



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



*Newsletter  
December 2022*

**December 2022 Services at St. Paul's**

December 4	Second Sunday in Advent
8:15 am	Liturgical Worship Service
9:30 am	Sunday School, Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Praise and Worship Service
December 7	7:00 pm Mid-week Advent Service (Wednesday)
December 11	Third Sunday in Advent
8:15 am	Liturgical Worship Service
9:30 am	Sunday School, Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Praise and Worship Service
11:45 am	Congregational Meeting in Fellowship Hall
December 14	7:00 pm Mid-week Advent Service (Wednesday)
December 18	Fourth Sunday in Advent
9:30 am	Road to Bethlehem, Jesus' Birthday Party (see below)
December 21	7:00 pm Mid-week Advent Service (Wednesday)
December 24	4:00 pm Christmas Eve (one service only) Reverend David Betzner
December 25	No worship service

**2023**

January 1, 2023	First Sunday after Christmas
9:30 am	Festival of Lessons and Carols
January 8, 2023	Baptism of our Lord
9:30 am	Worship Service

## **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](mailto: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); 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); 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.

Please look over the prayer list. If you know of anyone listed who no longer needs our prayers, please let the office manager know.

## **From Tsion**

While Pastor Teklu has been battling cancer these past four months, his devoted wife Tsion has been battling it with him and has also been carrying a tremendous load as his unfailing partner and caregiver as needed. She also has carried on with her on-going responsibilities to run her household, provide the physical, practical, and emotional support that Jonah and Selah need, and perform the duties of her fulltime, demanding job. She has her hands more than full, and she is certainly experiencing a considerable amount of stress.

To help a bit with the stress, the ladies of the church are providing a spa day for Tsion. Her hand-written note says: "Dear Ladies of the Church, Thank you so much for your generous gift! I can't wait to use it! These past few months have been very challenging, so this gift will help alleviate some of the stress. Thank you again for your love and support. May God bless you all. Tsion"

In addition, the congregation has begun providing housecleaning services (through a contract cleaning service). In Tsion's words, "Your generosity means more than it's possible to say and is truly appreciated."

Please continue praying for our beloved pastor and his family.

## **Advent by Candlelight**

Our yearly celebration will take place Sunday evening, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30. Ladies of all ages, mark your calendars for this meaningful and fun evening of fellowship. Contact Sandi Corwin for details.

## **Empty Nesters' Christmas Party**

The Empty Nesters is an informal St. Paul's fellowship group of adults who are retired/near retired/no longer have school-age children living at home. The group meets throughout the year at restaurants, maybe a crab feast in summer, and during the Christmas holidays. Besides good fellowship the group also leads or helps in various service projects here at St. Paul's. It is a great way to "find your people" and make friendly connections at church. If you fall into this category of adults, this message is for YOU!

**The Empty Nesters' Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 10th, from 1:00-5:00p.m. at the home of John and Diane Segelhorst, 1715 Justin Drive, Gambrills 21054. Attendees are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to share, the hosts will provide beverages.**

**Please - RSVP by Wednesday, December 7th to Diane by email -- [diane.segelhorst@verizon.net](mailto:diane.segelhorst@verizon.net) OR by text -- 410-991-4386**

Guests are also encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy (or 2 or 3 )for the Miracle of Christmas outreach effort in support of the Lutheran Mission Society. It is absolutely heartwarming to see all the toys that we collect and to know that they're going to make children's Christmas morning so merry and bright!

We hope to see you for this annual fun gathering!!!

## **Save the Date – Dec 11 Congregational Meeting!**

The St. Paul's Congregation Voter's Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 11:45 AM. The meeting will convene in Fellowship Hall immediately following the late service. Please plan to attend as the proposed 2023 budget will be presented for discussion and voter approval. The proposed 2023 Slate of Officers will also be presented for approval by the congregation.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend this important meeting. If you have signed the constitution, or wish to sign prior to the meeting, you are eligible to vote.

You are encouraged to attend in person. If unable to do so, please use the following link to connect via Zoom.

Topic: St. Paul's Voter's Meeting

Time: Dec 11, 2022 11:45 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83485908849?pwd=TGJSVGd6cG16SEdYRXVMajByN3ExUT09>

Meeting ID: 834 8590 8849

Passcode: 350385

You may also join by dialing 301-715-8592.

Please contact Zac, [President@stpaulscrofton.com](mailto:President@stpaulscrofton.com), with any questions or comments.

# **Altar Guild**

## **Liturgical Colors – Did You Know?**

The last Sunday of the church year was November 20. The first Sunday in Advent, November 27, was also the first Sunday of the new church year and the beginning of the festival half of the year. This period is referred to as “the time of the Savior,” and encompasses the events of His life on earth. During the four Sundays of Advent, the parament color will be blue. Advent, a preparatory time of waiting and watching, communicates the message of hope. Blue is the color of the sky and helps convey that powerful message. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky into which He ascended long ago!

On Christmas Eve the paraments will change to white, a color that symbolizes purity, light, joy, and feast. They will remain white for the Christmas season.

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

## **Christmas Poinsettias**

As in past years, congregants at St. Paul's have the opportunity to provide poinsettias to beautify the church sanctuary for Christmas, to the glory of God and, if desired, in honor or memory of loved ones. After the service on Christmas Eve, the plants may be taken home or given to others for continued enjoyment. If you would like to purchase one or more poinsettias, please complete the form below and return it with your payment to Bernice Prescott or to the church office. Poinsettias have been ordered from the nursery. It's not too late! Orders will continue to be accepted until all plants have been spoken for.

---

### **2022 Poinsettia Order Form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Plants @ \$12 each:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Paid:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dedication(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form and payment to Bernice Prescott (410-570-5277) or to the church office. Make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.**

## **Worship Team**

### **Mid-Week Advent Services**

Mid-week Advent Services will continue on Wednesday evenings, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. The services will be lay led, between 30 and 35 minutes in length. Martin Luther's Christmas Book will serve as our guide. A surprise will be given at the end of the series of services.

Come! Prepare yourselves to celebrate Jesus' birthday!

### **St. Paul's Will Have Only One Worship Service Beginning January 8, 2023, from 9:30 – 10:30 am**

As Worship Team Chair I (Jane Felsentreger) presented at the November Staff Meeting a proposal to have only one Sunday Worship Service. The members of the staff meeting instructed me to make a written recommendation to the Board of Directors meeting the very next day. I did and the Board approved the recommendation. Following is the recommendation approved by the Board of Directors. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by calling 410-721-7519 or emailing [mjfelsentreger@outlook.com](mailto:mjfelsentreger@outlook.com).

#### **RECOMMENDATION TO CHANGE WORSHIP SERVICES FROM TWO TO ONE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS**

The Worship Team is making the following recommendation for St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Gambrills and Crofton, Md. Our recommendation is to have only one worship service every Sunday from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The worship service will consist of the liturgical opening now being used in the Liturgical Service with the short communion (blessing of the bread and wine, the Lord's Prayer, the distribution, and a prayer) used by the Praise and Worship Service. The organist and the guitarist will share the responsibilities for the hymns and songs for the worship service.

#### **WHY?**

\*We do not have a Praise Band. We have a lone guitarist and a pianist who is not versed in this style of music, but has been willing to learn.

\*Many of the new people are asking why we don't have one service with the number of people attending the worship services. One service would make it easier for all to become more acquainted with each other. (We are attracting more people and they are returning.)

\*One service increases the pool of people willing to serve as Pastoral assistants, ushers, acolytes, and tech people.

\*One service would save us some monies. A Pastor conducting two worship services is offered \$375 and for one service \$200.

\*The entire service is on the screens including the words for the hymns and songs.

\*Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Study would be held before the church service with plenty of time for fellowship after the service as recommended by the members of the Ministry Staff.

\*When Pastor Teklu returns one service will be much easier for him.

Submitted by

Jane Felsentreger, Worship Team Chair

# **Celebrate!!**

## **Fellowship, Youth Group, Sunday School, Worship Teams**

This year's Christmas program is open to kids and adults of all ages, so dust off your staff and donkey! On Sunday, December 18th, as a part of the Road to Bethlehem and Birthday Party for Jesus event, Sunday School and Youth Group will be hosting anyone who is willing to participate as a character in our birth of Christ reboot, wax museum style. Characters will dress up (some costume parts are available for use!), come up with a short spiel of the events surrounding Christ's birth from their character's perspective, and deliver their performance on demand whenever someone visits their character. All characters in the narrative are fair game, from the inn keeper to Mary and Joseph, King Herod to the wise men. Characters will be assigned a 10–15-minute time slot to be a part of the "wax museum" during the event. A short script can be provided for your chosen character upon request if needed. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex and contact Erin Mitchell with any questions at [sundayschool@stpaulscrofton.com](mailto:sundayschool@stpaulscrofton.com).

Finally, we'll sing Happy Birthday Jesus with the children and enjoy some snacks and birthday cupcakes. It will be a GRAND day to be at St. Paul's and you won't want to miss this holiday extravaganza!! Faith, Fellowship, and Fun for all as we mark the **LOVE Advent Sunday!!!**

**LOVE** --Come let us celebrate the 4th Advent Sunday by traveling **The Road to Bethlehem** on Sunday, December 18th, after the single worship service at 9:30am. The Fellowship Hall will be decorated with church members' treasured nativity sets as we contemplate the arduous journey taken by Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem to be counted in the census. Admire these family heirlooms and treasures and learn their histories with the families to which they belong. Adults and kids can make a craft to keep or give away. Talk with the "wax museum figures" and learn what part they played in the nativity story. Come, let us adore Him!

**Nativity Sets Needed!!** If you would like to display your nativity set for everyone's enjoyment, please bring it to the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, Dec 17th at 3pm where we'll decorate for the next day's Road to Bethlehem event. The hall will be off-limits to non-St. Paul's folks until after the event concludes so your family treasures will be safe overnight. Contact Penny with questions/comments 410-969-9156



## **Outreach Team**

Penny Courtney, pennycourtney@yahoo.com

### **Christmas Sharing**

St. Paul's is sponsoring one family with four children and two senior citizens to help make their holiday bright. Please see the conference room door for suggestion tags to guide your shopping. Please - DO NOT WRAP your gifts and leave both the suggestion tag and all original receipts taped to the gift items. Please return your items to church by SUNDAY, DEC 11th. There will be a box in the narthex for you to place your gift items and grocery cards.

The Outreach Team is working with Lutheran Mission Society's Miracle of Christmas program to bring holiday cheer to neighbors in need. Thank you for your kind generosity and good wishes for this annual outreach effort!!



### **CCCC Food Pantry**

TUNA! Tuna is the food assignment that St. Paul's has been given by the Crofton Christian Caring Council's Food Pantry coordinator for the month of December. While not many of our holiday recipes call for tuna, it is a staple that is always handy to have in the pantry for casseroles and sandwiches. Please pick up a couple of cans of tuna as you do your holiday shopping and put them in the CCCC Food Pantry collection bin in the narthex.



Thank you for remembering the needs of others at this time of year!!

### **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](mailto:bob.judy@comcast.net)) and the Ronald McDonald House thank you!



### **A Note of Thanks**

Dear St. Paul's Family,

There are no words sufficient to thank you for your support during the most difficult days, weeks, months of my life. Use this donation to help the next church member in need.

Yours in Christ,  
Donna Howard



# Looking Ahead

## Winter Relief – Undies Sunday – Toiletries Collection

St. Paul's will collect packages of new/unopened men's underwear and socks on **Sundays January 15th and January 22nd 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 & toiletries. Please be mindful of this outreach opportunity when you see December & January bargains!!

## **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.

