



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*  
*Of Crofton and Gambrills*  
*Newsletter*  
*December 2021*



## **The Pastor's Focus**



Dear St. Paul's faith family,

God has been gracious to us this year. As we begin the last month of the year, I feel like we are at a crossroad looking forward to Christmas and looking backward to the main events from January to November. December is the most important month of the year for Christians, and it is the month God the Father sent His Son to become one of us and save us by sacrificing his life. Once we enter the first week of advent, I think we won't pay much attention to the rest of the months of the year until New Year's Eve. We will be busy with midweek advent services, Christmas shopping, visiting friends and families, unwrapping Christmas gifts, and celebrating Jesus' birthday. It is the most important part of the year.

Although there is nothing wrong with all the Christmas season activities, the primary purpose of Jesus' birth was to save us from eternal death. Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10, ESV). Therefore, I encourage you to focus on Jesus this month and attend the advent and Christmas eve services. Since we can't do everything we like during the Christmas season, you might need to have your priorities in place. Nothing is more important than celebrating the day Jesus was born to enter our life that inaugurated our salvation practically. Jesus was born to do what it took to save us, and he died and gave us abundant life. We enjoy the eternal life we have in Christ and celebrate the day Jesus was born to save us. He was born to bless us with divine love, joy, peace, and hope. During this Christmas season, rejoice in the peace and joy that Jesus brought into your life.

Pastor Teklu

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

December 1 7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service\*

December 5 8:15 Traditional Worship Service  
9:30 Bible Study, Sunday School  
10:30 Contemporary Worship Service  
\*\*\*11:45 **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** \*\*\*

December 8 7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service\*

December 12 8:15 Traditional Worship Service  
9:30 Bible Study, Sunday School  
10:30 Christmas Pageant at Contemporary Worship Service  
11:30 Jesus' Birthday Party in Fellowship Hall

December 15 7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service\*

December 19 8:15 Traditional Worship Service  
9:30 Bible Study, Sunday School  
10:30 Contemporary Worship Service

December 22 7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service\*

December 24 4:30 Family Christmas Eve Service, Contemporary  
7:30 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, Traditional

December 26 9:30 One Service of Lessons and Carols with communion  
No Bible study, no Sunday School

\*The Midweek Advent services will be centered around "Wait for the Lord". They will be liturgical and will be in-person and live-streamed.

## **Daily Devotions**

Daily devotions are available through Lutheran Hour Ministries devotions; [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org). You are encouraged to connect via the link or download the app to your phone.

## 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; 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 Scmift (health issues); Dr. Jim and Kay Smith (health issues); Brian Spencer (health issues); Dick Sulken (health issues); Louis Zimmer (health issues); Michael Zimmer Jr. and family (health issues).

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

## Adult Bible Class



For several months, the adult Bible class has been studying the Book of Acts, which traces the birth and growth of Christ's church. It is an amazing book with significant content in each chapter and verse. For example, take a look at Acts, Chapter 12. Events reported in this single chapter include Herod Agrippa's decision to persecute the believers; the execution of James; the arrest and imprisonment of Peter for trial and likely execution; the freeing of Peter by an angel and his appearance to startled believers; Herod's execution of Peter's guards due to his disappearance; Herod's journey to Tyre and Sidon and his acceptance of their adulation as a god; and Herod's death at the hand of God. All that in one exciting chapter! Our class has discussed the significance of these events in the development of the church and the spread of the Gospel, as well as the application to the church today. Even if you are a life-long Lutheran, you can learn so much in this Bible class. We have outstanding study materials, a wonderful teacher in Pr. Teklu, and excellent discussions. Come and join us on Sunday morning, in the fellowship hall, from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

Bernice Prescott, [Bernice.prescott@yahoo.com](mailto:Bernice.prescott@yahoo.com)

# **Christmas Pageant**

**The Christmas Pageant is Coming!**

**Mark your calendars for December 12<sup>th</sup>, second service time,  
for this year's Christmas pageant  
followed by Jesus' birthday party in the fellowship hall.**



**All children and youth are invited to participate!**

**We will need readers, singers, and costumed players.**

**Short practice times will be between services on Sundays  
and before or after confirmation on Thursday evenings.**

**Parents, please let Cyndie or Bonnie know if you can lend a hand.**

**Catch them Sunday mornings or at  
[Bonnie@weinholdonline.com](mailto:Bonnie@weinholdonline.com) or [cyndixon99@yahoo.com](mailto:cyndixon99@yahoo.com).**

**God bless you and your family  
as we move into this sacred and beautiful season!**

## **Christmas Band**

I'm inviting you to join our Christmas Band on Sunday, December 12, 2021, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. for a special Christmas service at St. Paul's.

We'll have two 90-minute Saturday morning rehearsals at St. Paul's to prepare for the service:

Saturday, December 4, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and

Saturday, December 11, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

In addition, the Christmas Band may have an opportunity to play at the Family Christmas Eve Service on Friday, December 24, at 4:00 p.m.

If you can participate, please let me know ASAP. I will email you the music.

Thanks,  
Charlton Henry  
443-995-2646  
Cthenry006@gmail.com



## **Christmas Poinsettias**

Again this Christmas, we will adorn our altar area with poinsettias. We will also provide a poinsettia to each of our home-bound congregants, to brighten their season and let them know we think of and care about them. The price of either plant is \$12.00. You are invited to sponsor one or more for either purpose. The sanctuary poinsettias may be dedicated in honor (living) or memory (deceased) of any person(s); you may remove them after the Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, December 26. The poinsettias for the home-bound will be delivered to them on or about December 4, to be enjoyed through the season.



To sponsor one or more poinsettias, please make your check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and hand it to Bernice Prescott, along with your dedication slip, found in your bulletin, by Sunday, December 19. Please direct questions to her at 410-570-5277 or [bernice.prescott@yahoo.com](mailto:bernice.prescott@yahoo.com).

## **December Recognition**

I'm sure you are familiar with the following two famous opening lines, "It takes a village..." and "Ask not what your country can do...". St. Paul's is very blessed to have many, many people who embody the true spirit of those exact thoughts and ideas.

As November comes to a close and we begin the Advent season, two groups of volunteers are very hard at work; one maintaining the spirituality of our Sunday contemporary service and the other, making sure both services are available to all.

Continuing the Whatever contemporary worship service experience, we wish to thank the following team members for their courage and dedication:

Linda Craig  
Cyndie Dixon  
Jane Felsentreger  
Devon Hale-Smith  
Charlton Henry  
Carrie Segelhorst  
Bonnie Weinhold

(Additional singers and musicians needed...all are welcome!)

Any performance must have those "behind the scenes" invisible bodies that shine the spotlight on the performers. In our case, it's the folks who take turns working in the sound room projecting the service onto the screens and bringing the live streaming service (traditional and contemporary) to our on-line audience. It's not an easy task, but we've made tremendous progress thanks to the following, dedicated team members:

Patrick Dugan  
Jen Houck  
Max Houck  
Jonah Teklu  
Steve Orozco  
Diane Segelhorst  
John Segelhorst  
Rick Wood

(Additional tech support personnel needed...all are welcome!)

God's blessings to all as we celebrate the birth of our savior!

Zac Huffman, [president@stpaulscrofton.com](mailto:president@stpaulscrofton.com)

## December 2021 Outreach



Your generosity has helped six families have a better Christmas season. This year St. Paul's is partnering with the Lutheran Mission Society's Miracle of Christmas Program to help families in need. Let me introduce you!

Family #304 is a single, 75-year-old man, a Korean-American war veteran. He does not drive so walks everywhere. You've helped provide him with a new pull cart so he can grocery shop.

Family #305 is a 63-year-old, disabled man who recently lost his job. He does not drive so he walks everywhere. You've provided him with some new warm clothes.

Family #401 is a 71-year-old, single woman. She asked for a twin-sized quilt, and she will receive that for her Christmas.

Family #703 is a single mom with 2 girls and a boy. They are grateful for a full box of non-perishable food and for whatever else is in their Christmas box!

Family #705 is another single parent family with 2 girls and a boy. They are excited to see what's in their box for Christmas!

Finally, Family #903 is a mom & a dad with 1 girl and 2 boys. They hope to get a dinosaur toy, some slime, and something for the 6-month-old baby. They, too, are grateful for a big box of food for their pantry.

So you see, there are real people behind those little heart tags and food stickers. Real people who for unknown circumstances are not quite as fortunate as most of us are. Your generosity has extended a helping hand so that their holidays will be just a bit brighter and merrier. Helping others by an act of love -- isn't that what the holiday is all about?? Merry Christmas to you and yours!!

Penny Courtney, pennycourtney@yahoo.com

*Merry Christmas!*  
*Happy New Year!*



# Fellowship

## **Ladies' Breakfast – Monthly, Third Thursday**

We will meet on Thursday, December 16th, 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](mailto:mjfelsentreger@outlook.com).



## **Ladies' Lunch – Monthly, Second Tuesday**



The next Ladies' Lunch will be a catered affair on Tuesday, December 14th, at 12:00 noon, at the beautifully decorated home of Bernice Prescott, 2416 Fox Creek Lane, Davidsonville, MD. (Her home is handicapped accessible.) The main course will be provided; we will split the cost on the day (likely less than \$10). You are invited to bring a small salad or dessert to share. Please call Marj Kane at 410-721-3426 or email her at [kane3426@verizon.net](mailto:kane3426@verizon.net) by Friday, December 10, if you plan to attend; it is important that we have a correct count of attendees. If you wish to carpool, cars will leave church at 11:45 a.m. Hope you can join us!

## **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, December 20, at 7:00 pm via ZOOM. As is usual in December, we do not have a book to discuss for this meeting. This year we are looking at how all of us celebrate Christmas, sharing pictures of our trees and decorations. Have your favorite beverage in hand (Christmas tea goes well) and join us for our Christmas meeting. A book for January will be selected then. Contact Dana Brown, [drieldc@gmail.com](mailto: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 second service. All levels of talent are welcome! Practice is only one hour per week. Please let Pastor know [Pastor@StPaulsCrofton.com](mailto:Pastor@StPaulsCrofton.com) if you are interested in making a joyful noise to the Lord!



## Ushers

Volunteers are needed to serve as ushers for both the Traditional and the Praise and Worship Services. If interested please contact Jane Felsentreger – 410-721-7519 or [mjfelsentreger@outlook.com](mailto:mjfelsentreger@outlook.com).

## Tech Team



If you or someone you know is interested in technology, interested in a place to use and/or improve their tech skills, and would like to participate as a tech team member, please let us know. Email Pastor Teklu at [Pastor@StPaulsCrofton.com](mailto:Pastor@StPaulsCrofton.com). We are in search of more helpers to grow this Ministry team. All are welcome! We will provide training! As part of the team, we will all

share in God's mission work for St. Paul's, but we need *your* help!

## 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!

## **Mask Wearing Update**

Dear Members of St. Paul's,

As you know, we reinstated mask wearing at St. Paul's back in August when COVID cases were rising in our community.

After careful consideration of the case rates, test positivity rates, vaccination numbers and availability of booster shots, we have decided to modify the mask policy again, effective Sunday, October 31. As of that date, masks will be **OPTIONAL** for all fully vaccinated adults and teens inside the building. However, masks will remain mandatory for all people interacting on behalf of the church with children and youth, including Sunday School, Confirmation class, and any other youth activities. If vaccines become available for children in the next few weeks, we will revisit this policy on or around January 1<sup>st</sup> after families have had time to have their children vaccinated if they so desire.

As in the past, many people may decide to continue to wear masks to protect themselves and their families. Please be considerate of all, and maintain some social distance as you go about activities in the church

*Diane Segelhorst, for the Reopen Team, [diane.segelhorst@verizon.net](mailto:diane.segelhorst@verizon.net)*

## **Thrivent Action Teams and Good Stewardship**

**Attention, parishioners of St. Paul's  
who are part of the Thrivent Family of Insurance and Investment products...**

There are many opportunities for you  
to put your two \$250.00 yearly Thrivent Action plans to work at St. Paul's and beyond.

Prospects could include outreach items for St. Paul's homebound members,

Sunday School supplies, items for the quilters,

Lutheran World Relief personal health or school kits, even building grounds projects, and more.

If you don't use your Action Team opportunities by the end of the year,

they are totally forfeited, lost.

It's easy to write and apply for an Action Plan!

If you need help or ideas, please see Bonnie Weinhold.

[bonnie@weinholdonline.com](mailto:bonnie@weinholdonline.com)

God bless you as you move forward on this!

## Looking Ahead to 2022

### **Sanctuary Flowers - 2022**

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](mailto:bernice.prescott@yahoo.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](mailto:camuntz@yahoo.com) and Andrea 301-455-9765 [Muntz04@gmail.com](mailto:Muntz04@gmail.com))



## **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](mailto: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](http://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 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? It would be very helpful if you would cover this fee.*

If you have any additional questions, please contact Charlotte Angeli at [treasurer@StPaulsCrofton.com](mailto:treasurer@StPaulsCrofton.com).