



SAINT PAUL'S VOICE

May & June 2026

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In This Issue:

Worshipping Together
Page 2

Prayer List
Page 2

Church Happenings
Page 3

Celebrations!
Page 3

Marios
Page 7

Family & Youth
Page 10

Council Minutes
Pages 13

Church Calendar
Pages 16

Worship Leader Calendar
Page 18

“From the Pastor”

Reassurance

I am not sure if I should be writing this newsletter article on a day when my family and I are mourning the loss of my brother-in-law, Richard Fleeger. The truth is, it is hard to find the right words when you are not even sure what you are feeling. Perhaps you have known moments like this too—times when life turns everything upside down and you find yourself trying to navigate a new normal you never asked for. Life isn't easy. Sometimes it shifts without warning, and we are left trying to make sense of it, moments of unwanted or unexpected change.

In recent weeks, my sermons have touched on these very kinds of moments—moments that echo what we have been hearing in our scripture lessons. And in those moments, whether we realize it or not, we begin searching. Searching for something to hold onto. Searching for something that steadies us. Searching for comfort... searching for reassurance. Sometimes that reassurance comes in expected ways, through family and friends, a familiar song, or a quiet prayer. And sometimes it comes in unexpected ways, a kind word or a gentle smile, a cardinal sighting, or the presence of someone who simply sits with us in the silence.

What I am reminded of in this season is that our faith does not ask us to have everything figured out. It does not demand that we name every feeling or make sense of everything. Instead, it invites us to trust that even in the uncertainty, even in the grief, we are not alone. We are held by a God who meets us not only in our strength, but also in our sorrow. A God who does not rush us past our grief but walks with us through it. A God who continues to bring reassurance—not always by changing our circumstances, but by reminding us of God's presence within them.

I know these words do not fix anything or explain why difficult things happen. But I want you to know this: your feelings are real, and they matter. It is okay to question. It is okay to doubt. It is okay to feel angry or upset. God is big enough to hold all of it—to hold your pain and to embrace you in love. And so, if you find yourself in a season where life feels heavy—like it's falling apart or turned upside down—know that you are not alone in what you are facing or what you are going through.

Know that even in the silence... even in the questions... even in the moments when words fail... God is still present. Present in the people who surround you. Present in the small signs of grace that appear when you least expect them. Present in the quiet assurance that somehow, some way, you will make it through. I was reminded of this when my father passed away several years ago. In the midst of that grief, there were so many reminders of hope, many unexpected, small moments that held me, supported me, and carried me through that difficult season. And I believe those same reminders are still present for us today.

May these words bring you a measure of hope and encouragement in this season of Easter—a season that reminds us that even in the face of death, resurrection is at work... that even in the midst of sorrow, new life is still possible and that even when we cannot see the way forward, hope is never lost. Because we are Easter people—and the promise of resurrection is not just something we remember it is something we live.

In Easter hope,
Vicar Don



Worshiping Together

Please Join Us....

In-Person Worship

9:00am in the Sanctuary

Live & Recorded Worship Videos

[St Paul's YouTube](#)

[St. Paul's webpage](#)

[St. Paul's Facebook page](#)

Sunday School

Held during the service - after the children's message

Vicar Don's day off: Monday

Vicar Don's onsite office hours: Tuesday's from 12pm to 3pm



Those in Need of Prayer

Members:

Maidie Brown, Vivian Chenoweth, Carolyn Eichler, Carliana Folfas, Andy Geldmacher, Hannah Hilgartner, Denise Holtz, Nadine McGee, Bob & Gerri Martin, Jennifer Monroe, Michael Armacost, Pat Graff and Sherry Graff Zour, Gracie Grabowski, Carol Lewis, Kim Knight, Jackie Johnson, Carol Hilgartner, Laura Grabowski, and all homebound members.

Family & Friends:

Alicia Minor, Ms. Heather, Jerry & Jan Herfurth, Linda Nunan & family, Debb Webb, Bernie and Chris Harmon, Holly Hudson, Brandi Bubczyk, Rosemary Johnson, Nancy Rose, Geraldine Lewis, Todd Smith, Thad Martin, Carol Miller, Lisa Elway, Alex Strawbridge, Torie & Robert Osborne, Jim and Dana Hoyt, Linda Bassler, Mallory Martin, Gina Garcia, Eileen Harris, Dennis Lambert, Diana Guthall, Betty Gruebel, Connie Copenhaver, Mardell Alexander, Dennis Rhoten, Sandra Michaels, Linda Chenoweth, Marie Enderton, Karen Turek, Greg Parry, Pr Matt Schenning, Bonnie Bevard, those facing job loss, and those in broken relationships.

PRAYER: Gracious God, the strength of the weak and comfort of all who suffer, hear pleas for help for all who reach out in need. Especially I pray on behalf of those I lift up for your life-giving strength and comforting grace. In the name of Jesus, my Lord.

Celebrations!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

9 Michael Armacost
11 Tom Lewis
15 Joseph Geldmacher
31 Candy Sample

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

8 Tim & Maidie Brown
29 Jed & Colleen Geldmacher



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

9 Owen Howard
9 Tim McGee
12 Leon Fleming
12 Steve Howard
15 Ray Grabowski
20 Bob Knight
23 Thomas Battillo
23 Emily Niles

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

3 Michael & Beth Armacost
6 Kimberly & John Kelly, Jr.
12 Ray & Suzi Lyons

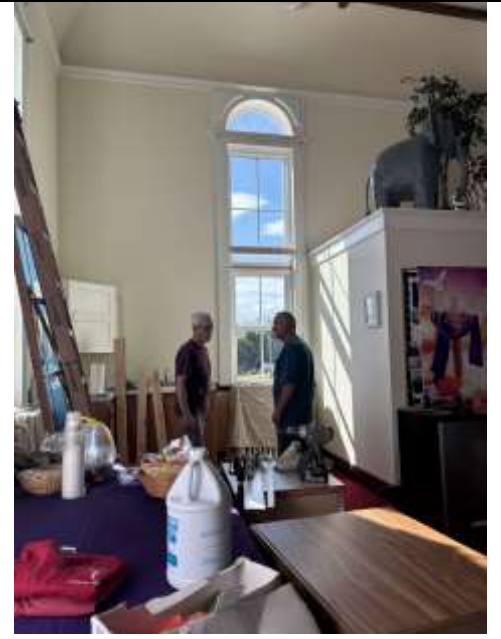
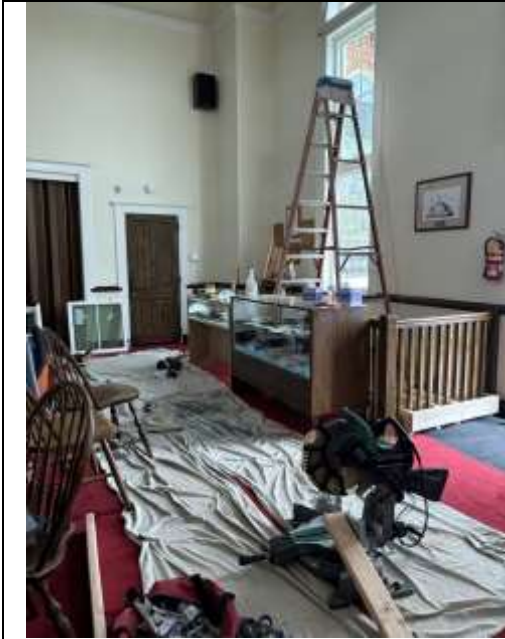
Congratulations!!

Congratulations to Jenn and Ben Baber on their beautiful wedding on April 18th at Corradetti Glassblowing Studio!
Wishing you a lifetime of love, happiness, and unforgettable moments together.



New Windows!

In April, our older windows were replaced with new energy-efficient ones, thanks to a Creation Care grant from the Synod. Thank you for everyone's hard work preserving the church for generations to come!



Outreach Planning Meeting

**JOIN US FOR AN OUTREACH
PLANNING MEETING**



**Do you have any creative ideas for events
that we can do together as a Parish
or even for our community.
Please join us.**

DATE: Saturday, May 2, 2026

TIME: 10:00 am

**LOCATION: Jerusalem Lutheran Church
1372 Bachmans Valley Road
Westminster, MD. 21158**

**CONTACT: Vicar Don Helfer for any questions
Text or Call: 240-815-1470 email: rlpvicar@gmail.com**

Outreach

WELCOME SPRING!! Outreach assembled and delivered 100 colorful bags to the Autumn Lake/Long View Nursing Home Residents. They were filled with tissues, lotion, chap stick, fuzzy socks and a cuddly stuffed animal. Thank you to all who helped deliver these goodies and brighten their day!



Flea Market Registration



WOW! Great start to our 2026 season! All 88 spaces were filled on April 18th with Vendors who had such a tremendous variety of treasures. Mowers, antiques, sports collectibles, toys, candles, coins, stamps, flags, RAVENS gear, etc. Truly something for everyone. Come join us on May 16th for the next adventure!

When attending our Flea Market, be sure to stop by our food grill. We serve hot dogs, hamburgers and Italian sausage along with snacks and a variety of drinks. The proceeds from our grill support our Outreach programs for the year. It's a great way to spend a Saturday roaming through our vendor tables and enjoying a tasty lunch! Hope to see you soon!

2026 Dates

May 16 * June 20 * July 18 * August 15 * September 19 * October 17

Cost: \$ 30.00 Lawn space, Pavilion space \$30.00
No Rain Date – Non-Refundable – Non Transferable
Time: 8 AM – 2 PM

To reserve your space, please complete our application and return it with your payment to:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
15773 Dover Rd
Upperco, MD 21155
Attn: **Flea Market**

Click link to download application for space: [Flea Market Application](#)

Lenten Soup & Conversations

In February and March, we met on Wednesday evenings for Lenten Soup & Conversation Suppers. Vicar Don and Pastor Roy focused on the mission of our Parish and our future together. Thank you to all who came out!



Mario's Thank You!!

The youth of St. Paul's would like to thank everyone who came out to Mario's on March 14th—we raised over \$1,300! 🎉

A huge thank you to all of the adults who helped make the event such a success, especially John & Kim Kelly for doing the cooking. We truly couldn't have done it without you!



Rent Our Pavilion

Great for
Graduation &
Birthday Parties!

For
Rent



Reserve Now!

for only \$100

Conveniently located off Rt 30

~
15773 Dover Rd
Upperco, MD 21155

Park is about two acres and consists mostly of lawn and mature trees. The pavilion is 36' x 60' with concrete floor and wood arch roof. There are ten 8' picnic tables made of galvanized metal and PT wood. The pavilion will hold 100 people.

Everything you need
for a great event!

- * Covered Pavilion
- * Picnic Tables
- * Grill
- * Lawn Space
- * Playground
- * Portable Bathrooms
- * On-site Parking

www.StPaulsUpperco.org
410-239-3456 - Pavilion@stpaulsupperco.org

Village Treasures Sale

Carroll Lutheran Village is holding their spring Village Treasures Sale!



Krug Chapel
Friday, May 15, 8am-6pm
Saturday May 16, 8am-Noon

Discounts given on most items Saturday.

Proceeds benefit the Benevolent Care Fund, assisting residents who have outlived their resources.

Come and see the wide range of items available. Open to the public.

CLV Blood Drive

CARROLL LUTHERAN VILLAGE

BLOOD DRIVE

WITH THE RED CROSS

MAY 5TH
11AM-5PM

Krug Chapel Auditorium

All donors will receive an eGiftcard from the Red Cross after donating

For more information or to sign up, visit:
redcrossblood.org

Contact Volunteer Coordinator
Emma Hale with any questions at
ehale@clvillage.org or 443-605-1011

Resurrection Parish Book Club

2026 Schedule

Date	Book	Host	Location	Genre
May 18th	The Radium Girls – Kate Moore			Non-Fiction
June 15th	The Nightingale – Kristen Hannah			Historical Fiction
July 20th	Remain – Nicholas Sparks, M. Night Shyamalan			Fantasy/Sci-Fi
August 17th	Confessions of a Grammar Queen – Eliza Knight			Historical Fiction
September 21st	The Dressmakers of Auschwitz - Lucy Adlington			Non-Fiction
October 19th	Well-Offed in Vermont – Amy Patricia Meade			October Read
November 16th	Great Big Beautiful Life – Emily Henry			Contemporary Fiction
December 21st	Comfort and Joy – Kristen Hannah			December Read

3rd Mondays - 6:30pm with light refreshment

Vacation Bible School

Make plans to join us for Vacation Bible School this summer!



Invite your friends and neighbors!

This is a Free event! All are welcome!

VBS - St. Paul, 9am -12pm

July 20 – 24, 2026

VBS - Immanuel

July 5 – 9, 2026

VBS & Christian Ed Committee

Be a part of this important community outreach!

Mark your calendars now!

We hope the kids have an unforgettable week while they discover *how God finds us and helps us in every challenge we face.*

In addition to monetary donations, we also need your time and talents to truly make VBS a success. Please talk with someone on the Christian Ed committee or the pastors to find out more.

There is plenty you can help with *before, during and after.* You are welcome to join our planning meetings too!

Please pass along the date/time information and registration form (coming soon) to family, friends and neighbors! Thank you.

VBS @ Immanuel: The evenings of Sun, July 5 through Thurs, July 9

VBS @ St. Paul's: The mornings of Mon, July 20 through Fri, July 24



Parish Youth Events



Children of God (CoG)

On the 2nd Friday of each month, our youth gather for a meal & fun activity together at 6:30pm at Immanuel.

Questions? Please contact Jeanne Swain at jeannes@jsconnor.com or 410-852-0882

2026 – CoG’s Event Schedule

May 8th	Mother’s Day Flowers and Cards
June 12th	Hashawha (start a little earlier)
July 10th	No COG’s – VBS
August 14th	Back Packs with Social Ministry or Swim Party – Dates TBD
September 11th	Mini golf (Whatever isn’t done in April)
October 9th	Pumpkin Carving or Cornmaze
November 13th	Thanksgiving dinner, Service project: Operation Christmas Child
December 11th	Christmas Party. Cards for Military & Collected Non-Perishables for Military

ELCA Youth Gathering 2027

June 28 - July 2, 2027

Minneapolis, MN

Every three years, thousands of high schoolers and their adult leaders from across the ELCA come together for the ELCA Youth Gathering. It's not just an event but a movement in which faith ignites and community comes alive. Through inspiring speakers, experiential learning and transformative connections, young people experience the church in bold, unforgettable ways. Each night, participants share a unique faith experience through high-energy worship and powerful storytelling. The Gathering is an opportunity to ask big questions, grow in faith and be part of something bigger than yourself.

Eligible youth: Those in 8th through 12th grade as of Fall 2026.

Imagine More | 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqObFk0pe-Y>

Be on the lookout for an email about an interest meeting hosted by Vicar Don and Sandy Baber.



Imagine More

To God – whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine. Ephesians 3:20

To every one of you attending the Gathering for the first time ...

To every one of you doubting that you are worthy of God's love ...

To every one of you who has called the church your spiritual home but still wanders in and out ...

To every one of you facing a life-altering change in the days ahead ...

To every one of you grieving the death of someone you love ...

To every one of you who believes God does not know your name ...

To every one of you experiencing the promise of resurrection in a new way in your life ...

To every one of you wondering if there is a place for you here ...

We invite you to imagine.

Imagine arms wrapped around you in love. Imagine a place for you at the table. Imagine a word of forgiveness shared with you. Imagine the sense of joy when you witness the unthinkable happening. Imagine a world waiting to hear your voice.

Imagine more.

Council Minutes

Highlights from the February Council Meeting

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Meeting

15773 Dover Rd. Upperco MD 21155

Tuesday February 17, 2026

Council Meeting

Call to order: 7:04PM

Members Present: Vicar Don, Mary Caine (2nd term/3rd year), Bob Knight (2nd term/1st year), Suzi Lyons (2nd term/2nd year), Carol Lewis(2nd term/2nd year), Colleen Geldmacher(2nd term/1st year), Heidi Ebler(1st term/1st year), Kelly Mountcastle(2nd term/1st year), Wade Hilgartner(1st term/3rd year)

Members Absent: Charles Baber (excused, 1st term, first year)

Prayer

Motion: To approve the council meeting minutes from 1/20/26 as amended. Motion by Ms. Lewis. 2nd by Ms. Ebler. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Outreach

(Could not get a good date for this last month)

* We will be assembling Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. In each kit will be the following: 1-bath towel, 3-bars of soap, 1-toothbrush, 1-comb and nail clippers.

* We will also be assembling School Kits. In each kit will be the following: 4-notebooks, 1-ruler, 1-pencil sharpener, 1-pair of scissors, 5-pencils, 5-pens, 1-box of crayons, 1-eraser and 1-drawstring bag.

These kits will be delivered to New Windsor. Shipping costs TBD.

Flea Market

* 2026 applications were emailed and mailed to all our existing vendors.

* So far, 197 spaces have been sold; 23 vendors paid for the entire season (\$210.00)

* \$ 5,910.00 has been deposited

* Website has been updated and Facebook announcement has gone out

* Letter has been delivered to BJ's asking for gift cards

* ASAP port-a-pots increased their prices again, but still the least expensive in this area.

2026 pricing:

1 Standard unit - \$ 95.00 per month

1 Handicap unit - \$ 195.00 per month

Prices include weekly cleanings done on Wednesdays

Units will be delivered April 17th and picked up October 16th

Property

- Nothing new to report except that the rug inside the side door has been replaced and the cost was covered by donations from church members

Parish Report

- Mary reviewed the minutes and happenings of the most recent parish council meeting.
- The next meeting will be in April

Old Business

- The annual congregation report was updated and submitted

Motion: To support the Carroll Lutheran School bingo at the \$250 Bronze Level Sponsorship. Motion by Ms. Geldmacher. 2nd by Ms. Lewis. All in favor. Motion carried.

Vicar Don requests approval for the purchase of a new box for the sign letters to make it easier when changing the sign

- **Motion:** To buy the new sign box as requested by Vicar Don. Motion by Ms. Caine. 2nd by Ms. Ebler. All in favor. Motion carried.

Highlights from the March Council Meeting

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Meeting
15773 Dover Rd. Upperco MD 21155

Tuesday March 11, 2026

Council Meeting

Call to order: 7:05PM

Members Present: Vicar Don, Charles Baber (1st term/1st year), Mary Caine (2nd term/3rd year), Bob Knight (2nd term/1st year), Suzi Lyons (2nd term/2nd year), Carol Lewis (2nd term/2nd year), Colleen Geldmacher (2nd term/1st year), Heidi Ebler (1st term/1st year), Kelly Mountcastle (2nd term/1st year), Wade Hilgartner (1st term/3rd year)

Members Absent: None

Devotion-taken from the Farm House, followed by prayer

Motion: To approve the council meeting minutes of 2/17/26. Motion by Ms. Lewis, 2nd by Ms. Caine. Discussion as follows: Ms. Lyons reported that she reviewed her notes and in the past the church has supported the Carroll Lutheran School bingo with a \$100 donation, not \$250 as noted in the minutes and discussed at the last meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Committees

Outreach:

- Welcome Spring bags to be delivered to Autumn Lake April 12th; NOT Palm Sunday.

- Bags will contain: Lotion, tissues, lip balm, fuzzy socks and a stuffed animal.

Flea Market:

- So far, 350 spaces have been sold; 37 vendors paid for the entire season (\$210.00)
- \$ 10,505.00 has been deposited
- Suzi will likely be needed more help than usual this year for personal reasons.

Property:








Windows will be installed next month as the weather warms up


New Business:

- Mar Lu Ridge
 - The second offering in March was for the MLR With Open Arms Capital Campaign. 2nd offerings usually bring in less than \$100.
 - Can we use on our of designated MLR funds to increase that donation?
 - **MOTION**: To donate \$250 in addition to the money from the second offering. Motion by Ms. Lyons. 2nd by Ms. Caine. Discussion followed. Vote taken. Motion failed.
 - **NEW MOTION**: To donate \$500, including the money brought in by the second offering. The money will come from the MLR Retreat fund. Motion by Mr. Knight. 2nd by Ms. Ebler. Vote taken. Motion carried.









May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 10:00am - Outreach Planning Meeting at Jerusalem
3 9am – Worship & Sunday School Healing Service Food Collection & Bring a Friend	4	5	6 12 – 3pm - Vicar Don in the office	7  12:30pm - Parish Grief Support Group at Immanuel	8  1:00pm - Prayer Ministry Meeting 6:30pm– CoG at Immanuel	9
Mother's Day 10 9am – Worship & Sunday School 2nd Offering – CLS & Fellowship Fellowship after worship	11	12	13	14	15 10am – 1pm - Vicar Don in the office	16  Flea Market – 8:00am
17 9am – Worship & Sunday School 10:30am - Confirmation Class at Immanuel	18  6:30pm - Parish Book Club	19  Church Council – 7:00pm	20	21  12:30pm - Parish Grief Support Group at Immanuel	22 10am – 1pm - Vicar Don in the office	23
24 9am – Worship & Sunday School	25 	26	27	28	29 10am – 1pm - Vicar Don in the office	30
31 9am - 5th Sunday Combined Worship Service - St Paul's Confirmation Sunday Last day of Sunday school & Potluck						



June



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				 12:30pm - Parish Grief Support Group at Immanuel	10am – 1pm - Vicar Don in the office	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9am – Worship Healing Service Food Collection & Bring a Friend	 6:30pm- Parish Book Club				10am – 1pm - Vicar Don in the office 1:00pm - Prayer Ministry Meeting 6:30pm– CoG at Immanuel	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9am – Worship 2nd Offering - VBS & Fellowship Fellowship after worship		 Church Council – 7:00pm		 12:30pm - Parish Grief Support Group at Immanuel	10am – 1pm - Vicar Don in the office	 Flea Market – 8:00am
Father's Day 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9am – Worship					10am – 1pm - Vicar Don in the office	
28	29	30				
9am – Worship						

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

15773 Dover Road
Hanover Pike & Dover Road
Upperco, Maryland 21155

www.StPaulsUpperco.org

410-239-3456

Pastors:
Vicar Don Helfer
The Rev. Susan Roy

Office: office@stpaulsupperco.org



Council Directory

PRESIDENT	Charles Baber
VICE PRESIDENT	Mary Caine
SECRETARY	Colleen Geldmacher
TREASURER	Kelly Mountcastle
MEMBER	Heidi Ebler
MEMBER	Wade Hilgartner
MEMBER	Bob Knight
MEMBER	Carol Lewis
MEMBER	Suzi Lyons

Parish Representatives

PARISH COUNCIL	Mary Caine
REPS	Sandy Baber
PARISH WORSHIP & MUSIC REP	Mary Caine
MUTUAL MINISTRY	Kelly Mountcastle



Committee Representatives

AUDIT	Charles Baber Kelly Mountcastle Susan Fleming
CEMETERY	Maddie Brown
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	Colleen Geldmacher
EVANGELISM/ FELLOWSHIP	Heidi Ebler
FINANCE	Kelly Mountcastle
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Charles Baber
FLEA MARKET	Suzi Lyons
HISTORIANS	Carol Lewis
HOSPITALITY	Colleen Geldmacher Susan Fleming Mary Caine
MUSIC & WORSHIP	
NEWSLETTER	Lori Teitelbaum
OUTREACH	Suzi Lyons
PARK	Bob Knight Wade Hilgartner
PROPERTY	Bob Knight Wade Hilgartner
SHEPHERDS	Colleen Geldmacher Laura Grabowski
STEWARDSHIP	Mary Caine Carol Lewis