



Proclamation

February - 2018

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From the desk of the Congregational President

Paul Mehrkam



President Newsletter February 2018

This year's Valentine's Day is extra special, because February 14 coincides with Ash Wednesday. Not only do we get to celebrate our love for one and another, but we begin the journey for the passion of Christ. We are kicking off this Lenten season with a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 5:30 to 7 PM. Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7 PM. Bring yourself, family, friends, and neighbors for these festive events.

We have been blessed with Deacon Pomrenke filling the pulpit to lead worship for the past several months. Back in December, we applied for him to serve as licensed deacon to lead worship, provide communion, and minister our congregation's spiritual needs during 2018. Our application was approved by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod South Eastern District. This upcoming Sunday, February 11, we will be having a single service at 10:30 for his installation as Deacon at St. Paul's by his supervisor, Pastor Ogne. Afterwards, we will be having a celebration luncheon with chicken and pot luck for sides.

As many of you may know, Deacon Pomrenke has been taking courses to become a full Pastor and is expected to graduate to the Specific Ministry Pastoral program in May. After which, he wishes to become the Pastor at St. Paul's. The call committee also wishes for Deacon Pomrenke to be our Pastor. During the next couple of months, we will hold townhall meetings after Sunday church service to discuss more details, answer questions, and provide updates in our Pastoral call process.

Dear Lord Heavenly God, As we begin this season of Lent, help us remember Your teachings and sacrifice on the cross. Through Your grace, You have bestowed full pardon and forgiveness of our sins. Grant us Your peace upon us. Amen.

A View from the Pew

Some thoughts on sharing the Good News---“A man’s reach should exceed his grasp.”

Sunday Morning

Almighty God, and most merciful father, who didst command the children of Israel to offer a daily sacrifice to thee, that thereby they might glorify and praise thee for thy protection both night and day, receive, O Lord, my morning sacrifice which I now offer up to thee; I yield thee humble and hearty thanks that thou has preserved me from the danger of the night past, and brought me to the light of the day, and the comforts thereof, a day which is consecrated to thine own service and for thine own honor. Let my heart, therefore, Gracious God, be so affected with the glory and majesty of it, that I may not do mine own works, but wait on thee, and discharge those weighty duties thou requirest of me.

And since thou art a God of pure eyes, and wilt be sanctified in all who draw near unto thee, who doest not regard the sacrifice of fools, nor hear sinners who tread in thy courts, pardon, I beseech thee, my sins, remove them from thy presence, as far as the east is from the west, and accept of me for the merits of thy son Jesus Christ, that when I come into thy temple, and compass thine altar, my prayers may come before thee as incense; and as thou wouldst hear me calling upon thee in my prayers, so give me grace to hear thee calling on me in thy word, that it may be wisdom, righteousness, reconciliation and peace to the saving of the soul in the day of the Lord Jesus. Grant that I may hear it with reverence, receive it with meekness, mingle it with faith, and that it may accomplish in me, Gracious God, the good work for which thou has sent it. Bless my family, kindred, friends and country, be our God & guide this day and for ever for his sake, who lay down in the Grave and arose again for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Those powerful sincere words were taken from George Washington's prayer journal (age 20). There are equally inspiring prayers for each evening. As we arise, shouldn't the context of his prayer be evident in our talk with God. Long ago I thankfully learned the lesson that each day I am entrusted to carry out God's work with power and authority in spite of my short comings. God provides once our hearts are right. And what is our daily work--- Micah 6:8 **He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.** If we are to walk with God, shouldn't we obey our Lord's command? Of course we should. Prepare yourself daily with **prayer** and **study** that you may share the good news to the unsaved. Preach the joyous message of salvation with words and deeds! May we always exhibit sincere faith as expressed by young George Washington's prayer.



DEACON'S DEN

BY: GENE BOSTWICK

-(the lost works((ok I forgot I wrote it for Christmas)))

In this season of the Christ's mass have you ever stopped to think how wonderfully made we truly are? *Psalm 139 declares "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."*

We are made in the image of a triune God. Genesis does not say one "singularity" created us, but multiple, as most Judeo/Christian religions teach, or often times overlook.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

What is most fascinating to me is the more you dig into the Hebrew text to possibly find variants, because Jews most assuredly only worship YHWH and won't even speak his sacred name, the more the plurality of the creation story comes about. Consider this response from a Hebrew professor Neal Walter:

*"Genesis 1:26 ...na'aseh adam b'tzal'menu kidmutenu
Let-us-make man in-our-likeness like-our-image*

This appears to be one of those Hebrew couplets that repeats the same concept twice, probably for emphasis. A lot of Proverbs use couplets."

What really blows my mind is just as we celebrate and worship the baby Jesus in the manger we can and should celebrate the baby Jesus in all of us. All that is good, right, sacrificial, sacred, and pure exists in human beings from Adam until now it's just that we humans have perverted and destroyed it in every way imaginable and thus need to cling to the gift of the cross for salvation.

So why is this important? It is important because we have a God that created us and loved us so much that he became us, was tortured, died, and was resurrected for us. We do not worship a God that simply created someone called Jesus the Christ to die for our sins but a most loving Creator that died for his creation and lives forevermore. "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."" ([John 8:58](#))

All praise, blessings, and worship to Jesus Christ. Amen



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.”

Sunday School News

Throughout February, the Sunday School will continue to study Old Testament heroes such as Gideon, Deborah, David, Solomon, Elijah, Abigail and Elisha. Unlikely heroes who God used in extraordinary ways to complete His great plans. God did not choose the greatest, most educated, wealthiest, well known or prominent people to do his will. He choose ordinary people and asked only that those He called have faith and trust Him to lead then and help them to do his will. Scary for sure sometimes, Gideon needed 3 different signs from God before he could finally say “OK God I trust you, let’s go!”. How is God working through you in your life? Joshua 1 verse 9 reminds us that God says “Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged for the Lord your God is with you where ever you go.”

With Valentine’s Day also coming this month, we are reminded that “We are all one of a kind” created with unique gifts by a loving God who first loved us so much that He sent His only Son to die for us. In response to this amazing gift of grace our Sunday School kids will be reaching out to show God’s love to others in a variety of ways during the coming weeks and months.

Sunday School classes are available for ages 3 through adult. Please join us and bring a friend!

2018 Dates to put on your calendar:

April 1st – Easter Sunday Celebration

June 3rd – Closing Sunday School program and Potluck

June 25th thru June 29th – Vacation Bible School

July 8,15,22 and 29th – Super Summer Sunday School

The Sunday School Staff



Having completed my first year as the Youth Ministry for St. Paul's Council, I realized that I have not done much and want to make up for it this year.

I want to do something each month and in most cases, for ease of planning, it will be on the second Saturday of each month with exceptions possibly occurring during the summer months.

These activities will be open to all congregational members and will typically take place in the evenings. Here is the list for the year with details of each to be posted as the month comes up on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

February	Movie
March	St. Patrick's Day
April	Bingo
May	Mother Day
June	Father's Day
July	Pool party (Actual day to be determined)
August	Back to School Party
September	Game Night
October	Halloween (day may change)
November	Thanksgiving Party
December	Happy Birthday Jesus

I hope you each find something I have schedule that interest you and that you attend as many as you can.

May God Bless you and I look forward to a enjoyable, fellowship filled year.

Rooted in Christ

Cindy Werth

FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

As we prepare for Lent, there are some questions that typically are raised by many in LCMS congregations. I have found the following 2 questions and answers on the LCMS website. I hope these definitions will help in our understanding of the significance of the season ...

QUESTION 1: Would you please explain the significance of Ash Wednesday? I've seen some people in the past with black ash crosses on their foreheads.

ANSWER: *Lutheran Worship: History and Practice*, a commentary on Lutheran Worship, one of our Synod's hymnals, says this about ashes on Ash Wednesday: "Other customs may be used, particularly the imposition of ashes on those who wish it. This ancient act is a gesture of repentance and a powerful reminder about the meaning of the day.

Ashes can symbolize dust-to-dustness and remind worshipers of the need for cleansing, scrubbing and purifying. If they are applied during an act of kneeling, the very posture of defeat and submission expresses humility before God."

The use of ashes on Ash Wednesday is a more recent custom among most LCMS congregations, although some have done it for decades. The ashes are usually derived from the burned palms from the previous Palm Sunday.

Experience will show, however, that in obtaining ashes this way, it doesn't take many ashes to "ash" a whole congregation. Like sin, they are very dirty and go a long way. One palm leaf will produce enough ashes for several years.

Usually the pastor takes the ashes on the end of his thumb and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each worshiper, saying these words: "Remember: you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This follows most effectively prior (or as part of) the Service Corporate Confession and Absolution on pages 290-291 of the *Lutheran Service Book*.

QUESTION 2: What is the significance of Lent?

ANSWER: Early in the Church's history, the major events in Christ's life were observed with special observances, such as His birth, baptism, death, resurrection and ascension.

As these observances developed, a period of time was set aside prior to the major events of Jesus' birth and resurrection as a time of preparation.

During Lent, the Church's worship assumes a more penitential character. The color for the season is purple, a color often associated with penitence. The "Hymn of Praise" is omitted from the liturgy. The word "Alleluia" is usually omitted as well.

By not using the alleluia — a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord" — until Easter, the Lenten season is clearly set apart as a distinct time from the rest of the year.

Additionally, it forms a powerful contrast with the festive celebration of Jesus' resurrection when our alleluias ring loud and clear.

Finally, the penitential character of Lent is not its sole purpose. In the ancient Church, the weeks leading up to Easter were a time of intensive preparation of the candidates who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday.

This time in the Church's calendar was seen as an especially appropriate time for Baptism because of the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and our own in Holy Baptism (see Rom. 6:1-11).

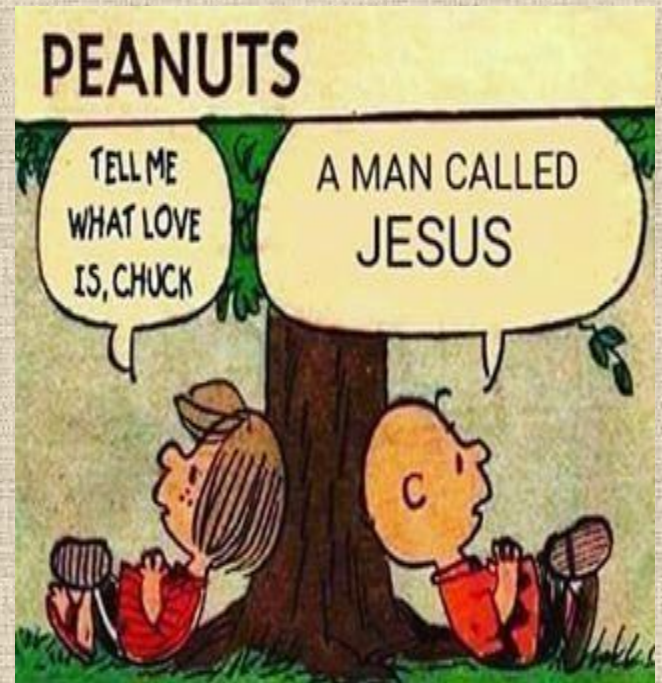
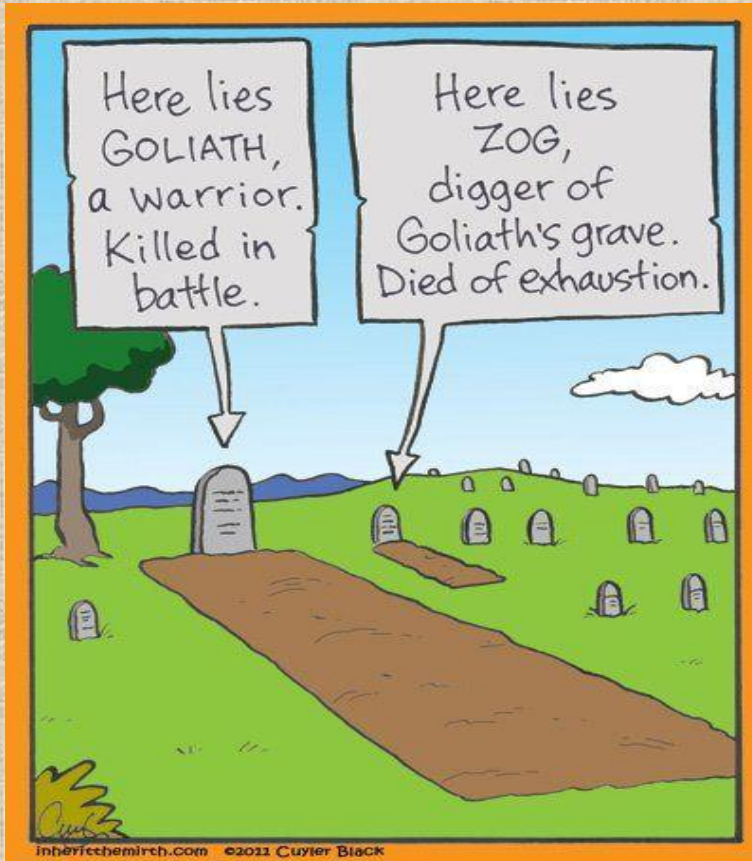
This focus would suggest that the season of Lent serves not only as a time to meditate on the suffering that Christ endured on our behalf but also as an opportunity to reflect upon our own Baptism and what it means to live as a child of God.

I Hope this was helpful for everyone. I look forward to sharing the Passion of The Lord with you all this Lent Season.

Deacon P.

St. Paul's Funnies

A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. Proverbs 17:22



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
HAPPY BIRTHDAY 2/2 – Rochelle Brynside 2/5 – Felicia Bowling 2/9 – Gary Wollin 2/11 – Cindy Werth 2/12 – Aidan Price			HAPPY ANNIVERSARY 2/1 – Jim & June Shewbridge 2/8 – Bob & Renee Maxey			
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School Resumes @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room			Council Mtg. 6:30 pm		Youth Movie Night! 6 PM 
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Service Times: ONE SVC - 10:30 am Gary Pomrenke Installation	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room	Shrove Tuesday 5:30- 7PM	Ash Wednesday Svc – 7PM <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room					
25	26	27	28			
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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

Sunday School: 9:00 am

Adult Bible Study: 9:15 am

Office Hours Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

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Connecting with Jesus, each other, & Southern Maryland