



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Of Crofton and Gambrills



Newsletter April 2022

The Pastor's Focus

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are one week away from Holy Week. We meditate on Christ's suffering, crucifixion, death, and resurrection out of the greatest love we ever experience. During the last weeks of Lent, it is fitting to meditate on Jesus' words:

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." (John 15:12, NIV)

Jesus calls his followers then and now to obey him by loving one another as he has loved them. He is helping us to imagine what such love looks like, what it involves. He wants us to understand the difference between lesser types of love and greater types of love. Indeed, he wants us to know the greatest kind of love of all.

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15: 13, NIV).

Countless songs helped us understand love over the years. Most of the songs explain that love is something that we feel. However, Jesus explains that love is not only something that needs to be felt but also something that needs to be seen, demonstrated, and acted upon. That's the kind of great love that Jesus has in mind when he urges his followers to love one another. Jesus is describing someone demonstrating great love as going horizontal - laying down. It's not what we naturally think of when we imagine great love. We think of grand gestures, busy on our feet. But Jesus talks about laying down as the greatest love. This is the ultimate sacrifice made by one on behalf of another. Jesus loved us when we were not lovable. The apostle Paul writes:

"God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8, NIV).

While we were God's enemies, Jesus did this to pay for our sins past, present, and future so that whoever believes in him might have eternal life. Then, how much more should we honor our Lord Jesus for showing us the greatest love in making the ultimate sacrifice.

Since we experience the greatest kind of love, we are changed, and we love one another as he loved us!

In God's love,

Pastor Teklu



April 2022 Services at St. Paul's

April 3	Fifth Sunday in Lent	8:15 am	Liturgical Worship Service
		9:30 am	Bible Study, Sunday School, Youth Group (SPY)
		10:30 am	Praise and Worship Service
April 6	Mid-Week of Lent V	7:00 pm	Mid-Week Lenten Service
April 10	Palm Sunday	8:15 am	Liturgical Worship Service
		9:30 am	Bible Study, Sunday School, Youth Group (SPY)
		10:30 am	Praise and Worship Service
April 14	Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
April 15	Good Friday	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service
April 17	Easter Day - The Resurrection of Our Lord	8:15 am	Liturgical Worship Service
		9:30 am	Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt
		10:30 am	Praise and Worship Service
April 24	Second Sunday of Easter	9:30	First Communion and Confirmation Service
		10:30 am	Reception in Fellowship Hall

From the Worship Team

- **Mid-Week Lenten Services** - The final Mid-Week Lenten Service will take place on Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00 pm. The sermon theme is "Mercy".
- **Palm Sunday** (April 10th) - Palms will be available at church on Palm Sunday or at the front door of the church on Saturday, April 9th for anyone who would like them while they watch the streaming of the service.
- **Maundy Thursday** (April 14th) and **Good Friday** (April 15th) - Services will be in the evening at 7:00
- **Easter Sunday** (April 17th) - Services will be celebrated at the 8:15 am Liturgical Service and at the 10:30 am Praise and Worship Service. There will be an Easter Breakfast and an Egg Hunt for the children between the services. There will be no Sunday School/Bible Study.
- **First Communion and Confirmation** will be celebrated on Sunday, April 24th. There will be one service beginning at 9:30 a.m. A reception honoring these young people will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall. There will be no Sunday School/Bible Study.

Jane Felsentreger
Worship Team, Chair

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.



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.



Palm Sunday

Palms will be available for all worshippers at the church on Palm Sunday, April 10. For those who are attending one of the services via the livestreaming, rather than in person, palms will be available immediately outside the front door of the church on Saturday, April 9.

Easter Flowers

Don't forget to place your order for flowers for the sanctuary and homebound members! An order form can be found on the final page of this newsletter. Orders due to the church office no later than April 10th. Thank you!

Worship - Liturgical Colors – Did You Know?

Throughout the month of March, we have been observing the season of Lent, and our altar paraments have been purple. Purple is a penitential color. The forty days of Lent, including the six Sundays that fall during this season, use this deep, rich color which has come to represent somberness and solemnity, penitence, and prayer. Violet or purple was a very cherished and expensive color in the world in which Jesus lived. It was therefore afforded only by the rich and worn most exclusively by the royalty. Jesus, the King of the Jews, wore a purple robe only once. As the soldiers mocked and tormented Him, the Scriptures record they placed on Him a “purple garment” in order to ridicule Him and belittle the claim that He was a monarch. Therefore, purple is used during this penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn he endured, and the subsequent sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation. The purple paraments continue to be used on the first Sunday in April (April 3), which is the last Sunday of Lent.

On Palm Sunday (April 10) and on Maundy Thursday, the paraments will be red. This should not be associated with the use of red as a festive and powerful color, symbolizing the power and fire of the “Lord and Giver of life,” as on festive occasions across the year. Rather, the color should be thought of as scarlet, which is used during the somber days of Holy Week to offer a different message: Scarlet is a color that from ancient times has been associated with the passion of Christ; it is the color of blood.

The traditional liturgical color for Good Friday is black. St. Paul’s does not use black paraments, but does have the cross draped in black throughout Lent and Holy Week. Toward the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service, the altar is stripped of all paraments and components and remains that way for Good Friday. This action has the same impact as would black paraments: black is the absence of light, and the bare altar is a stark reminder of that absence. It calls for sober reflection on the cost of our redemption.

On Easter Sunday (April 17), the paraments will be 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. His purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy.

Finally, on the last Sunday of the month (April 24), the paraments will be red, on this occasion as a festive color, as we celebrate the confirmation of eleven young people in our congregation.

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

Bernice Prescott, bernice.prescott@yahoo.com

FELLOWSHIP TEAM News -

Penny Courtney, pennycourtney@yahoo.com

EASTER Breakfast Fellowship

Plan to spend some time visiting with your St. Paul's Family on Easter morning!

There will be a breakfast fellowship downstairs in the Fellowship Hall between worship services. Stay awhile after the 8:15 service or come early for the late service!

You are invited to contribute some breakfast 'finger foods' such as: hard-boiled or deviled eggs, breakfast pastries or doughnuts, small cups of cheese & crackers, fresh fruit - bananas/clementines/apples/pears.

St. Paul's will provide bottled water and tea, and juice boxes. Plan to grab a breakfast snack and spend time catching up with those St. Paul's Family members you haven't seen for too long a time!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

RECEPTION to celebrate 1st Communion/Confirmation

Following the single 9:30 worship service on April 24th, St. Paul's will celebrate the youngsters'

1st Communion and Confirmation with a reception in the Fellowship Hall at 10:45. Please plan to join the party marking these important milestones in the Christian life of our young church family members.

Come have a cupcake and celebrate! We'll see you then!!

OUTREACH TEAM News

Penny Courtney, pennycourtney@yahoo.com

HYGIENE KITS for Refugee Relief – A Preliminary Report

St. Paul's Family & Friends - Praise God from whom all blessings flow!!

This initiative has really taken off and our collection of hygiene kit items, cash, and offers of help have been simply incredible! Not only is our St. Paul's Family responding but the Quilters group members have made major contributions. Two local Scout groups will help assemble hygiene kits on April 1st (thank you - Erin Mitchell!). Hearing about this project among friends has elicited check donations from southern Maryland and as far away as New York and Oklahoma. St. Paul's is well on the way to meet our goal of 500 personal hygiene kits for refugee relief/Lutheran World Relief.

Thank you for opening your hearts and wallets for this worthy cause!!!

COMING IN MAY!

The OUTREACH Team will sponsor another food and baby needs drive in MAY for the CCCC Food Pantry and Baby Pantry. A list of those items most needed in both food and baby needs categories will be provided later in April but you can be on the lookout now for good sales in grocery staples and in diapers and wipes. Bargains in pasta sauce, pasta, canned vegetables/fruits will be welcome for sure when it comes time to contribute to the food drive.

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

The Youth Group has exciting plans and opportunities for youth fellowship in April:

- **April 10:** Youth Group will help with Easter Hunt preparations
- **April 17:** Youth are invited to help in hiding items for the Easter Hunt, no Youth Group meeting

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).



"VOLUNTEERS DO LAUNDRY?"

The pastoral and acolyte robes have been laundered along with the belts. All are hanging in the closet waiting for Palm Sunday, April 10th. On Palm Sunday the Liturgical Worship Service will return to opening the service with a processional and ending it with a recessional.

Many thanks are due to those who helped prepare for this occasion. *Devan Dugan* and *Erin Mitchell* laundered the acolyte robes. *Donna Howard*, *Marj Kane*, and *Joan Spencer* laundered the pastoral assistance robes. *Donna Howard* laundered all of the belts.

Without hesitation these ladies accepted the job and within two weeks all robes and belts were hanging once again in the closet.

I would also like to thank *Dan Mitchell* for his help keeping the acolyte "sticks" wicked.

Jane Felsentreger
Worship Team, Chair

April Recognition

You've heard it before: "Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Whether viewed as prophecy for a hopeful future, as rebuke to a fallen world, or as the deep aspiration of many human hearts, these words invoke wonder still today, especially during the past couple of years. I believe these words point towards legitimate reasons for great hope in humanity's future, even in the midst of our current distress dealing with the effects of COVID and now, the war in Ukraine.

It would seem that goodwill to other human beings is something that would be a universal good. However, once again we find that goodwill in the absence of peace around us can lead to intense human suffering. St. Paul's clearly recognizes this fact and has taken a very proactive approach to address the urgent need currently being experienced in Eastern Europe.

This month, we wish to recognize St. Paul's outreach project for Ukraine Refugee Relief. The add-hoc Refugee Relief team has established a lofty goal of assembling 500 personnel hygiene kits that will be shipped by the Lutheran Mission Society and ultimately distributed to those fleeing their homes in Ukraine for safety elsewhere.

As of March 31, \$1,200 has been raised and over 225 kits have been assembled with donations from St. Paul's and many others in our local community. The Refugee Relief project continues and is well on its way to achieving the 500-kit target. Stay tuned for progress updates!

Many thanks to the following team members, volunteers and all those who contributed:

Penny Courtney - Team Lead

Sadie Becaote

Linda Craig

Leigh Ann Hinton

Madonna Howard

Linda Huffman

Marj Kane

Erin Mitchell

Judy Parker

Bernice and Bob Prescott

Diane Segelhorst

Judy Tribby

Brownie Troop #2052, Leader Brannan Villee

Cadette Troop #4193, Leader Brannan Villee

God's blessings to all!

Zac - President@stpaulscrofton.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.

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 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 will select music for and rehearse with the praise band, provide music for special services and occasional community outreach and fellowship activities. Should be accomplished musician, skilled instrumentalist / vocalist with experience leading a worship team.

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.

Tech Team Update

Many thanks to all of you who have volunteered to learn how to run the tech equipment for our services. We couldn't do this without you! If you are interested in joining the tech team, please contact Diane Segelhorst at 410-991-4386 or diane.segelhorst@verizon.net

Just a few updates this month. We have installed organ speakers which hang from the ceiling of the sanctuary. Hopefully, the organ sound will be better captured by these. Just FYI – they will also pick up the congregation singing in the church. If you don't want to be on mic – try sitting closer to the front! We have also cleaned out and organized the tech closets. After Easter, we will be upgrading one of the computers. Also after Easter, we will be hiring a sound professional to help calibrate the microphones and sound board for the instruments and voices we are currently using.

As always, let me know if there are issues with the live streams and I will do my best to fix them.

Diane Segelhorst, for *the Tech Team*

Reopen Team Update

Thank you all for your patience as we have opened, closed, reopened, required masks, gone to masks optional, back to masks required, and so on. We are trying to make decisions conservatively to protect our vulnerable populations.

We have made some new updates to our policies as the COVID numbers continue to decrease in our local area. We previously changed our policy to make masks optional again as of February 14 for all vaccinated adults. In early March, we resumed Communion from the Pastor's hand. This was a welcome change for many. Communion packs are still available as you enter the sanctuary if you do not yet feel comfortable receiving Communion in a continuous line. As of March 17, vaccinated adults interacting with our youth are no longer required to wear masks. This policy change was made after consulting with parents and guardians of currently active St. Paul's youth and children. And the latest change is reopening the coffee services as of March 29. So please, stop in the Narthex for a cup of coffee and some fellowship time after services, or enjoy a cup of coffee in the Fellowship Hall during Bible study! And finally, as of March 24 we have reopened the kitchen for use by any group wishing to use it.

The Reopen Team continues to monitor the COVID statistics in our local community and will recommend changes to more or less strict policies as the infection rates change.

Diane Segelhorst, for *the Reopen Team*

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!



Lee Greico, mother of Andrea Krepps, is celebrating her 100th birthday on May 20! If you would like to help her celebrate, please participate in a card shower by sending a birthday card.

Her address is: Lee Greico
1413 Knightsbridge Turn
Crofton MD 21114

We are also thinking of a drive by celebration after church on May 22nd – just drive by, wave, and call out to her as she sits on the porch.

thank you!

Dear St. Paul's members,

Thank you all so much for the Valentine's box of snacks, school supplies, and other goodies. I am so thankful for the thought and care you all put into it and for thinking of me while I am away at college. I was so happy to be reminded that I will always have my St. Paul's family to support me. Thank you all for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers at school.

Thank you again,
Caitlyn Houck

Fellowship



Ladies' Breakfast – Monthly, Fourth Thursday

We will meet on **Thursday, April 28th, 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.



Ladies' Lunch – Monthly, Second Tuesday

The next ladies' lunch will be **Tuesday, April 12th, at noon** at Hella's Restaurant, 8498 Veterans Hwy., Millersville. 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!



Also...

Reserve **Tuesday, May 10th** for the **CCCC Baby Pantry Shower** to be held at Marj's home. Details coming soon!

For those of you who wish to shop early, here is a wish list of items needed for the Baby Pantry:

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

*Baby Wash
* Sippy cups

Inexpensive items from Dollar Tree:

*Baby Shampoo *Tide Detergent (10oz bottles)
*A&D Cream *Baby Lotion

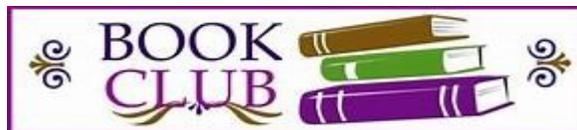
* Checks can be made out to: "CCCC BABY PANTRY" *

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

Our next Book Club meeting will be on **Monday, April 18th, at 7:00 pm** via zoom. This month's book selection is West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge. Per Amazon it is "part adventure, part historical saga, and part coming-of-age" story. It is available on Kindle and with Kindle Unlimited as well as through the library. Contact Dana Brown, drieldc@gmail.com for ZOOM access information. For more information, contact Sandi Corwin or Dana Brown.

LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service)



Over the past 80 years, LIRS has welcomed and served over 500,000 refugees and migrants. One quarter of the 20,000 Ukrainian refugees in the United States since 2012, have been resettled by LIRS .

Recently, President Biden has pledged to accept 100,000 Ukrainian refugees. LIRS plans to welcome the Newest Ukrainian neighbors by providing support, compassion, and community so they can rebuild their lives in the United States.

Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, president and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, stated, "We commend the Biden administration for its plan to protect Ukrainians seeking safety, the overwhelming majority of whom are women and children. While many may wish to remain close to Ukraine, the sheer scale of displacement requires a coordinated global effort in which every able country pulls its weight. Welcoming 100,000 Ukrainians would be an important recognition that the United States must play both a supporting and leading role in providing refuge. As we await further details on the plan's implementation, resettlement organizations are preparing to welcome Ukrainians with open arms. Buoyed by the incredible generosity of Americans across the country, we are confident that we can rise to the occasion and provide safe haven and support for these children and families."

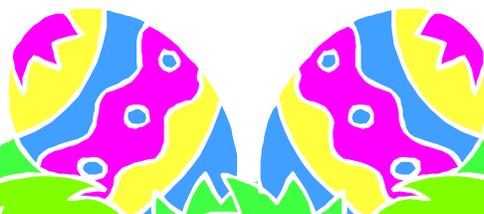
For more information on the work of LIRS or to donate, go to lirs.org.

St. Paul's Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022
Between Services



Come and join the fun!



Easter Flowers **for the Sanctuary and Homebound Members**

There is still an opportunity for you to purchase one or more lilies to adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, and/or one or more hyacinths to be delivered to our homebound members the week before Easter. If you would like to be a part of these Easter efforts, please provide the information requested below. Please make your check payable to St. Paul's and hand it and the requested information to Bernice Prescott or deliver to the church office no later than April 10.

Costs are as follows:

_____ lilies @ \$15.00 each = \$ _____

_____ hyacinths @ \$12.00 each = \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Name: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____