



Proclamation

NOVEMBER 2015

Volume 2, Issue 19

Who Are You?

By Tim McNutt, *Pastor*

Since late September in our Sunday sermons we have been tackling the question of Christian identity. This is for a very good reason – if you sincerely want to live as a Christian 24 / 7, you have to constantly live by the reality of who you are in Jesus.

If you turn your face away from the church, reality is not measured by who you are in Jesus. Successful reality is measured by Facebook friends, by possessions or experiences. Success is mostly measured from the outside in.

In fact, we're given many definitions of what it means to be successful in life. Lots of times it comes down to counting the size of our houses; how many acres do we own; how many cars / trucks / boats are in the garage; or how much money is in our checking account at the end of the month. Others might suggest measuring your life by the number of electronic toys you own or the destinations you've visited.

And even if someone measures you by your "good works," it's all in what you do that expresses success. How much money have you donated? How many hours have you given? To what organizations do you belong?

Christian reality also begins on the outside of us. But it begins in Jesus coming to us from outside of ourselves to heal and nurture us and to mold us into His community.

Christian reality is not about what we own, but what owns us. Therefore, if I am going to live in Jesus, it begins in everyday waking up and recognizing I belong to Him. Everything I am goes back to Jesus – His plans, priorities, and dreams. Life is about Jesus coming to me from outside of me and making me into His own.

Every morning we're offered two sets of daily objectives.

One is to follow a life that will measure me by standards of which I can never complete.

The other is live a life by which the standards complete me.

"For me to live is Christ" – Philippians 1:21. In His Spirit, I challenge you: choose life in Him!



From the desk of the Congregational President

Paul Mehrkam

November is going to be a busy month for St. Paul's with the Christmas Bazaar, Thanksgiving Eve service, and the beginning of the new church year with Advent. It is hard to believe that Christmas is almost here. Next thing you know, there will be an Angel Tree in the narthex and a Christmas tree in the Sanctuary.

The need for charity and giving was reinforced to me as I travelled to the Holy lands of the Bible in the Mediterranean. Seeing a small group of the Syrian Refugees in Greece reminded me of how dire, desperate, and fragile human existence can be in those circumstances.

We will be holding our regular Voters meeting after the 10:30 worship service on November 15. The main topics for you to vote on are the 2016 budget and election of church officers. St. Paul's has been very blessed with holding to the budget and you will see in the meeting how financially dependent the church is on your offerings. If you miss a service or two, please bring in the missing contributions or use our online donation service available on the website.

We are looking for congregational members to serve in the council and elders. As of now, vacancies on the council include Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Council Secretary, Stewardship, Building and Grounds, and Elders. Contact me or Pastor if you are interested in serving in one of these positions.

I expect the new Sunday School building to be completed by the end of November, if not then in the beginning of December. When it is all said and done, the buildings will be pretty much brand new. I say once again thank you to the main contributor who made this possible. I look forward as we expand our outreach into the community with this new facility.

Dear Lord, Heavenly God, we give thanks to those who contributed financially, with materials, and skills to build our new Sunday School building to minister our congregation and reach out to the community. Continue to guide us according to Your will, help us to reach out to those in need, and strengthen our faith in You. In the name our Lord Jesus, we pray. Amen.



A VIEW FROM THE PEW –

Some thoughts on sharing the Good News – Living Water

by Jim Shewbridge

A couple of years ago, June and I raised oysters using floats and one summer we witnessed an unusual event. Three water snakes were using the top (covered mesh) of one oyster float for their sunbathing cabana. The female was there for two consecutive years and two males joined her the second season. I was able to get within two feet from the female without her moving. The males promptly left as I approached. One hot day I turned the water hose gently on the snake and she responded by opening her mouth and drinking the cool water. I repeated the scene on several occasions and she welcomed my gift each time.

Now if I will give one of God's creatures a drink of water, will I not be inclined to give a stranger or neighbor a drink of salvation's water? Recall the dialogue in **John 4: 7-10** **When a Samaritan woman came to draw water; Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to Him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can You ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water."**

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I hope that the Lord places someone in our paths today and we may deliver salvation's drink of living water to them. Remember we are called to share the truth; it is **God who provides their salvation**. As we are watched by others, perhaps your daily walk with God will invoke a question in their heart *"what makes you so different?"* Let us share our hope in Christ by **actions, life** and when necessary with **words**.

ps. I really do not like snakes...



Vendors

**Free Gift
Wrapping**

Food

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

November 14, 2015

8-1

**St. Paul's Lutheran
Church**

37707 New Market Turner Rd.
Mechanicsville MD 20659

Santa's Workshop

Bake Sale

Holiday Music

We are looking for:

**volunteers, book donations, and Christmas gift
wrapping paper.**

Please look on the bulletin board for the sign-up sheet and you may drop off your books and wrapping paper on Sunday.

Mission and Ministry

**A Thanksgiving for the Homeless...
We need your help!**



A Serving opportunity on Thanksgiving Day!

Consider donating from the heart this Thanksgiving. Here's your chance: "The Mission" in Lexington Park needs help serving meals to the homeless of St. Mary's County. You can volunteer between the hours of 10am-2pm or 2-6pm or any variation that works for you and your family. If you are interested, please contact Kelly Gray @ 301-904-6681 or kellyandtonygray@verizon.net



What is The Mission?

The Mission is a local community Christian outreach. The first and foremost purpose, is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The second, is to minister in practical ways to our community.

We offer showers to the homeless, food pantry, clothing, job placement, and computer training. We are a faith based ministry that believes in helping our community one person at a time. You will find loving, compassionate, and understanding people at The Mission. **The Mission is located at 21015 Great Mills Rd, Lexington Park MD 20653.**

Let Christmas Begin



A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Presented By

The Acappella Vocal Ensemble

Sunday, December 6, 2015

**3:00 pm @ St. Paul's Lutheran
Church**

37707 New Market Turner Rd, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

The Acappella Vocal Ensemble is a Chamber Ensemble of 18-24 singers from the tri-county region of Southern Maryland dedicated to the performance of exceptional choral music. The ensemble mission is to offer opportunities to singers from high schools, colleges, community choral groups and church choirs, to learn and participate in the art of choral singing.



Come and join us for

Wine & Design

December 11, 2015

7pm-10pm

St Paul's Lutheran Church

37707 New Market Turner Rd
Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Cost \$35.00 per person

Includes: Painting essentials, wine, & snacks

Picture: Nativity Scene

For more information and to make a reservation:

Contact: Kelly Gray 301.904.6681

Gene Bostwick 240.415.5936

Payment due night of event



**Look for Angel Tree Sunday
after Thanksgiving!**

**For information contact
Lois Beverage**

***The gift(s) you purchase will make a
child so very happy on Christmas
morning!***

November 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Service Times: 8:00 and 10:30 am Acolytes 8:00 Emily Maack 10:30 Lisa Curtis			6:30 pm Bible Study w/Communion 7:00 pm Confirmation Class	Choir Practice 6 pm Girl Scout Mtg 5:30 pm		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Service Times: 8:00 and 10:30 am Acolytes 8:00 Dylan Otte 10:30 Allison Werth		Martin Luther's Birthday	VETERANS DAY 6:30 pm Bible Study w/Communion 7:00 pm Confirmation Class	Girl Scout Mtg 5:30 pm		CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 8 am-1 pm
15 – Voters Meeting	16	17	18	19	20	21
Service Times: 8:00 and 10:30 am Pot luck after service Acolytes 8:00 Danielle Hoffman 10:30 Russell Watson			6:30 pm Bible Study w/Communion 7:00 pm Confirmation Class	Choir Practice 6 pm Girl Scout Mtg 5:30 pm	Pastor Tim out of the office Nov. 20 – 24 SBL Conference Atlanta	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Service Times: 8:00 and 10:30 am Acolytes 8:00 Emily Maack 10:30 Mary McNutt			Thanksgiving Eve Service 7 pm	Thanksgiving Day		
Pastor Tim out of the office Nov. 20 – 24 SBL Conference Atlanta						
29	30	ANNIVERSARIES			BIRTHDAYS	
Service Times: 8:00 and 10:30 am Acolytes 8:00 Dylan Otte 10:30 Melissa Werth		1 – Gary & Cindy Werth 5 – Brett & Karen Wigen 11 – Fred & Sally Gheen			2 – Jessica Werth 24 – Dylan Vogt 29 – Phil Drury	



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St. Paul's Lutheran Church

37707 New Market Turner Road
Mechanicsville, MD 20659-3075
Sunday Services 8:00 and 10:30 am
Adult Classes 9:10 am
Wednesday Bible Study & Communion 6:30 pm
Office Hours Mon.-Fri. 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Phone: 301.884.5184

Fax: 301-884-2063

Website: www.stpaulssomd.org

Email: 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*

Dates to remember:

**Saturday, November 14 – Christmas Bazaar @ St. Paul's
8 am – 1 pm**

**Thanksgiving Day, November 26 – The Mission @ Lexington Park
Volunteer to serve meals**

**Sunday, December 6 – Christmas Concert by Acappella Vocal
Ensemble @ 3 pm**

Friday, December 11 – WINE & DESIGN @ St. Paul's 7 – 10 pm