



## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

24 East Baltimore Street | PO Box 148 | Funkstown, Maryland 21734  
301.791.1738 | [www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org](http://www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org)

### *Praise & Patter – January 2023*

The first parish I served was a two point parish. The smaller of the two congregations decided to invite the community to an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday. It was a beautiful spring day with plenty of sunshine. It was a bit chilly, but not too cold. The church grounds were full of families with young children searching for eggs. The education wing was busy with children doing crafts, and enjoying snacks and drinks. Everyone was smiling and having a grand old time. It was a huge success that brought the community together for fellowship and fun.

There was one problem. When the members of the congregation arrived for worship the next day, Easter Sunday, none of the families who participated in the Easter egg hunt came for worship. Most of the members were upset and surprised that the sanctuary was not filled to the brim with families and children. They asked questions like: "Where is everyone? I thought they all had a good time yesterday? Don't they like us? Why didn't they come back today?" It wasn't long after this that the members made the difficult decision to close the congregation and sell the building. A new church eventually bought the building and is thriving in that location even today.

I share this story because it reveals two different ways of looking at the church's mission in the world. In one view, the primary ministry of the church is gathering for worship on Sunday with the goal of getting more people in the pews. Another view is that the church is a place to build community and relationships and to plant seeds of the good news of Jesus along the way. A balance of both viewpoints creates a healthy congregation.

Like most congregations, we are in the midst of evaluating our mission after two years of major challenges for our world. When everything shut down in the early days of the pandemic, we made it a top priority to keep worship live and vibrant by hosting it online. We have gained a whole new audience of people through our live stream and it provides a way for those who cannot attend in person to participate. In the past year, we have welcomed new groups into our building – Line Dancing Group, Bright Beginnings Childcare, and Gad Abouts Square Dance Club. We also started hosting community events like Vacation Bible School, Breakfast with Santa, and Funkstown Olde Tyme Christmas.

There are a few members of our congregation asking: "Why aren't there more people coming in person for worship? Why aren't there people from the community or the groups who use our building coming on Sunday morning?" When I hear these questions, I want to respond by asking "What is the mission of the church?" I certainly believe that Sunday worship is important. However, I believe that the primary mission of the church is to build relationships with others, which will provide opportunities for us to share the good news of Jesus. Sometimes people will join us for worship and sometimes they will not. The important thing is that they hear about Jesus.

As we enter into 2023, I invite you to consider what you see as the mission of St. Paul's? Is our purpose to get more people in the pews on Sunday or to build community and relationships? When it comes to relationships, how can we foster sharing among those who are coming in person? How do we reach out to those who worship online, or who have not come back? How can we build relationships between the congregation and our community?

I look forward to God's mission for us in the coming year!

*Pastor Lee*

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

**Livestream** [www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org](http://www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org) [www.facebook.com/stpaulsfunkstown](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsfunkstown)

**Telephone** 978-990-5000, Access Code: 811703#

**Tithes and Offerings**

God of abundance, receive and bless the gifts we offer. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

THANK YOU for your faithful and generous giving, which helps us to share the good news of Jesus. Please visit our website [www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org](http://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.

November Receipts \$ 20,544.91 November Expenses \$ 24,568.75

**Noisy Offering** is collected on the second Sunday of each month. Our Noisy Offering for January will go to Hagerstown Area Religious Council.

**Second Mile** offering for January will go to 50% to Children in Need and 50% to ELCA Missionary Support.

**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).

**Thanks to your generosity** we donated \$165.00 to Hagerstown Area Religious Council.

**Our prayers are with** the family of **Jeffere Bonebrake** who died on November 22, 2022 and **Jack Timm** who died on December 16, 2022.

**Prayer Ministry**

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

- January 8 Beverly Welch, Linda Welch, Margaret White, Bonnie Jean White
- December 11 Tammy Whorten, Frank Wiley, Linda Willock, Robert, Krista, Joshua, and Samantha Wilson, Brenda Wing, Nancy Wishard
- January 15 Rebecca, Andrew Wolford, David Wolford, Marlina Wolford, Greg & Pam Young; Derk Young-Davis
- January 22 Carmela Anjos, Sara Jane Baker, Audrey Baker, Fred and Victoria Baker, Natalie Billman, Carol Biser, Steven, Michele, Madeline and Carlin Blash
- January 29 George Bowden, Roger and Judy Bowers; Rodger and Andrea Bowers, Hal and Linda Brandenburg, Richard and Elaine Brandenburg, Whitney, Ben, Mason and Harper Breakall, Gene and Victoria Breeden, Madge Brown

**Newsletter News** deadline to receive information for the February newsletter is NOON January 17, so we can publish it by the end of January.

**Night Out** will be held on Tuesday, January 17 (location 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. .

**Our Daily Bread** booklets for **December, January and February** are available for pick up.

## January Birthday

1	Jeremy Barron	5	Stacy Purnell	16	Gerry Volz
2	Jane Potts*	6	Jean Clopper Lynn Spalding	17	Erica Unger
3	Brenda Hamilton Judy Bowers	7	Inge Dudda* Gracie Leonard	20	Suzanne Watson
				22	Samuel Sarvey

\*=80 years and over

## January Anniversaries

1	Wilber & Barbara King	27	Jerry & Doris Richardson	20	Jeff & Sharon Poffenberger
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**Sign up Charts** for 2023 Altar Flowers Eternal light and Communion Elements are posted on the bulletin board. Altar Flowers are \$60.00 for both vases or \$30.00 for one. Please indicate if you are purchasing one. The Eternal Light is \$10.00 per week and Communion Elements are \$10.00 per week.

## 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.

**2023 Offering Envelopes** have been delayed in coming due to mechanical problems at the printers. An announcement will be made when they arrive.

## 2022 Contributions

All contributions to St. Paul's for 2022 must be received by December 25, 2022. Any offering received after that date (regardless of the particular year's offering envelope or the date on the check) will be credited towards 2023 offerings.

**Thank you** to outgoing Council Members for your faithful service (Judy Bowers, Penny Kline, Connor Shank). New Council Members are Dennys Dominguez , Robin Folmer, Karen Luther, Marie Royce, and Hannah Sue Cramer.

2023 Council Officers  
President, Teresa Hutchens  
Vice President, Lennie Frey  
Secretary, Hannah Sue Cramer  
Treasurer, David Wolford

## Up Coming Events

January 3,10,17,24,31	Bible Study, 10:00 am
January 8	Noisy Offering
January 10	Council Meeting, 7:00 pm
January 17	Newsletter Deadline, Noon
	Night Out, (location to be announced) 6:00 pm

**Church Office Hours**  
**Church Secretary**  
**Pastor**  
**Director of Music**  
**Council President**

Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Carol Ann Rossman | 301-791-1738 | office@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org  
Lee Brumback | 540-335-1710 | prlee@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org  
Cara Price  
Teresa Hutchens |