



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Of Crofton and Gambrills
Newsletter
January 2022



The Pastor's Focus

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

"²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness... ⁵make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love." (1 Peter 1:2-3,5-7-ESV)



I thank the Lord for giving us the new year of 2022. You might have been working on the list of goals and actions for the new year resolution. That is great! God also has plans for your life in the new year. In the new year, the Lord has many new blessings and opportunities for our faith family at St. Paul's. Our heavenly Father who created us in his image and redeemed us in Jesus Christ urges us to grow to be like Jesus. He has fulfilled his promise and He gives us the power of the Holy spirit to grow in:

- love
- brotherly kindness
- godliness
- perseverance
- self-control
- knowledge
- goodness
- faith

In the year 2022, I pray that we grow in expressing our faith in action that deepens our knowledge of God. Knowing/ experiencing our God in our daily life will deepen our knowledge of ourselves and where we need to exercise self-control. I also pray that the Holy Spirit guide us to grow in perseverance while developing self-control that enables us to focus on our goal of godliness. I even pray that the Holy Spirit may lead us every day towards undeserved and unrestricted love to our neighbors the way Jesus loves us. Dear saints in Christ, in the new year, please join the Holy Spirit working in your life to find a deepening experience of the Lord leading you to a fruitful Christian life.

In God's love,
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. 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); JoAnn Breitbach (health issues); Peta Capello (health issues); Christopher Chaise; Nicole Copinger (health issues); Marianne Foreman (health issues); Jon Hakulin (health issues); Marilyn Harris (health issues); Jay (health issues); Nathan K. (health issues); Janet Mox (health issues); Phil Myer (health issues); Sally Myer (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).

Please pray for our members and friends serving in the military: Jameel Barrows, Melissa Barrows, Jake Godboldt, Dylan Harris, Rachel MacCumbee, Scott MacCumbee, Dan Mitchell, Brian Wolford, and their families.

January 2022 Services at St. Paul's

January 2 Second Sunday after Christmas

8:15 Liturgical Worship Service
9:30 Bible Study, Sunday School
10:30 Praise and Worship Service

January 9 Baptism of Our Lord

8:15 Liturgical Worship Service
9:30 Bible Study, Sunday School, SPY
10:30 Praise and Worship Service

January 16 Second Sunday after Epiphany

8:15 Liturgical Worship Service
9:30 Bible Study, Sunday School, SPY
10:30 Praise and Worship Service

January 23 Third Sunday after Epiphany

8:15 Liturgical Worship Service
9:30 Bible Study, Sunday School, SPY
10:30 Praise and Worship Service

January 30 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

8:15 Liturgical Worship Service
9:30 Bible Study, Sunday School, SPY
10:30 Praise and Worship Service

Worship - Liturgical Colors – Did You Know?

Color. Color is everywhere. Color is God's way of filling His world with beauty and giving pleasure to those who live in this colorful world. Christians, for centuries, have used color in divine worship to emphasize the redemptive action of God through His Son. As you have come to the church each Sunday, you have no doubt noticed that the color of the altar and pulpit paraments and the pastor's stole changes from time to time. The paraments are not placed merely to decorate the church and to change the look from time to time. Liturgical colors complement the message of the seasons and occasions during the church year. The colors have specific meanings, which we plan to highlight for you this year, to enhance your worship. Traditionally, five basic colors of a festive, penitential, and neutral nature have been used in most liturgical congregations. In recent times, with liturgical renewal, three additional colors (blue, scarlet, and gold) have been added to the basic five of white, red, green, violet or purple, and black

At this time, and through January 9 this year, the altar paraments and the pastor's stole are white. White is the color of purity and completeness, and it reinforces the message of joy. White is the appointed color for such festive Sundays as Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (January 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord. This year that period runs from December 24 through January 9. The white paraments will appear again on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; during the Easter season; on Holy Trinity Sunday; and on All Saints Day. In all, white serves as the best festive color for the church year.

Adapted from "The Colors of the Liturgical Seasons," authored by Rev. Douglas K. Escue.
Bernice Prescott, bernice.prescott@yahoo.com.

Sanctuary Flowers

The sanctuary flowers sign-up board for 2022 is now 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.

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.

2022 St. Paul's Leadership

Board of Directors

President – Zac Huffman
Vice President – Bernice Prescott
Secretary – Cyndie Dixon
Members at Large
 Carol Cook
 Jen Houck
 Judy Tribby
 Rick Wood

Standing Teams

Altar Guild – Bernice Prescott
Children's Music – Jane Felsentreger
Education – Erin Mitchell
Fellowship – Penny Courtney
Outreach – Penny Courtney
Property – John Segelhorst
Sunday School – Bonnie Weinhold
Tech – Diane Segelhorst
Web Site – Patrice Jenstrom
Worship – Jane Felsentreger
Youth (SPY) – Chad & Andrea Muntz

Ad Hoc Team

Re-open – Diane Segelhorst

Mask Wearing Update

If you have been following the news, you know that Covid is on a steep rise again nationwide. Maryland test positivity rate is up to somewhere between 12 and 25 percent in the last week, depending on the data set used. New cases in Maryland are at 112 per hundred thousand residents, which is near an all-time high. County level data for Anne Arundel and Prince Georges has not been available since the Maryland Department of Health suffered a cybersecurity breach in early December.

With this data in mind, St. Paul's will once again require masks in the building at all times, regardless of vaccination status. This mask policy went into effect on Wednesday, December 22, and applies to all groups who use the church.

We will continue to monitor all the data and make changes as necessary to protect our congregation and staff.

Diane Segelhorst, for the Re-open Team, diane.segelhorst@verizon.net

Sunday School

Faith 5 is Coming to St. Paul's!



What happens to kids who connect with their parents or grandparents just about every night for five to fifteen minutes before sleeping?

What paybacks are there for families who share their highs and lows, Scripture, talking together, prayer, and blessing?

With such intentional care, what psychological, neurological sociological and faith benefits can we hope to see?

FAITH5 (Faith Acts In The Home)
by Lutheran pastor, Dr. Rich Melheim,
is an easy, short routine to implement the above practices into your home.
Stay tuned for more details about this proven practice!
It's coming to St. Paul's in January 2022!
Bonnie Weinhold, bonnie@weinholdonline.com

SPY – St. Paul's Youth

St. Paul's Youth (SPY) is re-starting on Sunday, January 9, 2022, during Sunday School. The Youth sponsors are Chad and Andrea Muntz who will take the administrative lead to coordinate this ministry with parents and volunteers. It will start with the youth participating in the confirmation and the primary meeting time will be Sundays during Sunday School. 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)



January Recognition

The Christmas season never fails to be a busy, hectic time every year. Even with the frenetic pace, two very special, in person St. Paul's events, continue to remind us that Jesus is the reason for the season.

Advent by Candlelight, a reflection on and preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ, made a glorious return to St. Paul's on November 28th. Even the threat of Covid couldn't deter this year's preparation and presentation headed by Sandi Corwin. Approximately 50 women of St. Paul's and their guests attended which featured singing of Christmas carols, delicious treats and a talk by Tsion Endalkachew! Many thanks to the following for their many contributions:

Chair - Sandi Corwin

Hostesses - Penny Courtney, Tsion Endalkachew, Kate Hausner, Jen Houck, Bernice Prescott, and Judy Tribby.

Speaker - Tsion Endalkachew

Deserts and assorted treats - Carol Cook, Penny Courtney, Linda Craig, Kate Hausner, Jen Houck, Linda Huffman, Marj Kane, Judy Parker, Bernice Prescott, Judy Tibby, and Bonnie Weinhold.

Music accompaniment - Jane Felsentreger

St. Paul's **Christmas Pageant** and **Jesus' birthday party** were held on December 12th. The sanctuary was full of anxious planners, nervous children and very proud parents and grandparents! In all, eleven children participated in the pageant that tells the story of the birth of Jesus. Special thanks to Bonnie Weinhold, Cyndie Dixon and Diane Segelhorst for all their planning and preparation! Additional thank you's to children's parents for their support: Clark, Fallstich, Ketema, Mitchell, and Muntz.

In addition, we wish to recognize and thank Charlton Henry and his brass ensemble for their wonderful music accompaniment...very nice!

Also, a big thank you to Jane Felsentreger for Jesus' birthday cupcakes and the Fellowship Team of Penny Courtney, Sadie Becoate and Carol Kerr for all their Fellowship Hall preparations. A fantastic effort by all!

Finally, on behalf of the St. Paul's Board of Directors, I want to personally recognize and thank Diane Segelhorst for her time serving as a member of the Board. Her support and dedication during the past three years have been invaluable to the success of our governing body.

Fortunately for us, Diane has agreed to continue serving St. Paul's as the lead of St. Paul's Ad Hoc Re-open Team. We pray this position will soon cease to be needed, but know as long as it is, Diane will lead. And more great news--Diane has assumed the lead of the Tech Team! (See Tech Team info elsewhere in this Newsletter.) Thank you very much, Diane!

God's blessing to all for a safe and healthy 2022!

Zac Huffman, president@stpaulscrofton.com



Fellowship

Ladies' Breakfast – Monthly, Fourth Thursday

We will meet on Thursday, January 27th, at 8:30 a.m. at Rip's Restaurant in Bowie, MD. Come join the fellowship and bring a friend. Any questions or thoughts call Jane Felsentreger at 410-721-7519 or e-mail mjfelsentreger@outlook.com.



Ladies' Lunch – Monthly, Second Tuesday



The next Ladies' Lunch will be Tuesday noon, January 11th, at Nonna Angela's, 2225 A Defense Hwy., Crofton. All ladies are invited to attend and are encouraged to bring a friend. We will meet at the restaurant. Please call Marj at 410-721-3426 or email her at kane3426@verizon.net if you plan to attend as the restaurant would like a number attending so they may plan accordingly. Hope to see you there!



And a big thank you to Bernice for graciously opening her beautifully decorated home to 11 ladies for our December lunch. Good food and lots of fun were enjoyed by all who attended.

Men's Coffee - Weekly, Every Wednesday

Come join us at Wegman's every Wednesday morning at 9:00 for coffee and conversation, and breakfast on the last Wednesday of the month. All men are welcome! For more information contact Bill Corwin, 410-721-2165.



Book Club



Monthly, Third Monday

The next meeting will be Monday, January 17th, at 7:00 pm via ZOOM. Our book selection is State of Terror by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny. Contact Dana Brown, drieldc@gmail.com for ZOOM information.

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!



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.

Tech Team

The tech team has been hard at work since late November, and we are now streaming ALL services, both Liturgical and Praise and Worship. We streamed all but one of the Advent Midweek services, and that exception was due to technical difficulties which have now been resolved. We recorded a PRIVATE livestream of the Children's Christmas pageant. It is available upon request to congregation members and the families of the children only. Contact Diane Segelhorst if you would like an invitation to view the Pageant service. We hope you have been enjoying the ability to live stream or go back and watch the services later. We are still learning how to use all the tools available, and continue to try to improve the audio quality. We recently replaced Pastor's aging belt microphone pack and have plans to install better organ mics in January. If you have feedback, please provide it.

Right now, there are eight tech team members working all services. We would really like to expand the team to about 12-16 people who are trained to run the system. Two people are required to work each service: one changing the slides, and the other running the camera and sound board. The first job is VERY easy to learn. Please contact Diane Segelhorst if you would like to volunteer.

Diane Segelhorst, new Tech Team Lead, diane.segelhorst@verizon.net

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!

Looking Ahead

Winter Relief 2022

St. Paul's, along with other churches in the Crofton/Gambrills area, will participate again this year in Arundel House of Hope's Winter Relief; February 7-14 is our week to help. St. Paul's Quilters will provide 20 quilts for the guests housed at St Elizabeth Seton. Our youth will again prepare bagged lunches Thursday evening, February 10, for distribution on Friday, and we'll be supplying dinner Friday evening and breakfast on Monday morning, February 14.

Arundel House of Hope requested there be no clothing donations this year so there is no need for Undie Sunday unless we'd like to collect and donate socks, etc., to another group in need.

How Can You Help?

- Donate personal size toiletries
 - o There will be a collection box in the narthex
 - o Shampoo, soap, lotion, toothpaste, personal size shaving cream, disposable razors, etc. are always welcome

- Volunteer to help cook and/or serve the Friday (2/11) dinner
 - o Multiple volunteers are needed
 - o Recipes will be provided. Cooking is done at your home and food transported to Seton on Friday evening.
 - o Contact Sharon Heineken, sbheineken@gmail.com or 240-508-7332, if you can help

- Help with breakfast on Monday (2/14) morning
 - o Contact Judy Tribby, jatribby@msn.com or 410-721-2453, if you would like to help cook (at 5:30 am!)
 - o Split English muffins at Judy's house the day before
 - o Help defray the cost by making a cash donation

Thank you in advance for your generous, and servant hearts to bless this Ministry.

Sharon Heineken, St. Paul's coordinator for Winter Relief
sbheineken@gmail.com or 240-508-7332

A Host of People Say "Thank You"

St. Paul's receives thank-you cards and notes from various persons and organizations, and typically they are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Many of you probably do not have an opportunity to read them, especially now when everyone has been asked to immediately move through and out of the narthex after services, rather than congregate. Some of the notes received over the past few months are reproduced in part or all below, so you can know and be encouraged that the thoughtful service we give to our neighbors in accordance with our Lord's command is recognized and appreciated.

Dear Church,

You have no idea of the way your little "sunshine" packages brighten my day! I have been doing the color by number every day, and the crosswords. Needless to say, the snacks are yummy. The Outreach Committee is doing good works.

Sincerely,

Genny Blount – mother of Madonna Howard.

(Genny passed away recently)

Dear Members of St. Paul's,

The staff at Crofton Middle School would like to thank you for your generous donation of gift cards to purchase school supplies for students. Many students are already utilizing the supplies we've been able to purchase with the gift cards.

Our school community truly benefits from caring community groups like the congregation at St. Paul's. Thank you for your generosity and dedication to high student achievement.

Sincerely,

Devon Hale-Smith, Counselor/Dept Chair

Devan Dugan, Language Arts teacher

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your donation of food and gifts for six families for the Miracle of Christmas campaign that you graciously donated to the Lutheran Mission Society of MD, Compassion Place. Your compassion for families and individuals in need allows the Mission Society to reach out to many in our communities who are suffering. Food, clothing, emergency needs, counseling, and spiritual care are all made possible by your support. In the name of those who will be blessed by your generosity I say, "Thank you and God bless you this Christmas season and throughout the year."

Together in Christ,

Rev. Dr. David R. Maack, Executive Director, Compassion Place

Dear S. Paul's Faith Family,

"O Come All Ye Faithful. May the love and joy of Jesus shine upon your hearts this Christmas and in the coming new year."

Selah, Jonah, Tsion and Teklu wish you a Merry Christmas! We thank God for your love, support and commitment to serve our Lord with us! Thank you for your Christmas gift!

Pastor Teklu

Virtual Communion

We have made a virtual communion video available for all members, especially for those members who livestream services from home. To access the video, follow the steps listed below. Please contact Patrice Jenstrom at web@stpaulscrofton.com or text her at 443-254-6765 or contact any member of St. Paul's Board of Directors if you do not have the password.

Here are the steps to access the communion video:

1. Go to www.stpaulscrofton.com
2. Log in to Members tab (get the password from Patrice if you do not have it).
3. Click on "Virtual Communion Video".

The communion video lasts for 14 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.

Online Giving

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 Gambrills 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? It would be very helpful if you would cover this fee.

If you have any additional questions, please contact treasurer@StPaulsCrofton.com.