



Proclamation

FEBRUARY 2016

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The Word for the Rest of the Year 2016: HEALTH

By Pastor Tim

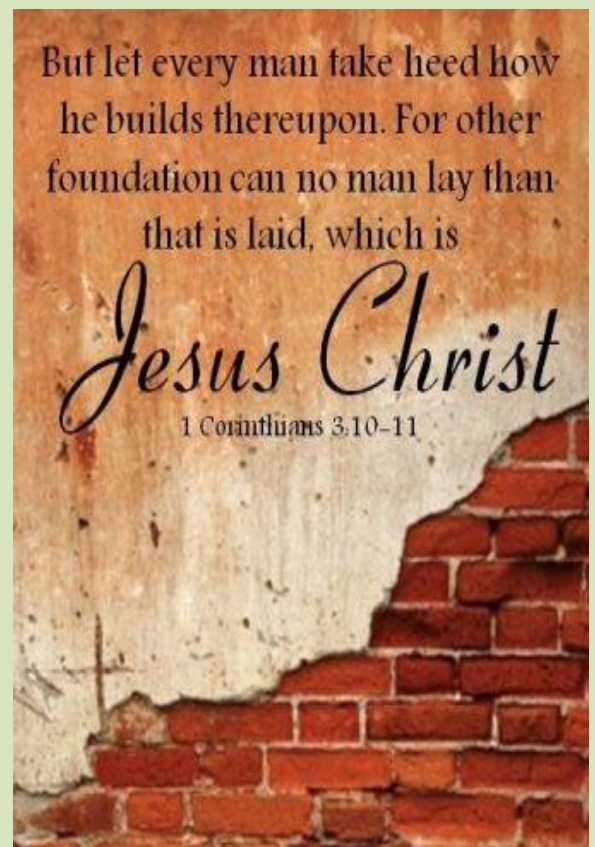
We may not be able to predict how long we'll live, but we can deliberately choose health. We may not be able to predict riches, but we can live as financially healthy as we possible. We may not be able to predict future relationships, but we can be deliberate about relationally healthy families and friendships. In other words, with these 3 biggies as examples, we know we can't control most things about life, but we can 'control' some aspects of our lives by making wise and deliberate choices.

The same is true with St. Paul's. Even as the Pastor, I cannot say exactly what God's will is for our church's future. Yet I can point us to the Scriptures and highlight ministry choices we do need to deliberately make that promote healthy growth in Jesus. The thing is that God does expect us to choose wisely in how we "build" up St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

1 Corinthians 3 is very clear about ministry choices. Some ministries really don't promote a flourishing congregation and are mostly made up of wood, hay and straw. Better ministry choices are valued as gold, silver and precious stones. **Let each one take care how he builds upon [Jesus]** (1 Corinthians 3:10, ESV.)

As a congregation we are called to plant and water on the foundation of Jesus with our various ministries and their expected outcomes. So do we just float along with currents and allow those forces to carry us along in a "whatever" sort of mindset?

OR do we take care how we build and seek a flourishing, healthy, mature congregation? In other words, do we choose ministry with objectives that the fruits will survive (1 Cor. 3:14)?



Continued.....page 2



As I contemplate 1 Corinthians 3 with the St. Paul, I think his point is obvious. Flourishing congregations don't happen by chance or accident or chalking it up to God's will.

A healthy, flourishing congregation happens by making deliberate choices in how it takes care in the ways that it builds on Jesus. Healthy, flourishing congregations are noted for their excellence along with their love for God and one another. Flourishing, maturing churches deliberately follow St. Paul's words in Colossians 1 - ***To be mature is to be basic. Christ! No more, no less. That's what I'm working so hard at day after day, year after year, doing my best with the energy God so generously gives me*** (Colossians 1:28-29, the Message.)

Choose wisely, my friends, choose wisely.

He is the one
WE PROCLAIM,
*admonishing and teaching
everyone with all wisdom,
so that we may present everyone
fully mature in Christ.*

Colossians 1:28

Paul Mehrkam

Congratulations to Pastor McNutt for his Ordination and thank you to everyone who organized, coordinated, and participated in this celebratory event. We were blessed by the outpouring of love and support of those attending.

With this being my second year as Council President, I have documented goals for church growth and outreach in the table below. This is nothing new other than actually writing them down, because we have always been working towards these. For example with global ministries, Pastor went to Ghana to train new Pastors in the Gospel along with the children's book ministry. Last year, St. Paul's made a presence at community events such as the St. Mary's County Fair. When the Christian Education Modulares are completed, I anticipate that we will find opportunities to continue our outreach to the community.

2016 Church Growth and Outreach Goals

Categories	Goals
Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Ministry Network • Local and Global Ministries • Enable More Congregational Participation
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Create More Outreach Opportunities • Warm Welcoming Church Environment
Christian Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Bible Study • Expand Educational Opportunities • Grow Sunday School and Youth Ministries
Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet Budget Needs • Consistency • Reduce Expenditures

Last year, I developed the Church Health Metrics to help monitor our progress and guide our decision making in several of these goals. These are updated monthly and posted in the narthex. You can also download them from the website where you will find Church Business Operations under About St. Paul's. I am hopeful that the goals and metrics might stir up conversation within the congregation.

Dear Lord, Heavenly God, Thank you for the blessings that you have bestowed on Your St. Paul's Lutheran Church family. We look to You for guidance as we continually look for new opportunities to spread the gospel in the community. Amen.



Optimal Stewardship

By Kim Mozingo,
Stewardship Council Member

What do you think of when you think of the word “stewardship”?

Do you think of that Pastor who comes to visit once a year to talk about tithing? Do you think of taking care of things? Do you think of obligation? Of using your time, talent, and treasure as part of the body of Christ?

I did a quick Facebook poll and most responses had to do with taking care of things that have been entrusted to us. One friend mentioned the idea of accountability as it applies to stewardship. I like that.

I’m still new to St. Paul’s and am still learning about our rich heritage and the gifts and talents we, as the body of Christ, have to offer back to God. One of the things I have enjoyed most is seeing people use their talents for the benefit of our little piece of the body of Christ at St. Paul’s and in our community. One place I see this is in the beautiful voices I hear on Sunday mornings. Who would have thought that so much talent would reside in our little church? I see it in the way we serve in our community, and in the process, show through our actions what God’s love can do. I see it in the care we take in maintaining our grounds and in the thoughtful way we made the very hard decision to say goodbye to the original church chapel that held so many memories and served us so very well in the past. Stewardship isn’t always easy, but it is exciting to anticipate what God will have us do with the new space.

Part of stewardship is being able to take a step back to make sure that what we give to God is truly the best we have to offer. As we did with the decision to de-commission the original church used for Sunday school in favor of something better, we need to take a look at the gifts we’ve been given and consider how to make the most of them. Because, we’re not just supposed to give what we have, but to improve what we have as well.

As a health coach, I’ve been trained to help people reach their optimal health. Optimal health is very personal, very individual. It means helping people be the healthiest version of themselves they can possibly be. It means considering their individual circumstances and creating health, in some cases, around challenges, like thyroid deficiencies, depression, diabetes, and more.

Continued....Page 5



Shouldn't it be the same with those things we steward for God? Consider Optimal Stewardship. That would look different for each individual and for each church. As Pastor talked about a few weeks ago in reference to 1 Cor 12, it's pointless for a hand to try to have better eyesight or a nose to hear. Sometimes, Optimal Stewardship for an eye might mean a new contact prescription or for a voice, additional training. The point is, we shouldn't rest with the time, talent, and treasure we've been given. We should continue to develop our gifts and talents, to stretch ourselves and our church, to offer more and better, to offer our absolute best.

For a church, it means doing hard things like tearing down picturesque buildings that we know aren't healthy. It means making an effort to create an environment that is as inviting, friendly, and welcoming as possible, both in person and in our online presence. It means meeting – and accepting – people where they are.

For an individual, Optimal Stewardship might mean increasing the time devoted to church activities, or – just as important – it may mean cutting back because the best you have to offer is needed elsewhere, or simply because you need time to re-charge. It may mean taking classes or lessons to improve the gifts you've been given. The point is, Optimal Stewardship looks different for each individual and it's certainly not something we can judge by looking in from the outside.

Optimal Stewardship shouldn't be hard. It shouldn't feel burdensome. When we really take a step back and see all we've been blessed with, and when we're careful to stop spending time, talent, and treasure on the wrong things (like trying to keep up with the Joneses ... but in church), we can put our effort into really using the gifts we've been given.

Mission and Ministry



St. Paul's Valentine's Open House

For couples and singles – don't be alone Valentine's weekend!

Saturday, February 13 from 6 – 9 pm.

Pastor Tim & Amy are hosting an open house for Valentine's.

Please bring appetizers, finger foods, desserts, chocolate, etc.

????? Talk to Pastor or Amy.

Location: 30130 Hunt Rd., Mechanicsville



A VIEW FROM THE PEW –

Some thoughts on sharing the Good News--- “the view was very boring.”

The recent snow storm reminded me of an event in history and the most of the world didn't even know it occurred. On June 2, 1953 Elizabeth ascended to the throne of England. I recall seeing some of the coverage on TV. *Yes, we had TVs in the 50s although just black & white transmissions.* The news coverage of the Queen's Coronation overshadowed a world feat that occurred just four days prior to that event. On May 29, 1953 Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first climbers confirmed as having reached the summit of Mount Everest. Upon being interviewed, Sir Edmund Hillary was asked “*what was the view like?*” He replied “**the view was very boring.**” Boring, what matter of response is that after reaching the top of the world?



On top of the world: Tenzing Norgay on the summit of Mt Everest.
Photograph by Hillary, 29 May 1953

Reflecting on that statement, I wondered about Christians who no longer hunger for God's Word and fellowship with other believers. **Are you bored with your faith?** Have you reached the top? Guess it is another way of saying are you complacent now that you have received salvation and there is no need to do anything else. I fear for some this is true since many do not participate in our worship/fellowship and bible studies with other believers. If you are part of this characterization, how do you grow spiritually? How do you participate in the Great Commission? *Matt. 28:19-20* **Homework** I encourage you to read (Hebrews 5: 8-14) and pay particular attention to verses 13 and 14.

Redeemed in Christ, we are called by Christ to **share the good news** and to share the good news we have to be equipped! That's one of the main reasons we have Bible Studies and fellowship with other believers; to prepare us for God's work at church, home and the world. Finally I offer the following from a former study- Death & Resurrection of the Messiah by Ray Vander Laan. He states “In the bible, the olive tree is one of the ways Gods represents his relationship to his people. In keeping with this metaphor, a Christian's fruitfulness is likened to a tree that bears good fruit. In fact, Jesus strongly condemned unfruitfulness.” He cites (Matt.7:18-19) as the conclusion to his proclamation “**Every tree that does not bear fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**” This indeed is a powerful reminder, we must be prepared. Please join us on Sunday morning to receive the Word and encouragement of fellow believers. Prepare yourself for duty and **don't be bored with your faith.**

FEBRUARY 2016

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				Girl Scout Mtg 5:30 pm		
7 Service Times: 8:00 and 10:30 am Sunday School – 9:10 am Acolytes 8:00 Dylan Otte 10:30 Mary McNutt	8	9 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5:30 – 7:30 pm 	10 Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm No Confirmation or Rooted	11 Girl Scout Mtg 5:30 pm	12	13 
14 Service Times: 8:00 and 10:30 am Sunday School – 9:10 am Acolytes 8:00 Danielle Hoffman 10:30 Jacob Gray	15	16 Council Mtg 6:30 pm 	17  Lenten Service 7:00 pm <u>Confirmation</u> 6:30 – 7:45 pm <u>Rooted</u> 6:30 pm	18 Girl Scout Mtg 5:30 pm	19	20
21 Service Times: 8:00 and 10:30 am Sunday School – 9:10 am Acolytes 8:00 Russell Watson 10:30 Dylan Vogt	22	23	24  Lenten Service 7:00 pm <u>Confirmation</u> 6:30 – 7:45 pm <u>Rooted</u> 6:30 pm	25 Girl Scout Mtg 5:30 pm	26	27
28 Service Times: 8:00 and 10:30 am Sunday School – 9:10 am Acolytes 8:00 Emily Maack 10:30 Justin Vogt	29		Birthdays 2 – Rochelle Brynside 5 – Felicia Drury 9 – Gary Wollin 11 – Cindy Werth 13 – Simon Bowling 13 – Patty Gumtow 13 – Garrett Wiggen 14 – Aidan Price 	Wedding Anniversaries 1 – Jim & June Shewbridge 8 – Bob & Renee Maxey 14 – Stephen & Stephanie Stowers 26 – Brianna & Jonathan King 		



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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

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:

Tuesday, Feb. 9 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5:30-7:30 pm

Wednesday, Feb. 10 – Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm

Saturday, Feb. 13 – Valentine's Open House 6 – 9 pm

Tuesday, Feb. 16 – Church Council Meeting 6:30 pm

Wednesday, Feb. 17 & 24 – Lenten Services 7 pm