



# proclamation

FEBRUARY- 2017

Volume 4, Issue 31

## February is the Month for Love

By Pastor Tim

I guess because of St. Valentine's Day, February has become known as the month of love. That's pretty good, but the problem is how we often interpret the word 'love'. Some interpret love simply as a feeling or emotion. Others interpret love more as an action.

I would suggest that we also remember that love is actually based in God Himself and therefore love can ultimately only be interpreted by who God is and how He acts. This is why Paul offers us the wisdom found in Ephesians 5:2 - ***And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God*** (English Standard Version).

Just reflect on that for a moment. How often do you walk in love in the way in which Jesus loves you? It's easier to justify our behavior and thought patterns than it actually is to be guided by the pattern of Jesus' love. Instead of Jesus' love, nasty opinions fill our brains. Instead of Jesus' love, caustic comments 'accidentally slip' out of our mouths. Instead of Jesus' love, we pretend to not see someone in order to not have to serve them.

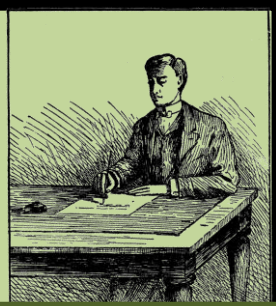
Scripturally, to love is to treat others the way you want to be treated. It all starts in how Jesus treats me! That means I would never want to hurt anyone, but love them with all of my heart, mind, soul, and every action of my body because that's how Jesus loves me. The Apostle Paul wrote about it most clearly in his letter to the Roman Church: ***Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*** (Romans 13:8-10, ESV).

Paul gives a great illustration of this in suggesting we love our spouses in the same manner in which Jesus loves the Church. **OUCH**. Jesus is way more loving with me than I am with my wife or the rest of family (and they know it!) He's far more accepting and forgiving than I will ever be. So am I really loving 'neighbors' as myself? Hardly!

But every day, that same love is forgiving and motivating me to walk in His love as He loves me and gave Himself up for me. Love then becomes more than cards, flowers, and candy. It becomes part of Jesus in me, loving everyone around me the way He loves me first.

## From the desk of the Congregational President

Paul Mehrkam

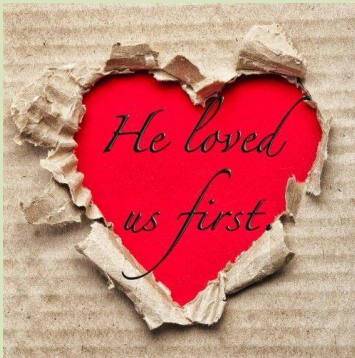


February is here and it is often thought of as the month of love and romance. The real St. Valentine was all about building relationships not only in the marriage of man and woman, but also between Christ and us. This also extends to us with our loved ones, neighbors, and fellow parishioners.

Thank you to those who participated in the peace making seminars back in December. We need to better equip ourselves to reconcile and overcome conflict. If you see your neighbor or fellow congregational member out of sorts, pray with them and encourage them to come back to the body in Christ.



Starting in March, the church festival calendar includes opportunities to build up our fellowship while spreading the Gospel in southern Maryland. This begins with Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Ash Wednesday followed by Lent Wednesdays, which all lead up to Holy Week. More information will be coming out for these events soon.



*"Dear Lord Jesus, You have united us here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church so that we might grow closer to You and to one another. Grant forgiveness in our hearts and provide us a willingness to forgive where it is needed most. Fill us with Your heart of love for all the lost so that they may rejoice in joining us in awaiting for Your return. Amen."*





Greeting St. Paul's Church, members and friends.

I am pleased to inform you that the St. Paul's Rooted Youth group is being reactivated. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Cindy Werth and I have accepted the position on the Church Board for the Youth Director. While the recommended age I am looking for are 5th grade and up, I will be flexible. I want the youth group to be what the church members need. I am looking forward to planning lots of activities and hope that if you have a child/children in the church, you will look at the activities and hopefully find things that they want to participate in and of course invite friends.

While I understand that we all have very busy lives and that adding another "thing" is difficult, I also believe that having an active youth group is very important to church growth and individual growth.

This is not to say that the youth group is only going to be limited to the young people. We will need adult participation in most of our planned activities and once things get rolling with the school aged children, we can look at extending it to add activities for lower elementary and adults. Please feel free to offer suggestions of activities you would like to see/participate in. The youth group is for all the YOUTH of the church and you are only as young as you think you are!!!

With that being said, we need to start somewhere!! Included in the newsletter, you will find a questionnaire listing activities and I hope you will find things your child/children are interested in and want to participate in. We, of course will need to schedule meetings, so don't forget to let me know what days and times work best for these meetings. I would like to hold them at night during week so we can hopefully get the youth's friends to come. Frequency will be determined later.

The Rooted Youth Group gets it's name for St. Paul's youth being rooted in Christ so that we can grow and branch out to the entire Southern Maryland population. Please fill out the questionnaire and return it by February 12. Additional copies will be available at the church if needed.

Thank you for your future support, for sharing your children, and praise God for all His blessings.  
Keeping the youth ROOTED in Christ! Cindy Werth – Youth Director

**Youths Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birth Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents Names** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone numbers** \_\_\_\_\_

**Best day for you/your family to attend meetings** \_\_\_\_\_ **Best Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Activities we can do:**

_____ Movie Night	_____ Bowling	_____ Sky Zone
_____ Roller/Ice Skating	_____ Party/Pool Party	_____ Game Night
_____ Ice Cream Social	_____ Lock-In	_____ Picnic/Park

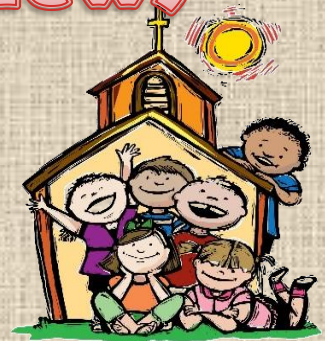
**New Ideas:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent(s) willing to help out Yes / No**

# Sunday School News

The Little Children and Jesus – Matthew 19:13-15

*The little children were brought to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*



Greetings from the Sunday school!

Sunday school classes have resumed and students and teachers are energized to continue our studies of God's word. As the students are learning about the Epiphany season, which is the season of reaching out into the community and the world with God's love, we are undertaking an outreach program to 'show others we care' as the Lord cares for us. The children are excited to start making cards and possible care packages to share the good news of Jesus' saving grace.

Plans for this summer's Vacation Bible School are also in the early planning stages. If you are interested in helping out please contact Meredith Johnson who will be heading up the program again this summer. More information will be coming.

As always, we welcome any newcomers and want to remind everyone that we begin the Sunday School opening promptly at 9:00 AM in the new building.

Melissa Chew, Sunday school directress

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## Missions & Ministries



February, 28<sup>th</sup> @ St. Paul's Lutheran Church 5:30 - 7:30 pm  
(weather permitting)

We will have our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! Bring your appetite, as we will be serving up some specialty pancakes!





# Missions & Ministries

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Dear St. Paul's family and friends,

As the Missions and Ministries Council chair, I would like to ask St. Paul's congregation **if you have any areas of specific interest** in helping to make our church look toward another positive and unified year serving Jesus, each other, Southern Maryland and beyond. To succeed in any of our projects we need to have the cooperation of our entire congregation. The below mentioned possibilities are posted on the bulletin board and I ask that you put your initials by the ones you support and would like to see at St. Paul's. You can even email or text me your ideas. Thank you.

Here are a few ideas that I have received to-date:

**More Bible study groups** (is God leading you to lead a class or an interest in a specific topic?)

**Game Nights!** Cards, Dice, Trivia games – would you attend?

**Fellowship Dinners** – Soup supper before Wednesday Lenten services. Would you participate and help?

**Sight & Sound Theater** – Strasburg, PA – WHERE THE BIBLE COMES TO LIFE! Would anyone be interested in taking a group trip to see a show in 2017? JONAH-Mar. 11-Oct. 14 and Miracle of Christmas-Nov. 3-Dec. 30. Facts: Drive time -6 hour round trip, Show time 3 pm (2 ½ hours), Cost-M/F \$54 (kids \$21) Sat \$74 (kids \$31)

**Lutheran World Relief** (collecting personal care kit items during Lent)

Respectfully in Christ, Lorrie Ching

[lorrieching@gmail.com](mailto:lorrieching@gmail.com) or call & text messages to: 602-549-7238

## **We currently connect/serve in the following areas:**

**Connecting with JESUS:** Worship, Bible Study

**Connecting with EACH OTHER:** Fellowship meals, Ladies Tea, Bazaar, Yard Sales, etc.

**The need is still out there for food and clothing-we are continuing to collect for St. Paul's Shares: Eva Turner School & The Mission.**

**Eva Turner School in Waldorf needs are:**

**Winter clothing for children, grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.** Hats, scarfs, mittens and coats (gently used or new and please remove all store tags)

**Non-perishable boxed and canned foods**

**The Mission in Lexington Park:**

**Canned meats:** tuna, chicken, ham, turkey

**Top Ramen or any meal that just needs water**

**Vegetable stew or soups**

**Cereal (Boxed)**

**Peanut Butter**

**Jelly**

**Canned Vegetables or Fruit**

**Small Can Openers**

**Pasta or Rice**

**Spaghetti Sauce**

**Crackers**

**Chef Boyardee or store brand items (Beef Ravioli, Spaghetti, etc.)**

## A VIEW FROM THE PEW – by Jim Shewbridge

*Some thoughts on sharing the Good News--- “Do you love me---”*

Many years ago, I had the pleasure of completing the Dale Carnegie Course- “How to Win Friends and Influence People.” Each week we were assigned a subject for a timed talk at the following session. George, one of my classmates was given the subject matter Love.

The following week, George began his talk by noting that he had never been in love and really didn't understand love! His parents had died when he was very young and he had never experienced family love that we understand. I don't recall what else he said that evening, but reflecting on the way home I was saddened at his loss. Thankfully, many years later George found a loving wife who has shared love with him to this day.

The Apostle Peter was asked about love by our master and by my estimation he too appeared to not fully understand love. [John 21:15-17](#) <sup>15</sup> ***Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.***

<sup>16</sup> ***He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep.***

<sup>17</sup> ***He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.***

Fellow believers, **do you love Jesus?** He calls us today, Feed His Lambs with the study of His word. Shepherd His sheep with caring, sharing and prayer. And Feed His sheep with the world's only hope for salvation that we have been given to share.

Your 2017 Council will be presenting several proposals for study and outreach in the coming months. I ask that you open your heart and respond to “feed our Lord's sheep” as He commanded. Consider this; we cannot do this by merely attending worship on Sundays and thus we must be prepared this day and all the remaining time God grants us His Grace.

*Each day, who you are will determine what you see.  
Moreover, what you see will determine what you do.  
Always in Jesus name, Amen*





# February 2017

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>Anniversaries</b>						
<b>1 – Jim &amp; June Shewbridge</b> <b>8 – Bob &amp; Renee Maxey</b>			<b>1</b> <b>Confirmation Class</b> <b>7-7:45 pm</b> @ St. Paul's in the Christian Education Bldgs.	<b>2</b> Presentation of Our Lord  Groundhog Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>Ladies Tea</b> <b>12pm @ St. Paul's</b>
<b>5</b> Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am Sunday School: 9 am Adult Class: 9:10 am  Acolytes: 8:00 Dylan Otte 10:30 Josh Gray  Reader @ 10:30: Gene Bostwick	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Confirmation Class</b> <b>7-7:45 pm</b> @ St. Paul's in the Christian Education Bldgs.	<b>9</b> 	<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b> <div> <b>Pastor Tim &amp; Amy in Uganda, Africa</b>  <b>@ LCMS Seminary</b> </div>
<b>12</b> Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am Sunday School: 9 am Adult Class: 9:10 am  Acolytes: 8:00 Danielle Hoffman 10:30 Kaleh Wollin  Reader @ 10:30: Lois Beverage	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>Church</b> <b>Council Meeting</b> <b>6:30pm</b>  <b>Valentine's Day</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Confirmation Class</b> <b>7-7:45 pm</b> @ St. Paul's in the Christian Education Bldgs.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Pastor Tim &amp; Amy in Uganda, Africa @ LCMS Seminary</b>						
<b>19</b> Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am Sunday School: 9 am Adult Class: 9:10 am  Acolytes: 8:00 Aidan Price 10:30 Jake Gray  Reader @ 10:30: Jim Shewbridge	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Confirmation Class</b> <b>7-7:45 pm</b> @ St. Paul's in the Christian Education Bldgs.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Pastor Tim &amp; Amy in Uganda, Africa @ LCMS Seminary</b>						
	<b>Presidents' Day</b>					
<b>26</b> Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am Sunday School: 9 am Adult Class: 9:10 am  Acolytes: 8:00 Emily Maack 10:30 Nicole Williams  Reader @ 10:30: Megan Green	<b>27</b>  <div> <b>Pastor Tim &amp; Amy Return on the 28th</b> </div>	<b>28</b> <b>Shrove Tuesday</b> <b>Pancake Supper</b> <b>5:30 – 7:30 pm</b> <b>Shrove Tuesday</b> 	<b>Important dates in March</b> Lent starts with <b>Ash Wednesday</b> service @ 7 pm on <b>March 1</b> and continues with <b>Wednesday Lenten services</b> @ 7pm – Mar 8, 15, 22, 29, & Apr 5. <b>Palm Sunday Apr 9</b> (regular times) <b>Maundy Thursday Apr 13</b> @ 7 pm <b>Good Friday Apr 14</b> Prayer Vigil 12-3 pm Worship service @ 7 pm <b>Easter Sunday Apr 16</b> (regular times)		<b>February Birthdays</b> 2 – Rochelle Byrnside 5 – Felicia Drury 9 – Gary Wollin 11 – Cindy Werth 12 – Aidan Price 13 – Patty Gumtow 13 – Garrett Wiggen	



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## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

37707 New Market Turner Road  
Mechanicsville, MD 20659-3075

### Sunday Services:

Traditional - 8:00 and 10:30 am

Contemporary - 9:15 am

Sunday School: 9:00 am

Adult Bible Study: 9:10 am

Office Hours Mon.-Fri. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Phone: 301.884.5184 Fax: 301-884-2063

Website: [www.stpaulssomd.org](http://www.stpaulssomd.org)

Email: [stpaulslcmsmd@netzero.net](mailto:stpaulslcmsmd@netzero.net)

Facebook: [St. Paul's Lutheran](#)

*Behold, now is the favorable time;  
Behold, now is the day of salvation.  
2 Corinthians 6:2*

Connecting with Jesus, each other, & Southern Maryland

### Dates to Remember:

Sat., February 4

Ladies Tea @ 12:00 pm



February 9 - 28

Pray for Pastor Tim & Amy's Teaching Mission Trip in Uganda

Tues., February 28

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5-7 pm

Shrove  
Tuesday



### Lent & Easter Dates

Wed., March 1

Ash Wednesday service @ 7 pm

Wednesday Lenten services @ 7 pm March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5

Sun., April 9

Palm Sunday services @ 8, 9:15, and 10:30 am

Thurs., April 13

Maundy Thursday service @ 7 pm

Fri., April 14

GOOD FRIDAY Prayer Vigil 12-3pm Worship svc 7 pm

Sun., April 16

EASTER SUNDAY services @ 8, 9:15, and 10:30 am