



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Of Crofton and Gambrills



Newsletter June 2022



The Pastor's Focus

06/01/22

Dear saints in Christ Jesus,

I pray for you as you prepare to travel this summer after a while. We thank God that COVID has no more significant distractions in our day-to-day life. We also thank God for comforting our faith families for the loss of Marilyn and Lee. We even trust our God to bring peace between Russia and Ukraine and to get us through the threat of another global war.

Living in a broken world is not easy. Our mind keeps asking questions after questions. We usually can't help but ask why God allows suffering in the world? Why do good people, including Christians, suffer? To learn God's answer to our questions and handle suffering the way God wants us to, we will have a sermon series on suffering beginning on the second Sunday of June. Please plan to join us and meditate on God's word with us.

Meanwhile, I would like to remind you that living in a broken world and suffering is temporary. Jesus Christ paid for all of our sins so that we would be restored to heaven, where there would be no more suffering and death. The apostle John writes;

“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelations 21:3-4).

Therefore, God's people endure the current suffering by God's grace. Jesus will come one day and get us to the new heaven and earth where there is no nuclear weapons, wars, tornados, sicknesses, death, and pandemic.

God's peace be with you!

Pastor Teklu

June 2022 Services at St. Paul's

- June 5 The Day of Pentecost
 8:15 am Liturgical Worship Service
 10:30 am Praise and Worship Service
- June 12 The Holy Trinity
 8:15 am Liturgical Worship Service
 10:30 am Praise and Worship Service
- June 19 Second Sunday after Pentecost
 8:15 am Liturgical Worship Service
 10:30 am Praise and Worship Service
- June 26 Third Sunday after Pentecost
 8:15 am Liturgical Worship Service
 10:30 am Praise and Worship Service

Sanctuary Flowers

The sanctuary flowers sign-up board for 2022 is posted in the narthex. If you would like to provide the flowers for a Sunday during 2022, 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; John Bagley (health issues); Phyllis Ball (health issues); The Blake Family – Dave and John; JoAnn Breitbach (health issues); Peta Capello (health issues); Christopher Chaise; Nicole Copinger (health issues); Jack Courtney (health issues); Marianne Foreman (health issues); Gail Hale (health issues); Jon Hakulin (health issues); Ruth Hakulin (health issues); Einar Jenstrom (health issues); Daniel Kenny (health issues); Nathan K. (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 Scmidt (health issues); Dr. Jim & Kay Smith (health issues); Brian Spencer (health issues); Dick Sulken (health issues); Michael Zimmer Jr. & family (health issues); Marilyn Harris's friend Vikki and her husband (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.

Worship - Liturgical Colors – Did You Know?

During the entire month of May, our paraments have been white, in recognition of the season of Easter. White is the color not only of joy but of holiness. In the book of Revelation, the glorified Christ appears in a white robe. White is used for the festivals of the Christ, those festivals which directly pertain to key events in the Christ's ministry, including the Easter season. May 29th this year is the 7th and final Sunday of Easter.

On Sunday, June 5, Pentecost will be observed. The paraments will be red, a festive and powerful recognition and celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit that is commemorated on that day.

On Sunday, June 12, Holy Trinity Sunday will be observed, and the paraments will again be white. Holy Trinity Sunday always falls on the first Sunday after Pentecost, which is the 50th day after Easter. This day does not recognize a specific event, but celebrates the mystery of the unity of the Holy Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Beginning on June 19, and continuing into the month of October, throughout the season of Pentecost, the paraments will be green, making it by far the most common color used during the year. 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.

Bernice Prescott, bernice.prescott@yahoo.com

Daily Devotions

Daily devotions are available through Lutheran Hour Ministries devotions; www.lhm.org. You are encouraged to connect via the link or download the app to your phone.

June Recognition

As we depart Sunday church services each week, the last service element is to speak aloud St. Paul's mission. Hopefully, like the Lord's Prayer, it has become a message engrained in us all: "Keeping the faith, sharing the faith, living the faith - in our community and the world."

It may not be apparent to everyone, but personally, I see this mission statement in action all of the time...Fellowship, Outreach, Education, Sunday School, Worship, Altar Guild, Youth, Contemporary Music, Tech, Web, Property and Finance. St. Paul's is truly blessed with an amazing, caring, giving and loving Faith Family. Be it a food drive, baby pantry supplies, recognition events, between service brunches, support for confirmation class, outreach support with Ukraine kits, Oasis/The Well, Trunk or Treat, kid's Thailand Trek, Christmas pageant and many more behind the scenes activities, you *always* step up to answer the call when a need arises.

You are the glue that makes all of this possible. By example, you regularly demonstrate our mission to Keep the Faith, Share the Faith, Live the Faith - in our community and the world.

God's blessings to all,
Zac

Altar Guild – New Members Welcome!

Do you remember how bleak and empty our sanctuary appeared on Good Friday, with a bare altar and black draped cross? Then, on Easter Sunday morning, it was alive with beautiful paraments, banners, flowered lampposts and lilies galore. That transformation did not happen mysteriously or automatically – it was accomplished by the Altar Guild.

The Altar Guild is a group of dedicated ladies who strive to provide a reverent environment by caring for the altar and the items used in our worship services. We prepare for Holy Communion, change banners and paraments, and clean and store Communion vessels and linens. We prepare the church for the Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter seasons and for special events as needed, including baptisms, weddings, confirmations, funerals and other special services. We also have some helpful husbands who step in when heavy lifting is necessary, and we appreciate them.

The Altar Guild presently has eight members, as two have left this ministry in the past year. We are seeking and would welcome any new members. Serving on the Altar Guild is a wonderful way to support the church, honor the Lord, and enjoy the fellowship of others. Typically, each member performs the weekly duties with other members for a total of three months across a year, as well as working several times for major holiday preparations. The current members are Carol Cook, Sandi Corwin, Linda Craig, Sharon Heineken, Rachel MacCumbee, Erin Mitchell, Bernice Prescott, and Jessica Silbert.

If you are interested in discussing the Altar Guild in more detail, please let me know. We would appreciate and enjoy your participation. You can contact me at Bernice.prescott@yahoo.com. Thanks

FELLOWSHIP TEAM News

Penny Courtney, pennycourtney@yahoo.com

Kollin Crislip was recognized for his 2022 graduation from Arundel High School. On behalf of the congregation, he was gifted a quilt so that wherever he goes in his future, he will remember he is covered with prayers and good wishes from his St. Paul's church family. Congratulations, Kollin!!

Many thanks to everyone for their kind efforts and contributions to support the reception held after Lee Grieco's memorial service in mid-May. The Grieco family took comfort knowing they were surrounded by so many folks who loved Lee and who will miss her kind, gentle presence. Thank you!

-- Fellowship Team

OUTREACH TEAM News

Penny Courtney, pennycourtney@yahoo.com

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the May 21st Food/Baby Pantry Drive to benefit Crofton Christian Caring Council! Non-perishable foods, baby supplies, and money for both those pantries were collected. Your neighbors in need thank you for your generosity and so do we!! Many thanks!

-- Outreach Team

SPY – St. Paul's Youth

St. Paul's Youth (SPY) will break from meeting on Sunday mornings for the summer months and will begin meeting again on Sundays in the fall. During the summer months join the Youth Group at "The Well" for fun and fellowship! Additional opportunities for youth fellowship will be communicated throughout the summer.

Youth sponsors Chad and Andrea Muntz actively coordinate this ministry with parents and volunteers. The long-term vision of the youth ministry is to expand as the youth begin to bring friends to future youth meetings, regular activities, and service opportunities. Chad and Andrea request your help, time, prayers, and are open to your suggestions as they move forward. Please reach out to them (Chad 301-379-0450; camuntz@yahoo.com and Andrea 301-455-9765 Muntz04@gmail.com).





The Well is kicking off on Sunday, June 12 from 6:30-8 pm!



Come to the parking lot for a short devotional worship time, followed by an evening of fellowship! The Crofton-famous yard games will be out and ready for play - basketball, corn hole, ladder ball, giant Jenga, giant Connect Four, and fun for the younger kids, too! Bring a chair and roast a marshmallow over the fire pit. We'll have all of the fixin's for s'mores! For the kids, ages 3-11, our VBS program will be taking on a new form with VBS Express during The Well! Kids will learn about the miraculous works of our God during a lesson from God's Wonder Lab and do a science experiment, too! Any VBS attendees should pre-register if possible on the Children & Youth Ministry page of our website so we can plan materials accordingly. No need to RSVP for The Well otherwise. If it's bad weather, we will move the fun inside to the Fellowship Hall.

Other dates for The Well this summer: July 17, August 14, September 11 - 6:30 - 8 pm, rain or shine.

If you are able to help set up or clean up for The Well, or if you have any questions, please let Erin Mitchell (education@stpaulscrofton.com) know! Many hands make light work, and we'll need some help to make the fun happen.

“Families Celebrate Summer” Is Here!

“Families Celebrate Summer”

**is a colorful, very creative, and vibrant deck of 56 cards
full of fun activities, rituals, faith-based reflections, and other ideas
for families at home and traveling on the go.**

**It is perfect for families with kids ages 3-12
and can be used all summer long!**

Each card is color coded to show activity type:

**red for specific days,
orange for at-home fun,
yellow for ideas during travel,
green for rituals to try,
and blue for acts of service.**

Sunday School and youth kids received their decks on Sunday, May 29.

Extra decks are on the table in the narthex.

ENJOY!



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!



Congratulations to Caitlyn Houck on her graduation from Shenandoah University with a B.S. in Exercise Science! She will begin graduate school at SU in the fall. Please join in praying for Caitlyn’s continued success.

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP BULLETIN...

(HAVE YOU REALLY LOOKED AT IT?)

Have you ever really looked at our Sunday bulletin? Or do you think its usefulness ends with the end of the service? There is a ton of information inside that single sheet of paper. Let's take a look together!

The front of the bulletin begins with the church's name and a mission statement. Then the church's address and contact information.

(That's great! I don't need to search for the church's address or phone number!) At the bottom is "As We Gather"- a short paragraph to prepare us for worship.

Inside is a short preparation for Holy Communion followed by the Order of Service. "Serving Us Today" completes the inside of the bulletin. If you are not sure of who people are, this is an opportunity to put names to faces. *(Ah! A name to a face.)*

Have you ever looked at the back of the bulletin? You really should!! Welcoming of guests is at the very top with contact information for Pastor, Zac (our president), and Leigh Ann (our office manager). The most important information for me follows – Announcements and This Week's Ministry Schedule (What is happening in our church for the coming week.). Recently the weekly attendance both in person and online are recorded. *(Contact information, weekly announcements, schedule of church activities, and the attendance – all in one place. How convenient!!)*

There is also an insert "taking faith home", a wonderful guide for daily devotions for the coming week.

So instead of returning the bulletin at the end of the service, take it home and make it a good week!

*Jane Felsentreger
Worship Team, Chair*

REOPEN TEAM REPORT

As you all know, we did have a minor outbreak of Covid among the church population in May. We were able to contain it and avoid further spread without mandating mask use amongst the general congregation. We would like to use this as a model approach going forward. With this in mind, we ask you to inform the church office or Diane Segelhorst if you have attended church and then become sick and test positive within a few days. We would then inform the congregation, especially close contacts, and recommend voluntary masking. Pastor would mask during communion for the following 14 days if he was a close contact. We hope this approach keeps the congregation informed while allowing you to make your own assessment of your risk and appropriate actions.

*Diane Segelhorst
Reopen Team, Chair*



Men's Coffee – Weekly, Every Wednesday

Come join us at Wegman's every Wednesday morning 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, June 23rd, at 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

Our next Book Club meeting will meet on Monday evening, June 20th, at 7:00 pm via zoom. This month's book selection is The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd by Lawrence Anthony. For more information, please contact Dana Brown or Sandi Corwin. Contact Dana Brown at driedlc@gmail.com for ZOOM access information.

Ladies' Lunch – Monthly, Second Tuesday

The next Ladies' Lunch will be Tuesday noon, June 14th, at the Fisherman's Crab Deck, 3032 Kent Narrow Way S, Grasonville, MD. All ladies are invited to attend and are encouraged to bring a friend. Carpools will leave from the church parking lot (West side) at 11:15 a.m. Please contact Marj at 410-721-3426 or email her at kane3426@verizon.net if you plan to attend. Also, please let her know if you would like to carpool. Hope to see you at the next lunch!



thank you

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE BABY PANTRY SHOWER

Many thanks to all of those who so generously contributed to the **Baby Pantry Shower** which was held on Tuesday, May 10th. This year we had 17 contributors - 14 church members and 3 non-members who regularly attend the lunches. Each item on the Wish List was covered. We collected 1,445 diapers, 3,388 wipes, 10 sippy cups, 5 Tide detergents, 15 assorted lotions, shampoos and washes, 5 A&D ointments and 54 pairs of socks. Covid tried again to undermine our good work, but with a change to an outdoor venue and beautiful weather provided by God, along with many generous hearts, many families in Anne Arundel County will be blessed once again with our annual OUTPOURING OF LOVE.

- Marj Kane



In photo: Sadie B, Linda C, Marj K, Kate H, Marilyn P, Kris D, and Marilyn H.
Attended but not in photo: Penny C and Donna M

FAITH5 is Here at St. Paul's

**Small kernels of faith over time yield big results
just as a tiny mustard seed grows into a really big bush.**

Confirmation and Sunday School parents and grandparents
have been introduced into FAITH5
which consists of spending five minutes or more daily doing the following:

- **Talk about each other's highs and lows for the day.
Develop caring and open relationships.**
- **Read a short Bible story or verse together.**
- **Talk about the Bible story or verse and how it might
relate to highs and lows or your lives in general.**
- **Pray for one another.**
- **Bless one another with the sign of the cross.**

It's okay if you miss a day or do not get to all five faith acts.
Just get started and keep at it.

I'd love to hear feedback.

Please share experiences and ideas so we can grow our faith together!
God bless you and your family as you nurture each other in faith!

- *Bonnie*