



SAINT PAUL'S VOICE

September & October 2026

Volume 9, Number 5

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“From the Vicar”



My daughter, Maddy, is an elementary school teacher at New Franklin Elementary School in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Ever since she was little, her dream has been to become a kindergarten teacher. Recently, she was offered a kindergarten teaching position for this school year. Her dream is coming true, and as her dad, I couldn't be more excited for her!

During my most recent “staycation,” however, I discovered that Maddy's dream also came with a few assignments for Dad. I was “voluntold” that I would be helping with a project for her classroom and assisting with some of the setup.

Now, I have a great appreciation for the variety of gifts and talents with which God has blessed each of us, because classroom décor—and certainly teaching kindergarten—are not in my wheelhouse! Thankfully, they are gifts that my wife and daughter possess. It works so much better when they point me in the right direction, tell me what needs to be done, and I try my best to be helpful.

And while I may joke about being put to work, I have to remind myself that these moments are special. I get to watch my daughter live into something she has dreamed about since she was a child. Teaching isn't simply a job for Maddy; it is a passion. She wants to make a difference in the lives of children.

As she prepares her classroom, she isn't only thinking about decorations, bulletin boards, or where the desks and supplies belong. She is thinking about the children who will soon walk through her classroom door. She wants each child to feel welcomed, valued, and safe. She wants to create a place of belonging where children can learn, grow, ask questions, make mistakes, and discover new things.

In many ways, the church is also meant to be a classroom of grace—a place where people walk through the doors and know they belong. A place where questions are welcomed, mistakes are met with forgiveness, gifts are discovered, faith is nurtured, and people of every age continue growing together.

That got me thinking about **our** ABCs of faith. We may have graduated from kindergarten a long time ago, but as disciples of Jesus, we continually return to the foundations of who we are and whose we are.

St. Paul's, you don't simply practice your ABCs of faith—you live them out. I see it in the ways you care for one another, serve your neighbors, welcome others, share your gifts, and faithfully continue the ministry God has entrusted to you. From my point of view, it is inspiring, and it reminds me how truly blessed I am to be learning and growing in faith alongside you.

My prayer is that we never stop practicing those ABCs of faith together, and that generations yet to come will continue walking through these church doors and **discover** a place for them at the table of grace—a place where they are welcomed, where they belong, and where love and faith can grow.

So, St. Paul's, let's keep learning, loving, serving, and sharing God's Word together. And by God's grace, may there always be room at the table for someone new to come, experience the love of Christ among us, discover that they belong, and join us in learning and living out the ABCs of faith. *"Now I know my ABCs, next time won't you sing with me?"*

In faith, hope and love,
Vicar Don

Maddy's first day living her dream of Teaching Kindergarten! Congratulations Maddy!!!!



"Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing." — Psalm 100:1–2

The ABC's of the Bible

And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? **MICAH 6:8**

Be still and know that I am God. **PSALM 46:10**

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. **MATTHEW 11:28**

Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. **ISAIAH 41:10**

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving. **PSALM 100:4**

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.
EPHESIANS 2:8

God is love.
1 JOHN 4:8

Honor your father and mother...
EXODUS 20:12



Lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. **PSALM 121:1-2**

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” **JOHN 14:6**

Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his... **PSALM 100:3**

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. **MATTHEW 5:16**



My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. **2 CORINTHIANS 12:9**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. **HEBREWS 11:1**

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! **PSALM 118:1**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. **JOHN 14:27**

Quench not the Spirit. **1 THESSALONIANS 5:19**

Rejoice in the LORD always; again I will say, Rejoice.
PHILIPPIANS 4:4

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **MATTHEW 6:33**

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
PSALM 119:105

Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **ISAIAH 9:6**

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. **JOHN 14:12**

Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.
1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

Xamine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?
2 CORINTHIANS 13:5

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. **DEUTERONOMY 6:5**

Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today."

LUKE 19:5

Faith5

Here's an easy way to bring the Bible to life by working these verses into conversations at home!

- **SHARE** highs & lows
- **READ** a verse
- **TALK** about the verse
- **PRAY**
- **BLESS**



st. ANDREW'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

900 Stillwater Road • Mahtomedi, MN 55115
saintandrews.org

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 (starting 9/13)

Vicar Don's day off: Monday

Vicar Don's onsite office hours: Friday's from 10am to 1pm

Those in Need of Prayer

Members:

Maidie Brown, Vivian Chenoweth, Carolyn Eichler, Hannah Hilgartner, Denise Holtz, Nadine McGee, Bob & Gerri Martin, Pat Graff and Sherry Graff Zour, Carol Lewis, Kim Knight, Jackie Johnson, Carol Hilgartner, Laura Grabowski, Leon Fleming, Charles Baber, 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, Todd Smith, Thad Martin, Carol Miller, Lisa Elway, Alex Strawbridge, Torie & Robert Osborne, Jim and Dana Hoyt, Linda Bassler, Mallory Martin, Eileen Harris, Dennis Lambert, Diana Guthall, Betty Gruebel, Connie Copenhaver, Mardell Alexander, Dennis Rhoten, Sandra Michaels, Linda Chenoweth, Marie Enderton, Karen Turek, Bonnie Bevard, Carol Cahoon, Chastity, Chris Winner, Annie Sensabaugh, Karl Mauck, Clara Braun, Pr. Carl Myers, those facing job loss, and those in broken relationships.

PRAYER:

Gracious and loving God, we lift before you all those on our prayer list and all who are in need of your care. Bring healing to those who are ill, strength to those who are weary, comfort to those who are grieving, and peace to those who are anxious or afraid. Surround them with your loving presence, and give wisdom and compassion to all who care for them. Remind each one that they are never alone, but are held always in your grace and love, and held in the hearts and prayers of this congregation. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Celebrations!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6 Gerri Martin
8 Jay Carmichael
10 Emmy Neuheisel
10 Cooper Armacost
11 Brad Mountcastle
12 Tim Brown
12 Bob Martin
16 Sandy Baber
16 Wade Hilgartner
17 Patti Schunk
18 Rachel Murphy
29 Carlana Folfas

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

7 Bri & Brett Murphy
10 Leon & Susan Fleming
18 Brad & Kelly Mountcastle
21 Robin & John Lowe



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Carolyn Eichler
8 Mary Caine
10 Jayme Folfas
12 Kim Knight
15 Vivian Chenoweth
17 Colleen Geldmacher
23 Matthew Moore
26 Andy Geldmacher
29 Kimberly Kelly

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

6 Wade & Carol Hilgartner
9 Jack & Patti Schunk
26 Charles & Sandy Baber

Rally Day Celebration!

Join us on September 13th immediately following worship for a Potluck picnic and Rally Day celebration!

Please bring a dish to share if you are able. The church will provide chicken and water.

There will be crafts and games for everyone. Bring your favorite board game if you want. Come and join in the fun and fellowship!!



Men's Fall Dinner Men - October 26th



Men's Fall Dinner Men - join us on Monday, October 26th at 6:30pm at Carroll Lutheran Village.

Please contact Leon Fleming with your reservations or any questions.

Trunk or Treat - November 1st



Please join us after church on Sunday, November 1st for Trunk-or-Treat!

Please decorate your trunk and hand out candy.

We will play games and do crafts.

All are welcome!

See Susan Fleming for more information.

The Pastor Mel Scholarships Awards

The Pastor Mel Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's church scholarship fund.

- * Samantha Grace Grabowski
- * Rachel Kathleen Mountcastle
- * Jackson Thomas Armacost
- * Christopher Augustine Geldmacher

Each recipient will be awarded a \$250.00 scholarship to support their continued education.



Congratulations to each recipient!!!

Outreach

Outreach Ministries Updates

- * We continue to collect used eyeglasses, sunglasses and cases for the Lions Club. We recently made a very large donation through the NC Senior Center! Thanks to all who contribute to this project.
- * We delivered 20+ cases of food to local food pantries--NESAP and Immanuel. Please consider food donations to the pantry of your choice. School lunch box items are especially needed right now.
- * Personal Care Pkgs. And Back to School Backpacks (24 each) were assembled and delivered to Shepherd Staff for distribution.
- * Our food grill is a GREAT place for lunch when you visit our monthly flea markets! Stop by for a burger, hot dog or Italian sausage, drinks and snacks!



Flea Market



Our monthly flea markets continue to be a very popular community event! We have 88 spaces to rent each month and most months are sold out! Let us know if you're interested in renting a lawn space or pavilion space (\$30/month). Fleamarket@stpaulsupperco.org

So far, we've hosted nearly 400 vendors with 130 already registered for September and October! Come on out and browse our vendor booths; it's a fun time and you're sure to find some little treasure.

2026 Dates

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](#)



September is SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

• *You Are Not Alone. There Is Hope. Help Is Available.* •

September is a time to raise awareness, offer hope, remember those we have lost, and remind those who are struggling that they do not have to walk through difficult times alone.

Together, we can bring hope, share support, and save lives.



If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available.

CALL or TEXT 988

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Talk.
Reach Out.
Find Hope.



WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

— *September 10* —

On this day, we remember those whose lives have been lost to suicide, surround their loved ones with our prayers, and offer our support to those who may be struggling.

*You are loved.
You are valued.
Your life matters.*



NATIONAL MOMENT OF SILENCE AT 1:00 PM EST

On Sept. 10, NAMI CEO Dan Gillison will lead a National Moment of Silence across NAMI's social media channels.

Join us by following, sharing, and showing your support.



LIGHT A CANDLE AT 8:00 PM

On Sept. 10, light a candle near your window to show support for survivors and in memory of lost loved ones.

AWARENESS COLORS



Teal represents hope, healing, and recovery.



Purple represents dignity, spiritual health, and perseverance.

On Sept. 10 (Awareness Day), wear yellow and orange clothing or ribbons to show support, symbolize hope, and spark conversations.



ST. PAUL'S INVITATION

SEPTEMBER 10 • 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM

In observance of World Suicide Prevention Day, St. Paul's Lutheran Church will be open from **1:00 PM to 9:00 PM** for anyone who would like to come and light a candle in **honor or memory** of someone whose life has been touched by suicide.

♥ Come for a few quiet moments of remembrance, prayer, and hope.

All are welcome.

AWARENESS DAY – SEPTEMBER 10

Wear yellow and orange clothing or ribbons to show support, symbolize hope, and spark conversations.



Yellow: Represents hope, light, and the courage to reach out for help.



Orange: Stands for strength, awareness, and a collective call to action.

Together, we can bring hope and make a difference.



*"The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it."*

— John 1:5



As a community of faith, may we continue to be a place of compassion and hope—where people know they are not alone and where asking for help is always welcomed.



Rent Our Pavilion

Great for
Graduation &
Birthday Parties!

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.

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



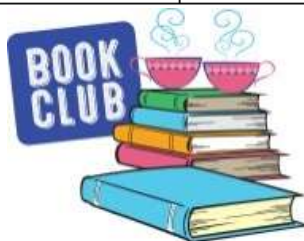
Everything you need
for a great event !

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

Resurrection Parish Book Club

2026 Schedule

Date	Book	Host	Location	Genre
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



Thank you to everyone who helped make VBS happen at Immanuel (July 5 – July 9) and St. Paul's (July 20 – 24). We had a combined 42 registered kids. This fun, successful community outreach was only possible because of the many volunteers who put so much time and effort into it.

We had a combined total of 45 volunteers, in a variety of areas, who helped: plan, decorate, teach, photograph, provide audio and video presentations, feed the groups, and more!

A very special thank you to Susan Fleming and Brittany Pomales as the VBS Co-Coordinators. This definitely would not have happened if they hadn't stepped up to take on this role.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the VBS fund and offered their prayers!

This may be one of the few times that a child hears the story of God's love for them. Thank you for providing that opportunity.



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

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



Youth Ministry Events 2026-2027



NOV
20-22

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL EVENT

(Grades 6-12)

Skycroft Retreat Center, Middletown, MD

MAR
13-14

SEEKERS

(Grades 3-5)

Mar-Lu-Ridge, Jefferson, MD

APR
16-18

MIDDLE SCHOOL IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

(Grades 6-8)

A weekend opportunity to experience what faithful living may look like by interacting with community leaders

JUN 28-
JUL 2

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

(Grades 8-12)

Minneapolis, MN

www.YoungFaithMatters.com



2027 ELCA Youth Gathering “Imagine More”

June 28-July 2, 2027

Minneapolis, MN

Registration opens Oct. 21st

Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE)- June 27-28

The Table: for youth living with disabilities and their caregivers-
June 27-28

Council Minutes

Highlights from the June Council Meeting

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Meeting
15773 Dover Rd. Upperco MD 21155
Tuesday June 16, 2026
Council Meeting

Call to order: 7:02PM

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), Kelly Mountcastle (2nd term/1st year), Wade Hilgartner (1st term/3rd year)

Members Absent: Heidi Ebler (1st term/1st year)

Prayer

MOTION: To approve the minutes from 5/19/26. Motion by Ms. Caine, 2nd by Ms. Lyons. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Property:

- Who confirms if the pavilion rentals need water or electric? Lori should ask if its needed when they put in their application. Bob offered to be the one to unlock it all if needed.

Parish:

- The worship leader rotation schedule has been revised with hopes to please all churches.
- Next parish council meeting is 8/19.
- No real budget for 2027 yet

New Business

- Pastor Mel Scholarship applications are due by 6/30. The committee will consist of the current pastor (vicar), council president, and a congregation member yet to be decided on.

Motion: Motion to adjourn meeting. Motion by Ms. Geldmacher. 2nd by Mr. Hilgartner. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Next Meeting: July 21, 2026

Highlights from the July Council Meeting

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Meeting
15773 Dover Rd. Upperco MD 21155
Tuesday July 21, 2026
Council Meeting

Call to order: 7:04PM

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), Kelly Mountcastle (2nd term/1st year), Wade Hilgartner (1st term/3rd year)

Prayer

MOTION: To approve the minutes from 6/16/26. Motion by Ms. Caine, 2nd by Ms. Lewis. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Property

- AC is fixed, but it did not fix the issue with the alarm being triggered
- Look into cancelling the alarm on the units
- Fire alarm system is not monitored. Will look into monitoring services
- Water heater will need to be preemptively replaced soon. Wade to explore options.

Parish

- Nothing to report

Old Business

- Pastor Mel Scholarship
 - All 4 applicants were awarded \$250.00
 - Applicants were asked to attend service to be recognized in front of the congregation

New Business

- Susan Fleming would like to address council at the August meeting regarding the future of Sunday school

MOTION: Motion to adjourn meeting. Motion by Ms. Lewis. 2nd by Mr. Hilgartner. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:24 PM

Next Meeting: August 18, 2026



September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
				Resurrection Parish Grief Support Group at Immanuel - 12:30pm	10am – 1pm - Vicar Don in the office	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9am – Worship Healing Service Food Collection & Bring a Friend				1pm – 9pm - World Suicide Prevention Day 	10am – 1pm - Vicar Don in the office 1:00pm -Prayer Ministry Meeting 6:30pm - (CoG) Youth Group	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9am – Worship Sunday School Rally Day & Potluck 		 Council Meeting - 7:00pm		Resurrection Parish Grief Support Group at Immanuel - 12:30pm	10am – 1pm - Vicar Don in the office	 Flea Market – 8:00am – 2:00pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9am – Worship Sunday School	 Parish Book Club - 6:30pm				10am – 1pm - Vicar Don in the office	
27	28	29	30			
9am – Worship Sunday School						



October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				Resurrection Parish Grief Support Group at Immanuel - 12:30pm	10am – 1pm - Vicar Don in the office	
4	5		7	8	9	10
9am – Worship Healing Service Food Collection & Bring a Friend Sunday School					10am – 1pm - Vicar Don in the office 1:00pm -Prayer Ministry Meeting 6:30pm - (CoG) Youth Group	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9am – Worship 2nd Offering – United Seminary Students & Fellowship Sunday School				Resurrection Parish Grief Support Group at Immanuel - 12:30pm	10am – 1pm - Vicar Don in the office	 Flea Market – 8:00am – 2:00pm
18	19	20	22	21	22	23
9am – Worship & Sunday School	 Parish Book Club - 6:30pm	 Council Meeting 7:00pm			10am – 1pm - Vicar Don in the office	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9am – Worship & Sunday School	 6:30 - Men's Fall Dinner at CLV				10am – 1pm - Vicar Don in the office	 Happy Halloween

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
HISTORIAN	Carol Lewis
HOSPITALITY	Colleen Geldmacher Susan Fleming Mary Caine
MUSIC & WORSHIP	Lori Teitelbaum
NEWSLETTER	Suzi Lyons
OUTREACH	Bob Knight Wade Hilgartner
PARK	Bob Knight Wade Hilgartner
PROPERTY	Colleen Geldmacher Laura Grabowski
SHEPHERDS	Mary Caine Carol Lewis
STEWARDSHIP	