



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Praise & Patter – December 2022

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

The owner of a large estate once gave his gardener some red roses to take home to his wife. However, the flowers never made it home. On the bus that afternoon, the gardener sat next to a widow who spoke of her loneliness. Knowing his wife would understand, he gave the roses to the lonely widow and brightened up her day.

The widow didn't get home with the roses either. At the grocery store, she came upon a tearful young girl. The girl's mother was very sick. "Here," the widow said, handing the roses to the girl. "Give them to your mother and tell her I'll be praying for her tonight." Gratefully, the girl accepted them and took them to her mother.

The roses brought great joy to the bedridden woman, but even she didn't keep them. "They're too beautiful not to share," she told her pastor when he came to visit the next day. "I'd like the church to have them." So, the pastor took the roses and placed them in the sanctuary for the whole congregation to see and enjoy them. After the service, the minister gave single roses to church members as they left. The beauty of the roses extended once more into the community before they wilted.

On November 24, we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day. Some people will invite family to gather at their home. Others will travel far away to visit friends. Still others may embark on a service project in the community. Whatever plans you may have for this Thanksgiving, I hope that you will take time to reflect and give thanks to God for the blessings of life.

One way to give thanks is by giving to others, because in giving away we often gain even more. When we give our time to someone or for some cause, we don't lose hours off our lifespan, we add to the quality of our life by creating precious moments and experiences for others. When we give some of our hard earned money away, we can be a blessing in the lives of those who are in need. When we think of our God-given talents, they are gifts of God to be shared. When we share our talents (listening, cooking, fixing things, singing, etc.) they become a gift to others, enriching their lives as well.

In baptism, we are adopted into God's family and filled with the Holy Spirit. We become sons and daughters, who are washed clean through the blood of Jesus. The Holy Spirit works in us the gift of faith. And with the gift of faith comes the responsibility to nurture our relationship with God and share His love with others. This is what it means to be a disciple – living as a follower of Jesus and leading others into a saving relationship with Him.

When we begin to see each blessing as a gift that comes with responsibility, our outlook on life and the world is changed. As Christians we are grateful for everything we've been given and we strive to share our gifts with the world.

What are some of the blessings God has given you? Which ones have you shared with others? What will you do to bless someone today? *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

God of heaven and earth, we are blessed to be able to worship you in diverse ways. We worship you through singing spiritual songs and hymns together. We worship you through our prayers and praise. We worship you when we are your hands and feet to others in need. And we worship you through our giving of our tithes and offerings, with gladness and adoration. 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.

October Receipts \$ 22,848.48 October Expenses \$ 20,606.18

Noisy Offering is collected on the second Sunday of each month. Our Noisy Offering for December will go to Lutheran World Relief Animals.

Second Mile offering for December will go to Cold Weather Shelter.

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 \$10.00 to ELCA Building Puentes Fund, \$120.00 to Hospice of Washington County and \$144.90 to Stephen Ministries.

Our prayers are with the family of **Linda Spalding** who died on October 31, 2022.
The family of **Richard Nigh**.

Prayer Ministry

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

- December 4 Virginia Simon, Anna Jean Smith, Jeannette Smit,; Diana Smith, Jennifer Smith, David, Amanda, Rachel and Laura Smith, Lynn Spalding;
- December 11 Sarah Stahl, Richard Stallings, Betty Lou Stoup, Sarah Jane Sullivan, Whitney and Rachel Sylvester
- December 18 John and Barbara Timm, Barbara Tingle, Leslie, Linda, Sarah and Emily Tritsch, Donna Trovinger, Lorraine Troxell, Helen Troxell, David and Jean Unger, Erica Unger, Jim and Donna Unger
- December 25 Gladys Unger, Clay, Susan, Alexis and Zachary Unge, Gerald, Nina, Jonathan and Andrew Volz, Barry and Judy Warrenfeltz, Suzanne Watson;

Thank you to those who have encouraged and supported our congregational council over the past year. We have had many pleasant and unpleasant meetings over the past year. I have had the pleasure to serve with many great leaders. Thank you for your leadership, dedication, and volunteerism to St. Paul's. ~Connor Shank, Lay President

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Thank you to everyone who participated on the confirmation service. The service was beautiful. The fellowship afterwards was great to. Thank you, Meghan Luther & family and Alexis Jenkins.

Newsletter News deadline to receive information for the January newsletter is NOON December 20, so we can publish it by the end of December.

Night Out will not be held in December.

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

December Birthday

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

*=80 years and over

December Anniversaries

4	Andrew & Whitney Reichard	29	Barry & Judy Warrenfeltz
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Thanksgiving Eve Service, November 23 at 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's United Methodist. Leaders from Emmanuel United Methodist and St. Paul's will be participating. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join in 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 8:30 am on Saturday, November 26. 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.

During the Season of Advent it is a tradition for families of the congregation to light the Advent wreath. If you would like to participate please contact the church off at 301-791-1738 or office@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org.

Breakfast with Santa: Saturday December 3, 2022 from 9am-11am. Join us for a morning of Christmas fun, breakfast, and fellowship! Children eat FREE, Adults are \$5.00 cash only. AYCE pancakes and servings of eggs, meat, fruit, juice, coffee, water. Spend time with Santa, hear the Story of Christmas and the Birth of Christ, enjoy other holiday activities and fun for the whole family!

Cookies for Old Time Christmas: We are in need of cookie donations! If you wish to provide a tray of cookies, please have them delivered to the Narthex by 6pm on Friday December 9! As part of our outreach, we will have volunteers pass out Christmas cookies to visitors who enter our building. Donations can be store bought or homemade. Please place your donation in a disposable container.

Old Time Christmas: Friday December 9, 2022 from 6:00-9:00pm. Join us at St. Paul's for an evening of Christmas Fellowship! We will have craft vendors in the fellowship hall to do a little holiday shopping, the Lutheran Lunch Counter will be open to serve supper from 6:00-8:00pm with various soups, sandwiches, and drinks. The Sanctuary will be open where our music director, Cara Price will host a Christmas music program to include special guests, Christmas carols and hymns.

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

St. Paul's first started using an "envelope system" for weekly offerings in 1888! 2023 envelopes will be available in the Narthex beginning December 11. 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 2023 envelopes and begin using them after January 1, 2023. PLEASE NOTE: It is very likely that your offering envelope number will change in 2023. Please note the new envelope number when you pick up your offering envelopes.

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.

Up Coming Events

December 6,13,20	Bible Study, 10:00 am
December 3	Breakfast with Santa, 9:00 am
December 9	Funkstown Olde Tyme Christmas, 6:00-9:00 pm
December 11	Noisy Offering
December 13	Council Meeting, 7:00 pm
December 20	Newsletter Deadline, Noon
December 24	Family Worship, 3:00 pm Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 pm
December 25	Worship Service, 9:00 am

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

Connor Shank | 240-313-5107 | cshank@stpaulsfunkstownmd.org