St. Paul's Lutheran Church Newsletter

October, 2021

The Pastor's Focus

Dear St. Paul's faith family,

I trust you are enjoying the Fall season. Every year, I meditate on God's sovereignty, looking at the leaves changing colors and falling under the trees they used to belong to. It is a beautiful experience. It is also a reminder that the almighty God is merciful to his creation as it is written in the scriptures;

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

(Lamentations 3:22-23, ESV)

Mercy is compassion that withholds punishment even when justice demands it. In the justice system, granting forgiveness or mercy, depends exclusively on the will of the grantor. We break God's law daily, and we deserve eternal death. However, Jesus announced God's incredible act of mercy to give us freely which we don't deserve. God gives us mercy out of unconditional love, and he calls us to experience his mercy. Throughout the month of October, we will meditate on experiencing God's mercy. I pray that we all make the time to mediate God's mercy and apply it in our life.

In God's love, **Pastor Teklu**



OCTOBER RECOGNITION

For many, what comes to mind when thinking of church music is a favorite hymn being sung to the accompaniment of an organ. To be sure, St. Paul's has been blessed to have had many talented organists throughout our history.

However, since the popularization of worship choruses and anthems in the 1990's worship, music and style has changed dramatically.

A Brief History: St. Paul's began to experience this shift in the early 1990's. Between services, Ralph Fricke would play his guitar and sing with three or four of us in the front pew by the organ. Over time, as participation increased, Ralph was joined by Steve Fogarty (no relation to John) and Del Jenstrom, just to name a few. By the mid 2000's Heidi Swanson, substitute organist, had joined in and the official praise band began performing at the middle service as, "Whatever", (Philippians 4:8). When the Swanson family moved back to Michigan in 2011, Wayne MacCrory took over as the leader of "Whatever".

Wayne's departure in 2017 brings us to today and the Whatever Worship Band, led by Michelle Angeli. Over the past four years, we have been blessed to have Michelle and the band members, permanent and substitutes, lead St. Paul's second service in the musical aspects of praise and worship. All members worship through song in such a way that engages and brings the congregation along, which they do with passion and enthusiasm!

Many thanks to the current members of "Whatever", and all past members who have made the band the success it is today.

Michelle Angeli - team leader, vocals Charlie Frater - guitar & vocals Devon Hale-Smith - piano Linda Craig - vocals Al Oetken - guitar Randy Parks - guest drummer Gary Kohlheim - guest drummer

God's Blessings to All, Zac

Lutheran Hour Ministries

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.

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 Cindy in the office at info@StPaulsCrofton.com if you have any questions!

Long-Term Prayers:

Bob (health issues); John Abel (health issues); Preston Arnold; John and Monica Bagley (health issues); Phyllis Ball (health issues); JoAnn Breitbach (health issues); Peta Capello (health issues); Nicole Copinger (health issues); Marianne Foreman (health issues); John Hakulin (health issues); Marilyn Harris (health issues); Jay (health issues); Janet Mox (health issues); Phil Myer (health issues); Sally Myer (health issues); Jim Q. (health issues); Kay Rudolph (health issues); Dr. Jim 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.



Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 18, 7:00 pm, via Zoom. The book is <u>The Midnight Library</u> by Matt Haig. It is available through the library online. Dana will lead the discussion. Contact Dana Brown or Sandi Corwin for ZOOM information.

St. Paul's Congregation family and friends:

You are all invited to our Quilt Sale on:

Friday, Oct. 1, from 10am-7pm Saturday. Oct. 2, from 9am-6pm Sunday, Oct. 3, from 8am-noon

Come see the sight!!

Buy a Christmas gift, something for that new baby, or a wedding gift. Make sure you like it. We don't exchange and you won't find another like it. That's what is unique about our sale. Treat yourself too!!

We hope to see you there.

Dorothy and the Quilters



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

St. Paul's conducted the quarterly Food Drive to re-stock the CCCC Food Pantry on Saturday morning, September 25th. Thank goodness for the help from Jerry & Marj Kane, Zac & Linda Huffman, Jack Courtney, and Pastor Teklu because three of the four Outreach Team members were on the Injured Reserve List (all are recovering!). With Marj's & Bernice's help on Monday we delivered 3 car trunks-full of food to the Food Pantry housed at Seton Parish. Other canned goods, nearing expiration, were delivered to Lutheran Mission Society for immediate distribution.

We delivered about 240 pounds of non-perishable foods and household supplies plus \$50 in grocery gift cards and \$270 in checks and cash. THANK YOU for your generosity in sharing blessings with others!!! That is, indeed, Faith into Action!!

Anyone love gardening and serving?

The church's front garden bed could use your loving hands with weeding on a weekly basis. If you are interested, just feel free to do it!

Thank you so much!



Kids on a Mission!

Our Sunday School kids are on a mission to put their faith into action!

They've been learning from and enjoying a program from Lutheran Hour Ministries and Group Publishing called "Thailand Trek" which combines Bible stories with mission.

You can take a peek at gospeladventures.org to find out more about it.

St. Paul's kids made a Thailand Trek coin bank to impact Lutheran work with families and kids in Thailand where only one percent of the population is Christian.

If you would like to contribute to their bank to help them spread Jesus' love, see one of our Sunday School kids

or write a check to St. Paul's with *Kids on a Mission* on the memo line by October 30. Thanks for helping and encouraging our kids to be God's hands and feet!



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC DV SA



Exciting news! We have a youth choir! St. Paul's has restarted the youth choir. If your child is interested in raising their voices to the Lord, please join us. All Youth are welcome, but they must be able to read. The choir will sing at both services, once a month, and will sing at special events. Contact Michelle Angeli at music@stpaulscrofton.com. Please stay tuned for more information. The first event the youth choir will be participating is Marty's Party, October 23rd.

October 23, 2021 2 PM - 4 PM St. Paul's Parking Lot



Sign up in the Narthex to reserve your space!

It's easy! Decorate your trunk with any theme you choose, original or store bought. There are even kits available to make it easy peasy! Hand out treats to trick or treaters and enjoy the festivities!

It's that time of year again...time for Trunk or Treat! We'll be welcoming little ones to our parking lot on Saturday, Oct. 23 from 2-4 pm for trunk or treating, crafts, pumpkin decorating, live music, devotional time, stories, games, and snacks! We're combining our outdoor Oasis, with Trunk or Treat this year and adding some Reformation flair to this free event. Everyone is welcome to attend! We need everyone's help to make this a success!

You can help by:

- Picking up pumpkins and hay bales if you have a truck.
- Volunteering to decorate your trunk and hand out candy or little treats to trick or treaters.
- Donating baked goods for a bake sale benefiting CCCC contact Devan Dugan at devanlyndugan@gmail.com if you would like to help.
- Assisting with crafts and games.
- Helping with set up and clean up.
- Spreading the word about our event! Tell your neighbors, grand kids, and friends!

This cannot be successful without your help! Please consider participating by decorating your trunk. This can be done as a family, individual, or even a group, i.e. Confirmation Class.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please contact Cyndie Dixon at cyndixon99@yahoo.com or 410-305-4112; Erin Mitchell at erinlynnemitchell@gmail.com or Michelle Angeli at music@stpaulscrofton.com for more information.





If would like to dedicate flowers for the altar, the sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Flowers are \$10/vase and will be provided by the Altar Guild. Checks can be made out to St. Paul's with "flowers" on the note line.



<u>Ladies Breakfast Group</u> will meet on Thursday, October 28th, 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.



The next Ladies' Lunch will be held Tuesday noon, October 12th, at Rathskeller, 5782 Main St., Basement Unit, Elkridge. All ladies are invited and are encouraged to bring a friend. Since the restaurant is small, RESERVATIONS are recommended. Please call Marj at 410-721-3426 or email her at kane3426@verizon.net by Friday, October 8th if you wish to attend. Also, let me know if you will be carpooling. Hope to see you there!



NEEDED: 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 mifelsentreger@outlook.com.



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- Charlie Frater at <u>Tech@StPaulsCrofton.com</u>. 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!



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 call at 443-254-6765 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.

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.

<u>bonnie@weinholdonline.com</u>

God bless you as you move forward on this!



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 when you can. Judy Parker and the Ronald McDonald House thank you!

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? Please cover the fee!

If you want the church to receive your full donation, you may want to pay the fee. Once you input the amount of your donation and payment method, the processing fee will be calculated and you can click on the box to add it. This would save our church money in fees, and the amount covered by the donor is usually small relative to the size of their donation. Example: If the donor wants to contribute \$100.00 through their checking account, you can cover the (ACH) fee of 25 cents. The year-end tax statement will show that you gave \$100.25 to the church. The church pays the 25 cents for the processing fee, receiving \$100.00. Credit card fees are slightly higher as it is based on a percentage of the amount donated plus a 30 cent fee.

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