



# roclamation

JULY / AUGUST 2016

Volume 3, Issue 25

## The Thin Places Are Looking for You

By Pastor Tim

So here it is the middle of summer and the middle of 2016. It's a time for summer time fun, picnics, swimming, and sunshine. It's what you expect you to do in the summer, because it's the season for those kinds of activities.

Yet in those moments fun, seasonal moments, don't forget who is always with you.

Always remember the One who created this good earth.

Always remember we walk with the One who has shared this good gift with us to enjoy and to steward its resources.

And sometimes, if you pay real close attention this summer, you'll be gifted the ability to discover a thin place.

A thin place (in the easiest of definitions) is a place where the connection between heaven and earth is 'thinner' than usual and there is a rich sense of the sacred. It's when you come upon a certain location and you sense the mystical Presence of God in an unusually close way. It's when you recognize that He is with you. Thin places are where you are mesmerized for that moment and realize God is. It's where you're overwhelmed with His love, goodness, and grace.

The ancient Irish (the Celts) apparently used to say something like "heaven and earth are only three feet apart, but in thin places the distance is even shorter."

The point of thin places is that they are not an end in themselves, however, but meant to refresh us for the rest of life's journey. Thin places are calls of renewal to remind us to walk in God's Spirit and feed on His Word and His grace-bearing gifts. Thin places call us to deeper acts of devotion, prayer, and maybe even fasting.

Psalm 19:1 speaks of the thin places on God's good earth. ***"The heavens declare the glory of God, the sky proclaims His handiwork."*** Yet the psalm doesn't stop there, the Presence, the thin place also calls us back to the Good Word that we can fully know the One who is revealing Himself – ***"The teaching of the LORD is perfect, renewing life; the decrees of the LORD are enduring, making the simple wise."*** (Ps. 19:7)

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One of the amazing things about thin places however is that you don't discover them, they discover you. It might be a quiet place. Or, it could be a crowded market. Yet suddenly you remember you never can go far from His Presence and He's always there and He's always calling you to more. More of what, you ask? More of journeying in His Presence, growing in His Word, and feasting on His life-bearing gifts. Thin places calls us to remember we are not alone but created to be in grace-filled relationships of love, acceptance, and forgiveness. The key (if there is one) is to be expectant.

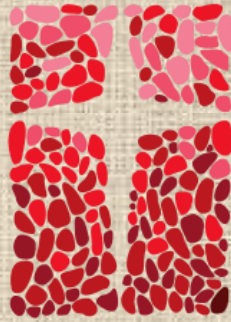
Jesus spoke often of having ears to hear or the eyes to see. If we walk each day negligent of Him, the thin places will elude us. But if no matter where we are this summer we awake and expect the Lord to bless us with all good things, mystical gifts await us.

May your eyes be on the lookout that His thin places may find you and that you be authentically refreshed.

***So now, may the God of peace make you His own completely and set you apart from the rest. May your spirit, soul, and body be preserved, kept intact and wholly free from any sort of blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus the Anointed. For the God who calls you is faithful, and He can be trusted to make it so (1 Thess. 5:23-24)***

AMEN.





## CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE

This summer has been a huge success for the Cornerstone service at 9:15am on Sundays. I really am at a loss for words on how to describe how amazing it has been to see the support from the church, but the blessings from God are abundant and I am so thrilled. The summer has a ton of fun. I love being able to worship with you all. We've had a lot of help from Gene, Stephen, and Ryan on getting the service up and running. I pray that Cornerstone continues to grow and glorify God. I hope you can join me in that prayer, too.

Jack McNutt

### Mission and Ministry



**BLUE CRABS** Baseball Game for St. Paul's members! Please call the church office to reserve your free ticket for a Blue Crabs game on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6:35 pm, courtesy of Kim Mozingo! Kim won 100 free tickets!



## From the desk of the Congregational President

Paul Mehrkam



During June and July, we had an opportunity to witness the amazing stewardship by our congregation members. Thank you to the teachers and student volunteers that contributed to the success of this year's Vacation Bible School (VBS). VBS continues to be a significant part of St. Paul's outreach into the local community.

Also, thank you for everyone who helped out on cleanup day. You all made a noticeable difference. The lawn is also getting mowed on a regular basis thanks to Gayle Gepert and Jimmie Swain.

We have a few more things to prepare the new Christian Educational Buildings for Sunday School and community outreach. Therefore, we will be having an Educational Building Prep Day on August 13 starting at 7:30 AM and working till 3:00 PM.

Thank you also to those that donated aluminum cans and metal junk that transform to \$48 for the building fund. Keep them coming, because the next scrap yard run will happen on Christian Educational Buildings Prep day.

We held our semiannual voter's meeting in July in which consisted of council reports and review of the construction expenses. If you were not able to attend and want a copy of the materials, please contact the church office.

As many of you know, Cindy Werth and I have been leading the Rooted Youth Group ministry. This is a very important phase when teenagers define themselves in becoming adults. Unfortunately, many get caught up in the social media world that faces away from God. As a congregation we have a duty to nurture their relationship with Jesus. Please continue to encourage your children to participate in Sunday School and Youth programs.

*Dear Lord, Please forgive our sinful misgivings and help us to forgive others as well. Thank You for the many blessings that you have given us through Your body and blood. Guide us as we expand Your ministry outreach with the use of the new Christian Educational Buildings. Amen.*

Connecting with Jesus & each other



*Tea Time*  
**LADIES TEA**  
*Wednesday, the Tenth of August,  
@ Twelve O'Clock*



Hot & Cold Tea, Tea Sandwiches,  
Scones, Fruit, Cheese, & Dessert

St. Paul's Lutheran Church:  
Christian Education Building  
R.S.V.P. by Sunday, August 7th  
301-904-6681 Kelly or  
602-549-7238 Lorrie  
Text messages okay  
Transportation available

## LCMS Mission Evening – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17 @ 7 PM

Dear St. Paul's, We are having a special Mission Evening on Wednesday, August 17 @ 7:00 pm and it is with an excited and grateful heart that I am able to introduce you to a dear sister in Christ who I have



known for many years, SHARA CUNNINGHAM. We met when we sang in choir together at Christ Lutheran Church, in Phoenix, AZ and where Shara shared her dream of becoming a missionary. Thousands of miles have separated us since she became a career missionary and I

look forward to seeing her in person and hearing about her mission service in Kenya, Africa! Thank you and I hope you will join us on Wed., August 17.

Lorrie Ching, St. Paul's Lutheran Church Office Administrator





# 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.

I hope that everyone is having a great summer. Whether you are off exploring on a vacation or relaxing with some down time at home, there are so many of God's wonderful blessings that we have to be thankful for. One thing that I am very thankful for is the new Christian Education Buildings. If you haven't had a chance to go inside the new building, please take a chance to do so and see how much amazing space we now have to enhance our education and mission projects. It is truly an amazing upgrade and the possibilities are endless. We have already broken them in a little with our very successful Cave Quest Vacation Bible School. If you noticed the stalactites and a glowworm around the church recently, these are all props from this year's annual VBS. I want to give a HUGE thank you to Meredith Johnson who organized and ran the event this year. She did an amazing job with a task that takes an enormous amount of time and effort. Nice job Meredith!

With VBS behind us, we still have our upcoming Rally Day this fall and the start to another Sunday school year to look forward to. This year we will kick off the new term on **September 11, 2016** in our new Christian Education Buildings! Sunday school classes will begin at **9 AM in the new buildings** with an all class opening and then students will break into their individual classes until 10:15. We will have classes for all children ages 3 to high school age. We ask that each Sunday school student fill out a yearly registration form so that we can have updated contact and grade level information. Extra forms are available in this newsletter and on the bulletin board in the church hallway. Please place completed forms in the Sunday School mailbox across from the kitchen. All are welcome!

We will also be having a Sunday school teachers' meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at 6:30 PM. All current teachers and anyone else who is interested in helping out with openings or teaching should plan to attend. We will discuss curriculum, teaching assignments and other preparations for the new term. We will meet in the new building.

Lastly, that brings me to the new buildings themselves. There are still a few finishing touches that need to be completed in the buildings and we are looking for all able bodies to come and help. We will be hosting a **Christian Education Buildings Final Work Day on Saturday, August 13, 2016**. We will begin at 7:30 AM and continue until the needed work is complete or 3 PM. We will have a light breakfast of coffee and donuts available along with lunch and drinks compliments of Thrivent Financial who approved another Action Team project at St. Paul's for our Christian Education Buildings! We need all kinds of people for all kinds of jobs which include painting, hanging bulletin boards and white boards, landscaping, bringing in furniture and cleaning. Many hands make light work so come on out and spend a Saturday serving the Lord in this worthy project.

Thank you again to everyone for the continued support.  
In His Service,  
Melissa Chew

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

## 2016-17 Sunday School

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### Registration Form

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Enrollment is for children 3 years old on or before September 1, 2013 thru high school age.

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade as of Sept. 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Siblings also enrolled in Sunday School: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Other Medical Problems: \_\_\_\_\_

Has your child been baptized? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If Yes, Where and When: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please check here to give permission for your child to be photographed and videotaped during church activities. Your child's image may appear in print or online promoting the church's activities. By checking here, you understand that your child's name will not be used to identify your child. This permission form will be kept on file in the church office. If you would like to withdraw your permission, you may do so at any time.

☐ Please check here if you do not give permission for your child to be photographed or videotaped during church activities. By checking here your child's image will not appear in print or online to promote the church's activities.

I would like more information on:

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult Sunday School classes or weekday adult classes

\_\_\_\_\_ New member classes

\_\_\_\_\_ Confirmation class for youth 7<sup>th</sup> grade or older

\_\_\_\_\_ Choir

\_\_\_\_\_ Teaching or Substituting Sunday School

\_\_\_\_\_ Youth group activities

\_\_\_\_\_ Getting involved in other ways with the Sunday School

Please return forms or direction questions to Melissa Chew (301-481-2427). Her box is located across from the kitchen.



***Some thoughts on sharing the Good News--- “If you see something”---***

I am sure you have heard or even uttered the phrase “if you see something, say something.” I have a card on our boat from the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources with the alert saying. **“If you see something, say something.”** The saying was copyrighted in 2007 by the New York City Metropolitan Transit Authority and no group including Federal and State law enforcement agencies may use the phrase without written permission from the NYCTA. Why would a common sense saying be copyrighted? Don’t know, but the core message is important relative for our well-being in times of chaos. I recall a recent copyrighted saying in the Fells Point area of Baltimore by a lady who claimed the expression “Hon” which has been used by the residents for years. She quickly gave up the claim after some “heavy persuasion” by locals. By the way, the ladies living in Fells Point still wear their hair in a bun and continue to call all Hon!

As followers of Christ perhaps we could copyright John 3:16--- naaahh, do you realize how many permission requests we would have to process daily? In reaching out perhaps St. Paul’s could take another approach- **“If you meet someone, greet someone”** of course always in Christ’s name.”

Let us begin with our fellow believers at St. Paul’s as we consider **Hebrews 10:24-25** ***Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.***

In the time June and I have returned, there are still too many members we still do not know and it is imperative for us to reach out here first. The next logical step is to greet people you meet each day at work and play. It is human nature to want to be recognized and our greetings help satisfy that need.

Once contact is made let us pursue the great commission in prayer and strength to offer the hope we have received to all to whom the Lord directs.

**Romans 15:1-11** ***We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.” For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,***

***If you meet someone, greet someone always in Christ's name, Amen***



# August 2016

September 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Pastor Tim out of the office @ Seminary Class in Charlottesville, VA					
7 Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am  Acolytes: 8:00 Dylan Otte 10:30 Garrett Wiggen Reader @ 10:30:	8	9 <u>Meetings</u> @ 6:30 pm: Sunday School Teachers & Church Council	10  LADIES TEA @ St. Paul's 12:00 pm	11	12	13 <u>Help needed :</u> Prepping the Christian Education Buildings for start of Sunday School classes! 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM
14 Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am  Acolytes: 8:00 Danielle Hoffman 10:30 Mary McNutt Reader @ 10:30: Jason Reithmeyer	15	16	17  Mission Evening 7 pm with Shara Cunningham	18	19	20
21 Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am  Acolytes: 8:00 Emily Maack 10:30 Justin Vogt Reader @ 10:30: Dale Bittner	22	23	24  St. Mary's County Schools, Grace Lutheran School, & King's Christian Academy Students 1 <sup>st</sup> day	25	26	27
28 Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am  Acolytes: 8:00 Danielle Hoffman 10:30 Dylan Vogt Reader @ 10:30: Cindy Werth	29  Calvert & Charles County Schools Students 1 <sup>st</sup> day	30	31	September Events Sat. 10 <sup>th</sup> – Blue Crabs Game @ 6:35 pm  Sun. 11 <sup>th</sup> – Rally Day for Sunday School @ 9:00 am		
<u>Anniversaries</u> 14 – Bob & Lois Beverage 17 – Tim & Amy McNutt		<u>Birthdays</u> 1 – Tony Ching 2 – Jason Reithmeyer 3 – Renee Maxey 5 – Greg Butterfield 5 – Sean McNutt 5 – Paul Piphon 7 – Mike Beall 7 – Bobby Stasch 8 – Christian Wollin 9 – Jordyn Beall 12 – Tony Gray 16 – John Bowling 16 – Kelly Gray 19 – Brenda Bowling 28 – Andrew Maack				



Proclamation

## 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

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*

### Dates to Remember in August:

<u>Tuesday, 8/9</u>	Sunday School Teachers Meeting @ 6:30 pm & Church Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
<u>Wednesday, 8/10</u>	Ladies Tea @ 12 pm
<u>Saturday, 8/13</u>	Work Day on Christian Education Buildings @ 7:30 am
<u>Wednesday, 8/17</u>	Mission Evening @ 7 pm – Guest/Shara Cunningham
<u>Wednesday, 8/24</u>	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of School St. Mary's County, Grace Lutheran & King's Christian Academy
<u>Monday, 8/29</u>	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of School Calvert & Charles County

### Dates to Remember in September:

Saturday, 9/10	Blue Crabs Game @ 6:35 pm
Sunday, 9/11	Sunday School Rally Day