

St. Paul's by-the-Sea

Weekly news & updates

October 20, 2023



Pastor Jill's October 15th Sermon on Stewardship

I'm going to transition us here because, interestingly enough, we know that the scripture always teaches us what we need to hear, and the gospel (Matthew 22:1-14) this week is talking about how we structure our lives, how important it is to show up fully in our lives to do the work of building God's Kingdom. And we as a church community know that this is an important thing to think about. We have all already answered the call to structure our lives in faith. And we come here to do that. But we know that we are asked to do more than answer that initial call. One of the ways we build the kingdom of God here on earth is through our church community. And this is the time of year when we received the invitation to decide about what our spiritual practice of stewardship will be for the next year.

Stewardship, what we give of ourselves to God's church - what we give of our money, what we give of our time, what we give of ourselves - stewardship, is a spiritual practice. Sometimes we think of stewardship as only the amount of money we give to church. Yes, the financial aspect is important – it costs hundreds of thousands of dollars for God's church to exist and carry out God's mission in the world. But it is so much more about our spiritual health than only saying - *Well, I give money*. It is more so about a decision to structure our lives in a way that puts God first and puts giving to God first. It is a decision to give up control in a way. To say - when I look at all that I have, material things, and my talents and my blessings, I want to acknowledge that all of it is a gift from God. And therefore I know that all of it is for God's direction and use. And so whatever I have - money, time, energy, *-first* I will give back to God...not the leftovers, not if I have extra time, or extra money, or a day off... but God has asked me to

structure my life so that He is first. So, *first* we give to God.

As people of faith, giving to God means giving to God's church. And then the church faithfully utilizes that money and talents that are offered to carry out God's mission. It is an act of great selflessness that is being asked of us. To say.... Here is my money for this month and *first* I think of God and what I will offer toward God moving in the world. Or, when I think of my time for this month, *first* can I commit to offering myself for God's use as God moves in the world. When we begin to think in such a way, something realigns in us. Everything else falls behind God. We show trust in God, that God will guide God's church to use our pledge and to welcome our talents in whatever way God directs. It is not in our control; it is God's.

In this way, we as a faith community participate in God's church moving in the world. And we are all invited to be part of what God is creating here. This year, we are asking everyone to imagine making bread - making a loaf of bread, all the many steps and all the many ingredients that are called for. The video above invites each of us to reflect on how we can be part of what this church offers the world. What will you give? What will you offer for God's direction and use? Because when we sit down to God's table, we want to arrive with our life structured properly and faithfully. And when we as God's church move in the world, we want everyone to be a part of it.

Click here for a pledge form to print, complete and either put in the offering plate on Sunday or mail to the church office.



Names for Remembrance on All Saints' Day

Sunday, November 5th is All Saints Day and we will be remembering loved ones and printing their names in the bulletin. We will be remembering all our departed loved ones, not just those who have died in the past year. Please submit your names to Jody by October 30th. Don't forget to include your name as well.

Submit Names



On Sunday, October 29, 2023, 11:30am, come to St. Peter's Lutheran Church Community Life Center at 10301 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, for the MUSIC, FOOD & FUN of OKTOBERFEST! The menu includes: Sour Beef & Real Dumplings, Brats & Sauerkraut, Hot Dogs, String Beans, Desserts, Ice Tea, Coffee, Water or BYO Beer or Wine (No hard liquor allowed). The cost is a \$25 donation per person.

PLEASE RSVP TO THE CHURCH AT amy.plcoc@comcast.net OR 410-524-747

October 19-22 - Sunfest & O.C.toberfest

October 22 - Bilingual Holy Eucharist Service

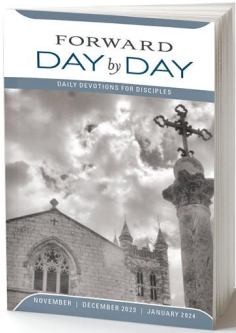
October 22 - Worship Committee Meeting

October 25 - Good, Good, Morning Prayer at 10am

October 29 - Lay Leader Sunday

October 29 - Vestry Meeting after Coffee Hour

October 29th - Octoberfest at St. Peter's Lutheran in OC



The November 2023 - January 2024 edition of the Forward Day By Day devotionals are in the back windows of the church. Please help yourself to a copy and feel free to take one to a friend.

[Click here](#) for a PDF of the 10/22/2023 bilingual bulletin.

[Click Here](#) to watch the 10/15/2023 Holy Eucharist, Rite II service.



Prayer List

Please keep those on our prayer list in your daily prayers.

Robbie Whittington Joyce, Cindy Dreslin, Kyle Harmon, Shirley Connor, Jose Cabrera, Ryan Fischer, Katlyn, Letty Trimper Hurst, Fr. Joe Rushton, Connie Mayers, Doug Dryden, Brian Friedman, Grace, Randy Hastings, Frank Candeloro, Jr., John Seward, Stephanie Hill, Douglas Allan, Yvetta Henry Tull, Jean Charles, Jimmy Farley, Alex Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Larry Lorton, The Lecates Family, The People of Ukraine, Michael Hallett, Hannah Johnson, Hugh Smith, Ralph Hastings, Frank Avallone, Mary Wright, Andy Diaz, Alan Farley, Liana Wallman, Susan Lewis, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Christine Zellner, Brian, Nicoyia, Tom Belle, Aaron Call, Christine Bauerdorf, Victims of the Hawaiian Wildfires, Lynn Anstatt, Jim Burton, Peggy Hartman, Kathy Jersin, Mary Mitchell, Wendy O'Donoghue, Christina Hartman, Patrick O'Malley, Chris Ellis, David Twining, Corey Bowman

[Click here to view the Parish Calendar](#)



St. Paul's by-the-Sea | 302 N. Baltimore Ave, Ocean City, MD 21842

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