St. Paul's News for the Week of November 17, 2024

Lectionary 33, Proper 28 (Year B)

During November, the scripture readings lead the worshipping assembly to visions of the last day, to a reflection of the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Some religious people see only panic and doom in the future. They dwell in the land of fear. The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer offers another view: the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. It is a bold confession of faith in God, who is our refuge and our strength. Such a hope, according to Hebrews, leads us to encourage one another in love and good deeds.

Building Security

Please do not leave doors unlocked and unattended at any time. Please make sure the back door is closed behind you when you enter or leave the building. Ushers will be attending the back door on Sunday until ten minutes after our worship begins. If you arrive after that time, you will need to enter by the front door.

St. Paul's New Pastor

The Reverend Cris Frigm was extended the call to be our new pastor on Sunday, November 3. Highly recommended by the Call Committee and Congregational Council, he received a unanimous vote in favor (102-0) from the members present at the congregational meeting held after worship on All Saints Sunday. Pastor Cris will begin his ministry here at St. Paul's on Monday, December 9, and his first Sunday with us will be the Third Sunday of Advent, December 15.

Pastoral Concerns

Moving forward until our new pastor starts mid-December, Pastors Greg Johnson and Tara Magoon will be available to handle pastoral concerns. You can reach Pastor Greg by calling 302-563-5150, or if he is not available, Pastor Tara by calling Grace Lutheran Church, 302-239-6481.

Flute Concert Sunday

The First State Flute Choir will perform their fall concert this Sunday, November 17, at 4 PM here in the sanctuary of St. Paul's. "Of Mountains, Lakes, and Mischief" will include repertoire inspired by the sounds of nature. While free and open to the public, a freewill offering will be collected to benefit the Red Cross disaster relief fund.

Thanksgiving Basket Drive

In just three weeks it will be Thanksgiving and time for our annual Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center Thanksgiving collection. On Sunday, November 24, please bring donations of frozen turkeys, canned vegetables, boxed mashed potatoes, and stuffing to the Fellowship Hall for sorting, packing, and transporting to Hilltop. We are also accepting cash and will do the shopping for you! Please see Janet or Eric Mease for more information.

Farewell Reception

Pastor Barbara concludes her interim ministry here at St. Paul's this Sunday morning. Please greet her after worship at a coffee social in Fellowship Hall. She has served this congregation well for almost a year and a half and we want to show her our collective gratitude at this gathering.

Membership Ministry New Photo Directory

The Membership Ministry Team is excited to begin phase two of the process of creating a new membership directory. During the month of November, we invite you to have your photo taken in the blue room just before and after the 10 AM service. Or you have the option of submitting your favorite headshot of you as a single, a couple, or a family. The back table in the narthex has a box labeled St. Paul's Directory Information Sheets. Please pick up a sheet and instructions on how to update your information, and when completed, return it to the box. For questions or to submit a photo, contact Linda Grund at lgrund923@gmail.com or 302-738-5491.

Update from St. Paul's School Board of Directors

We last reported in September that we had to reopen the search for an Early Education Administrator for St. Paul's School when the new hire resigned her position after two weeks into her tenure. We initiated another search, and although we believed we had a viable candidate, the search was ultimately unsuccessful. We had established a timeline to achieve critical milestones that must have been met for us to be positioned to offer classes beginning in January. Those deadlines passed without filling the Administrator position, so we have been compelled to further postpone reopening the school. We will not be in a position to offer classes beginning in January as we had hoped. But the Board has not lost its resolve. At our board meeting this week, we set our sights on initiating an aggressive recruiting campaign in March 2025 with the goal of having an administrator in place by May so we can open for classes in August. We ask you to continue to pray for success in hiring an administrator and staff, in order to offer classes again in Fall, 2025. We firmly believe that God will send us, in God's own time, new leadership for our school! Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Youtheran Holiday Gathering

The Young Lutherans of the Delmarva North Conference are having a Christmas tree lighting on Sunday, December 1, at 5 PM at Bethel Lutheran Church, located at 24 Cameron Road in North East, Maryland. Questions? Contact Pastor Zachary Wright (pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com).

Adult Forum

Next Sunday, November 24, concludes our series, "A Messy Transition: The Reformation in British North America." Syl Woolford will lecture on African American churches such as Barratt's Chapel and St. George's. Come to the Blue Room at 8:30 AM.

Here and Beyond

Please prayerfully and carefully consider your pledge for "HERE" in 2025 - and "BEYOND", in the form of an Endowment gift. Then return it in the next few weeks. Why the urgency? We'd like to be able to tell our new pastor that we've reached our goal prior to their arrival - a "Welcome!" gift for them - and us - to celebrate the start of their pastorate.

We are happy to report that as of November 6, we have fifty-one pledges total with \$266,380 going to the HERE campaign and another \$13,970 for BEYOND.

https://stpaulsnewarkde.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Pledge-Card-Sept 2024-1-1.pdf

Newark Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

The annual Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving will be held on Tuesday, November 26, at 7 PM. The host congregation will be the Newark United Church of Christ, located at 300 Main Street in Newark. This year's theme, "Holy Human Interruption," refers to the faith community coming together to "interrupt injustice" as we stand in the gap for each other and speak up for human rights—all within the overarching umbrella of gratitude.

Holy Hike

Outdoor adventurers of any age are invited to hike next on Sunday, December 15, after worship, at the Judge Morris Estate. The 4.5 mile trail, located at 76 Polly Drummond Hill Road in Newark, is wooded and mostly flat. Questions? Contact hike leader Linda Grund at 302-824-5780 or lgrund923@gmail.com.

Brewing Theology

Fun-loving adults, age twenty-one and over, are invited to join in conversation and laughs while enjoying a beverage Wednesday, December 11. Join us at 7 PM at the home of Rick and Kris Cassar, located at 438 Pierce Run in Newark, for fun and fellowship.

Books and Banter

St. Paul's avid readers will not meet in November. Instead, we'll gather for conversation and fellowship at Sue Wallden's home on Wednesday, December 11 at 1 PM. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Sue at <u>slwallden@gmail.com</u> by Monday, December 9.

Upcoming Books:

December 11 "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles (*Second Wednesday this month*). January 22 "I am Malala" by Malala Yousafzai (*Back to fourth Wednesday*).

Worship at Home and Away

When we cannot be together in person, we can *still* hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Therefore, we offer the 10AM service through simultaneous live streaming to St. Paul's Facebook page. The service is then posted to the website, <u>www.stpaulsnewarkde.org</u> and can be found in the upper right-hand corner of the home page, along with a digital copy of this worship folder, as well as a copy of the sermon.

In Response to God's Love

We offer our lives, our gifts, our abilities, and our material goods for ministry and mission. For those worshipping at home, we ask you to remember your pledges and to continue making your offering available by mail or online contribution. A QR Code is included in this worship folder which will take you directly to our *Tithe.ly* online giving page. Use the drop-down menu of funds. NOTE: Please consider covering the fees associated with using *Tithe.ly* when you make your online donation.

WISH TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH? THEN SCAN THIS QR CODE

