



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

24 East Baltimore Street | PO Box 148 | Funkstown, Maryland 21734
301.791.1738 | www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org

Praise & Patter – February 2023

The word Epiphany means “a moment of sudden revelation or insight” or “a manifestation of a divine being.” On January 6, the church celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany, which commemorates the manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles. First, he is revealed to the Magi (wise men). Second, he is revealed as the Son of God during his baptism in the Jordan River. Epiphany is one of the three principal festival days of the Christian church, the other two being Easter and Christmas. During the season after Epiphany, we are challenged to be aware of God’s work in our lives and community and to participate in the continuing mission of the church “to be a light to all nations.”

If we are going to be a “light to the nations,” we might begin by reading the opening verses of John’s gospel. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” *John 1:1-5*

Who is the one John refers to as the “Word” and the “light?” It is Jesus. Right from the beginning, John wants us to know that Jesus is God. He is eternal and participates in the creation of the universe and all things. He is the second person of the Trinity, the Son of God. And, when we read the first book of the Old Testament (Genesis), we will discover that the first thing created by the Triune God is light. Therefore, John starts his gospel by saying: “What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

Most of us desire a quality of life that is full of light. It feels good when life it is bright, shiny, and happy. Compare the experience of waking up in June with rays of sunshine coming through the window and birds singing cheerfully with waking up in January to a darkened room and bitter cold frost coating your window. The one leads us to rise up with a smile. The other makes us want to pull the covers over our head and go back to sleep.

During his ministry, Jesus radiated a quality of life that was bright cheerful like the sunrise in June. His presence lit up a room and his words warmed the souls of people who were hiding under the covers. Of course, Jesus also sheds light on things that we and others would rather keep hidden in the dark. His purpose is not to shame us, but to set us free from the things that hold us captive.

Unfortunately, there is much darkness in today’s world. There are people and situations that cast a gloomy shadow over our lives, which lingers like a thick fog on a cloudy day. Sometimes the darkness comes from inside our hearts, when we experience depression or dark nights of the soul. At other times the darkness comes from outside sources, and we might feel like a boat caught on a stormy sea.

When we find ourselves in the darkness, we need to hear the words of John, “In him was life, and that life was the light of all people.” Jesus is like a giant flood light, shining light into the darkness. Like the disciples who found themselves tossed about by the wind and the waves, we can discover Jesus at the back of the boat whispering, “Peace. Be still.” When we experience sleepless nights, we can cry out to Jesus for comfort.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness is no match for His light. No matter what darkness you might be going through, Jesus says: "Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light which gives life" (John 8:12). If we let his light flood our soul and fill us with light, we will be able to reflect his light into the people and world around us. *Pastor Lee*

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

Livestream www.stpaulsfunkstownmd.org www.facebook.com/stpaulsfunkstown

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

Tithes and Offerings

Generous Father, thank you that all things were created through you and for you. You are before all things, and in you, all things exist. The prophet Malachi says that we should bring our tithes and offerings into your storehouse and that you will respond by opening the windows of heaven and sending down blessings upon blessing. Accept the gifts we place before you now. May the peace of God reign in our lives, the love of God surround us, the Spirit of God empower us and the joy of God uphold us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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 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.

December Receipts \$ 29,530.64 December Expenses \$ 18,603.55

Noisy Offering is collected on the second Sunday of each month. Our Noisy Offering for February will go to The ARC of Washington County.

Second Mile offering for February will go to World Hunger.

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 \$204.00 to the Community Free Clinic.

Prayer Ministry

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

- February 5 Pastor Lee, Tori, Timothy and Matthew Brumback, Helen Bussard, Gerald Clark, Betty Cline, Delroy and Rose Cline, Ed and Jean Clopper, Chris, Adam and James Collins
- February 12 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;
- February 19 Tony, Mina and Joshua Davis, William and Tina Davis, Derek and Katlyn Davis, Teresa Davis, Jean Daywalt, John and Cindy Dickinson
- February 26 Marsha and Joshua Dieterich, Michael Doarnberger, Jeffrey Doarnberger, Dennys, Ana, Crystal, and Kevin Dominguez, Brock Doyle, Inge Dudda, Jim and Jean Duffey, Tony Dyer, Saralynn Dyer

Newsletter News deadline to receive information for the March newsletter is NOON February 21, so we can publish it by the end of February.

Night Out will be held on Tuesday, February 21 at Western Sizzlin 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.

Annual Report Meeting is on February 12, 2023 after worship. Ministry Team Reports for 2022 are due in the church office by January 29.

Super Bowl Party – February 12, 2023 5:30 pm – Fellowship Hall Come out to enjoy Super Bowl LVII at St. Paul's. There will be plenty of food, games, commercials and of course football! Bring your favorite football food to share with everyone and bring your friends! Coffee, soda and water provided. There will be a table set up in the Narthex for Souper Bowl of Caring. Bring cans of soup to vote for your favorite team. Soup will be donated to St. Mark's food pantry after the Super Bowl.

Easter Flowers The church will be decorated with lilies on Easter Sunday, orders are being accepted until Sunday February 26, and the cost will be \$11.00 per plant. Donations (minimum amount of \$6.00) to be used for other Easter decorations will also be accepted. An order form is enclosed in this newsletter, and will be available in the weekly bulletin. Please remember that by purchasing flowers you are agreeing to take them home after the service on Easter Sunday. Judy Bowers is handling the orders, please ask Judy if you have any questions.

Soup is back for Lent. Please join us as we bring back the soup supper before the Wednesday night Lenten service. The meal will begin at 6:00 pm with a time for fellowship until the service begins at 7:00 pm. You are welcomed to come anytime between 6:00 pm and 6:45 pm for the meal. This year only soup will be provided, but you are welcome to bring a sandwich if you prefer one as well. We are asking for donations of soup for each week. Coffee and water will be provided. A sign up sheet is posted on the information board outside the Mission Center across from the office. No meal will be shared on Ash Wednesday or during Holy Week. If you have questions, please ask Karen Lighter or call the church office.

February Birthday

3	Robin Brown	15	Jeffrey Doarnberger	21	Timothy Johnston David Wolford
7	Brenda Wing	16	Peggy Shank* Valerie Schmidt	23	Karen Luther
8	Brantley Rodgers	18	Shirley Gardner* Heather McCleaf	24	Elizabeth Reeser Luke Hebb
9	Karen Pierce Donna Unger	19	Robert Wilson Theresa Collins	26	Raymond Barger, Sr.*
11	Dick Shipley* Hal Brandenburg	20	William Luther III	27	Victoria Baker
14	Lauren Horan Kendra Forcino			29	Harriet Pryor* *=80 years and over

February Anniversaries

11	Clayton & Susan Unger	24	Greg & Pam Young
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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.

Congratulations! Our friends at [Bright Beginnings Childcare](#) were voted 1st place 🏆 on the Hagerstown Hot List 2023 by the Hagerstown Magazine!

Up Coming Events

February 7,14,21,28	Bible Study, 10:00 am
February 12	Noisy Offering
	Super Bowl Party, 5:00 pm
February 14	Council Meeting, 7:00 pm
February 21	Newsletter Deadline, Noon
	Night Out, at Western Sizzlin 6:00 pm

EASTER LILIES OR DONATIONS FOR DECORATION FUND

We are accepting orders for lillies for Easter Sunday, if you would like to purchase flowers please remember that you are asked to take the lillies home after the service. If you would prefer to simply make a donation to the decoration fund you may do so as well.

Please complete this form as your order, and provide information about your donation.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Given by _____

A minimum **DONATON** of \$6.00 is requested for the decoration fund only.

I am making a donation (and not purchasing flowers) in the amount of \$_____

Name _____ Phone number _____

OR

I am PURCHASING lilies

The cost of the lilies is \$11.00 each, and you are requested to take the flowers home after the Easter service. PLEASE ONLY PURCHASE THE NUMBER OF FLOWERS YOU WILL BE TAKING HOME.

I am purchasing _____ lillies that are mine to take home.

I am enclosing \$_____ for the flowers;

Name _____ Phone number _____

Deadline for orders is **Sunday February 19**.

Return this form, along with payment or donation, either to an usher, buy putting it in the offering plate, dropping it off or mailing to the church office.

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church P O Box 148 Funkstown, MD 21734

If you have questions please contact Judy Bowers or the church office. Thank you.

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Church Secretary

Carol Ann Rossman | 301-791-1738 | office@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org

Pastor

Lee Brumback | 540-335-1710 | prlee@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org

Director of Music

Cara Price

Council President

Lennie Frey