



Praise & Patter – December 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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In the game of chess, the goal is to trap your opponent's King, such that it cannot escape capture. Once the king is trapped, the winning side declares "checkmate" and the game is over.

There is a painting that once hung in the Louvre museum in Paris, painted by Friedrich Moritz August Retzsch. The painting is popularly known as "Checkmate." It is now in private hands, having been sold in a Christie's auction in 1999. The painting depicts two chess players. One is Satan, who appears arrogantly confident. The other player is a man who looks forlorn. If Satan wins, he wins the man's soul.

The story is told that a chess grand master and his friend came upon this painting while visiting the Louvre museum. When his friend wants to move on, the chess master waves him on and says he will catch up later. The chess master stares and stares at the chessboard, then suddenly steps back, flabbergasted. "It's wrong!" he exclaims. "There's one more move." He runs to his friend and together they look at the painting. "We have to contact the painter," the chess grand master says. "It's not checkmate. The King has one more move!"

Throughout scripture, God reminds his people that there is always a way of escaping situations that seem hopeless at the time. In the Old Testament, Daniel was thrown into a den of hungry lions. It looked like checkmate, but the King of the Universe had another move left and Daniel is safe. A little boy in John 6 only had two fish and a few loaves of bread to feed thousands of people. It looked like checkmate, but our King had another move left. They collected 12 baskets of leftover food after the meal was served.

The world around us may be a mess. There is war, violence, a pandemic, struggling marriages, depression, isolation, and more. It looks like checkmate, but we have no reason to fear. The game is not over. Our King has one move left. Our lives and future are in God's hands.

As we approach Thanksgiving Day, let us remember all of the blessings in life that come from God's generous hands. I encourage you to make a list or invite those who gather at your table for Thanksgiving dinner to share your blessings with one another. Also, join us on Thanksgiving Eve, when we will gather with our United Methodist brothers and sisters from Emmanuel and St. Andrew's to give thanks to God and celebrate God's work in this community.

On Sunday, November 28 we begin a new church year with the season of Advent. The word "Advent" literally means "a coming or arrival." During Advent, we look backward and forward at the same time. We celebrate the first coming of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem, and we look forward to his second coming in glory and judgment.

This year, we will gather for a series titled "Arise and Shine," as we welcome the Christ Child, who is the light of the world. Each week will focus on a different aspect of the light of Christ and how we are enlightened by him throughout our lives. The theme verse for the series is: "Arise, shine, for your light has come." *Isaiah 60:1*.

Our Christmas Eve worship will take place at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Both services will include the celebration of Holy Communion. The 7:00 pm service will be broadcast on Facebook Live and our website. *Pastor Lee*

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP at 9:00 am EACH SUNDAY!

In-Person – Masks are not required in our building. For those who wish to continue to wear masks, please do so. We want everyone to feel as comfortable and safe as possible. We understand that the comfort levels of each family may be different. Please keep this in mind as you enter the building and respect the decisions of others regarding masks and social distancing.

Live Stream – www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org

Facebook Live – www.facebook.com/stpaulsfunkstown

Tithes and Offerings

All things come from you, O God, and with gratitude we return to you what is yours. You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image. When our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior. All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you. And so, in gratitude for all your gifts, we offer you ourselves, and all that we have, in union with Christ's offering for us. By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. *(Hoyt L. Hickman)*

THANK YOU for your faithful & generous giving, which helps us to share the good news of Jesus. Please visit our website www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org and click GIVE to learn about electronic giving options. You can also mail your offerings to the church or drop them off during office hours, which are 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

October Receipts	\$24,353.22
October Expenses	\$21,858.69
Principal paid on debt	\$52,684.16

Bible Study is held on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am. Everyone is invited! Please come as you are able (weekly attendance is wonderful but not required).

Prayer Ministry

Remember these brothers and sisters in Christ in your daily prayers:



Our prayers are with:

The family of Edwin Nigh, brother of **Richard Nigh**

- December 5 Michelle, Sarah, Hannah and Erin Copenhaver, Hannah Sue Cramer, Michael Cramer, Susan, Jessica and Jennifer Crampton, Nancy Crampton, Paul, Pam and Lance Crampton, Tayrn Crampton, Paul Crampton III;
- December 12 Tony, Mina and Joshua Davis, William and Tina Davis, Derek and Katlyn Davis, Teresa Davis, Jean Daywalt, Lewis Dellinger Jr., John and Cindy Dickinson
- December 19 Marsha Dieterich, Joshua Dieterich, Michael Doarnberger, Jeffrey Doarnberger, Brock Doyle, Curt and Inge Dudda, Jim and Jean Duffey, Tony Dyer, Saralynn Dyer
- December 26 Carol Eavey, John Eavey, Jr., Karin Engstrom, Elizabeth Everhart, Mary Ann Eckstine, Karin Engstrom, Kendra Forcino, Michael, Kerri, Kennadi, Kamilyn, & Michael Fotta Jr., Travis Fouche, and Travis and Jennifer Fournier

Newsletter News:

The deadline to receive information for the January newsletter is NOON on December 21, so we can publish it by the end of December.

Noisy Offering will be on December 12. We will provide containers in the Narthex to receive your offering.

Night Out will be held on Tuesday **JANUARY 18**, place to be announced, at 6:00 pm. Come and have a relaxing, casual dinner and fellowship with your fellow disciples. Remember, all men and women of the congregation (and your friends) are invited to participate.



Thanksgiving Eve Service, November 24 at 7:00 pm will be hosted here at St. Paul's. Leaders from Emmanuel United Methodist and St. Andrew's United Methodist will be participating. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us as we give thanks to God for all our blessings.

Property Committee: Anyone interested in helping to decorate the church for the Christmas Season, please plan to meet at the church 8:00 am on Saturday, November 27. There will be lots to do, so the more the merrier and the less time it will take. Please see Judy Bowers for more information.

Micah's Backpack is looking for volunteers to pack backpacks. Contact Jeanne Doney at 240-675-4760 or Jeannekdoney@gmail.com for more information

December Birthdays

3	Helen Bussard*	13	Aidan Horan Gwen Barron	22	Michelle Sarvey
5	Cheryl Obitts			24	Jackie Lyles
6	Joseph Ritter, Jr.	14	Judy Warrenfeltz	25	Chloe Poffenberger
7	Joshua Wilson Jean Unger	15	Jill Barron	28	Gerald Clark Landen Purnell
9	Robert Wilson	18	Michael Cramer		
10	Barb Mumma Andy Lighter Cindy Lucas	21	Whitney Reichard		

*=80 years and over

December Anniversaries

4	Andrew & Whitney Reichard	29	Barry & Judy Warrenfeltz
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Winter Cancellations

In the event that it is necessary to cancel a Sunday worship service or any other church activity due to inclement weather, we will announce the cancellation on radio stations, WARK, WHAG, WJEJ, on television station WHAG, on our website and on the answering machine at the church office. While every effort will be made to provide as much advance notice as possible, decisions sometimes cannot be made until the last minute. During the week, if Washington County Schools dismiss early or are closed due to inclement weather, St. Paul's will also cancel activities on those days. Please always use your best judgment when determining if it is safe for you to travel to attend a scheduled event.

2022 Offering Envelopes

St. Paul's first started using an "envelope system" for weekly offerings in 1888! 2022 envelopes will be available in the Narthex beginning December 12. So that we can track our voting member numbers, all confirmed members of St. Paul's receive an assigned envelope (couples receive one box of envelopes). Please pick up your box of 2022 envelopes and begin using them after January 1, 2022. PLEASE NOTE: It is very likely that your offering envelope number will change in 2022. Please note the new envelope number when you pick up your offering envelopes.

2021 Contributions

All contributions to St. Paul's for 2021 must be received by December 26, 2021. Any offering received after that date (regardless of the particular year's offering envelope or the date on the check) will be credited towards 2022 offerings.

Up Coming Events

November 24 – Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. Paul's

November 27 – Decorate Church 8:00 am

December, 9, 14, 21, Crossways Bible Study at 10:00 am

December 12 – Noisy Offering

December 14 – Council Meeting 7:00 pm

December 21 – Newsletter Deadline

Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Church Secretary: Carol Ann Rossman

Pastor: Lee Brumback ▪ 540-335-1710 ▪ prlee@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org

Director of Music: Cara Price

Council President: Travis Fouche 301-730-8926