

A LIFE OF FAITH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
MECHANICSVILLE, MD

What's inside this issue:

Pastor's Message....pg 1
Deacon's Den.....pg 2
President's Message...pg 3
Sunday School.....pg 4
Missions & Ministry.pg 5
Compassion Committee..pg 5
Member Spotlight...pg 6
Birthday's &
Anniversaries...pg 7
Kid's Corner....pg 8
Calendar...pg 9

Pastor Pomrenke's Message September 2021

Beloved,

I am humbled by the support this great church has given Tracie and I in the past month and continues to give to us every day.

Tracie's surgery was successful and she has started the road to recovery. She has an amazing attitude, the physical therapist even remarked that she has never seen anyone moving so well after surgery.

I thank you for your patience and understanding over the next few months as I will be in and out of the office and working from home. You can always call the office at 301-884-5184 and Jenny can assist you or let you know when I will be in the office.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers!

God's Blessings, Pastor Gary R. Pomrenke



Thoughts from the Deacon's Den

by Deacon Gene Bostwick



I have been blessed this week to watch a family of Cardinals from my kitchen. I have been taught that these particular beautiful red birds represent people in our lives that have passed on letting us know that they are OK; the saying goes, "Cardinals appear when angels are near." I kind of already knew that this was not Biblical by any means as cardinals are not native to the Middle East where the majority of the Bible is set, however, God

uses birds throughout the Bible for His purpose. Noah releases a raven and dove from the Ark on different occasions directed by God. Jesus uses Ravens in one of His wonderful parables on the futility of being anxious in Luke 12:24-25 "Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?" And my personal favorite Biblical reference to birds is found in Matthew 23:37 where Jesus compares Himself to a mother hen "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!"

Although cardinals are not directly mentioned in the Bible as being messengers from the other side anything that makes your thoughts drift heavenward to where our loved ones are cannot be a bad thing. Anything that makes one contemplate the various wonderful creations that God has made to beautify our world is a gift.

I know these fluffy little balls of feathers shaking and begging their mother to feed them has brightened my morning coffee. Watching the beautiful red male pecking away while mom diligently feeds their young reminds me of most families. Family is one of the greatest gifts we have as Christians and it's nice to see nature reinforcing this simple fact. Thank you God for your love of family and may our church family glorify you in all that we say and do for each other. For how much more value do You place on us and how we treat others, than birds.

**God Bless You All,
Deacon Gene Bostwick**

Message From The President

by John Bowling

I hope everyone is having a good end to their summer. I am personally looking forward to those first cool crisp days of fall! Prayerfully we will all be able to get back to a great fall schedule here at St. Paul's, that will include many great fellowship activities such as work days, pot lucks, bible studies, Sunday School classes, and activities etc. that will bring us together as the family of Christ where we are strengthened and inspired to live in God's wisdom and love. Unfortunately, COVID will still be a part of our upcoming plans but I feel very confident in our Elders, under the leadership of Andrew Maack, to lead the way and keep us as safe as possible. Prayers go out to all those in our congregation who have been ill and those who have had surgery or will be having surgery in the future. I want to thank our office administrator Jenny for the great job she is doing coordinating St. Paul's efforts to help those in our congregation who need a helping hand to get through difficult times. I hope to see everyone at our upcoming Rally Day Celebration on September 12th. I am looking forward to some great food and most importantly a chance for all of us to get together for some fun and fellowship.

John Bowling
Council President



Sunday School News

by Brenda Bowling

Welcome to a New Sunday School Year!!

The Sunday School staff at St. Paul's is excited to soon be beginning a new Sunday School year on September 12th. Many opportunities will be offered this year to help all of us study God's Word so we can grow closer to Him and feel strengthened by His love and promises as we go through each day. There are classes for children ages 3 through high school. A confirmation class under the leadership of Andrew Maack, as well as an adult bible study class led by Pastor Gary, meeting in the kitchen, will also be available this year. Sunday School classes will begin at 9:15 AM in the main room of the Education Building and end at 10:15 AM. I was hoping that COVID would be a thing of the past by this time, but unfortunately that is not the case, so we will be asking our children and staff to wear a mask during Sunday School while inside and follow the safety guidelines. These safety measures are a small price to keep our children and staff safe so we can come together to hear and study the Word of God. We will be trying to hold some classes outside on good days, as well as some of our opening activities. We are working on plans for an upcoming Creation Day and a Fun Fall Celebration that would take place outside during our Sunday School class time.

Our Rally Day Celebration will be held on September 12th this year with a special worship service where our children will be leading the congregation in two of their favorite VBS songs. If your child was unable to attend VBS this summer don't worry, the words will be projected for all to follow along. This special service will also include a children's message and installation of our Sunday School staff. Following the service, all are invited to stay for a wonderful fellowship picnic with lots and lots of tasty food, a fun moon bounce with slide, badminton, a sand table and lots of other fun games! Most of all it is a chance for all of us to come together as a church family!

A big thank you to a fantastic group of teachers who will be sharing their love and faith this year with your children. Our staff includes:

- **Victoria Drury and Skye Foy:** Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grade
- **Mrs. Karen Wigger:** 2nd, 3rd and 4th Grades
- **Mrs. Brenda Bowling:** 5th and 6th Grades
- **Mr. Paul Mehrkam:** High School
- **Mr. Andrew Maack:** Confirmation Class
- **Pastor Gary:** Adult Class in the Kitchen beginning on September 19th

Circle the date... Sunday, September 12th.

I hope to see everyone there! Please bring a side dish and or a dessert to share at the picnic! The main dish and drinks will be provided by another wonderful Thrivent Action Team grant.

Sunday School registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

"And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock."

Matt 7:25

Missions and Ministries by Lois Beverage

What's Going On?? September 2021

Every time I go to *The Helping Hands Food Pantry* in Mechanicsville it is a God sighting and it is all because of the congregation at St Paul's!! We should not be surprised but somehow the very thing you all donate, and my husband and I deliver, is just what someone needs!! God certainly knows where to put us to answer prayers. I am writing this piece after visiting this morning when I arrived with a trunk full including, many bottles of laundry detergent. The Food Pantry volunteers were so excited because they had just run out! The families in line needed laundry detergent and St Paul's provided!! Thank you all for those generous hearts and letting God's love shine for all!

Current needs:

Stovetop Stuffing
Hamburger Helper
Laundry Detergent
Bath Soap
Shampoo

If you are looking for a way to donate safely to help those in need internationally and domestically, Lutheran World Relief will forward monetary donations to the concern that you indicate. Lutheran World Relief <https://donate.lwr.org>

Mission and Ministries Chairperson
Lois Beverage

Compassion Committee by Jenny Moonen

We have started off the compassion committee with a great group. Deacon Gene, Cathy, Gayle, Nicole, Pam, and I (Kelly Gray not present) met last month and we started brainstorming ideas of ways we can bring smiles to people's faces who are overwhelmed, discouraged, or just in need of a little pick me up. As I glanced around and saw how much joy it brought all of them, I thought to myself, "These are my people!" and better yet, these are God's people being His hands and feet. Not only talking the talk, but walking the walk.

I think it is awesome that God makes us all unique. He gives each of us talents to use. It is up to us to use them according to His plan. For example, Elizabeth has been making bracelets and she donated some of them to the compassion committee to use in our gift

baskets we plan to give out to people when they are homebound due to illness or surgery. So many of you have also donated little gift items, books, music, snacks, puzzles, to be put in the gift baskets as well. We are very thankful and grateful for this!

Periodically you may see greeting cards in the back of the church for you to sign for someone who is under the weather or homebound. Just to let them know we are thinking about them.

We are very excited to start this ministry within St. Paul's. We welcome any ideas you want to share. We will continue to have our donation basket in the back for you to drop off gift cards, or little trinkets. Thank you again for being amazing and letting God's light shine through you!

Member Spotlight

Karen Wigen



Karen was born and raised in the rural northern tier of Maryland, very close to the Mason-Dixon Line in Harford County. One summer during a family rafting trip on the Shenandoah River, their guide was a student from Virginia Tech. The entire trip he raved about what a fantastic college he went to and how much he loved it. He was so convincing, that she applied for early admission and received the acceptance letter a month later on

her birthday. It was the only college she applied to and it turned out to be all she had hoped for and much more!

Although her faith in Jesus started early in life with her grandmother having her memorize the 23rd Psalm at age four, and she was baptized and confirmed in youth, her real understanding started in college. A relentless friend in her dorm insisted she spend many Friday evenings with her at Campus Crusade for Christ. That's when her learning really began and her relationship with Christ grew. Her friend, named Chrissy, continued to press her. She challenged her faith to find out who she really was and the depth of her commitment to Christ by asking: Was Sunday morning all she needed? What about the rest of the week? Did she actually read God's words on her own and participate in Bible studies? Did she really walk the walk? They became roommates and knew the truth about each other. Chrissy gave her whole self to Christ and was a wonderful example. She was very brave by becoming the first Christian in her non-believing, wealthy, Columbia, Maryland family.

Within months of graduating college Karen met Brett, her future husband, who lived in southern Maryland. They have now been married 26 years and have been blessed with two sons, Garrett and Andrew. Although Karen tried getting herself back to church for years after moving to St. Mary's County, even visiting St. Paul's a couple times early on, it took the help of other people. She started at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in 2005 by attending the Bible study on Sunday mornings with her sister-in-law, at her request. Eventually, she decided to stay for church after the Bible studies and enroll her 5 year old in Sunday School. Since then she has been a part of St. Paul's Sunday School staff and participated in Bible studies, both are with gratitude to Kelly Gray, another friend who has encouraged her in her faith journey. She more recently serves on the Church Council. She hopes that she will continue to listen for and follow God's calling on her life.

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

September Birthdays

Kayla Smith - September 1

Lisa Curtis - September 2

Laurence Moeller - September 5

Dale Bittner - September 6

Cheryl Roberts - September 8

Gene Bostwick - September 10

Nicole Keller - September 10

Janice Otte - September 10

Anthony Bonaccorsy - September 11

Garrett Moeller - September 11

Lois Beverage - September 12

Ashley Denham - September 13

Kara Thompson - September 17

John Bowling, Jr. - September 18

Tyler Wathen - September 18

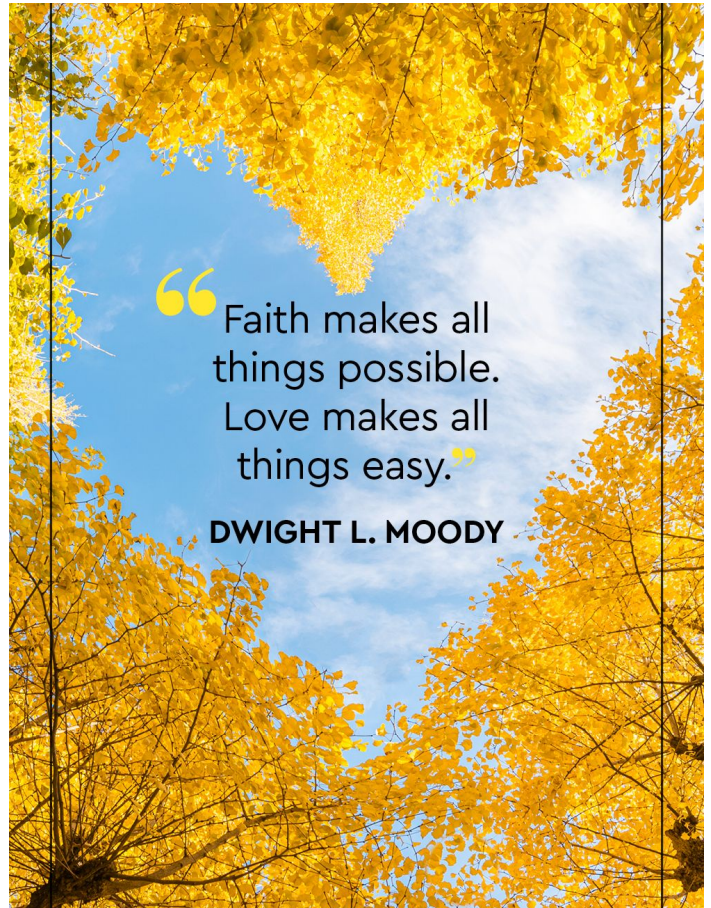
Kathy Lewis - September 19

William Padgett, Jr. - September 20

David Roberts - September 20

Tori Drury - September 24

Emily Maack - September 24



September Anniversaries

Andrew & Sheryl Maack -
September 21

Kenneth & Angela Sprouse, Jr.
September 23

Brent & Meredith Johnson
September 29

Kid's Corner



Fall Word Scramble

Unscramble the words. Use the letters in the highlighted boxes to solve the riddle.

plaesp

--	--	--	--	--	--

tamuun

--	--	--	--	--	--

iuqtl

--	--	--	--	--

evashrt

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

vesael

--	--	--	--	--	--

mtrsbeep

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Riddle: What do you get when you drop a pumpkin?

--	--	--	--	--	--



Autumn Word Search



See how many of these autumn related words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| 1. Autumn | 5. Raking | 9. Gourds | 13. Corn |
| 2. Fall | 6. Harvest | 10. Football | 14. Maize |
| 3. Leaves | 7. Pumpkins | 11. Season | 15. Yellow |
| 4. Colors | 8. Apples | 12. Scarecrow | 16. Orange |



SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Worship Services: 8:00 am 10:30 am	6 Happy Labor Day (No Venturing Crew)	7	1 1	2 Zoom Bible Study: (Acts) 7 pm	3	4
12 Worship Services: 10:30 am	13 Venturing Crew Mtg. 7-8:30pm (Education Bldg. Large Classroom)	14	8 Council Meeting: 6:30 pm (Church)	9 Zoom Bible Study: (Acts) 7 pm	10	11
19 Worship Services: 8:00 am 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study: 9:15 am	20 Venturing Crew Mtg. 7-8:30pm (Education Bldg. Large Classroom)	21	15 15	16 Zoom Bible Study: (Acts) 7 pm	17	18
26 Worship Services: 8:00 am 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study: 9:15 am	27 Venturing Crew Mtg. 7-8:30pm (Education Bldg. Large Classroom)	28	22 Elder's Meeting: 6:30 pm (Church)	23 Zoom Bible Study: (Acts) 7 pm	24	25
		29	29	30 Blue Crabs Baseball Outing 6:35 pm		



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
37707 New Market Turner Road
Mechanicsville, MD 20646