

Lutheran saintpauls CHURCH

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

News And Notes

St. Paul's monthly newsletter



Women's Group is wrapped up in a new service project. Story page 9



Sunday school Dec. 17
"Stable Making". Story
page 5

JANUARY HAPPENINGS

Every Wednesday at 6pm dinner and 7 pm Bible Studies with Pastor Jim
(Feb. 21st thru Lent)

January 2nd 7 pm Church Council Meeting

January 7th 10:45am Take down the Greens with Pizza afterwards

January 7th 10:45am 12 Night Activities during Sunday
school

January 13th 8 am Brotherhood Meeting

January 13th 9 am Women's Group Meeting

FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

February 6th 7 pm Church Council Meeting

February 10th 8 am Brotherhood, & 9 am Women's Group Meeting

February 13th Shrove Tuesday 7 pm

February 14th Ash Wednesday noon & 7 pm

February 17th 830am Grassroots Meal Prep, Serving 11am at the center.

February 20th 11:30 Senior Fellowship—Representatives from the Howard
County Police will be keeping us safe with their take about scams.



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Congregational Council



message from Council

January 25, 2024

Greetings:

Happy [belated] New Year to everyone, I hope it will bring you happiness, joy, and peace throughout the year. We have a lot planned over the next couple months and would encourage you to join as often as possible. Shrove Tuesday is just around the corner with a delicious pancake dinner the popular Bible Jeopardy (I promise to have new "answers" this year), and then Ash Wednesday there next day (with a services at noon and 7 PM). And the following Wednesday's leading up to Holy Week, there will be Soup & Salad with Pastor Jim moderating a Bible Study. On Easter Sunday we are planning the morning sunrise service (6:30 am) which may be a bit chilly given that is earlier this year! There will then be a 9:30 service followed by brunch.

So speaking of Easter – this is a call out for any all musicians in the church who like to participate in making some beautiful Easter music. Song selection is in the works and music will be made available in the next couple weeks. Please let me know if you are interested in playing or just want to toot your own horn!

This leads me to a quick discussion about volunteering and/or sharing your talents. There are many ways to share your talents – readers, assisting minister, choir, acolyte, Grass Roots, various church committees, and my personal favorite Church Council. While many of you already serve in these roles, we can always use more help. Please give where you can – you will find it rewarding.

May you all have a blessed day.

Russ

Council President

Galentine's Day

Our next Women's Group meeting is on Saturday, February 10 at 9:00 am. Please join us for a Galentine's party! All ladies are welcome to attend, including our littlest ladies. We will enjoy sweet treats, non-alcoholic pink drinks, games, and fellowship.

As a part of our celebration, we will also take the time to give back to our community by continuing to create no-sew blankets for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and organization dedicate to providing all children with a bed, and Project Linus, an organization devoted to providing blankets for ill or traumatized children.

Please come join the fellowship and fun!





2024 Council Ministry Openings.

There will be four Council positions opening in May of 2024 and we are currently accepting nominations to fill these vacancies. Self nominations are permitted and encouraged. Copies of the Council position duties are in the narthex. Please contact Bret Hassel or any of current Council members if you would like to discuss this important and rewarding service.

St. Paul's Council Ministry Opportunities			
Position	Current	Term Ends	2024 Nominee
President	Russ Werner	2025	transition year
Vice President	Bret Hassel	2025	transition year
Property	John Murphy	2025	transition year
Evangelism	John Korsland	2025	transition year
Treasurer	Mike Jennings	2025	transition year
Worship & Music	Betty Kerwin	2025	transition year
Stewardship	Joe Dymek	2025	Thanks Joe!
Secretary	Bob Peters	2026	Thanks Bob!
Financial Secretary	John Bell	2026	2nd term!
Youth & Family	vacant	NA	open
Christian Education	Barb Ball	2024	open
Social Outreach	Susan Bell	2024	open
Communications	Joe Mackrell	2024	open

current members serving extra one-year transition term

new and returning members serving full terms



Bret Hassel

Council Vice President

Stewardship—Offering Envelopes - The 2024 Special Offering envelopes are available for pickup in the church hall. Since the weekly/monthly offering envelopes are not dated, you can continue to use any envelopes you received last year. If you need additional envelopes, please contact Joe Dymek, Stewardship Chair, at jcdymek@verizon.net or 410-531-1057. Your time, talents, and financial support are appreciated. St. Paul's Church continues to be blessed with the generosity of its members!

Joe Dymek

Stewardship Chair

We are using a tablet for you to record your attendance at church. It's very easy to do! As you enter church, the tablets will be located in the narthex, asking you to simply to enter the first three letters of you first or last name. Once you locate your name, you just need to tap it and your attendance will be recorded. An usher will be nearby if you need assistance.



Contact: Judy Hewitt-Hassel

Judy@stpaulslutheran.info

Prayer Requests stay in the bulletin for six weeks



DELAWARE-MARYLAND SYNOD

5699 MERIDALE RD. BALTIMORE, MD
21228 | 410-230-2860 | demdsynod.org



Community of St. Dymas

The Rev. Susan Beck

Currently CSD is providing Word and Sacrament ministry at four facilities:

[Maryland Correctional Institution](#)

- Jessup (MCIJ, men, Jessup)

[Maryland Correctional Institution](#)

- Women's (MCIW, women,

Jessup)

[Maryland Correctional Training Center](#)

(MCTC, men, Hagerstown)

[Central Maryland Correctional Facility](#)

(CMCF, men, Sykesville)

Consider donating to After Care Stdysmasmd.org

message from OUR PASTOR

January 20, 2024

It might be shocking to think about Lent right now—we are still recovering from a busy Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany season, but with Ash Wednesday only a few weeks away, it's time to start thinking about Lent and our devotion to prepare ourselves for Easter. Many people give up something for Lent and on February 22, 2023, my wife, Hanna, and I attended an Ash Wednesday service at Evangelical Lutheran Church in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, where I completed my internship. Hanna stopped working due to the physical challenges of late-stage pregnancy, and when we stepped into the church, we were asked what we were giving up for Lent. Hanna declared, "I am giving up being pregnant for Lent." Three days later, Eden was born.

Hanna and I each had to give up something to provide for Eden. We both had to give up sleep to care for Eden. Hanna gave up her body during pregnancy and while nursing. I gave up sleep, and time spent to myself. Raising a child takes a lot of sacrifice, but what we get in return is 1000 times more than what we put in. As we watch Eden say her first words and take her first steps, we see what our sacrifice is creating. A beautiful baby girl and a beautiful family.

In the book of Matthew, Jesus encounters a rich young man asking, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" (Matthew 19:16b) and Jesus tells him to keep the commandments and you will have eternal life. But the man knows he still lacks something and asks, "**All these I have kept. What do I still lack?**" (19:20b). Jesus tells him to sell every he has, give the money to the poor, and come and follow him. During Lent we are reminded that Jesus asks us to give our lives to him. To pour everything we have into our devotion to Christ and follow him. That means giving a lot up—more than just chocolate or ice cream. That means giving up our lives and handing them over to Christ. That is a lot of sacrifice, but what we get in return is more than what we give up. The joy of our salvation is greater than all the sum of all our possessions multiplied.

There will be no shortage of opportunities for devotion this season of Lent. We will be hosting dinner and worship starting at 6:00 p.m. on February 21st followed by our bible study continuing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. We will be serving a meal at Grassroots Saturday, February 17, and we always need more people to volunteer to help during worship, especially during Lent and Holy Week. You might also consider adding a family worship time at home. I know that sounds difficult, but all you need to worship at home is to read scripture, sing a song, and say a prayer. In our home, we have a Lenten calendar with daily kindness challenges for our family to complete. We also have a prayer chain to encourage us to pray and to dive into scripture as a family. The more we pour into our faith, the more we see the fruits of our faith.

Pastor Jim

The Rev. James FitzGerald



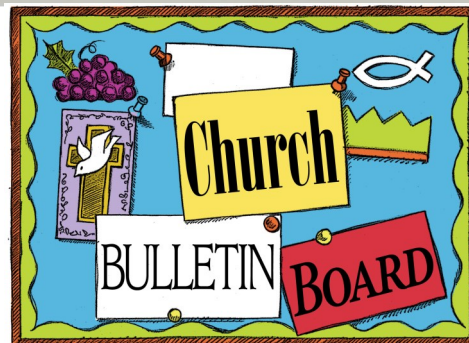
Congregational Notices

Thank you from St. Paul's Staff

The St. Paul's staff would like to thank all of you for your generous gifts we received this Christmas season. We are blessed to be a part of this church here and look forward to the time we will spend together during this Lent season and beyond.

Yours in Christ,

The St. Paul's Staff



December 2023

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & ACOLYTES

Worship Assistants serve God and St. Paul's by participating in worship services in a number of meaningful ways. It's easy to sign up online at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COD45ADAA2DA0FCC07-worship2> You can always call or email the church office, so please sign up.

Betty Kerwin

Sunday School News

Advent this year found the Sunday school students enjoying some of the season's traditions! December 10 found the high school and confirmation classes helping to green the church, while the pre-confirmation class packed boxes with food for our angel tree families. This younger group made snowflake cards for each box.

Then December 17 all classes participated in "Stable Making"! Graham crackers, icing, animal crackers and candy were combined to build some amazing creations! One stable even had a manger!

All children and youth are invited to attend Sunday school. We meet right after Sunday morning worship. We have 4 different classes so there is one for anyone from 0-18 years old. If you have any questions, please ask Barbara Ball

(See pictures of the Sunday school in Stable making in action during December next page.)

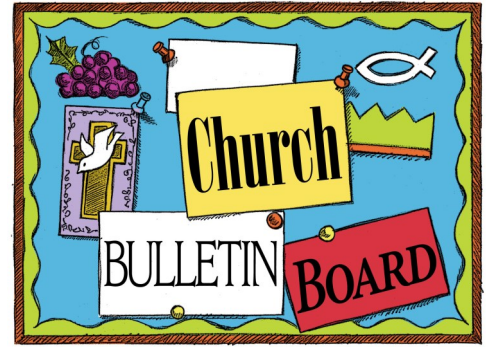
Barb Ball



Pastor Jim with all our young budding stable architects

Congregational Notices (continued)

December 2023



How creative. Fantastic job everyone and looks like everyone had fun too! Great memories and tradition.



Alex's stable has a manger, can you find it.



Carla and her completed stable.



Johathan's stable has a removable roof.



Carla & Dominic take a quick break.



Dominic and his creation.



JP shows off his stable.



John surveys Hannah's stable.



John & Andrew with Andrew's stable.

Notice of the passing of Florence Bassler-Wolfel

Florence, as I knew her, was a granddaughter of Pastor Propst and the only child of Frank and Grace Propst Bassler. Her son David asked me to give to St. Paul's many pictures of the family, her Confirmation picture of 1950. David also has the Home Communion Ware of Pastor Propst. Plans are made to have a Memorial Service on Saturday, January 20 at noon at the Chapel of Charlestown, People are invited to arrive at 11:30 and after the Memorial Service stay for a reception. Florence herself had planned the service with hymns and reading, and asked David to find Pastor Lettrich.

Pastor Joe

Pastor Joseph Lettrich

PS A sincere thank you to the congregation for a very generous Christmas gift

Congregational Fellowship

message from Senior Fellowship

January 2024



We hope you will mark your calendars for the next **Senior Fellowship** luncheon on **Tuesday, February 20th** beginning at **11:30am**. Anyone, 60 years of age (or close), is invited to attend. We will welcome **representatives from the Howard County Police** to talk about safety and scams.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Joe and Cathy Dymek (jcdymek@verizon.net or 410-531-1057).

Inclement Weather Policy—We follow the Howard County Public School System. If schools are closed, we will not have our luncheon.

Joe & Cathy Dymek

The Senior Fellowship will be coordinating the production of a new church cookbook. Is there a dish or dessert that you prepare or a recipe that has been in your family for years? We would love to include it! Any recipe may be emailed to jcdymek@verizon.net or a physical copy may be given to Cathy Dymek for inclusion. We look forward to your submissions.



message from Women's Group

January 20, 2024

Please join the Women's Group on Saturday, February 10th at 9:00 am, where we'll continue working on fleece blankets for several charities. No skill required and it's fun! Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a national organization with a Howard County chapter that furnishes single beds with mattresses and bedding so no child has to sleep on the floor. Project

Linus also has a Howard County chapter that distributes hand made blankets to children who are ill, traumatized, in foster care, etc. Come fill your cup by helping our neighbors!

images from the January 13, 2024 Women's group meeting on the following page.



Images from December 9th, Ladies Brunch & Cookie Decorating at the Parsonage hosted by Hanna FitzGerald

Message from Women's Group (continued)

January / February 2024

These are from the Women's Group Saturday, January 13th. They were creating fleece blankets for "Sleep in Heavenly Peace". Donations are being accepted to help defray the costs.



"Life is sweet" -Sally & Barb Glen.



Jane Hershey, Betty Kerwin, Janet Jew, & Sandy August



Hanna FitzGerald



Fleece blanket details.



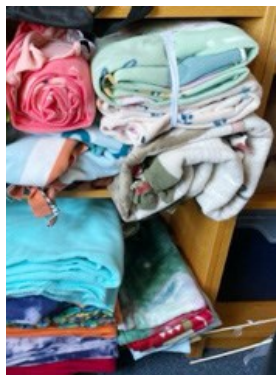
Hanna, Janet & Barb Glen's handiwork.



Judy Hewitt—Laying all out.



Thelma Sampson having a go.



Blanket material



Betty Kerwin, Sandy August & Jane Hershey's handiwork.

Congregational History

Grace Florence Wolfel
1.21.29—12.18.23

message from
Archives



Grace Florence Wolfel died at Charlestown Retirement Community in Catonsville, MD the morning of December 18, 2023. She was just shy of her 95th birthday and lived a wonderful life which we were blessed to be a part of. Her and her son David spent most of the holiday finding treasured reminders of her impact on friends; her deep life-long love for her husband Bill and family members. Her memorial service was held on January 20th at Charlestown Retirement Center at the Lady of the Angels Chapel. Guests were received 11:30 am with the service at 12 noon.



Pastor Joseph Lettrich, Betty Bassler and Pastor James FitzGerald at Florence's Memorial

Florence born Jan. 21, 1929 was the daughter of Frank & Grace Bassler and a granddaughter of Pastor Propst who served at St. Paul's 1911-1942

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Griffin

Archivist

Our Lady of the Angels Chapel—Charlestown Retirement Center

A message from the Social Outreach Committee,

Salvation Army Angel Tree Program, Fulton Elementary School Community Outreach, & Holiday Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2023 Holiday Outreach efforts!

St. Paul's sponsored a total of 20 children and their families this holiday season. Four families (17 children) were sponsored through the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program and two families (3 children) were sponsored through a partnership with Fulton Elementary School. Volunteers provided wonderful Christmas gifts and clothes for each child and household items and gift cards for the families. It was an awesome sight to see the tables in the parish hall filled with gifts. In addition to the gifts, Christmas food baskets were given to each family consisting of more than 30 non-perishable food items, a Christmas card made by the Sunday School children, and a grocery store gift card to purchase fresh food. Many thanks to the Sunday School children for sorting the food, filling the baskets, and making Christmas cards! The gifts and the food baskets were delivered between December 9-18, 2023. The school counselors at Fulton Elementary School sent emails expressing their deep gratitude to St. Paul's congregation for the generous support to the local families:

"The donation is unreal, I am just now back at Fulton Elementary as of today and wanted to send our many thanks to your church."

"So happy that God has brought your church and our families together. We cannot thank you enough for the overwhelming donation."

"Thank you so much on behalf of FES (Fulton Elementary School). The donations have been received. You are all awesome, and we so appreciate your support! Have a wonderful upcoming Christmas, and please share the

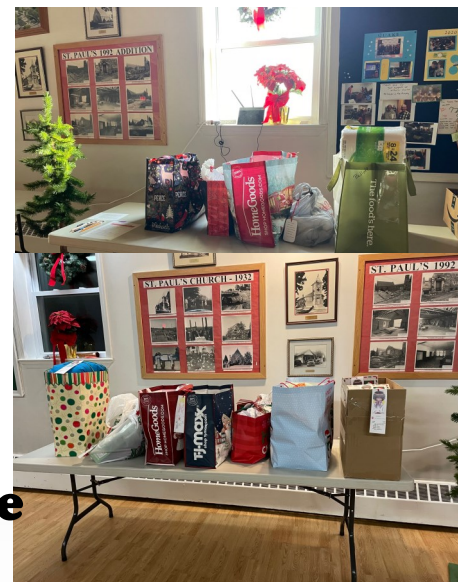
positive impact made within FES on behalf of your congregation "



Your kindness and generosity have truly made an impact on our community and brought the joy of Christmas to all these children and their families!



The Angel Tree



Message from Social Outreach

How you can show Christ's love



A message from the Social Outreach Committee,

Here are photos from the Food Basket Program



Sunday school getting the baskets ready



Finished baskets awaiting delivery



Food baskets with the personal touch



Sunday school packing the baskets

Thank you for your support!

Sue Bell



The personal touch from the Sunday school



Personal message from Sunday school inside the snowflake cards

Message from Social Outreach

How you can show Christ's love (Continued)

January 2024

St. Paul's Volunteers Prepare a Special Holiday Meal for Grassroots Day Resource Center

Approximately 30 St. Paul's volunteers provided support to the December 16th meal for Grassroots Day Resource Center (DRC). The volunteers provided support in a variety of ways - planning the meal, donating funds to buy food, shopping for food, baking cookies, frosting and decorating cookies, making special Christmas treats, cooking turkey breasts, preparing the meal, and serving the meal. The meal consisted of turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, peas and carrots, rolls, fresh fruit, cranberry sauce, homemade Christmas cookies, iced tea, and lemonade. During the December meeting, many members of the Women's Group frosted and decorated the Christmas cookies for the meal. The Sunday School children made special Christmas candy cane reindeer treats to provide to the all folks at Grassroots. The meal fed approximately 65 people at Grassroots DRC and the leftover food was brought to Grassroots Crisis Center in Columbia, enough to feed an additional 25 people. The meal was very well received! Many people expressed their sincere gratitude for the special meal and came back afterwards to say how much they enjoyed it. The festive candy cane reindeer were greatly appreciated and brought smiles to all!

A big thank you to everyone who helped make this meal so special! You have made a positive impact and sent a message of kindness and hope to many members of our community!

Volunteers are needed for the **next Grassroot Meal on Saturday, February 17, 2024**. Four volunteers are needed to prepare the meal (8:30 - 11:30 am) and four volunteers are needed to serve the meal (11:00 am - 3:00 pm). Please email sue@stpaulslutheran.info if you'd like to assist.

Sue Bell
Council Chair



Food prep at Saint Paul's in action



Candy canes for the center courtesy of the Sunday school

Message from Social Outreach

How you can show Christ's love



More Grassroots pictures



Sue Bell & Pr. Jim getting ready to serve



Holiday meal ready to go



John Bell & Sue Bell serving



Pastor Jim behind the scenes



Behind the scenes



John Bell behind the scenes

January 2024



MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

The Men's Brotherhood meets the second Saturday of every month in the Parish Hall. Our meetings run from 8 A.M. to about 9 A.M., and feature member-provided meals. We welcome all men, dads and sons, uncles and cousins, to exchange fellowship, share a brief devotion, and to plan our service agenda.

Looking ahead, some of our members will be assisting with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. This is always a fun event for the church community. We will be planning the annual Easter breakfast and how it will be presented with our single Sunday service format.

Look for announcements of a Spaghetti Dinner to be held in the Spring. We hope to invite many of our local friends and neighbors, and hope you will join us.

Finally, we are excited to be planning our Brotherhood Retreat at Mar-Lu Ridge in Jefferson, MD on the evening and morning of May 10 and 11. As the Brotherhood and Congregation have decided to support the capital campaign that Mar-Lu Ridge is sponsoring, the group wanted to explore the conference facility and the camp while doing something to expand our fellowship. If you'd like to join us, please sign up or speak to Pr. Jim or me.

If anyone would like to join us for breakfast at 8 A.M., just drop me a line. I hope you can join us!

Erik Domaas, President

Upcoming EVENTS

Council Meeting

January 2nd 7 pm

February 6th 7 pm

Men's Brotherhood

January 13th 8 am

February 10th 8 am

Women's Group

January 13th 9 am

February 10th 9 am

Social Outreach

February 17th Grassroots 8:30 am meal prep with delivery to the center and serving at 11:30 am till 3:00 pm.

Senior Fellowship Luncheon

February 20th 11:30 am

Events

Every Wednesday at 6pm dinner
7pm Bible Studies with Pastor Jim (Feb. 21 through Lent)

Galentine's Day, February 10th @ 9am as part of Women's Group

Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 13th, 7pm

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14th noon & 7 pm

Social

MEDIA



Look for us on social media!

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/stpaulsfulton

Church Contacts

Staff, Council, and Ministries

CHURCH STAFF

Lead Pastor, James FitzGerald

Support Pastor, Joseph Lettrich

Cantor, Position Available

Administrative Assistant, Position Available,
301-725-0241; office@stpaulslutheran.info

Articles for the March newsletter are due February 23, 2024

