

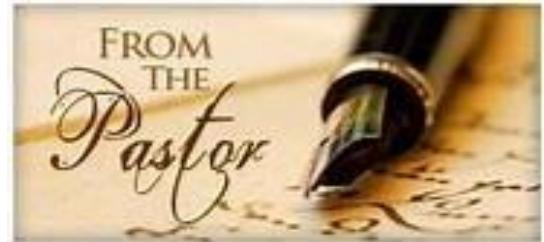


St. Paul's Lutheran Church Of Crofton and Gambrills



Newsletter February 2022

The Pastor's Focus



Dear Saints in Christ Jesus,

In God's grace, we are at the end of the second year of "life under Quarantine." Who expected COVID 19 would enter the human body and distract our life so much for so long? None of us foresaw any of the impacts of the pandemic on human life. This is a good reminder that we are not in control of our lives. God is in control of our personal lives and the church's life.

Since God is in charge of our lives, we need to meditate on God's purpose for it. We want to look back to our days on earth and thank God for achieving the goal the Lord has set for us. We might need to ask the Holy Spirit to guide our hearts to the tasks we need to accomplish in God's church. I pray that the last sentence of our biography might be like King David's. "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers..." (Acts 13:36, ESV.)

Therefore, we will search the scriptures and meditate on God's purpose for our personal and congregation life this month. Throughout February, the sermon theme will be "God's purpose." Since God is in charge of our life, not us, we would like to know and accomplish the purpose he has created us for. Finally, I would like to encourage you all with the words of the apostle Paul who lived God's purpose in Christ's grace.

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil. 1:6, ESV)

In + 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); Sally Myer (health issues); Jim Q. (health issues); Kay Rudolph (health issues); Joe Scmift (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 Godboldte, Dylan Harris, Rachel MacCumbee, Scott MacCumbee, Dan Mitchell, Brian Wolford, and their families.

February 2022 Services at St. Paul's

February 6 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

February 13 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

February 20 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

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

February 27 The Transfiguration of Our Lord

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 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 have long used color in divine worship to emphasize the redemptive action of God through His Son. In this space last month, we noted that the color of the altar and pulpit paraments and the pastor's stole changes from time to time. Liturgical colors complement the message of the seasons and occasions during the church year, and understanding them can enhance our worship. From Christmas through the Sunday on which we observed the Baptism of our Lord, which was January 9 this year, the altar paraments and the pastor's stole were white. White is the color of purity and completeness, and it reinforces the message of joy.

On January 16, the second Sunday after Epiphany, the parament colors were changed to green, and they will remain that color through the 7th Sunday after Epiphany on February 20. Easter Sunday determines the length of the Epiphany season. Depending upon when Easter falls, it may include as many as eight Sundays. This year the Epiphany season includes seven Sundays.

Epiphany's message of Christ's revelation to the Gentiles along with the season's traditional emphasis on extending Christ's kingdom through missions, calls for the use of green because green is the color symbolic of growth. Green is a relatively neutral color, but there is nothing colorless about Christians' need to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ and to extend the kingdom.

On the final Sunday of the month, February 27, the paraments will again be white, the color of purity, completeness and joy, as we celebrate on that day the transfiguration of the Lord. 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.

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 soon!

Bonnie Weinhold, bonnie@weinholdonline.com

SPY – St. Paul's Youth

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

Youth sponsors are Chad and Andrea Muntz who 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)



2022 MaryAnne and Jake Folk Scholarship

MaryAnne and Jake Folk were members of St. Paul's for over 30 years, during which time they both made huge contributions to St. Paul's in many different ways. When Jake passed away in February, 2007, MaryAnne decided to use the money in his memorial fund to set up a scholarship in his memory. The first scholarships were awarded in the spring of 2008. In December of 2008 MaryAnne passed away suddenly after a brief illness. The Folk children, Teri Folk, Jeff Folk, Toni Hetzer, and Kimberley Levine, decided to honor both their parents by combining memorial funds into the MaryAnne and Jake Folk Memorial Scholarship. It is now time to think about the 2022 Folk Memorial Scholarship.

The intention of this scholarship is to promote and provide opportunities for higher education to the active youth of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The scholarship, which is an award up to \$500, is open to all active high school seniors at St. Paul's who are graduating in 2022 and are committed to attend any institute of higher learning.

Applicants will be required to complete a short application and write a one-page essay on a topic chosen by the Folk family. The Folk family is responsible for selection of the winner, based solely on the essays, which are given to the Folk family anonymously. High school seniors may contact Judy Tribby (410-721-2453 or jatribby@msn.com) for an application. Applications and essays are due to Judy by April 1; the award will be presented at a later date.

Food Drive

St. Paul's will hold a **Food Drive** to benefit the Crofton Christian Caring Council Food Pantry on **Saturday, February 19th, from 9:30-11:00am. Drop-off will be at the back door of the Fellowship Hall** (NOT the side door with concrete steps).

Requested foods include:

- pasta & sauce
 - tuna
 - canned meals (chili, baked beans, ChefBoyRDee)
 - sides (Knorr's or Rice-A-Roni type)
 - instant oatmeal or breakfast cereal
 - canned fruits/vegetables
 - brownie mix or cake mixes and cans of frosting
- \{Please - NO peanut butter, at this time\}*

Grocery gift cards or cash/checks will be gratefully accepted for the food pantry. If you'd like to help sort donations, please contact Penny at 410-969-9156. Thanks so much!!

--- The Outreach Team

February Recognition

The new year usually brings changes in our church operations and this year is no different. It was brought to my attention that not everyone knows who is serving on our various standing and ad-hoc teams.

After receiving team updates, I thought it would be even better to provide an updated list of all who are serving and supporting St. Paul's in 2022. Pastor's January 23rd sermon, "Parts of One Body", spoke directly to the idea that we all play a part in serving God with our time, talents and treasure. And indeed we do! Approximately sixty (that's **60**) or almost 2/3 of our congregation are involved in some capacity living by God's word in serving the Lord and St. Paul's mission and ministry. We should be very proud of this outstanding achievement.

Blessings to all for all YOU do!

Zac Huffman, president@stpaulscrofton.com

A full listing of St. Paul's members who are serving our congregation and community can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Special Opportunity for Musicians!

Special music is being planned for the **8:15am Liturgical Service on Sunday, February 13th!** If you are a musician and would like to participate, please contact Charlton Henry no later than Friday, February 11th. There will be a rehearsal for participants on Saturday, February 12th at 10:00am. **Contact Charlton Henry** by email at cthenry006@gmail.com or call, 443-995-2646.

Fellowship



Ladies' Breakfast – Monthly, Fourth Thursday

We will meet on Thursday, February 24th, 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 email mjfelsentreger@outlook.com.



Ladies' Lunch – Monthly, Second Tuesday



The next Ladies' Lunch will be Tuesday noon, February 8th, at Nonna Angela's, 2225 A Defense Hwy.(Priest Bridge Shopping Center), Crofton. All ladies are invited to attend and are encouraged to bring a friend. We will be meeting at the restaurant. Please call Marj at 410-721-3426 or email her at kane3426@verizon.net if you plan to attend. Hope to see you there!

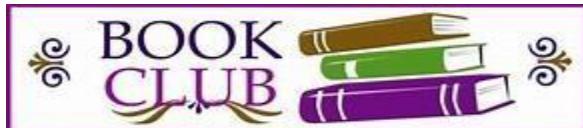


Men's Coffee – Weekly, Every Wednesday

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.



Book Club



Monthly, Third Monday

The next meeting will be Monday, February 21st, at 7:00 pm via ZOOM. Our book selection is I Feel Bad About My Neck... by the late Nora Ephron. If you would like to read ahead, the book for the March 21st meeting is Never by Ken Follett. Contact Dana Brown, driendc@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. 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

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

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.

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!

**The following two pages include a list of 2022 ST. PAUL'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
STANDING TEAMS, AD HOC TEAMS, & GROUPS**

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Pastor Teklu

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Cyndie Dixon
Betty Fallstich
Jane Felsentreger
Devon Hale Smith
Charlton Henry
Carrie Segelhorst
Amanda Sturgeon
David Sturgeon

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OFFERING COUNTERS:

Sadie Becoate
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Bonnie Weinhold