



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



*Newsletter
October 2022*

Pastor Teklu's Journey

At the beginning of each Sunday morning service for the past two months, congregants at St. Paul's have been given a brief update on Pastor Teklu's journey through his health crisis. Today we are providing a summary of that journey to date, as well as expressing the gratitude he and his family feel toward the St. Paul's family for all the care and assistance that has been provided for them.

Earlier this summer, Pastor Teklu began experiencing discomfort in his right hip. The pain intensified during a brief family vacation to California in mid-July. Two days after their return, the family moved into their new home. That Friday evening, July 22, Pastor could not walk without extreme pain, and Tsion summoned the paramedics for transport to a hospital emergency room. X-rays and tests revealed that Pastor's right hip was fractured and that he had a tumor on his right kidney, thought to be involved in the fracture. Hospitals were still overcrowded and understaffed due to COVID-19, and doctors searched for a facility that had both an available bed and an appropriate surgical team. That combination was found at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) in Baltimore, and Pastor was transferred there that weekend. Surgery to repair the hip was performed on Tuesday, July 26, and Pastor began physical therapy the very next day.

The biopsy performed on the tumor revealed it to be malignant. The oncologists at UMMC recommended treating it with 15 radiation treatments, beginning on August 3. After Pastor was released from the hospital on August 5, radiation was completed on an outpatient basis, and he rang the completion bell on August 24.

Pastor and Tsion consulted with the oncology teams from both UMMC and Johns Hopkins Hospital, and they decided to undertake the next round of treatment at Johns Hopkins. After a one night stay there, Pastor began both immunotherapy (infusion) and targeted therapy (oral) treatments as an outpatient. These treatments continue. Most recently, Pastor began experiencing pain in his left hip, and the doctors recommended ten radiation treatments; these are being administered at UMMC and will be completed on October 3. The combination of radiation plus cancer medications have caused pastor to be very tired these days. But his spirits are good, and he is fully trusting in God.

An additional complication came to the household when both Jonah and Selah contracted COVID-19, at different times. Both appear to have recovered nicely and are fully involved in school and related activities. Tsion is working at her position. The family has been blessed throughout these several months by the almost constant presence and assistance of Tsion's parents, who have also suffered COVID-19. Fortunately, Pastor and Tsion have not contracted it.

Congregants from the St. Paul's family have had various opportunities to assist Pastor and Tsion, and they want to again extend their appreciation to each one. They are listed below, and if anyone has been inadvertently overlooked, it is my fault, not Tsion's! Please excuse me.

<p><u>Assistance at the Pastor's House</u> (unpacking, yard trimming and maintenance, electrical)</p> <p>John and Diane Segelhorst Del and Patrice Jenstrom Steven Wise Marj Kane Erin, Avery and Quinn Mitchell Bob and Bernice Prescott</p>	<p><u>Jonah and Selah School Pickups</u></p> <p>Penny Courtney Cyndie Dixon Zac and Linda Huffman Jerry and Marj Kane Bob and Bernice Prescott Judy Tribby Steven Wise</p>	<p><u>Meals for the Family</u></p> <p>Sadie Becoate Vonnie Calloway Carol Cook Sandi Corwin Penny Courtney Linda Craig Ruth Hakulin Jennifer Houck Linda Huffman Patrice Jenstrom Marj Kane Carol Kerr Donna Larkin Erin Mitchell Bernice Prescott Diane Segelhorst Jessica Silbert Amanda Sturgeon Judv Tribby</p>
<p><u>Transportation to Radiation Treatments</u></p> <p>Zac and Linda Huffman Jerry and Marj Kane Bob and Bernice Prescott</p>	<p><u>Activities with Jonah and Selah</u></p> <p>Bill and Sandi Corwin Jack and Penny Courtney</p>	

_Thank you, one and all! Tsion has said that we should stop the three-times-a-week meal delivery this weekend, as she thinks they can handle cooking in their own. We have told her that meals can be resumed at any time she desires or needs to have it done. School pickups for Jonah and Selah will continue, and additional volunteers are always welcome.

Continue praying for our beloved pastor and his family. Blessings to all.
Bernice

From Pastor Don Schaefer

Zac asked me to write some words of encouragement for your newsletter and I am glad to do so. All of you, along with Pr. Teklu and his family, are on a difficult journey right now. In trying to find fitting words, I remembered Isaiah 40: 25-31.

[26](#) Look up into the heavens.

Who created all the stars?

He brings them out like an army, one after another,
calling each by its name.

Because of his great power and incomparable strength,
not a single one is missing.

[27](#) O Jacob, how can you say the LORD does not see your troubles?

O Israel, how can you say God ignores your rights?

[28](#) Have you never heard?

Have you never understood?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of all the earth.

He never grows weak or weary.

No one can measure the depths of his understanding.

[29](#) He gives power to the weak
and strength to the powerless.

[30](#) Even youths will become weak and tired,
and young men will fall in exhaustion.

[31](#) But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength.

They will soar high on wings like eagles.

They will run and not grow weary.

They will walk and not faint.

These words were written by the prophet Isaiah to the dispirited exiled people of Judah who spent 50 years in Babylon as captives. They could not see God at work among them and wondered if they had been forgotten.

Isaiah reminds them of what faith finally is; trusting that the God above and beyond you is at work even in ways you cannot begin to imagine. Like the people of Judah, you find yourselves in a life moment which you cannot control, nor do you know where it may lead.

It is the cross of Christ that provides encouragement to believe. That cross is God's "yes" to each one of you. No, it doesn't mean that everything always turns out the way we either hope or expect. Really bad things can happen to really good Christians.

The strength the gospel offers is that whatever may happen in life or whatever people may do to us, God's love will be our constant companion. Nothing and No one may ever separate us from that love (Romans 8:31-39).

My prayer is that you may hold onto that promise and that it may bring you peace+

October 2022 Services at St. Paul's

October 2	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:15 am Liturgical Worship Service 9:30 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Praise and Worship Service
October 9	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:15 am Liturgical Worship Service 9:30 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Praise and Worship Service
October 16	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:15 am Liturgical Worship Service 9:30 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Praise and Worship Service
October 23	Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 8:15 am Liturgical Worship Service 9:30 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Praise and Worship Service
October 30	Reformation Sunday 8:15 am Liturgical Worship Service 9:30 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Praise and Worship Service

Worship - Liturgical Colors – Did You Know?

Since the beginning of this calendar year, each monthly newsletter has included an item on the current liturgical color(s). Nothing has been included the past several months, because the color has consistently been green since June 19, during the season of Pentecost. This continues until almost the end of October. The season of Pentecost can last from 22 to 28 Sundays. The color green is symbolic of growth. The Sundays in the season of Pentecost are observed as “the time of the church,” and emphasize the subject of growth. The emphasis on growth includes both our individual need to grow and mature as disciples of Christ and the growth of the church after the event of Pentecost.

On Sunday, October 30, the paraments will be red. Red was last seen on Pentecost Sunday. It communicates the motif of strength - strength and power the Holy Spirit gives in order for God's people to call on the name of Jesus Christ and share that powerful name with others. Red is also a compelling and festive color, and is used to commemorate the martyrs of the Church and important festivals. The Reformation will be celebrated on October 30, and the color red that day will recognize the significance of that event.

Adapted from “The Colors of the Liturgical Seasons,” authored by Rev. Douglas K. Escue.

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; John Bagley (health issues); Phyllis Ball (health issues); The Blake Family – Dave and John; JoAnn Breitbach (health issues); Michael Capello (health issues); Peta Capello (health issues); Christopher Chaise; Nicole Copinger (health issues); Marianne Foreman (health issues); Jon Hakulin (health issues); Ruth Hakulin (health issues); Don Howard (health issues); Einar Jenstrom (health issues); Sev Kellam (health issues); Pastor Teklu Ketema (health issues); Bob Larkin (health issues); Janet Mox (health issues); Sally Myer (health issues); Jackie Blondin-Oetken (health issues); Al Oetken's sister Mary Ann (health issues); Jim Q. (health issues); Kay Rudolph (health issues); Joe Schmidt (health issues); Dr. Jim & Kay Smith (health issues); Brian Spencer (health issues); Dick Sulken (health issues); Marge Ware (Bill Corwin's Aunt); Dawn Watson and her husband (health issues); Michael Zimmer Jr. & family (health issues); Linda Craig's sister Tracy (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.

The Peace Candle

On our altar is a small votive candle; the acolyte lights it each Sunday before the service and extinguishes it at the end of the service, along with the altar candles. There is a story behind this candle.

In 1983 the Reverend Blair R. Monie, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in York, Pennsylvania, visited the Soviet Union. It was in the small town of Voronezh that he was approached by an elderly woman who pressed a small sum of money into his hand and asked that he do something for world peace. Recognizing a deep desire and strong devotion in her eyes and voice, he determined to do something when he returned home.

After much thought, Mr. Monie purchased a small votive candle, using the woman's three rubles. He placed it on the communion table and lit it as a symbol of peace during the worship service.

For more than 17 years, the Peace Candle has been lit each Sunday at the church in York. In the fall of 1986, the congregation decided to pass the light of its candle on to 100 other churches. Since that time its light has travelled to thousands of congregations all over the world.

In January 2003, the congregation of the Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church in Crofton, Maryland, received a Peace Candle from the Hope Presbyterian Church of Baltimore, Maryland. Prince of Peace then gave a candle to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

In these uncertain times we pray that every time the candle is lit, it will be a reminder of the unity we all have as Christians around the world and our call to be peacemakers.

In Remembrance – Sunday, November 6TH

All Saints' Sunday will be observed on November 6th. During the worship services we will honor our friends and family members that have departed from this life and have made the journey to heaven. **The year involved is from November 2021 to November 2022.**

St. Paul's Remembrance Book will be in the narthex beginning October 2nd for you to enter the names of those who have departed. All names must be entered by October 30th.

Jane Felsentreger, Worship Team Chair

Outreach Team

Penny Courtney, pennycourtney@yahoo.com

**** TEAM OUTREACH ****

On paper, members of the Outreach Team are Bernice Prescott, Judy Tribby, Sandi Corwin, and Penny Courtney. But in FACT, **everyone** at St. Paul's is on Team Outreach. Let me explain.

IF you have contributed to personal hygiene kits, you are Team Outreach.

IF you have picked up the Teklu kids from school and delivered them to their home, you are Team Outreach.

IF you have delivered a meal to the Howards, you are Team Outreach.

IF you have contributed to and made school kits for Lutheran World relief, you are Team Outreach.

IF you have contributed items for the monthly CARE bags to our shut-ins, you are Team Outreach.

IF you have delivered CARE bags and visited with our shut-ins, you are Team Outreach.

IF you have boxed and delivered school kits and hygiene kits to New Windsor for Lutheran World Relief, you are Team Outreach.

IF you have delivered a meal to Pastor's family during his illness, you are Team Outreach.

IF you have driven Pastor Teklu to a doctor or treatment appointment, you are Team Outreach.

IF you have taken an additional turn on Altar Guild or helped with clerical duties in the church office, you are Team Outreach.

IF you have volunteered to learn how to help the Tech Team or helped with worship service, you are Team Outreach.

IF you helped out this summer with The Well, you are Team Outreach.

You get the picture. Outreach is not just pencils and backpacks, not just Thanksgiving dinners and toys at Christmas - though there's plenty of that! Outreach is taking care of our sisters and brothers here at St. Paul's as well as our Crofton neighbors in need at the Food Pantry, desperate moms and kids fleeing war, and so many others that we reach through our multiple ministries. Team Outreach is when we freely share our blessings - not out of obligation but out of thanksgiving to the Lord for what He's enabled us to do. It's sharing with others as God's loving mercy has been shared to us.

Look around your own life. Find a way, big or small, to contribute to Team Outreach. It's good for the heart and soul to share!!

May God richly bless you all!

--- Penny Courtney, Outreach Team

Food Pantry - October – Penny Courtney, Outreach Team

Many thanks for your contributions of macaroni & cheese in September for the Food Pantry!!

St. Paul's food assignment for October -Canned meals such as Chef Boyardee Raviolios, SpaghettiOs, canned chili, canned beef stew or chicken and dumplings - all of those type



items will help families needing assistance. Please leave your donation in the box in the narthex (under the tall table). If you'd rather, you can donate a check made to CCCC Food Pantry or to St. Paul's and Pantry.



Your donations will help stock

the Food Pantry provide nutritious meals for assistance.

donation in the box in the narthex (under the tall table). If you'd rather, you can donate a check made to CCCC Food Pantry or to St. Paul's and Pantry.

the community food shelves. We thank you for your help!!



Special Collection – Dominican Republic

Rev. Juan of Lifebridge, the Hispanic congregation that shares our worship space on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons, asked if St. Paul's might partner with them to provide some financial assistance to individuals they know in the Dominican Republic who've lost roofs and more as a result of Hurricane Fiona. If you feel that you can and want to contribute to this very direct form of aid to Pastor Juan's extended congregation, please put your donation, cash or check, in an envelope marked for DOMINICAN REPUBLIC Relief and drop it in the Offering plate at the rear of the sanctuary. Checks can be made to St. Paul's and designated "Dominican Republic Relief." This special collection will be taken up for two weekends only - October 2nd and October 9th. Thank you! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Heads Up! Thanksgiving and Christmas Outreach

This year St. Paul's will focus our traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas Outreach with the Lutheran Mission Society and in December work with their Miracle of Christmas. For Thanksgiving we will collect only canned and boxed goods to supplement their food baskets. In December we will get a couple of families/seniors to sponsor with their needs as well collect new toys for their distribution to clients. Be on the lookout for more information and how to help in coming weeks.

Tech Corner Diane Segelhorst, diane.segelhorst@verizon.net

Thanks to all who continue to serve by helping with our video and sound for both Worship Services! We are still looking for a few more people to help maybe once or twice a month. Contact Diane Segelhorst at diane.segelhorst@verizon.net if you are interested.

In September, the sound board experienced an unknown failure. It is out for repair, which will probably take at least two months. In the meantime, we were able to install a backup sound board which will serve our needs for this interim period. We secured the services of an outside expert consultant who balanced and tuned the system, so hopefully the sound both in church and on the live stream will be better than before.

We also repaired the Narthex speaker system. If you need to step out of the sanctuary during church for any reason and still want to hear the sound, find the volume control knob high on the wall next to the conference room door and adjust it so you can hear. If you are in the nursery, the TV there currently shows the slides without sound. You can turn up the Narthex sound enough to hear the service. Getting the live stream WITH sound to the nursery TV without the time delay caused by our broadcast is our next project.



Trunk or Treat

October 23rd, 2022

1:00 – 3:00

It's that time of year again! Time for St. Paul's to host "Trunk or Treat"!

Trunk or Treat is a great way to keep children safe and reach out to the community. After members of the congregation decorate the trunk of their cars, the children from both the congregation and the community stroll from trunk to truck on the west side of the parking lot and receive wrapped treats such as candy, stickers or novelty items. The kids will also complete crafts and enjoy snacks in the Fellowship Hall. The children will also receive a free pumpkin as well.

This cannot be successful without your help! Please consider participating by decorating your trunk. This can be done as a family, individual or even a group, i.e. Youth Group. Ideas for decorating your trunk can be found on the internet or complete decorating kits can be purchased on Oriental Trading. Servers and helpers with crafts are also needed.

A sign-up sheet will be located in the Narthex. Please contact Cyndie Dixon for more information at cyndixon99@yahoo.com or 410-305-4112.

Quilters

The Quilt Sale will be in full swing when this Newsletter comes out. You will learn the results by asking questions, from a church report, or the next newsletter. Thank you for your support!



October Recognition

The Labor Day holiday typically signifies the unofficial end of those lazy days of summer, family vacations and for the kids, sleeping late into the morning. It also means that the new school year will soon begin. And so it is with St. Paul's Christian education programs.

To ramp up enthusiasm for this year's classes for all ages, the Education, Sunday school and Youth teams came together in planning a special kick off celebration on Sunday, September 11th. A waffle bar with all the fixings set the stage for the highly anticipated game of Church Family Feud. Hundreds, no, thousands, no, hundreds of thousands of Lutherans were surveyed.

Game host, Chad "Harvey" Muntz, presided with Dan Mitchell performing the judge's duties. Two celebrity teams participated.

The Rainbows

Diane Segelhorst

Camden Muntz

McKenzie Clark

The Gladiators

David Sturgeon

Avery & Quinn Mitchell

Abigail Muntz

The teams battled back and forth in a tightly contested game with the Rainbows ultimately winning on a very challenging last category question: "What Song is most likely to be used as filler if communion runs long?"

And the number one answer was "Amazing Grace"! #2: "Beautiful Savior" #3: "Let Us Break Bread Together".

It was a special morning of fun and fellowship for all and great way to start St. Paul's Christian education programs. In addition to those mentioned above, many thanks to Erin Mitchell, Bonnie Weinhold, Andrea Muntz and Cyndie Dixon for their planning, hard work and dedication ensuring the success of this event. **Well done!**

Blessings to all, Zac

Thank You From The Well Erin Mitchell, erinlynnemitchell@gmail.com

Summer has come to an end and so has our outdoor worship and fellowship event, The Well. S'mores were made, ice cream was eaten, Bingo was played, things were blown up for VBS Express, songs of praise were sung, fantastic devotionals were given, and, most importantly, bonds were formed and strengthened. The event drew a crowd of at least 20 members each time, with at least 4 kids for VBS Express. We even had some guests join! A very special thanks to those who helped make The Well happen this summer since it really was a group effort: (if I forgot anyone, I'm sorry!)

Sadie Becoate - snack hostess

Penny Courtney - set-up, clean-up, snack hostess, Thrivent grant and provider of epic glow party

Linda Craig - VBS storyteller (not what she signed up for, but she was still a team player!)

Cyndie Dixon - set-up, clean-up and VBS help

Jane Felsentreger - music and general chaos taming

Zac and Linda Huffman - set-up, clean-up

Jerry and Marj Kane - set-up, clean-up, devotional

Dan Mitchell - bonfire extraordinaire, set-up, clean-up, s'mores packet maker

Diane and John Segelhorst - set-up, clean-up, tech crew

David Sturgeon - music, devotional

Steve Wise - keeping the grass tidy, fogging for mosquitoes

St. Paul's Needs You!



Musicians

The Contemporary Worship praise band, “Whatever”, needs vocalists and instrumentalists (drummers, guitarists, keyboard players) for the Praise and Worship Service. All levels of talent are welcome! Practice is only one hour per week. Please let Pastor know, Pastor@StPaulsCrofton.com, if you are interested in making a joyful noise to the Lord!

Contemporary Music Director Position Available

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Crofton, MD, seeks a musically gifted, strong Christian leader with a passion for music to lead our Sunday morning contemporary worship service. This is part time, approximately 15 hours per week. Primary responsibility is to plan, lead and inspire the playing of music for Sunday morning contemporary worship service. The music director should be an accomplished musician, skilled instrumentalist / vocalist with experience leading a worship team; they will select music for and rehearse with the praise band, and provide music for special services, occasional community outreach, and fellowship activities.

Please contact: president@stpaulscrofton.com for more information.

Ushers

We need volunteers to serve as ushers for both the Liturgical Worship Service and the Praise and Worship Service. If interested, please contact Jane Felsentreger – 410-721-7519 or mjfelsentreger@outlook.com.

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!