



Pastor's Message

My Beloved,

I hoped you were able to do some soul searching during our Lenten journey. We traveled the path that Our Savior did so many years ago. We saw him teach, we saw him betrayed, we saw him arrested, we saw him beaten and crucified. We finally saw him rise from the dead ... took time to visit His Disciples (twice) and then ultimately ascend into heaven to be with Our father. We will still be visiting a great deal of these concepts over the next many weeks of Easter and we will conclude this journey on Pentecost Sunday (June 9th) where we will be confirming our confirmands at a special service. I pray, that through this journey, you came to an appreciation of what Jesus has endured out of love for us.

We have a busy next few months ahead of us. We are planning and voting on some major sanctuary renovations at the voters meeting on May 19th after the 1030 service. We have the Sunday School visiting the residents of the Charlotte Hall Veterans home on May 26th. We also have VBS coming up from the 24th of June through the 28th. I will also be conducting a new members class starting sometime in May or early June. There will only be one service on June 9th for our confirmation celebration. As you can see ... There is plenty happening over the next couple of months. I pray that you choose to take part in this energized spirit that is circulating here at St. Paul's. I have the best job in the world and Tracie, and I are so happy for the love that you all have shown us. We are truly blessed to be counted as a part of the St. Paul's family.

Blessings to you all,
Pastor Gary

News from the President John Bowling Sr. :

Thank you to everyone who came out to help at last month's Work Day. We had a great turn out and got a lot done. It is always so wonderful to see how great the fellowship is as we all work together on our work days! A special thanks to the kids in the Venturing Crew and their leaders for doing such a great job cleaning up all the cans that were in the pavilion area.

We also want to welcome Mrs. Audrey Shipman as our new administrative assistant in the church office. She came on board during one of the busiest times of the year and we can't say thank you enough for her hard work getting everything ready for all of our Easter services. God bless you Audrey and welcome to St. Paul's!

Coming up this month is our bi-annual Voter's meeting on Sunday May 19th immediately following the 10:30 AM worship service. Brad Clements will be sharing a plan for the renovation of our church sanctuary so please plan on attending as we want the input of the members of St. Paul's so we can all be on board with future plans.

In His Service,

John Bowling President



Message from the Buildings and Grounds Council Member:

I would like to thank everyone who turned out for the spring cleanup day on April 13th. A special thanks to John and Brenda Bowling for coordinating this effort. The building and grounds were ready for the Easter celebration, thanks to a caring congregation. During the Spring Voters Meeting, a list of proposed building and grounds improvements will be presented. This list will be used to propose to the congregation a strategic planning for future improvements to the building and grounds of our church.

Sunday School News



Christian Education Report

Greetings from the Sunday School! I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter celebrating the resurrection of our Savior with their families. Check out the Sunday School bulletin board in the hallway to see some pictures of the fun our Sunday School children and their guests had during our Easter activities at St. Paul's.

Hard to believe that we are now focusing on the last 6 weeks of our Sunday school year before we break for a month to focus on Vacation Bible School from June 24th thru June 28th and our "Super Summer Sunday School" during the month of July! Over the past months we have been learning to follow Jesus' examples and teachings when it comes to our relationships with others. We have tried to put into practice what we have learned by sharing the love of God with those around us in many different ways.

We may only have a few weeks left in this SS year, but we have a lot planned. We will be busy using our creativity to make gifts for the residents as we get ready for our next visit to the Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home on **Sunday, May 26th**. We will be meeting at church once again at 1:15 PM and going over together to help with the service that Pastor Gary will be leading.

Sunday, June 2nd will be our last day of Sunday School until July. The children have been practicing some special music to share with everyone during the 10:30 AM worship service on June 2nd. Following the service all are invited to a Congregational Potluck picnic. Thrivent is once again helping us with our picnic by supplying the main meat, drinks, some fun games and some extra helping hands. Please bring a side dish and or a dessert to share! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board so we can get an estimate of the amount of food to purchase. We are looking forward to another day of fun and fellowship with all of you. Please pray for sunshine, as the last 3 picnics for the kids have been very rainy!

Other future dates.....

June 24th thru June 28th - St. Paul's Vacation Bible School's "Roar" will take place under the leadership of Meredith Johnson.

July 7th, 14, 21 and 28th -Our "**Super Summer Sunday School**" **will be held**. We will be all be meeting together in the main room of the Education Building this summer to learn about some of Jesus' parables and miracles through a lot of fun activities, crafts, music and snacks. Circle your calendar so you don't miss any of the fun!

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8

Thanks for Sharing your Children with us! Brenda Bowling.

Mission and Ministries

What's Going On?

May 2019

The generous spirit of St Paul's congregation is evident in all the giving that is shared with our community. Christmas in April is going on April 27th and Bob Beverage is the House Captain organizing very needed repairs for a neighbor in Hollywood. This elderly lady is in need of a new bathroom and a new floor and support beams. The renovations being done for free for her will be life changing and allow her to continue to live safely in her own home. Thank you to Frank Rappa for volunteering to assist with the repairs and to Kelly Gray and Sandy Frerichs for assisting with the breakfast our congregation is providing. All of these volunteers together make such a big difference.

St. Paul's Shares

Mission and Ministries Chair
Lois Beverage

VBS



Come join us this summer for a ROARing good time!

Sign up for Vacation Bible School is now open! Go to www.stpaulssomd.com and click on the ROAR icon. We are also looking for volunteers. If you or your child who is 6th grade and up, would like to volunteer, please go to St. Paul's website and register by clicking on the ROAR icon. ALL volunteers must be registered on our VBS website!

If you have any questions, please contact Meredith Johnson at 301-653-0792 or meredith.s.johnson@gmail.com



Stewardship

Two of the most highly watched sporting events on television are not when teams or athletes are competing against each other; rather they involve the drafting of players for the National Football League (NFL) and the National Basketball Association (NBA) teams. And if you haven't noticed, the NFL draft is currently taking place. For many hours fans of professional football are watching intently to see whom their favorite teams will draft.

Most of us won't be drafted by professional football or basketball teams, but, as Christians, we are receiving a greater calling. We, in essence, are God's first pick draft choices. *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit"* (John 15:16). God has made us part of His team. We were not chosen by God because we are successful in our careers, are great athletes or wealthy. God chooses ordinary people to do extra-ordinary things. *"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to mollify the things that are"* (1 Corinthians 1:27-28).

Through faith, we understand that we are among the foolish and weak through whom God carries on his life-saving work. *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all surpassing power is from God and not from us"* (2 Corinthians 4:7). God entrusts us – clay jars – with this treasure – the Gospel. Even though we are frail and unworthy of our tasks, God has chosen us to carry His message of love to the world. As humble people of faith, we are empowered by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He transforms and molds us. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). It is God who does the drafting and then changing. Through faith, we will stay on God's team, and we will bear the fruit that He calls us to bear.

The professional athletes who are drafted are expected to perform. They are paid large sums of money to do very athletic things. As God's chosen people, we may not receive large compensations, and we don't get a super bowl ring, however we do get something far more valuable than all that – Eternal Life with our Lord! Therefore, we should be eager to use our lives and resources in God's service for His glory. Paul wrote, *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:10). When we give faithfully and generously, we demonstrate God's redeeming grace that is alive and well within us. Because of God's grace, we are empowered to give. Our giving is a spiritual response to God out of gratitude for using His 'first round pick' to choose us. Through the giving of our first and best to the Lord, we worship and honor him.

So the question is, as you scrutinize your favorite NFL team's new picks, are you meeting the expectations of being on God's team? Are you sharing His love and the gifts he has given you? Are you demonstrating gratitude for being on his team? If you hesitate to answer yes, the good news is that St. Paul's has numerous ways for you to worship and honor the Lord. Participate in our summer Vacation Bible School program, volunteer to teach Sunday school or be a part of the Altar Guild. Get involved in any of the Mission and Ministry projects we have going on or increase your weekly tithe to help make sure we make our weekly budget. Whatever is calling to you, please respond and remember what a privilege it is to be part of and to serve God's winning team.

~Adapted from Ronald J. Chewning's 12 Months of Congregational Stewardship

Stewardship Board Chairperson,
Melissa Chew

Calendar: MAY 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WENDES	THURS	FRI	SAT
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
Service times: 8 & 10:30am Adult bible class: 9:15am Sunday school:9am	Venturing crew CEB room 7pm	Praise practice 6pm		Church Council Meeting 6:30pm		Mens Prayer Breakfast 8:30am Praise service 5pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Service times: 8 & 10:30am Adult Bible class: 9:15am Sunday school:9am Mothers day	Venturing crew CEB room 7pm	Praise practice 6pm				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Service time: 8am Praise service 10:30am Voters meeting following 10:30am service	Venturing crew CEB room 7pm			Elder's Meeting 6:30pm		Womens LWML Potluck 8:30pm
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Service times: 8 & 10:30am Adult bible class: 9:15am Sunday school: 9am Sunday school trip to veterans home 1:15pm	Venturing crew CEB room 7pm	Praise practice 6pm			*Game Night 6pm Education Bldg. Sign-up Narthex	

*See Cindy Werth for Details

ANNIVERSARY WISHES:

Joe and Jeanne Willett; Kristina & Ric Lacey, Paul & Debbie Kalnasy, Mark & Kathy Lewis;

Paul & Rodethia Sedlock

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS:

Rejoicing in God's blessings
While celebrating another year,
Pressing on with confidence
While faithfully in prayer...

I pray that you will know God's blessings
As you celebrate today,
Another year to press on with God,
Rejoicing along the way.
The Lord has so much more for you
As another year unfolds,
With new opportunities to explore
And wonders to behold —
So celebrate this day with joy
As you reflect on what has been,
Then look forward with expectation
To a future yet unseen.

© By M.S.Lowndes Scripture: [Philippians 3:12](#)

Tyler Johnson

Joey Willett

Brett Wiggin

Joanne Pipho

Jason Beall

Dana Nichols

James Moeller

Thomas Chew

Anita Bowling

Jeanne Willett

Michael Kalnasy

Theodore Mueller

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

37707 New Market Turner Road
Mechanicsville, MD 20659-3075

Sunday Services:

Traditional - 8:00 and 10:30 am

Sunday School: 9:00 am

Adult Bible Study: 9:15 am

Office Hours Mon.-Fri. 10:00am to 2:00pm

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