



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Of Crofton and Gambrills



Newsletter

May 2022

The Pastor's Focus

05/01/2022

Dear Saints in Christ,



God has been gracious to us. We have been meditating on God's grace for the last two weeks of Easter. We might feel overwhelmed thinking of God's love for us. God not only adopted us to be His children but also sent us to build his kingdom on the foundation Jesus laid. God's love even gets beyond our understanding when we find ourselves as God's servants. Sometimes we ask if that is happening in our life.

I would to invite you to join me meditating on what God is doing in our church life, by walking through the shoes of Mary, our savior's mother. The angel Gabriel came at the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew and told her that she would give birth to God the Son, and his name would be Immanuel which means "God with us". At the end of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus' last message to the disciples was that they baptize and teach people and build the kingdom of God. He also confirmed that he would be with them till the end of the world. As he promised, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit after he ascended into heaven. The Holy Spirit has been dwelling in the church's heart and nurturing us. Mary and the disciples experienced Jesus' presence both in person and in Spirit. We have also seen Jesus in person through faith with Mary and the apostles. We have been nurtured by the Holy Spirit through faith since our baptism as well.

Therefore, we are loved and equipped by the Lord of the church! We will keep witnessing our faith and building God's kingdom in the guidance and gifts of God, the Holy Spirit. People of St. Paul's, we can do this for Jesus is with us in his Spirit.

In God's love,
Pastor Teklu

May 2022 Services at St. Paul's

- May 1 Third Sunday of Easter
 8:15 am Liturgical Worship Service
 9:30 am Bible Study, Sunday School, Youth Group (SPY)
 10:30 am Praise and Worship Service
- May 8 Fourth Sunday of Easter – Mother's Day
 8:15 am Liturgical Worship Service
 9:30 am Bible Study, Sunday School, Youth Group (SPY)
 10:30 am Praise and Worship Service
- May 15 Fifth Sunday of Easter
 8:15 am Liturgical Worship Service
 9:30 am Bible Study, Sunday School, Youth Group (SPY)
 10:30 am Praise and Worship Service
- May 22 Sixth Sunday of Easter – Senior Recognition Day
 8:15 am Liturgical Worship Service
 9:30 am Bible Study, Sunday School, Youth Group (SPY)
 10:30 am Praise and Worship Service
- May 29 Seventh Sunday of Easter – Memorial Day
 8:15 am Liturgical Worship Service
 9:30 am Bible Study, Sunday School, Youth Group (SPY)
 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); Jon Hakulin (health issues); Ruth Hakulin (health issues); Marilyn Harris (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); Louis Zimmer (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?

Across the month of April, we saw a great variety of liturgical colors in use. During the weeks in the season of Lent, our paraments were purple, representing somberness, penitence and prayers, as befits that solemn period. On Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday the paraments were red, not as a festive and powerful expression, but representing scarlet, the color of blood and symbolic of the passion of Christ. On Good Friday there were no paraments; the altar was empty or black, representing the absence of light and the utter starkness of a world in the absence of Christ. On Easter Sunday (April 17), the paraments were white, in vivid contrast to the bleakness of Good Friday. White is the color of purity and completeness and reminds us of the message that “though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow.” Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection Day is the cause for our rejoicing. White reinforces that message of joy. Finally, on the last Sunday of the month (April 24), the paraments were again red, but on this occasion as a festive color, as we celebrated the confirmation of eleven young people in our congregation. On May 1, and every Sunday in the month of May, the paraments will be white for 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.

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

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.

CONFIRMATION

APRIL 24, 2022



May Recognition

Sunday, April 24, 2022 was a spectacular and joyous day in the history of St. Paul's. On this day, over 80 in attendance witnessed the Rite of Confirmation of ten (10) young adults into the Lutheran faith! This public profession of faith is an affirmation of baptism and marks the completion of St. Paul's program of confirmation ministry. Congratulations to the following confirmands for completing the period of instruction designed to help them identify with the life and mission of the Christian community:

Anthony Barrows, Mackenzie Clark, Ben Dugan, Jackie Dutton, Avery Mitchell, Abigail Muntz, Caroline Smith, Jonah Teklu, Selah Teklu, and Leila Weber.

Congratulations as well to the parents, grandparents and families who diligently supported these young people on their journey in Christian faith.

We wish to also thank the following who worked tirelessly during the past 12 months in support of the religious education of the confirmands:

Pr. Teklu – Leader, Vonnie Callaway – Robes, Sandi Corwin – Instructor, Cyndie Dixon – Instructor, Ron Hausner - Visit by Martin Luther, Judy Tribby – Instructor, Bonnie Weinhold – Instructor, Fellowship Team - Confirmation Reception

St. Paul's is truly blessed to be able to welcome these new disciples of Jesus to St. Paul's!

God's blessings to all.
Zac

FELLOWSHIP TEAM News

Penny Courtney, pennycourtney@yahoo.com

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Everyone is welcome to stay later after the 8:15 service to have a cup of coffee. Or arrive early for the 10:30 service and have a cup of your favorite morning beverage. The narthex coffee/tea bar is OPEN. You are welcome to bring a snack to share. Enjoy!!

OUTREACH TEAM News

Penny Courtney, pennycourtney@yahoo.com

FOOD DRIVE / BABY PANTRY

The next food drive and stock-the-baby-pantry collection will be on **Saturday morning, May 21st from 9:30 - 11:30.**

The following food staples are most welcome:

pasta / sauce / canned fruits & vegetables / rice / cereal (no monster-sizes) / cake mixes & frostings
canned beans / mac & cheese / canned or dry soup.

Baby pantry supplies include: Diapers (sizes Cruisers 4/5/6) / non-scented baby wipes

Dollar Tree supplies - A&D Cream, baby bottles, bibs, pacifiers, sippy cups.

ALL of these items, both food and baby supplies, will benefit the greater community through the Crofton Christian Caring Council.

Don't want to shop? No problem!

Cash, gift cards accepted as well as checks (made to CCCC, marked to Food or Baby Pantry).

Please drop off your items at the FRONT DOOR of the church.

Want to lend a hand to help? Contact Penny at 410-969-9156.

In advance, THANK YOU for your generosity!!

HYGIENE KITS for Refugee Relief

WE DID IT!!!

We not only met the goal of assembling 500 personal hygiene kits for Lutheran World Relief - UKRAINE REFUGEES - we *exceeded* that goal. **609 personal hygiene kits were assembled** and are soon on their way to Eastern Europe where they'll be given to people who've had to leave their homes in this terrible war. Just imagine - a tired, distraught mom will have the ability to wash her children's faces and comb their hair because YOU donated a towel, some soap, a hair comb. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS HEARTS AND HANDS!!

(HYGIENE KITS for Refugee Relief, continued)

The Outreach Team was supplemented by so many St. Paul's members who contributed supplies and who helped assemble kits over several busy days these past weeks.

We also had outside help to accomplish this goal. Erin Mitchell's friend brought two Scout groups to assemble kits one afternoon. The Crofton Jazzercise Group heard about our mission and conducted their own supply collection. Friends of St. Paul's contributed money from out-of-area/state. The Quilters took the message about our mission to their own congregations and supplies arrived that way. We conducted an open-door drop off for the community and received a real outpouring of supplies and cash.

And the blessings did not stop there! Extra supplies were abundant and so were distributed locally where needed. Some extra towels went to the Arundel Volunteer Fire Company. Extra towels and 4 boxes of toiletries went to The Light House Shelter in Annapolis, which serves the homeless. Hotel-sized toiletries that were donated went to First Baptist Church for their on-going outreach to the homeless. Finally, Bob Prescott's church ministry also serves in Eastern Europe so extra towels, soap, toothbrushes, hair combs were sent that way to help Ukrainian refugees. EVERYTHING donated went to help someone in need. We are privileged to be a blessing to so very many others!!!!

The outreach to help Ukrainian refugees has been a sterling example of Christian love manifested as a Lenten discipline. We have given MUCH of our time, our treasure, and our talent to benefit those whom we'll never know but who are in dire need.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:17-18)

Thank you, St. Paul's Family! Well done!!!



Lutheran World Relief warehouse in New Windsor, MD—April 25, 2022
unidentified warehouseman (left), Zack Huffman (center), Jack Courtney (right)



The Well is coming this summer!

Save these dates!!!! *June 12* *July 17* *August 14* *September 11*

The Well will take place these Sunday evenings, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm in the parking lot.

A short devotional worship service will kick off at 6:30, and then fellowship time will continue until 8:00 pm.

Following worship time there will be **VBS express**: ages 3-11 are welcome to join in for a condensed version of God's Wonder Lab, where we will learn more about God's love for us through fun experiments and Bible stories. A new lesson will be explored each date.

Yard games (cornhole, basketball, ladder ball, etc.) will be set up, as well as activities for kids.

Come join us for fellowship and fun and invite your friends! All are welcome!

For more information please contact Erin Mitchell at education@stpaulscrofton.com

“Families Celebrate Summer” is Coming to St. Paul's in June 22!

“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!**

Be sure to get yours at the beginning of June!

More information to follow in the June newsletter!



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!

SPY – St. Paul's Youth

St. Paul's Youth (SPY) currently meets at 9:30 on Sundays, during Sunday School.

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).



Fellowship



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.

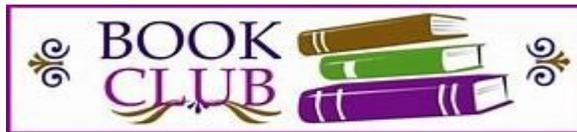


Ladies' Breakfast – Monthly, Fourth Thursday

We will meet on **Thursday, May 26th, 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, May 16th, at 7:00 pm** via zoom. This month's book selection is Winter Solstice by Rosamunde Pilcher. Dana will lead the discussion. For more information, please contact Dana Brown or Sandi Corwin. Contact Dana Brown at drieldc@gmail.com for ZOOM access information.

Ladies' Lunch - ANNUAL CCCC BABY PANTRY SHOWER

The next Ladies' Lunch will be the resumption of our **ANNUAL CCCC BABY PANTRY SHOWER**. It will be **Tuesday, May 10th, from noon to 3 p.m.** at the home of Marj Kane, 1769 Shaftsbury Ave., Crofton. Please bring a salad or a tray of small sandwiches to share. Dessert and drinks will be provided. RSVP to Marj at 410-721-3426 or kane3426@verizon.net by Sunday, May 8th, if you plan to attend. All ladies and friends are invited. If you wish to contribute, but can't attend, please contact Marj and she'll gladly make arrangements to collect your contribution.

BABY PANTRY WISH LIST

Diapers, Sizes 6, 5, 4
Unscented Baby Wipes
Toddler Socks, 2T & 4T

Baby Wash
Baby Lotion
Baby Shampoo

A&D Cream
Tide Detergent (10 oz. Bottles)
Sippy Cups

If you prefer, a check may be made out to: **"CCCC BABY PANTRY"**



New Fellowship for Young Parents

A first time gathering for Young Parents Fellowship will take place on **Saturday, May 21st from 4-5 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. This is an exciting opportunity to get together and discuss how we would like to fellowship in the future! If you are the parent of young children who are still living at home, please join us! For more information please contact Pastor Teklu at pastor@stpaulscrofton.com

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:23-25 ESV)



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