

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Newsletter

January, 2021

The Pastor's Focus

Dear St. Paul's faith family,
Happy New Year!

The year 2020 was a different year! God has carried us through the ups and downs of the year. God has been faithful in protecting us and guiding us last year, as he told us in the book of Proverbs. "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your understanding.

In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Here we are at the beginning of the new year. The year 2021 is God's gift for us! We did not make it to the new year by our understanding. We trusted in the almighty God who has been gracious to us. As always, God is faithful, and here we are in the first month of the year 2021! God has given us a gift that none else would provide us with- a new year! God's gift is always unique! His Christmas gift of Jesus Christ is unique from all the gifts we received from friends and families. According to CDC reports, between January and November 2020, more than 2.9 million Americans have died, of which 290,000 died of Covid-19. We did not have any power or right not to be one of those who deceased in 2020. The generous God gave us more years to live on planet earth and worship him.

Therefore, let us begin the new year in prayer with King David, who was the man after God's heart (1 Samuel 13:14)- that the Lord protect us from all harm and danger, and inspire us to worship and serve him in the new year.

We pray,

"One thing I ask from the LORD,
this only do I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,

to gaze on the beauty of the LORD
and to seek him in his temple.

5 For in the day of trouble

he will keep me safe in his dwelling;

he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent

and set me high upon a rock." (Psalms 27:4-5).

Amen!

Happy new year!

Pastor Teklu



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 if you have any questions!

Long-Term Prayers:

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); Barbara Carr (health issues); Marianne Foreman (health issues); Marilyn Harris (health issues); Sarah Hendricks (health issues); Jay (health issues); Wayne K. (health issues); Janet Mox (health issues); Phil Myer (health issues); Erna Pleinis (recovering from a car accident); Kay Rudolph (health issues); Laurie Snook (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, Brian Wolford, and their families.



The next meeting will be Monday, January 18th, via ZOOM. The book is The Evening and the Morning by Ken Follett. Contact Sandi Corwin for ZOOM meeting details.

‘Music in a Parking Lot’ will be on hiatus for the winter months and will hopefully return in the spring 2021. Charlton Henry and the musical participants would like to thank the St. Paul’s family for the support and encouragement of having live orchestral music resound on the church’s grounds during these trying times.

We are looking forward to making a JOYFUL NOISE in spring of 2021!!! Spring Date TBA





Epiphany's Celebration

St. Paul's will celebrate Epiphany with the "Burning of the Greens" on Wednesday, January 6th, at 6:00 p.m.

We will gather in the west parking lot surrounding the barrel with greens in a large circle. After the greens have been lit we will sing Christmas carols. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing.

News from the Tech Team

New Camera

Hopefully you have noticed the drastic jump in video quality on the last few live streams. The Tech Committee was able to acquire and install a new HD video camera for this purpose. Additionally, the Tech Committee has also figured out how to overlay the service text onto the video feed in a "lower thirds" format, rather than just showing slides. These were two of the most common requests/comments made by members, so please make sure you check out the new and improved live stream and share with friends and family! A reminder to please send all feedback on the live stream or other tech related issues to Charlie Frater, the Tech Committee Chair at tech@stpaulscrofton.com.

Grant for Tech Equipment

St Paul's recently applied for and was approved for grant funding to purchase additional tech equipment! This blessing of \$3,000 will go towards additional equipment that will further enhance our live streamed services (as well as in-person services, when we return). The funding comes from the Art Scherer Memorial Crisis Grant, through Mid-Atlantic Lutherans in Mission (MALIM). Please take a moment to visit their website at malim.org, and consider making a donation so that they can continue offering support to Lutheran congregations and ministries like ours. The Southeastern District has directly endorsed this organization. Thanks to MALIM and their partners for this wonderful gift!

JANUARY 2021 RECOGNITION

Dear St. Paul's Family,

I believe it safe to say that most, if not all of us, will be very glad to finally bid 2020 farewell. We welcome the prospects of a safer, healthier, and happier 2021 and, with God's help, the possibility of life returning to some semblance of normalcy.

Over the past year plus, this newsletter has included a monthly recognition highlighting the many good deeds and contributions accomplished by so many in our congregation. It may even have become something you look forward to seeing.

In keeping with that theme, this month's recognition goes to *ALL* of the St. Paul's family who faithfully served, and continue to serve our church mission during these unprecedented times. May God bless each of you and your families as we move St. Paul's forward into the light of a new year.

Peace and love,
Zac

In keeping with that theme also, a special recognition goes to our congregation president, Zac Huffman. Zac has faithfully served as president for several years. He has seen us through multiple major and traumatic events in those years, but the events of the past year have been some of the most challenging.

The process of calling a new pastor had just been started when the Covid-19 crisis hit. Zac successfully shepherded us through the call process, culminating in the installation of our new pastor, while making the difficult and sometimes controversial adjustments necessary to remain safe during the Covid-19 health crisis.

In all his interactions with the congregation, the district, special groups, landscapers, and the county Zac has been unfailingly thoughtful, gracious, reasonable, measured, and well-organized. St. Paul's is truly fortunate to have had him leading us, and we look forward to his continued dedication as president.

Virtual Communion

We have made a virtual communion video available for those members who Live stream from home. Please login to the members-only section on our website on Sunday to access the virtual communion link. Please contact Patrice Jenstrom at web@stpaulscrofton.com or call at 443-254-6765 if you do not have the password. This will be available every week for members.

Here are the steps to access:

1. go to www.stpaulscrofton.com on Sunday
2. log in to Member tab (get the password from Patrice if you do not have it)
3. go to view "Holy Communion" video

The Service will last around 20 to 30 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.

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!

Many Thanks to Everyone for the generous outpouring of Christmas gifts, grocery gift cards, and good wishes for the Holiday Sharing families St. Paul's sponsored in December!!!

Six families were helped with gifts for kids and adults and \$680 in grocery gift cards were distributed among the families ensuring a happier holiday for all. God bless your generous hearts and helping hands!!!

-- St. Paul's Outreach Team



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 Gambrells 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.