



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Of Crofton and Gambrills



Newsletter

November 2022

Pastor Teklu's Journey

Last month's Newsletter chronicled Pastor Teklu's journey through his health crisis. At this point he is continuing treatment but is still weak. In addition to an on-going medication regimen, he is now receiving regular physical therapy. His spirits are good, and he is fully trusting in God's healing love.

The family is grateful for the continuing assistance that has been provided for them. Please continue praying for our beloved pastor and his family.

November 2022 Services at St. Paul's

November 6	All Saints' Sunday
8:15 am	Liturgical Worship Service
9:30 am	Sunday School, Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Praise and Worship Service
November 13	Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost
8:15 am	Liturgical Worship Service
9:30 am	Sunday School, Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Praise and Worship Service
November 20	Last Sunday in the Church Year/Christ the King Sunday
8:15 am	Liturgical Worship Service
9:30 am	Sunday School, Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Praise and Worship Service
November 22 (Tuesday)	7:00 pm Thanksgiving Service Followed by Pie Social
November 27	First Sunday in Advent
8:15 am	Liturgical Worship Service
9:30 am	Sunday School, Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Praise and Worship Service
November 30 (Wednesday)	7:00 pm Advent Mid-week Service

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); Michael Capello (health issues); Peta Capello (health issues); Christopher Chaise; Nicole Copinger (health issues); Marianne Foreman (health issues); Jon Hakulin (health issues); Ruth Hakulin (health issues); Don Howard (health issues); Einar Jenstrom (health issues); Sev Kellam (health issues); Pastor Teklu Ketema (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 Schmidt (health issues); Dr. Jim & Kay Smith (health issues); Brian Spencer (health issues); Dick Sulken (health issues); Marge Ware (Bill Corwin's Aunt); Dawn Watson and her husband (health issues); Michael Zimmer Jr. & family (health issues); Linda Craig's sister Tracy (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.

Altar Guild

Liturgical Colors – Did You Know?

The season of Pentecost and the use of the green paraments, symbolizing growth, have been in place, with a few exceptions, since immediately after Pentecost Sunday on June 5. (Paraments were red that day because of the significance of the event.) The season continues into November, again with an exception. The paraments will be white on November 6, in observance of All Saints' Day on November 1. 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 purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy and the absolute hope that believers who have gone before us are rejoicing in that purity. How appropriate a message that is for All Saints' Sunday!

The Sundays in the season of Pentecost are observed as "the time of the church," and the season is recognized as the non-festival half of the year. The last Sunday of the church year is November 20. The first Sunday in Advent, November 27, is also the first Sunday of the new church year and the beginning of the festival half of the year. This period is referred to as "the time of the Savior," and encompasses the events of His life on earth. During the four Sundays of Advent, the parament color will be blue. Advent, a preparatory time of waiting and watching, communicates the message of hope. Blue is the color of the sky and helps convey that powerful message. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky into which He ascended long ago!

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

Christmas Poinsettias

Thanksgiving is not yet here, but the Advent and Christmas seasons will soon be upon us! As in past years, congregants at St. Paul's have the opportunity to provide poinsettias to beautify the church sanctuary for Christmas, to the glory of God and, if desired, in honor or memory of loved ones. Afterwards, the plants may be taken home or given to others for continued enjoyment. If you would like to purchase one or more poinsettias, please complete the form below and return it with your payment to Bernice Prescott or to the church office. To ensure availability of the plants, all orders must be received by Sunday, December 4.

2022 Poinsettia Order Form

Name: _____

Number of Plants @ \$12 each: _____

Amount Paid: _____

Dedication(s): _____

Please return this form and payment to Bernice Prescott (410-570-5277) or to the church office. Make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. All orders and payment are due by December 4th.

Worship Team

All Saints' Sunday

On Sunday, November 6th, at both services we will remember our family members and friends that have died this past year. When the names of the departed are read the family member or friend will place a lighted candle in the sand. Each person will receive a bulb to be planted as a yearly reminder of their departed saint.

Thanksgiving Service and Pie Social

On Tuesday, November 22nd, there will be a Thanksgiving Service beginning at 7:00 p.m. The service will consist of hymns and songs, scripture readings, and prayers. Endy Endalkachew, Tsion's father, will lead the service.

If anyone would like to share with the congregation their Faith Story during the service, please contact Jane Felsentreger at mjfelsentreger@outlook.com or call 410 -721-7519 no later than November 11th.

Immediately following the service, the **Fellowship Team** will sponsor a **Pie Social!!** There will be pie and beverages served in the Fellowship Hall. This is always a great evening of thankful worship and fellowship before the holiday rush. Bring a pie - homemade or bought, sweet or savory - and share your holiday traditions with others as you gather 'round a plate of yummy and a cup of coffee. A grand time guaranteed for all!

Advent

The first Sunday of Advent is November 27th. Cyndie Dixon will be soliciting for families to light the Advent wreath for all services.

Mid-Week Advent Services

The first mid-week Advent Service will be on Wednesday, November 30th, at 7:00 p.m. The services will be lay led, between 30 and 35 minutes in length. Martin Luther's Christmas Book will serve as our guide. The first service will be "The Angel Gabriel Appears to Mary". A surprise will be given at the end of the service.

Come! Prepare yourselves to celebrate Jesus' birthday!

Outreach Team

Penny Courtney, pennycourtney@yahoo.com

CCCC Food Pantry

St. Paul's has been assigned for the month of November SIDE DISHES. Rice, noodles (Knorr's), boxed potatoes (au gratin, scalloped, instant) – those kinds of side dishes. Please place your donations in the box under the long high table in the narthex. Thanks for your help!!



Thanksgiving Sharing

Thanksgiving Sharing

**COLLECTION FOR
LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY
COMPASSION PLACE
MINISTRIES**

Now through November 6

- Canned Vegetables
- Jars of Gravy
- Cranberry Sauce
- Boxed Stuffing/Dressing
- Instant Potatoes
- Canned Soups

and other Thanksgiving STAPLES only

**CAN'T SHOP?
MONETARY DONATIONS ACCEPTED!**

Donate by check made out to St. Paul's Lutheran Church designated for "Lutheran Mission Society" or "Thanksgiving Outreach."

Monetary donations will go toward fresh items such as turkeys, milk, butter, pies, and the like.

COLLECTION BOX IN NARTHEX

A decorative floral border on the right side of the poster, featuring pumpkins, autumn flowers, and greenery.

May God richly bless you all!--- Penny Courtney, Outreach Team

November Recognition

One of many teams and groups that work with and within St. Paul's is the Crofton Christian Caring Council. You most likely know it as, "CCCC". You may also know that Linda Craig, *a star within our midst*, has been St. Paul's CCCC representative for many years. On Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at the Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce awards dinner, Linda was honored with the 2022 Distinguished Volunteer Award. As you read the presentation remarks below, be amazed and wowed at the selfless accomplishments Linda has achieved in service to her community and St. Paul's. On behalf of the entire St. Paul's congregation, **congratulations, Linda!** May your example shine bright within us all.

God's blessings,
Zac

Distinguished Volunteer Award 2022

The Crofton Christian Caring Council is a network of churches providing financial aid for evictions, utility shutoffs and vital prescription drugs. The council also operates a food pantry, baby pantry and offers clothing assistance as well. Tonight, we honor Linda Craig a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Linda moved to Crofton in 1973 and promptly began serving her community. She volunteered at four elementary schools, two junior high schools and one high school. Anne Arundel County Public Schools honored her with an award for 25 years of volunteering. She also served the PTA of two elementary schools and one high school. This included serving 4.5 years as President of the Crofton Meadows PTA.

She was a team mom for various sports teams through the Crofton Athletic Council. She worked for 20 years for the Maryland State Youth Soccer League.

She has held several volunteer positions at St. Paul's Lutheran church as well as singing in four of their musical groups.

Linda has been her church's representation to the Crofton Christian Caring Council for 13 years and has served as Vice Chairperson for 11 years. In this capacity she maintains our data base of client requests and our archives as well as serving on our special case committee for those requests that don't meet our usual criteria. She has served as a financial interviewer for 13 years working with clients who approach us for assistance; listening to their stories, assessing how CCCC could help and providing that help in a compassionate and an affirming way.

On behalf of the board of directors, I am honored to present the CCCC Distinguished Volunteer Award to Linda Craig for her service as Vice Chairperson and representative.

Sharon Shipley

Advent and Christmas are Coming!

Christmas Outreach

As in past years, St. Paul's will sponsor a couple of families for Christmas and provide them with clothing, toys, and food. Please look at the Conference Room door later in November to find a person's name and needs so that you can help make someone's holiday brighter!

We will provide our help via the Lutheran Mission Society's MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS program which serves needy clients throughout central Maryland. Please contact Penny 410-969-9156 if you have questions/suggestions.

Advent by Candlelight

Our yearly celebration will take place Sunday evening, December 4th from 6:30 to 8:30. Ladies of all ages, mark your calendars for this meaningful and fun evening of fellowship.

Empty Nesters' Christmas Party

John and Diane Segelhorst have offered their lovely home in Gambrills for the **Empty Nesters' Christmas Party**. It will be held the **afternoon of Saturday, December 10th**, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Participants are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to share; beverages will be provided. AND - don't forget to bring a new, unwrapped toy to put under the Christmas tree. All toy donations will go to the Miracle of Christmas program run by Lutheran Mission Society so that some local children here in central Maryland will have a Christmas morning surprise. Stay tuned for more info!!

Road to Bethlehem and Jesus' Birthday Party- Dec 18, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School/Youth/Education/Fellowship/Worship/Music Teams

Mark your calendars NOW for **Sunday, December 18th!** That's the day that we'll **set out on the ROAD TO BETHLEHEM** and **celebrate JESUS' BIRTHDAY at the end of the road!!** Bring your nativity sets and creches to decorate the Fellowship Hall that Sunday morning so that everyone will get to see, hear about, and admire your holiday treasures.

This year's Christmas program is open to kids and adults of all ages, so dust off your staff and donkey! On Sunday, December 18th, as a part of the Road to Bethlehem and Birthday Party for Jesus event, Sunday School and Youth Group will be hosting anyone who is willing to participate as a character in our birth of Christ reboot, wax museum style. Characters will dress up (some costume parts are available for use!), come up with a short spiel of the events surrounding Christ's birth from their character's perspective, and deliver their performance on demand whenever someone visits their character. All characters in the narrative are fair game, from the inn keeper to Mary and Joseph, King Herod to the wise men. Characters will be assigned a 10–15-minute time slot to be a part of the "wax museum" during the event. A short script can be provided for your chosen character upon request if needed. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex and contact Erin Mitchell with any questions at sundayschool@stpaulscrofton.com. Dust off your staff and donkey,

Finally, we'll sing Happy Birthday Jesus with the children and enjoy some snacks and birthday cupcakes. It will be a **GRAND** day to be at St. Paul's and you won't want to miss this holiday extravaganza!! Faith, Fellowship, and Fun for all as we mark the **JOY Advent Sunday!!!**



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.

Ladies' Breakfast – Monthly, Fourth Thursday*

*Since the fourth Thursday of November is Thanksgiving, we will meet on the third Thursday this month, **Thursday, November 17th, 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.



Book Club



Monthly, Third Monday

Our next Book Club meeting will meet on **Monday evening, November 21st, at 7:00 pm** via zoom. This month's book selection is A Year in Provence, by Peter Mayle. For more information, please contact Dana Brown or Sandi Corwin.

Ladies' Lunch – Monthly, Second Tuesday

The next Ladies' Lunch will be Tuesday noon, November 8th, at Namaste (Fine Indian Cuisine) Restaurant, 2510 Conway Rd., #109, Gambrills. (Princess Shopping Center).

All ladies are invited to attend and are encouraged to bring a friend, We will meet at the restaurant. Questions? Email Marj at kane3426@verizon.net. Hope to see you there!



Updates and Thanks!!

LWR School Kits Delivered!

The last step in the Lutheran World Relief school kit project is complete. Linda and I delivered 20 boxes / 100 school kits to the LWR distribution center in New Windsor MD.

It was a beautiful day for a scenic Fall colors drive.

Thanks to all for another successful outreach project!

Blessings - Zac



Trunk or Treat



The Trunk or Treat community outreach event held on Sunday October 23 was a huge success. Approximately 200 children and their families strolled through the parking lot getting treats and playing games. The audience was treated to performances by "Inspire Dance Studio" and a visit from Kezia, the Therapy Dog. The kiddos made crafts, enjoyed snacks, played BINGO and had their pictures taken at the photo booth. Each child received a free pumpkin as well.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the congregation who so generously donated their time as well as the snacks.

I hope I do not forget to acknowledge anyone that contributed their time and talent: Zac and Linda Huffman, Mitchell Family, Steve Wise, MacKenzie Clark, Bob and Bernice Prescott, Laura Ludlam, Barrows Family, Sturgeon Family, Jane F., Inspire Dance Studio, Sandi and Bill Corwin, Jen Houck, the Toepper Family, Sadie Becoate, Larkin Family, Jonah and Selah Teklu.

Let's mark our calendars for next year to continue this outreach event that shows God's love!

Many thanks and blessings,
Cyndie Dixon

CCCC Food Pantry

Many thanks for your generous donations in October of Raviolios, Spaghetios, and other canned meals for the CCCC Food Pantry.

Quilters

Our quilt sale was successful again this year. Everything went smoothly; we had lots of help setting up and taking down. Thank you all; that means a lot to us. Attendees came from everywhere. Even if it was one person, the word got out. We sold six large quilts this year and lots and lots of smaller items. The bed and lap quilts on the pews are always a big seller. "Sleep in Heavenly Peace", which builds beds for children who don't have a bed, took 30 bed quilts for their project after our sale. Everyone seemed to be pleased with their purchase.

We took in \$17,547! Every quilter will get a check for \$100 for their favorite charity. The church will get a donation as well as other charities throughout the year. So far one new person has joined our group and she's an early bird who comes at 7:00 am. That's exciting for me! We have from 13-19 girls on Tuesdays sewing laps and beds. We never run out, so if you know of someone that our quilts would cheer up, just ask us for one.

Til next time, Dorothy



Thank You to the Quilters from the Lutheran Mission Society

The Lutheran Mission Society heartily thanks the St. Paul's Quilters for their generous donation of a 72"x76" handmade quilt and four holiday table runners for the Silent Auction at the LMS Annual Dinner Fund-Raiser to be held on November 6th. This generous donation and its proceeds will enable the LMS to carry out their ministry to aid those in need. Thank You!!

Below is a heart-warming letter we received from The Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore in response to a donation St. Paul's Quilters made to them in August.



Ronald McDonald
House Charities
Maryland

1 Aisquith Street • Baltimore, MD 21202
410.528.1010 tel • 410.727.6177 fax • rmhcmaryland.org

August 8, 2022

*"To the world you might be just one person,
But to one person you might just be the world."*

St. Pauls Lutheran Church
The Quilters
ATTN: Joan Spencer
2608 Chapel Lake Dr. #208
Gambrills, MD 21054-1608

Dear St. Pauls Lutheran Church and Ms. Spencer,

As humans it is our greatest gift – the ability to give and receive love. When the love you share helps the life of a child, it becomes an enduring legacy. On behalf of the Ronald McDonald House, we would like to sincerely thank you for the donation of \$500.00 and for the quilts for the families. This gift will help us provide the children and families with hope, comfort and love when they need it the most.

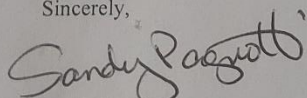
Maryland's one and only Ronald McDonald House helps over 2,200 families each year, and provides 365 days of caring to 55 families every night. That is 20,075 nights of warm meals, comfortable beds and much-needed support for families suffering from pediatric medical crisis each year.

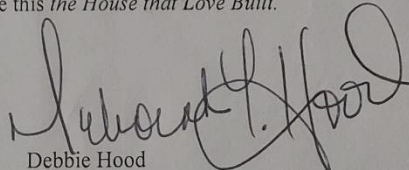
Families arrive on our doorstep from all over the world. The added stress and hardship that families face in the midst of pediatric medical crisis is overwhelming. The last thing we want them to worry about is whether they can afford to stay together while their child's bravely battling an illness or recovering from serious injury.

We are an independent non-profit organization. This means that our community and supporters provide 100% of our annual operating budget. Your donation helps us keep the doors open and to ensure thousands of families have the refuge, compassion, encouragement and sustenance in most difficult circumstances.

Togetherness during a medical crisis strengthens families. Children heal faster when surrounded by their families. There will never be a drug or medical procedure which can substitute for the power of love. It is the love and support of people like you who truly make this *the House that Love Built*.

Sincerely,


Sandy Pagnoffi
President/CEO


Debbie Hood
Vice President

No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution.

How wonderful = Thank you!!!

hope strength laughter courage

Ronald McDonald House Charities creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well being of children.

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

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.

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!