

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

March, 2021

The Pastor's Focus

Dear Saints in Christ Jesus,

We are on the third week of the Lenten season. We have been meditating on “Humbled by God’s Grace”. It has been incredible to reflect on Jesus Christ's suffering and crucifixion out of unconditional love for us. We have been also looking into our Christian life and daily walk with the Lord. As God's children, we try to live according to the scriptures. We also try to serve our good Lord in our vocation and spiritual gifts. Why? Why are you trying to live a sanctified life? Why do you serve God? Please reflect on these two questions for a moment.

When we try to live a sanctified life and serve God, we are not trying to earn our salvation. God has explicitly told us in the scriptures that we are saved by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. We walk with the Lord and serve him because he saved us first. When we were baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are sealed by the Holy Spirit as God's children, and the Holy Spirit dwells in us since then.

God, the Holy Spirit, teaches, guides and comforts us. He also bears fruits in our life, including love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22). He even encourages us to strive for rewards for serving the Lord with spiritual gifts (Luke 17:10; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:8-10; Matthew 6:19-21). Our heavenly Father adopted us as his children and called us to work for his kingdom for heavenly rewards. Our redeemer tells us that we all will appear before the judgment seat of Christ, and everyone will be recompensed according to what he has done to serve the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:9-10; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 2 Timothy 2:3-6; Rev. 4:10-11).

Dear St. Paul faith families, during this Lenten season, please keep reflecting on your daily walk with the Lord and your motive for serving the Lord. I am looking forward to seeing what reward we all receive from the Lord.

In + love,
Pastor Teklu

March Recognition

Over the past three years, St. Paul's has contended with many challenges regarding our worship services and those who have led us. After months of substitute pastors in 2018, Pastor Joe Schruhl arrived in November 2018 as our Intentional Interim pastor. Pastor Dave Betzner served us from May 2019 through July 2020 as our vacancy pastor. Pastor Teklu Ketema accepted our call to become our permanent pastor in July 2020.

Through it all, one group has been instrumental in the planning, coordination and assistance provided in the delivery of our worship services.

This month we recognize the efforts and accomplishments of the Worship Committee. Their mission is to oversee all facets of worship with the guidance of the Pastor for both the Traditional and Contemporary styles of worship. The committee is responsible for:

*scheduling worship service times

*keeping the Altar Guild apprised of decisions concerning worship

*providing appropriate music for the worship services

*scheduling and training acolytes, Pastoral Assistants/Readers, Communion Assistants, and ushers for all services.

Please join me in thanking the following people who have worked tirelessly on behalf of St. Paul's.

Jane Felsentreger, Chair and scheduler of service assistants, readers, and ushers.

Carol Cook - member

Sandi Corwin - schedules acolytes

Cyndie Dixon - member

Kate Hausner - member

Jackie Abend - representing the Altar Guild

Michelle Angeli - representing Contemporary Worship and Tech Committee

Charlie Frater - representing the Tech Committee

Charlton Henry - organist

Pastor Teklu - contributor

THANK YOU all for your dedication to making St. Paul's a welcoming house of worship!

Blessings,

Zac



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

Long-Term Prayers:

John Abel (health issues); Preston Arnold; John and Monica Bagley (health issues); Phyllis Ball (health issues); Barry (family and health issues); JoAnn Breitbach (health issues); Peta Capello (health issues); Marianne Foreman (health issues); Marilyn Harris (health issues); Jackie Hitchens (recovering from surgery); Jay (health issues); Wayne K. (health issues); Janet Mox (health issues); Kay Rudolph (health issues); Brian Spencer (health issues); Dick Sulken (health issues); Michael Zimmer Jr. and family (health issues).

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



Monday, March 14, 7:00 pm, Zoom Meeting

The month we are reading and discussing The Cafe at the Edge of the World: A Story about the Meaning of Life by John Strelecky. (This is a fairly short book. There is a follow-up also, Return to the Why Cafe by the same author, if you are intrigued and want to read more.) It could be an interesting discussion! Please contact Dana Brown or Sandi Corwin for ZOOM log in information.



The Altar Guild will be offering Easter flowers for sale through March 21st. You may choose to dedicate a hyacinth to one of our St. Paul's shut ins or you may purchase an Easter lily for the altar for pick up after Easter. The cost of the flowers are \$14/each. Please contact or send checks and dedications to Jackie Abend at 410-703-1369 or 929 Mt Airy Rd., Davidsonville, MD 21035.

4 Ways to Observe Lent

Lent is a season of focus and preparation. It aligns our hearts with God's heart as we approach Easter. The following are just a few ways to focus and prepare.

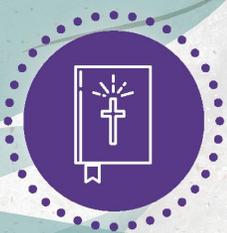


Give It Up

Consider giving up something that distracts from your important relationships: like too much time on Twitter or Clash of Clans.

Maybe cut out screen usage for several hours a day.

Take a day of true rest: let go of toil for 24 hours.



Plug In

Consider adding in something that helps you connect to God.

Read a book of the Bible, a devotional, or practice Lectio Divina on a daily basis.



Serve

Start a new routine of service.

Volunteer regularly as an academic mentor, step up to volunteer in a local church, or visit a nursing home.



Share It

Make it a communal event.

Share your Lent practices with others via a small group and/or attending worship.

Update on Worship at St. Paul's-

We will remain online only with a single live-streamed service until after Easter Sunday. The reopening committee will meet again in mid-March to discuss the plan for when we reopen and reopen safely. Please continue to remain safe, and healthy! More information will follow in regard to new guidelines and new schedules. Thank you and God Bless!

We usually rush during lent to the empty tomb and Jesus' resurrection. It is amazing to celebrate Easter and receive eternal life by God's grace. It is also important to pause and meditate Jesus' journey from Nazareth to Calvary to save us. It even helps us to grow in faith and appreciate God's grace. At St. Paul's, we will focus this Lent period on the theme "HUMBLED" by God's grace. We will focus on topics that might help us focus on God's grace. We will also have Individual short daily devotions matching each week's theme. Please prepare in body and soul to meditate on God's grace for us.





LENTEN

Wednesday Sermon Series at 7 pm

HUMBLED by God's Grace...

- 2/24- Humility
- 3/3- Unsettledness
- 3/10- Meditation
- 3/17- Blessing Others
- 3/24- Looking/Listening to God
- 3/31- Exalting Jesus Christ

St. Paul's Lutheran Church- www.stpaulscrofton.com



Communion

in the parking lot

Remembering His Sacrifice

Sunday

@
11AM

Mark your
calendars:

Feb. 7th
Feb. 21st
March 7th
March 21st
April 4th



2021 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 2021 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 2021 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.



OUTREACH NEWS -- February FOOD DRIVE

Thank you, thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to the February Food Drive to benefit the CCCC Food Pantry!!! St. Paul's was able to deliver almost 400 pounds of food, \$175 in grocery store gift cards, and \$1,100.00 to the Food Pantry in mid-February. Wow!! In addition, the Lutheran Mission Society benefitted from 40 pounds of food that was not able to be used by CCCC.

Advertising the food drive on social media helped expand the opportunity to contribute to Crofton-area neighbors and they also responded generously.

A big **THANKS** goes to the hardy crew that staffed the food drive in icy weather - Patrice & Del Jenstrom, Bernice Prescott, Judy Tribby, Jen Houck, Cyndie Dixon, and Rachel, Anthony, and Reed MacCumbee. And another big **THANKS** to those who delivered the food to the pantry - Bob & Bernice Prescott, Judy Tribby, Diane Segelhorst.

So many people are blessed by your generosity and efforts!!
We are blessed to share our many blessings!!

MORE OUTREACH NEWS

Do you want to contribute to the **CARE bags** we send out to our congregation's elderly & ill shut-ins? The Outreach Team & friends deliver a CARE bag once a month to 16 households of St. Paul's members. CARE bags can include jigsaw puzzles, activity books (crosswords, word-search), pocket tissues, lip balm, pocket hand sanitizer or lotions, writing materials, snacks of all sorts, and devotional material. Your contributions of these items would certainly be welcome!

Please contact Penny at (410) 969-9156 to make a contribution of this sort AND to suggest someone you know who would benefit from a friendly, short visit at the doorstep once a month. And if you are at the church sometime, take a look on the bulletin board at all the "Thank You" cards from our seniors, grateful for being remembered and cared for!

LOVE Boxes -- Five St. Paul's college students and friends received LOVE Boxes at Valentine's Day. Filled with desk supplies, snacks, and a letter from Pastor Teklu, the boxes represent our care and concern for our young people working hard on their educations. Many thanks for all the contributions demonstrating affection and support! 💕

Helen's Helping Hand Lending Closet



St. Paul's has a lending closet in memory of Mrs. Helen Lehtonen that is located downstairs in the church and has been doing a booming business! If you have borrowed something and are using it, we are thrilled. **Please just let us know you have it** (by leaving Cindy a note in the office or sending her an e-mail) or signing the sheet on the closet door so we can keep track. If you have borrowed something and no longer need it, please return it so we can keep passing it along. If you have items to donate, please let the office know!

St. Paul's has recently established our very own prayer team! Currently they meet virtually from 1 - 2PM every Thursday to pray for our church ministry, our community, and our world.

All are welcome. Please consider joining in prayer.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82144165594?pwd=RmFWVW0xL0lCYUJJPVEc2bCttRWo5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 821 4416 5594/ Passcode: 906760

If you need to dial in, call 301-715-8592.

HELP *the* HOMELESS VET



At Severna Park Elks Lodge

**www.elks.org,
ENVSC, Elks National Veterans Service
Commissions**

Donate Household items to help Home Homeless Vets.

Made with PosterMyWall.com

DONATIONS NEEDED!

A family member, who is a member of the Elks Severna Park lodge, has brought to my attention that all Elks Lodges are working in conjunction with the Veterans Administration in finding homes for homeless veterans and need furnishings for these homes. They are in need of home cleaning supplies, furniture, linens, dishes, appliances, personal hygiene supplies and everything else to set up a household for these veterans. Your items do not have to be new, just usable in working order.

For additional information, please contact, **Charlotte Angeli at 410-721-0179**
or **cangeli@verizon.net**.

**Did you know you can now fill out a CONNECT card online for attendance?
Did you know you can now fill out a Prayer Request card online?**

Since we are still not back to in-person worship, we created a way for members and visitors to record their attendance and connect if they require assistance or prayers and follow-up with each person.

To fill it out, either go to the CONNECT tab on our website, click the buttons on the online worship page, or use the link in the description box below the Youtube video for both the CONNECT and Prayer Requests. All information is sent directly to Pastor's email.

Please help us by using these new resources and telling friends, family, and guests to fill out a CONNECT card!

Once we return to in-person, we will maintain the online links as well as provide paper cards.



If you or someone you know is interested in technology, interested in a place to master their tech skills, and would like to participate, please let us know

Email- Charlie Frater at Tech@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!

Virtual Communion

We have made a virtual communion video available for those members who Live stream from home. Please login to the members-only section on our website on Sunday to access the virtual communion link. Please contact Patrice Jenstrom at web@stpaulscrofton.com or call at 443-254-6765 if you do not have the password. This will be available every week for members.

Here are the steps to access:

1. go to www.stpaulscrofton.com on Sunday
2. log in to Member tab (get the password from Patrice if you do not have it)
3. go to view "Holy Communion" video

The Service will last around 20 to 30 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 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.