

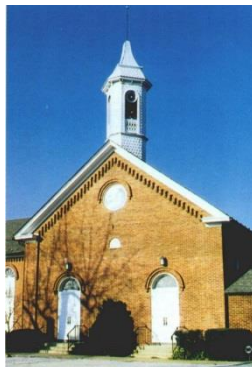
**St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Dover & Trenton Roads  
Upperco, Maryland 21155**

**To:**

## **ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Dover & Trenton Roads  
Upperco, Maryland 21155  
410-239-3456  
The Rev. Melvina Stricklin**

**February & March 2015**



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Directory



**President** Jed Geldmacher  
443-291-6647

**Vice President** Suzi Lyons  
410-239-7656

**Secretary** Becky Miller  
443-388-6463

**Treasurer** Richard Harris  
410-239-7483

## Council Members

**Sandy Baber** Jayme Folfas

**Josh Neuheisel** Becky Miller

**Bob Martin** Carol Hunt

## Committee Representatives

<b>OUTREACH</b> Suzi Lyons 410-239-7656	<b>FINANCE</b> Jed Geldmacher 443-291-6647	<b>HOSPITALITY</b> Becky Miller 443-388-6463
<b>EVANGELISM</b> Council	<b>PROPERTY</b> Bob Martin 410-429-5295	<b>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b> Sandy Baber 410-751-7511
<b>MUSIC &amp; WORSHIP</b> Josh Neuheisel 410-239-9634	<b>YOUTH</b> Jed Geldmacher 443-291-6647	<b>CEMETERY</b> Maidie Brown 410-429-0907
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b> Suzi Lyons 410-239-7656 Richard Harris 410-239-7483	<b>PARK</b> Becky Miller 443-388-6463	<b>PARSONAGE</b> Richard Harris 410-239-7483
<b>MUTUAL MINISTRY</b> Carol Hunt 410-790-0541	<b>SHEPHERDS</b> Jayme Folfas 410-840-8485	<b>HISTORIAN</b> Josh Neuheisel 410-239-9634



## SAINT PAUL 'S VOICE

### February/March 2015

In my journey in life I have learned to have joy in the Lord. An article in the March-April addition of the “Joyful Noiseletter” written as a sermon by Pastor Dale Schoening“, says it best. The pastor confesses he is a recovering party popper. The following is his description of joy in the Lord.

“I have a confession to make. I am a recovering party pooper. More than once in my life I have come across as the ‘wet blanket’ in the group who doesn’t want to have too much fun. I’m not fond of parties. I often take myself and life far too seriously.

In many ways I can identify with David’s wife Michal, who is the ‘party pooper’ in today’s Scripture reading (2Samuel 6:12b-19). She was absolutely mortified by the way King David was dancing and carrying on as he led the celebration of the return of the Ark of the Covenant. He was, she said, acting like a vulgar fellow, acting far below his dignity.

Along my life’s journey I have come to realize what a fouled-up attitude this is. Over and over and over again the Bible counsels us to rejoice. The true spiritual giants of the church have been joyful people, by and large. King David’s joy before the Lord was so great he broke out in unrestrained dance – not a dance of death, but a dance of life, joy, and victory.

Isn’t that also what we’re supposed to be doing? Our faith centers on a Christ who died and rose again, who won ultimate victory over sin, death, and evil for us! That is something to celebrate! And didn’t Paul tell us God chose what is foolish to shame the wise?

But the reality in many churches is starkly different from that. Stephen Neill writes, ‘The ordinary group of worshipping Christians, as the preacher sees them from the pulpit, does not look like a collection of very joyful people; in fact they look on the whole rather sad, tired, depressed people.’

I have seen this myself. I have served congregations that won’t even laugh when there is a joke in the sermon.

I recall when I was in Junior High in my home church’s youth group, I once read to the group and article on “The Humor of Christ.” I was having a very hard time reading it because I found it so funny. Afterward, an adult leader came to me and growled, ‘Where did you get that?’ She didn’t know what to think upon learning the article was from *Guideposts*.

Many churches are full of party poopers. A church like that is highly unattractive to most people. Stephan Neill continues: ‘It is certain that such people will never win the world for Christ...It is no use trying to pretend: we may speak of joy and preach about it; but unless we really have the joy of Christ in our hearts and manifest it, our words will carry no conviction to our hearers.’ (from *Christian Character*)

As I said earlier, I am a recovering party pooper. Somewhere along my spiritual journey I recognized my excessive seriousness was not good. I developed a sense of humor (which one of my seminary professors described as ‘wry’ which I thought was a compliment until I discovered ‘wry’ means ‘twisted’ or ‘warped’), and have a propensity toward bad puns (Fred Allen once said ‘Hanging is too good for a man who makes puns. He ought to be drawn and quoted.’)

But I still lapse into excessive seriousness and industrial-strength blues every once in a while. I have some good antidotes – a wife who laughs easily and of the, *The Joyful Noiseletter*, and parishioners who unwittingly give me plenty of reasons to rejoice and laugh.

Christians are meant to be people of joy. God gave us the gift of humor. And as an Easter people, a resurrection people, a people who celebrate God's victory, we remember that when all is said and done, God got the last laugh and the devil is the butt of the joke!

Now it is true we deal with some pretty serious stuff in our worship. The sin in our lives and in the world is no laughing matter. It is hard to laugh in times of sorrow, pain, adversity, and tragedy. Yet in those very situations, laughter and joy can be very healing – as it is written in Proverbs: 'Laughter does the heart good like a medicine.'

William Barclay observed: 'We are chosen for joy. However hard the Christian way is, it is both in the traveling and in the goal, the way of joy. There is always joy in doing the right thing.'

The Christian is the laughing cavalier of Christ. A gloomy Christian is a contradiction in terms. It is true that Christians are sinners, but they are redeemed sinners; and therein lies their joy. How can any person fail to be happy when they walk in the ways of life with Jesus?' (from gospel of John)"

Even with Holy Communion we can partake with gladness. There is joy in receiving the body and blood of Christ for that is when we receive the promise of forgiveness. All this joy is enough to make all of us grin.

Love in Christ,

*Pastor Noel Strucklin*



**Ash Wednesday Service:**

February 18, 7:00 pm

**Soup Suppers:**

Wednesdays, February 25 – March 25, 6:00 pm

**Lenten Services:**

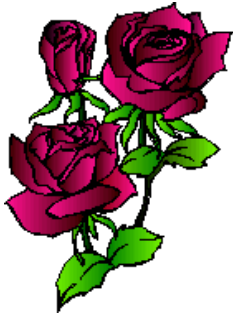
Wednesdays, February 25 – March 25, 6:00 pm  
(following Soup Suppers)

**Maundy Thursday Service:**

April 2, 7:00 pm following 6:00pm Soup Supper

**Good Friday Service:**

April 3, 7:00 pm



## THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER

### WE PRAY FOR:

**MEMBERS:** Mark Armacost, Mary Armacost, Hazel Ashe, Ruth Bare, Bud Boose, Mary Burk, Vivian Chenoweth, Rosalie Croft, Anne Durham, Colton DuBois, Bud Eichelberger, Wade Hilgartner, Bob Graff, Sydney Henry, Matthew

Jones, Selena Kelly, Edith Nuse, Leslie Vink-Hood, George Walter, and all homebound members.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Jenny Casper, Jim Howard, Joyce Rhoten, Georgia and Ed Winiacki, Bette Panagakos, Phyllis Henderson, Phil Cieri, Bob Durham, Jr., Jeanne Braly, Kitty Macon, Shelby, Jane Benson, Christine Palmimor, Rachael Hurly, Brent Hartlove, Jerry Herfurth, Joy Pillsbury, Bruce Hilgartner, Congregations of Lazarus Lineboro, Frank & Betsy Ulrich, Beverly Chenoweth, Pam Shirley, Vic Eckman, Gretchen Jensen, Linda Armacost, Wayne Welk, Erin Kranz, Marsha Humbert, Michael Zuck, Mike Cole, Richard Rost, Ellen Scheel, Renee Callahan, Margaurite Morgan, Renee Bienenstock, Jake Offutt, Robert & Joyce Norleen, The Harman family, Marie & Dave Davis, Wade Burnhm, Ann Harden, Pastor Tom Crittenden, Mary Berg, Susan lev, Carlin Lamb, Helen and Josephine, Gerri Geist, Mark Kinnear, and all those we now name in our hearts.

**WE ALSO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES:** Joseph Herfurth, Pam Poore, Merna Matzen, and Rodney Laird.

May the promises of our resurrected Lord bring them comfort and peace.

**THE PRAYER:** Healer of our every ill, bring hope and solace to those who struggle with depression. Set free those burdened by feelings of guilt, shame, and worthlessness. Visit the sick with your compassionate Spirit, especially (names). In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

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### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We're concerned with how things turn out; God seems more concerned with how we turn out.

Philip Yancey

Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.

Debbie Macomber

Life always offers you a second chance. It's called tomorrow.

Fidel Vazquez

Friendship is God loving us through someone else.

Jessica DeMenna

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### BIBLE TRIVIA

1. What did Paul recommend as a substitute for wine?
2. What was mingled with the wine Jesus was offered on the cross?
3. According to what Jesus said at the Last Supper, when would he drink wine again with his disciples?
4. How many jars of water did Jesus turn into wine?
5. What, according to Jesus, happens when new wine is put into old wineskins?

# THANK YOU, THANK YOU THANK YOU, THANK YOU

- ✝ to those who helped decorate and then undecorate our sanctuary for the Christmas holidays.
- ✝ to our youth who presented us with a very meaningful Christmas pageant.
- ✝ to those who assisted with the Christmas Ever Family Service: acolytes, Sam Jones and Brianna Murphy, crucifer, Alex Panagokas, head usher, Charles Baber, communion assistants, Meg Jones and Sandy Baber, lector, Carol Hunt. We most especially thank Wendy and Carlina Folfas and the Kemp family for bringing us special music.
- ✝ to Carol Hunt who led the Lessons and Carols Service and to Rachel Murphy for giving the temple talk. We also thank the lectors: Carol Hilgartner, Derek DuBois, and Glenys Hunt.
- ✝ to Jed Geldmacher for covering for any emergencies while Pastor Mel was on vacation.
- ✝ to everyone who attended and helped with the planning for all fundraising events for the year.
- ✝ to Jed Geldmacher for accepting the presidency of the council and to our two new council members, Sandy Baber and Carol Hunt.

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**ANSWERS TO BIBLE TRIVIA:** 1. The Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) 2. Myrrh (Mark 15:23) 3. When the kingdom had come (Matthew 26:27-29) 4. Six (John 2:1-10) 5. The wineskins burst (Luke 5: 37-38)

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# THE LORD'S LAUGHER

From the book "Rolling in the Church Aisles"

A woman went to the post office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. When it was finally her turn, the clerk asked her what denominations stamps she needed.

"Oh, for heaven's sake! Has it come to this? All right," the woman conceded. "Give me 25 Protestant and 25 Catholic."

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One day Satan challenged God to a baseball game. "You don't have a chance," answered God. "I have Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio, Lou Gehrig, and all the greats."

"Well that may be true," boasted Satan, "but I have all the umpires."

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An inexperienced preacher was to hold a graveside burial service at a pauper's cemetery for an indigent man with no family or friends. Not knowing where the cemetery was, the preacher made several wrong turns and got lost. When he eventually arrived, the hearse was nowhere in sight, the backhoe was next to the open hole, and the workers were sitting under a tree eating lunch.

The diligent young pastor went to the open grave and found the vault lid already in place. Feeling guilty because of his tardiness, he preached an impassioned and lengthy service, sending the deceased to the great beyond in style.

As he returned to his car, he overheard one of the workers say to the other, "I've been putting in septic tanks for 20 years and I ain't never seen anything like that."

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"Dear God, I thank you for my baby brother; but what I prayed for was a puppy."

Rachel, age 7

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As Stuart tidied up the kitchen after dinner, he realized the broom had been left outside on the porch. "Cindy, go out back and the broom, please." Cindy was scared and reminded her dad she was afraid of the dark. "Don't worry, Cindy, Jesus is out there to watch over you."

Cindy went over to the back door, opened it a crack, and whispered, "Jesus, could you please hand me the broom."

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On their way to the church service, a Sunday school teacher asked her pupils, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

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For Easter services, we will ask Mrs. Brown to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.



# NEWS

## **WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME!**

We rejoice in receiving the Ross family, Joe, Katrina, Hunter, Kaden, Kerrigan, and Emerson, on December 21 by Affirmation of Baptism. Joe is a paramedic and is Battalion Chief of the fire department in Howard County. During his free time he likes to read, workout, watch movies, and especially loves spending time with not only his children but, all other children too.

Katrina is a nurse practitioner and has worked for Carroll Hospice and Home Care. She is a runner and avid walker. She likes to cook and garden and also coaches a girl's hockey team. One would say she is very social and when she can likes her girl time. Katrina has lived and traveled to many places including living in England for seven years.

The boys, Hunter and Kaden are involved in scouts and go to North Carroll High School. The girls, Kerrigan and Emerson are students at Carroll Lutheran School.

Their birthdays are Joe, June 19, Katrina, January 28, Hunter August 1, Kaden, November 27, Kerrigan, August 22, Emerson, February 29. Joe and Katrina's anniversary is May 18.

We welcome the Ross's to our church family. May they grow spiritually as they worship with us.

## **LENTEN SERVICES**

Wednesday, Feb. 18 is our Ash Wednesday Service at 7. The following weeks from Feb. 25 through March 25 there will be soup supper at 6 with services at 7. During Holy Week, the Maundy Thursday (April 2) soup supper is at 6 followed by worship at 7; and on Good Friday there is no soup supper, only service at 7.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

If you are in need of pastoral care or in a case of an emergency, to reach Pastor Mel Stricklin, please call 410-374-9639.

## **TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY**

Sunday, February 15 we will celebrate Transfiguration Sunday. We will hear about Jesus' mountain top experience along with his disciples, Peter, James, and John. What is interesting is that they get to see Moses and Elijah and also hear God speak to Jesus. Prior to this event we heard about Satan tempting Jesus in the desert for 40 days and how Jesus did not give in to the temptation.

As we celebrate Transfiguration Sunday, we will hear about both events. This is time when the "sacrificial stones" will be given out. As we journey through Lent, we will carry our stone with us to remind us to not succumb to our own temptations. Our sacrifice is to save the dollar amount that is written on the stone as part of our Lenten journey. Maybe we need to give up going out to dinner several times during Lent or doing less shopping or not buying our favorite food in the grocery store, in order to meet our sacrificial obligation. Then on Easter Sunday, with your money saved, placed in an envelope with your name and church number written on it, we will have a special collection and prayer said over your sacrifice. Our mountaintop experience will be those things we sacrificed for our Lord, knowing it is pleasing to our God.



## *February & March Celebrations*

### February Birthdays

2     Suzi Lyons  
       Rob Holtz  
3     Glenys Hunt  
4     Maidie Brown  
8     Calvin Armacost  
9     Derek Dubois  
10    Curtis Goerner  
12    Matthew Jones  
14    Pat Graff  
25    Ryan Armacost  
29    Emerson Ross

### February Anniversaries

14    Bob & Gerri Martin

### March Birthdays

6     Angie Henry  
       Christopher Geldmacher  
9     Hazel Ashe  
10    Carol Hunt  
       Tiffany Meadowcroft  
22    Jed Geldmacher  
26    Hope Hilgartner  
       Hannah Hilgartner  
27    Helen Armacost  
       Carol Hilgartner  
       Gaige Dubois  
29    Emily Benson  
31    Alan Miller



### **Mario's Italian Restaurant**

Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30 pm

To Benefit St. Paul's Youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in July

Free Will Offering

Invite your family & friends! Hope to see you there!

# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 900am – Worship</p> <p>Souper Bowl</p> <p>Youth Sunday</p> <p>Food Collection</p> <p>Baby Bottles given out</p>	<p>2 1:30 – Worship and Music Committee</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 730 pm AA</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Mario's Restaurant 530- 730pm -</p> 	<p>7</p>
<p>8 900am – Worship</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 7:00pm – Council</p>	<p>11 730 pm AA</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 900am – Worship</p> <p>Transfiguration Sunday</p>  <p>Sacrificial Rocks given out</p> <p>Fellowship after Worship</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Shrove Tuesday- 600 pm -</p>	<p>18 730 pm AA</p>  <p>Service 700 pm</p>	<p>19 7:00pm - Prayer session</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 900am – Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 600pm- Soup Supper 700pm-</p>  <p>730 pm AA</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

# March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b> 900am – Worship  Youth Sunday Food Collection	<b>2</b> 130 pm- Worship & Music	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 600pm- Soup Supper 700pm-  730 pm AA	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 900am – Worship  2 <sup>nd</sup> Offering Carroll Hospice	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00pm - Council	<b>11</b> 600pm- Soup Supper 700pm-  730 pm AA	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 900am – Worship  Fellowship after service	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 600pm- Soup Supper 700pm-  730 pm AA	<b>19</b> 7:00pm - Prayer session	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 900am – Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 600pm- Soup Supper 700pm-  730 pm AA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Easter Egg Hunt 
<b>29</b> 900am – Worship    Long View Nursing Home after worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

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*Christmas  
2014*

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### **2015 Flea Market Calendar**

**April 18, 2015    May 16, 2015**

**June 20, 2015    July 18, 2015**

**August 15, 2015    September 19, 2015**

**October 10, 2015**

**Cost: \$20.00 Lawn space, Pavilion space \$30.00**

**No Rain Date - Non-Refundable - Non-Transferable**

**Time: 8 AM - 2 PM**

**To reserve your space contact: Richard Harris**

**Phone NO.: 410-526-7598 or by email: [fleamarket@stpaulsupperco.org](mailto:fleamarket@stpaulsupperco.org)**

**Mailing address: St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

**15801 Trenton Rd., Upperco, MD 21155**

### **OUTREACH**

Outreach is collecting used eye glasses and sunglasses for the Lions Club. Please make your donation using the box located in the narthex.

During the month of February, we will be celebrating the Sanctity of Human Life by collecting money in baby bottles that will be donated to the Alpha Pregnancy organization. They use these funds to provide food, clothing and education for young mothers and mothers-to-be who are without assistance. Please pick up a baby bottle in the narthex and start saving your spare change. Bottles will be collected the last Sunday in February.

## Detroit – HERE WE COME!!! 2015 Gathering “Rise Up Together” Volume 2



In the last newsletter I told you about the youth of St. Paul's awesome opportunity to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering this July in Detroit. Discussions started 2 ½ years ago when Madison returned from the 2012 Gathering in New Orleans. Madison could not stop talking about her experiences at the event. I hoped we could get a group together from St. Paul's to attend the 2015 event. Originally, the plan was to tag along with another church. Then, this past fall that church decided to not attend and take their youth on a different Mission trip. So, all of a sudden I had 17 people interested (between our church and two other churches) and I had to decide to step up to plan the trip. What a challenge! I prayed about it and decided that it had to be done. Over the last few months there have been many times that I have questioned my decision, especially when we did not know until two days before Christmas whether we would have seats on the affordable bus transportation being offered by LutheranHands. I keep telling myself that the headaches of planning and fundraising will be well worth it once we experience the Gathering and the youth come back to St. Paul's and we all reap the benefits of their attendance at the event. One of our church members recently said how many of you know six teenagers who want to go on this type of mission trip? I think that is a testament to our youth and how St. Paul's has affected their spiritual upbringing! Thank **YOU!** ~ Sandy Baber

### The Details

We have six youth and three adults from St. Paul's attending the Gathering. The youth are: Madison Baber, Brianna Murphy, Sam Jones, Benjamin Baber, Ryan Meadowcroft, & Gaige DuBois. The adults going are Meg Jones, Derek DuBois, and Sandy Baber. We will be joined by four from St. Ben's and four from Trinity, Taneytown. The cost per person for the trip:

- \$325 - Gathering registration
- \$185 - bus transportation arranged by LutheranHands
- \$150 – approximate lodging per person
- \$150 – approximate food costs per person
- \$810 - Total approximate cost per person

The group will leave the evening of Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> and travel overnight by charter bus to Detroit. On Wednesday, we will check into our hotel and have some time to see Detroit. That evening we will join 10's of 1,000's of youth from all over the United States at the Gathering Opening Worship at Ford Field. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday we will experience:

**Proclaim Community Day:** The Detroit Cobo Center will be our holy playground, a space for participants to engage and be immersed in the life and breath of the church, the community of God. Through a variety of mediums, such as art, music, technology, sports, ropes course, fellowship, fun and reflection, the Proclaim Community activities will call us to believe in and respond to the Good News of Jesus. Proclaim Community Day is centered on the Good News of Jesus on the cross. The entire Proclaim Community space will be designed with the cross literally and metaphorically in the center of all the activities. Walkways will extend in each direction from the cross, so youth are drawn into the cross and then sent out from the cross. These paths will start with a park where youth and adults can rest and reflect on what it means to be community in light of our journeys. Each park will focus on one aspect of community: building bridges, bearing burdens, breaking chains and bringing hope. The parks will help youth explore what Detroit and the Gospel of Mark have to teach about these aspects, and see how God is acting in their lives, churches and communities.

**Proclaim Story Day:** Just like you, God has a story. And believe it or not, just like your story, God's story is filled with highs and lows. God's story is a love story. The Gospel of Mark declares, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." The beginning of the Good News is Jesus! And this Good News is for all of us. As followers of Jesus, we are invited into this promise and sent to live out the rest of this story through discipleship. Proclaim Story Day builds on this message. Each synod will come together on an assigned day at a designated space for a time to reflect on God's story. Through storytelling, music, Bible study, interactive learning and worship, participants will dwell in God's story, begin to articulate their own story, engage each other's stories and be sent out to proclaim that Jesus is the Good News.

**Proclaim Justice Day:** Congregational groups will participate in Proclaim Justice, a day of service learning in the Detroit metropolitan area. All service learning projects are categorized into one of six key interest areas: housing, education, environmental sustainability, cultural immersion/arts, food/food justice, and care in communities. Participants will be serving in a variety of ways, including working side by side with Detroit students in day-camp programs, boarding up abandoned homes to provide safe neighborhoods, creating and maintaining urban gardens, creating murals, and cleaning up parks and vacant lots, all in an effort to beautify Detroit neighborhoods.

Finally, on Sunday morning all participants will again gather at Ford Field to have a closing worship service including communion. After the service we will board our charter bus and head home, arriving back home late Sunday night.

### How YOU Can Help get us to Detroit

A fund has been set up at church. Please consider giving to this fund, maybe a few dollars each week – it all adds up! Also, we have a GoFundMe site: <http://www.gofundme.com/stpaulyouth>. Please share this with family & friends. On February 6<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting Mario's Restaurant at church. All proceeds will go towards the Gathering. Also, during the month of February we will be selling Wolfgang candy. Watch our "Road to Detroit" display in the narthex that will show how much money we have raised. Most importantly, please pray for our youth and their adult leaders. Your prayers and support will help us reach our goal of getting to Detroit. **THANK YOU!** If you have any questions about the Gathering, please contact Sandy Baber.