick Dugan

Treasurer - Michelle Crislip

Accounts Payable - Dana Brown

Counters - Linda Craig, Sadie Becaote

In closing, I wish to thank all for your continued support as it is my privilege to be able to serve you as St. Paul's President. I am optimistically hopeful that 2023 will be a better year for us all.

The following message from Rev. Don Schaefer is from the Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Pentecost. As we reflect on 2022 and look forward to a safe and happy 2023, it is comforting to know that God is always with us.

God's peace and love to all,
Zac

**When all is said and done
Richness in life is not found
In things you have or what you do
But in the people who walk with you**

**For people of faith
The most significant relationship
Is between our hearts and that of the one
Who created us**

**With deliberate and surprising intent
We insist on walking away
From God through word and action
Convinced that we need to be on our own**

**With equally deliberate and surprising intent
God refuses to let us go
Through Christ and the cross
Effecting a glorious reconciliation**

In Christ, our stubborn hearts find peace
And a love to hold onto
Through Him, we are richer
Than we could ever imagine+

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

Welcome to a New Year! Sunday School, Adult Forum and Youth continue to provide meaningful educational lessons for all ages.

Sunday School remains under the leadership of Erin Mitchell. She continues to have fun Bible-based activities for our kiddos.

Chad and Andrea Muntz round up the **youth** on Sunday mornings with age-appropriate activities and have the youth take ownership of their group. They are planning some out-of-the-building social activities as well to build fellowship among this age group.

Adult Forum is also held during the Sunday School hour. Presently, the sessions are comprised of interesting videos provided by Pastor Kevin Wackett. They are produced by Focus on the Family, narrated by Ray Vander Laan and entitled "Walking with God in the Desert". They are beautifully filmed in the Middle East where Jesus actually walked.

This is the perfect opportunity to refresh, renew and equip ourselves for the upcoming week!

Outreach Team

Penny Courtney, pennycourtney@yahoo.com

Christmas Sharing Thanks

MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS - Kindly look on the note board for the Thank-You note from the Lutheran Mission Society for St. Paul's' donations to their Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach programs. We sent a trunk load of toys from the Empty Nesters and clothing, toys, and grocery gift cards from the congregation to support a family with four children and two single seniors. Each of those three households was gifted with over \$100 in grocery gift cards - WOW! THANK YOU for your giving hearts!!

CCCC Food Pantry

CCCC Food Pantry needs CEREAL from St. Paul's members for the month of January 2023. Regular-sized boxes of breakfast cereal, instant oatmeal, grits, cream of wheat, oatmeal, or grits to cook -- all of those are good choices for the food pantry to include in client grocery bags. Please help if you can!
AND - many thanks from the Food Pantry for the generous contributions of canned tuna last month!



Winter Relief – Undies Sunday – Toiletries Collection

St. Paul's will collect packages of new/unopened men's underwear and socks on **Sundays January 8th and January 15th to support Winter Relief**, the annual Crofton community hosting of homeless men for a week during the cold months. This year Winter Relief in Crofton will take place in early February. There will be a bin in the narthex for your donations of underwear, socks, and toiletries. Please be mindful of this outreach opportunity when you see January bargains!!

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!





Men's Coffee – Weekly, Every Wednesday

Come join us at Wegman's the first three Wednesday mornings of each month at 9:00 for coffee and conversation. On the last Wednesday of the month, we meet at Nautilus Diner for breakfast. All men are welcome! For more information contact Bill Corwin, 410-721-2165.



Ladies' Breakfast – Monthly, Fourth Thursday

We will meet on Thursday, January 26, 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 The English Bookshop, by Janis Wildy, via Zoom on Monday, January 16, at 7:00. All are welcome to join in the discussion. For more information, please contact Dana Brown or Sandi Corwin.

Ladies' Lunch – Monthly, Second Wednesday

Ladies' Lunch - NEW DAY

The next Ladies' Lunch will be **WEDNESDAY** noon (**NEW DAY**), January 11th, at Libations, 8541 Veterans Hwy., Millersville.

All ladies are invited to attend and are encouraged to bring a friend. We will be meeting at the restaurant. Please call Marj at 410-721-3426

or email her at kane3426@verizon.net if you plan on attending so the restaurant may plan accordingly.



Looking Ahead – Great Opportunity!

MOSES

The live stage production of **MOSES** will be featured at Sight & Sound Theater next Spring & Summer in Lancaster, PA. St. Paul's has a bus trip planned to see this outstanding presentation featuring professional actors & musicians, live animals, and the parting of the Red Sea. Reservations for the bus trip are now open. Deposit of \$40 per person is due at time of sign-up; the balance (\$98) is due January 31st.

The total of \$138 per person covers transportation from St. Paul's and return, theater ticket, smorgasbord meal at Hershey's Restaurant, a breakfast bag, and all tips.

The date is Tuesday, April 4th, 2023.

Pick-up is at 7:00am at St. Paul's parking lot, return is at 6:30pm. It is a full day excursion.

Checks should be made payable to St. Paul's and notated THEATER.
The entire amount can be paid when you make your deposit.

This trip takes place during Anne Arundel County Public School spring break.

A ticket to this outing might make a great holiday gift for a family member, neighbor, or friend.

*** All are welcome!! ***

Only the first 56 respondents can be accommodated.

SIGN-UP SHEET IS ON A CLIPBOARD IN THE NARTHEX

This trip is sponsored by the St. Paul's OUTREACH Team.
Please direct comments/queries to Penny 410-969-9156.