

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Newsletter

February, 2021

The Pastor's Focus

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are already in the second month of the year 2021. God has been gracious to us that we made it so far! It is almost a year since the COVID-19 pandemic distracted our life. While we mourn the loss of millions due to the pandemic, we thank God for protecting us and enabling our scientists to discover vaccines in less than a year.

This month is an important part of our spiritual discipline, for we begin the 40 days lent **on February 17**. During the Lent period, we meditate on the undeserved grace and mercy of our heavenly Father and the sacrifice and suffering of his Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. We will focus on Jesus' journey from Nazareth to Calvary. Like Advent, Lent is a time of preparation and anticipation. Moreover, we look more closely at the fallen aspects of our nature and express our regret, remorse, and guilt for six weeks. We will also have daily devotions that help us reflect on God's grace for us. We will even contemplate the depth of Jesus' love for us to the extent of substituting us and dying on the cross.

As you know, Advent is an entire season of childlike anticipation for the coming of Jesus Christ. On the other hand, Lent gives us time to reflect, examine our lives and contemplate a life of suffering and despair. Besides, we are thankful that we are not left in hopelessness and sorrow. Instead, the Lenten season ends in Jesus' resurrection from the dead that gives us the hope of eternal life after our resurrection on the last day. The Lent discipline might also challenge us to discover hard truths about ourselves and our faith in God. It might even allow us to examine our daily walk with God bearing our cross-till God calls us home in one way or another. Finally, I pray that the Lord motivate and refresh our body and soul as we meditate and reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross and its impact on our lives!

In + love,
Pastor Teklu



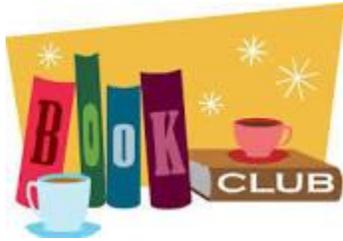
Prayer Requests

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. 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 (facing surgery); Jay (health issues); David Kennedy (recovering from pneumonia); 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, Brian Wolford, and their families.



The next meeting will be Monday, February 15th from 7-9, via ZOOM. The book is [A Good Year](#) by Peter Mayle. Contact Sandi Corwin or Dana Brown for ZOOM meeting details.

February Recognition

As Christians, most of us have a general awareness that it is a good thing to pray for other people and to have other people praying for you. But perhaps praying for each other is more than “good,” perhaps it is crucial.

According to Scripture, praying for other people is massively important to their success in ministry, life, and connection with God.

We should spend time praying for each other because one of the biggest benefits to intercessory prayer is that it increases our love for another. Praying for people not only has impact on their life since you are helping usher in the hand of God when it corresponds to his will, but praying for others also changes your heart towards that person.

God can accomplish his plans for us even if we don't have a prayer team doing intercession on our behalf. The **GOOD NEWS** is that 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.

Blessings and prayers for their success as we recognize St. Paul's current Prayer Team:

Pastor Teklu Ketema
Sharon Heineken
Sadie Becoate
Phil Myer
Steve Orozco

All are welcome. Please consider joining in prayer.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82144165594?pwd=RmFWVW0xL0lCYUJpVEc2bCttRWo5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 821 4416 5594

Passcode: 906760

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Restock the Community

FOOD PANTRY

Needed items



- rice
- breakfast cereals
- pasta
- spaghetti sauce
- canned meals (beef-a-roni)
- rice side dishes (Knorr's and similar)
- peanut butter
- jelly
- canned fruits
- canned vegetables
- dry and canned soups
- monetary donations and/ or grocery store giftcards are accepted

When: Saturday, Feb. 13th, 2021
@ 9:30 am- 11:30 am
Phone: 410-721-2332
Email: Info@StPaulsCrofton.com
Web: www.StPaulsCrofton.com

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF GAMBRILLS AND CROFTON

Like us on:



1370 DEFENSE HIGHWAY
GAMBRILLS, MD 21054



Ash Wednesday

February 17th, 2021

What's the purpose of Ash Wednesday?

It marks first day of the 40 days of Lent, a roughly six-week period (not including Sundays) dedicated to reflection, prayer and fasting in preparation for Easter. It ends on Holy Thursday, the fifth day of Holy Week (the week leading up to Easter) that marks the Last Supper.

What do the ashes mean?

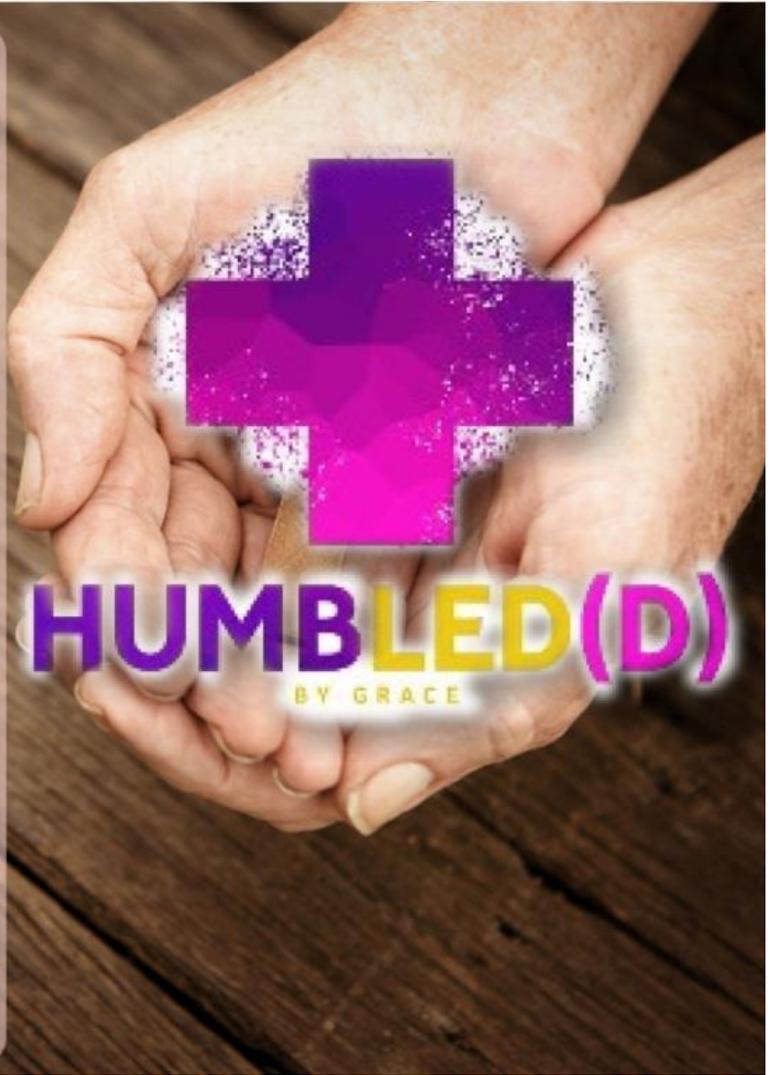
The ashes, applied in the shape of a cross, are a symbol of penance, mourning and mortality.

Ashes to Go:

6-7 am, 12-1 pm, and 6-6:30 pm

Livestreamed Service: 7 pm

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

Sunday

@
11AM

Mark your
calendars:

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

in the parking lot

Remembering His Sacrifice



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 Team News

FOOD DRIVE for the Food Pantry sponsored by Crofton Christian Caring Council (CCCC)

It's time to re-stock the CCCC Food Pantry hosted at Seton Parish for neighbors in need.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13th, 9:30 - 11:30 at the door to Fellowship Hall.

Contact-less drop-off - just pull up, pop your trunk, and we'll unload for you.

Items needed: pasta/macaroni / pasta sauce / canned fruit / canned vegetables / canned or dry soup / entrees (Beef-a-Roni/Hormel chili with meat/canned chicken) / rice side dishes (Knorr's, etc) / cereals / instant oatmeal / instant potatoes

Items not needed at this time: canned tuna / canned beans

Cash/checks or grocery gift cards will also be gratefully accepted for the pantry. If donating by check, kindly make the check to **CCCC Food Pantry** or to **St. Paul's** and notate for CCCC Food Pantry.

In advance - thank you for your kind contributions for local people in need!!



LOVE Boxes

The Outreach Team has resurrected a loving outreach gesture for our young people at college. We have 5 St. Paul's members and friends in college - some studying away and some studying at home. Wherever they're getting their education, EVERY college student has some basic needs: candy, snacks, pens and notepads, cookies, more snacks, highlighters, etc.

Just in time for Valentine's Day our young people will receive a LOVE Box along with a note written just for them by Pastor Teklu.

Kaitlyn Crislip, Kasey Crislip, Liam Cook, Caitlyn Houck, and Lindsey Drabick are our young members and friends pursuing their educations - you can help by remembering them in your prayers.

CARE Bags

CARE Bags will go out again in February for our members & friends who are shut-in or sick. Devotional material, activity books and jigsaw puzzles, writing supplies, personal care items (pocket tissues, lip balm, small hand lotions/sanitizer), and snacks make up a CARE Bag. We have 16 households who receive a monthly wellness check-in via the delivery of a small bag of goodies to their door. It's a great way to keep in touch! If you would like to help or contribute to the CARE Bag ministry or know of someone who would benefit by having a monthly wellness check, please contact Penny 410-969-9156 for more information.

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!

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.