



Proclamation

January/February 2015

Volume 2, Issue 10

Lent: A Time of Preparation

By: Pastor Tim

When I think of Lent, it always reminds me of baseball's spring training. It's a time to focus on improved discipline, to sharpen basic skills, and to set our minds on the upcoming season.

Lent is like that as it follows the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness praying and fasting. We're always in a rush to get out there and live and play. Lent reminds us to slow down. It reminds us to set aside time for prayer, fasting, meditation, giving and service. It's a time of self-denial as well – that we give up certain pleasantries around us to focus on giving and service. One doesn't just give up 'chocolate,' but we also look to take our chocolate money and give it to a food bank, for example. Lent is a time for investing in reading the Bible or other Christian devotional writings.

Lent does lead up through Holy Week to Holy Saturday and the beginning of the celebration of Easter / Resurrection Sunday. In that sense, we also consider how Jesus lived His life. There were many temptations that came against Him. But He was faithful and did not give in. As we consider His dedication, the Holy Spirit inspires our living as well.

Unfortunately we live in a time where advertising promises us ripped bodies without exercise, diet and any effort. Lent reminds us of the dedication required to live in union with Jesus.

Paul has the right idea in 1 Corinthians 9 – ***Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*** (1 Cor. 9:24-27, ESV)

Sin is constantly at work in our entire beings – spirit, soul and body – in order to keep us separated from God. Lent then is a time to hit the pause button and to examine every area of our lives. Only then can we make an honest assessment of what is keeping us separate from God and to ask for the help of His Holy Spirit that our entire beings might become more disciplined in Him.



From the desk of the President

Paul Mehrkam

As the incoming council president, I thank John Bowling and the council members for their service during 2014. We are very blessed for the new year, 2015. Most of the council positions are filled and we have a full complement of Elders. God willing, St. Paul's Church will continue to baptize and spread the Gospel to all in southern Maryland.

We do have some challenges facing us. Our operating budget is higher than the anticipated income. The council will be taking this on to reduce monthly expenses. To help us in our personal choices in giving to God, the congregation will be seeing a stewardship program relatively soon.

St. Paul's has been active and expanding the outreach mission in various areas. This includes our youth and Sunday school programs and outreach ministries such as Lifestyles. I would like to see St. Paul's to continue pulling in the community for events such as our yard sales, Christmas Bazaars, and music concerts. Let's continue putting God on the map in southern Maryland.

I encourage everyone to participate in the upcoming Congregational Voter's Meeting after the 10:30 service on 15 February. The first agenda item will be a vote to re-amortized the land mortgage from a monthly payment of \$928 to \$473 at a lower interest rate. Thrivent requires us to record the vote in our minutes.

The second topic will be to approve the proposal for two modular buildings over the old chapel location. This is the most cost effective approach to substantially improve classroom conditions for our children and will greatly help expand our ability to outreach to the community. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Town Hall meetings during February.

Dear Lord thank You for Your continuous guidance over the past year. Please continue to give us Your wisdom and courage in our stewardship of Your church at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Amen.

Sunday School News



Greetings from the Sunday school!

Huge Indoor and Outdoor Yard Sale Saturday, March 7, 2015

Thrivent Financial and the Sunday School staff will be hosting a indoor and outdoor yard sale on March 7 from 7AM to 2PM to raise money to purchase much needed supplies, furnishings, audio visual equipment and furniture for the educational and mission outreach programs at St. Paul's. This will be a very big undertaking and will need a lot of help and support to be successful. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the hallway if you can help out. If you have questions or need more information please contact Melisa Chew, Gene Bostwick, Mike Beall or Brenda Bowling. We are very thankful to our Thrivent members at St. Paul's for supporting this project to benefit our children here at St. Paul's and our missions into the community. More information will be coming soon but for now please circle March 7th on your calander! Table space will also be available for \$20 if you would like to set up a space to sell your own items.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

2015 Mt. Everest's Summer Vacation Bible School Program

"Conquering Challenges with God's Almighty Power"

June 29th thru July 3, 2015 (9 AM to 11:45 AM)

Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway if you can help out during this exciting, fun and faith filled week at St. Paul's!

Melissa Chew and Brenda Bowling Co-Directors

St. Paul's Youth Group

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

We have some amazing things coming and we could not be more excited! Starting on February 14 we have our Parents Night out from 4pm-8pm! If you or someone you know has children in 5th grade or younger, bring them by the church and the Youth Group will watch them! We will have games, movies, and crafts. Due to allergy concerns and risks, we ask that you would please bring snacks for your kids.

February Schedule:

Feb. 1 – Youth Group After
10:30 Service

Feb 14 – Parents Night Out
4:00pm-8:00pm

Feb 15 – No Youth Group
(Voters Meeting)

Things to Watch Out For:

Spring Retreat
(Maybe April)

Relay for Life
(Summer)

CHILI COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER

On March 21, we are hosting a Chili Cook-Off! Do you have a chili recipe that you would like to show off? Registration is 15\$. All money from the event will go towards the Youth Group's upcoming activities for the year; like Relay for Life! The event will be open to the public, so bring you're a-game! There will be judges for the different categories and tickets for voter's choice selection. (All participants are entered into the voter's choice category).

Categories Include:

Best Non-Beef (Chicken, Pork, Deer, Fowl, etc)
Best Vegetarian
Best Chili Made by a Chef Under the Age of 16

Registration is 15\$. Please have registration fee and the category of your choice submitted to Jack McNutt no later than Sunday, March 8. A sign up sheet will be in on the bulletin board.

Everything we have been doing so far has been a lot of fun. Each time we get together I try to bring home the idea that we should always be trusting in God and seeking His will. Recently, we started looking at the book of James. There's a lot to learn in there and I'm excited to be able to share it with the youth group! I am growing spiritually every day I get to come up with lesson plans, plan events, and just hang out with the Youth Group. I pray that the youth are getting something out of it too.

*He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."*

Thrivent Financial

By: Brenda Bowling

Thrivent Choice dollars from 2014 are now eligible for you to direct. Thrivent Financial is a fraternal insurance company – that is, instead of paying taxes to Uncle Sam, they pay YOU (if you are a Thrivent member). Really, they let you direct where some of the money goes, they are called Thrivent “Choice Dollars” because it is YOUR choice where the dollars go!

If you have almost any Thrivent insurance, IRA, annuity or health insurance then you probably have Thrivent Choice dollars in your account which can be directed to any good charity, including St. Paul’s. Last year over \$220 was directly deposited into our church account. All you have to do is call 1-800-THRIVENT and say Fraternal Choice dollars. Someone will help direct your money to your favorite charity. You can also do this over the internet by signing on to Thrivent.com with your direct login and password. Then go to membership benefits, Thrivent choice, select your charity then “direct” money to that charity.

Thrivent Financial is not JUST for Lutherans anymore. It can for any Christian! If you’re not one, be one!

Thrivent has helped out with various fund raisers and mission outreach projects this past year. Giving \$400 to the Angel Tree project, \$250 towards purchasing Christmas gifts for the Sunday School children and visiting children during the holiday season and adding \$242 to the Bazaar funds raised for the building fund. Thrivent has pledged \$500 towards funds raised at our upcoming yard sale in March.



**THRIVENT
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Mission Building Update

By: Paul Mehrkam

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Town Hall sessions during January. You really helped to shape the future for St. Paul's Christian education program and ability to serve the community. Here is a summary of the proposal that will be voted on at the Special Congregational Voter's meeting after the 10:30 service on 15 February.

We have considered several alternatives with regards to mission, location, configuration, and cost. For about \$55K, we propose to have two modular buildings situated side by side over the chapel location as shown in the first figure. This configuration is the most optimal foot print, because the buildings will, for the most part, remain inside the driveway circle that goes around the chapel. In addition, building over the chapel foundation allows us to use the existing utility services for water, septic, and electrical.

We have considered other locations such as in the front of the church, in the field between the cemetery and pole barn, etc. Each of these alternative locations had one or more additional expense for either re-routing the SMECO power line, adding new septic and water lines, and/or building a new septic system (\$20-30K).

Each of the modulares would be an open room of 40 x 24 feet. To divide the two large rooms into classrooms, we will build interior walls for a hallway and 6 classrooms as shown in the second figure. This will give us to have 6 classrooms nominally sized around 13 x 20 feet for Sunday School. Two of the rooms will have a divider wall that can be opened up for a large room (26 x 20 feet).

We look forward to your support in the upcoming Congregational Voter's meeting. For the voter's meeting, we will be adding \$5K to the proposal for a total of \$60K. The additional money is in case of any unforeseen cost that can occur in construction. If you have questions or comments, feel free to talk with me and the other building committee members.

Dear Lord, Continue to guide us in building your mission to outreach everyone in southern Maryland. Amen.

Miscellaneous Announcements

Congregational Voters Meeting will be held this coming Sunday, February 15, after the 10:30am Service. In this meeting we will be focusing on the complete modular project and budget. We will be voting to approve the re-amortization of the land loan to reduce our monthly mortgage payments by nearly 50%

Shrove Tuesday will be held on February 17, 2015! It will be held from 4:30pm-6:30pm. It's a pancake dinner before lent begins. Come hungry!

Choir will be meeting for practice *every Wednesday* following the 6:30pm Service

Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, February 18. Service is at 6:30pm with Holy Communion.



Remember in your Prayers

SHUT-INS: *Pat Gardiner*

MEMBERS:

Health Concerns: *Chicchina Bailey, Elin Cramer, John Fuchs, Melva Fuchs, Sally Gheen, Carletta Cyrus Parmes, Kathy Lewis, Lucy Price and Kathe Vachalek, Barbara Gheen*

Serious Health Concerns: *Jim Barry and Dale Bittner*

SPECIAL REQUESTS

New LCMS Church Plant in Brandywine/Upper Waldorf region

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CONGREGATION

Harry Maxey, Bob Maxey's father, diagnosed with Parkinson's

Nancy Ching, Tony Ching's mom, kidney failure and Alzheimer's

Tammy Nichols, Dianne Nichols daughter-in-law, brain surgery Nov. 26

Aunt Edna, Dianne Nichols, serious health concerns

Carol Dakaj, Lorrie Ching's mom, yearlong bladder infection

Debbie Schoenbauer, Alan & Marianne Hunters friend, brain cancer

Robbie Hutchinson, Kelly Gray's friend, heart attack

Austin Knarr, Gene Bostwick's nephew, health concerns/chron's disease

Terry McClintock, friend of Judy Rogers, serious health concerns

Madeline, Health concerns

Rebecca Athenason, Dianne Nichols daughter, serious illness

Alan Burch, friend of Karin Beall & former pre-school parent, cancer

Wee Davis, friend of Alan Hunter, brain cancer

Alma Stowers, Stephen Stowers Great Grandma, Breast Cancer

Johanna Fortney, daughter of Elin Cramer, cancer

Joe Fuchs, son of John Fuchs, bone cancer

Edward DeMarr, nephew of Lucy Price, brain tumor

For safety of all our military personnel & for their families.

God listens when we pray

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus".

[Philippians 4:6-7](#)



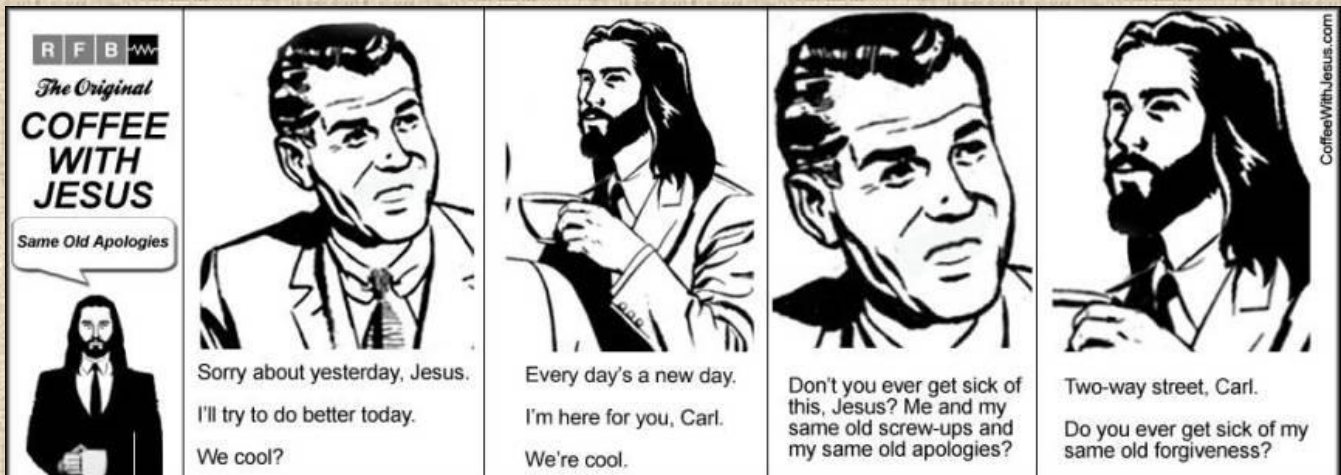
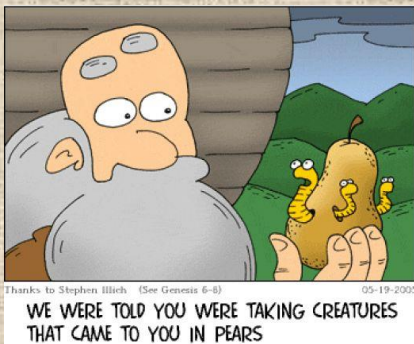
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Service Times: 8:00am 10:30am Sunday School – 9:10am		J				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Service Times: 8:00am 10:30am Sunday School – 9:10am			Wednesday Night Service 6:30pm Bible Study, Confirmation and Choir Practice 7pm	Council Meeting 6:30pm		VALENTINES DAY Parents Night Out 4pm-8pm 
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Service Times: 8:00am 10:30am Sunday School – 9:10am		Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 4:30pm-6:30pm	Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm Choir Practice after the service			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Service Times: 8:00am 10:30am Sunday School – 9:10am WWJB 4pm-7pm			Wednesday Night Service 6:30pm Bible Study, Confirmation and Choir Practice 7pm			

Look forward to March!

March 7: Sunday School Yard Sale
 March 8: Daylight Savings time
 March 21: Youth Group Chili Cook-Off



Funnies and Coffee with Jesus





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St. Paul's Lutheran Church

37707 New Market Turner Road
Mechanicville, MD 20659-3075

Sunday Services 8:00 and 10:30 am

Sunday School and Adult Classes 9:10 am

Wednesday Connections Service 6:30 pm

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

Phone: 301.884.5184

Website: www.stpaulssomd.org

Email: stpaulsicsmmd@netzero.net

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



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