



A Life of Faith

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH MECHANICSVILLE, MD

Pastor's Message:

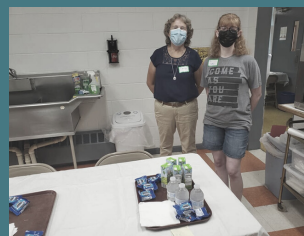
Beloved, Where has the summer gone? In just like what seems to be a snap of a finger, we have whizzed through the bulk of the summer and are now seeing “back to school” sales everywhere you look. It has been a super-hot last few months regarding the heat and the humidity in our area.

This upcoming month is going to be a life-changing month for Tracie and I. Her pre-op will be happening on August 3rd and then the actual amputation will occur within two weeks of that appointment. I believe it's safe to say that our lives will never be the same. There is good and bad in that outlook though. Although Tracie will be in extreme pain throughout the rest of this year, there will be a better quality of life for her as each day passes as well. During this time, I am going to be in and out of the office. I may be working a great deal from the VA hospital in DC. I will always be reachable via my cellphone which (240) 424-2451.

Although I love you all and I am here for each and every one of you, my primary focus over the next few months is to be there for Tracie so I can do everything humanly possible to make her life a little more comfortable and bearable after the surgery. I still plan to have office hours as I can.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message.....	pg 1
Deacon's Den.....	pg 3
LWML	pg 4
VBS Pictures.....	pg 6
Compassion Committee.....	pg 7
Buildings and Grounds.....	pg 8
Sunday School News.....	pg 9
Sunday School Registration....	pg 10
Member Spotlight.....	pg 11
Missions & Ministry.....	pg 12
Venturing Crew.....	pg 13
Birthday & Kids Corner.....	pg 14
Calendar.....	pg 15



Pastor's Message Continued:

People have asked what they can do to help ... the thing is that I don't know what to expect, so I can't quantify things and answer those questions. Tracie and I have placed this in God's hands, and we will go where He leads us. Please continue to pray for her ... for a successful surgery and recovery. And if possible, allow me some Grace if I seem a little scatter brained over the next few months. I still plan to be in the pulpit most of the Sundays that encompass her recovery.

I pray that as we start another school year with our families that you keep one thing close to your hearts. I have been convicted of late that I am not doing enough to keep my flock in the word. So, as I was thinking ... this analogy of the start of school came to mind. When we are in school, we are learning because we are expected to absorb the material and try to commit it to memory. Because everything said in class is testable and many teachers will remind their students of that exact thing. Taking that analogy ... how are our spiritual studies going? Have we committed to memory all or even some of the verses in the bible aside from John 3:16? I talk a lot about immersing ourselves in the word continually. There is a reason for this statement. If we are continually in the word, then we will know where to go when problems arise. We will know where to find comfort when we are saddened by events of this life. We will know not to be anxious or fearful when the going gets tough.

Familiarity with scripture should bring awareness and comfort. We should not wait until problems arise and then be forced to google what passage may help us through it. WE SHOULD KNOW what the word is going to say. Just like being a student in class ... everything is testable come judgment day.

I am not trying to scare you ... I am trying to remind you of the great importance of spending consistent time in God's Word. We have no problem sitting on a couch and binge watch our favorite shows on Netflix, but how much time are we willing to spend in the study of God's Word? We will soon have two bible studies going at the same time for the first time since I have arrived here. That's great, but having the same people involved in both is not so great. It assures those 8-10 people that they are doing what we have been commanded to do ... "Abide in His Word." But what about the other 50 plus members of this Body of Christ? I would implore you to make a point to get involved in a bible study. Don't be afraid that you're not smart enough and that you don't know enough to participate in a bible study. That's THE POINT! None of us know it all, and when we get together surrounded by God's word, we learn and become educated regarding what God wants from each one of us. Better to know God and what He wants for us then to have to google passages when we are struggling. Amen?

May God's Peace be with you all!

Pastor G. Pomrenke

Thoughts from the Deacon's Den

by Deacon Gene Bostwick

What is Righteousness?

“This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.” Martin Luther wrote these beautiful words in 1521 as part of his defense of the 95 treatise he posted.

Let's examine this based on the truth of Holy Scripture. The first thing that comes to my mind is repentance. Without that small voice of being sorry, as Jesus taught, there can be no growth in righteousness. Mark 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” And as we say in our liturgy every Sunday. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

I believe we are all growing in righteousness if we choose to make righteousness important. One of the ways we make growth in righteousness important in our lives is by participating in church with fellow believers. Just like our prayer life and reading the Bible, I do not think Church is optional. We read in Hebrews 10:24-25 and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. By hearing, seeing, tasting, and smelling what righteousness is to God we in turn grow towards God.

So what is righteousness to God? Because that is all that matters. Anyone can call themselves righteous but what is righteousness to God in Heaven?

Righteousness to God is Jesus Christ.

By loving Jesus Christ more every day, thanking Him for his sacrifice, taking part in His blessed communion, we begin to gleam his Love. It is in this love, faith and thankfulness for his Son where we travel on the road of truth. We grow closer to our creator when we ask for forgiveness and cast all of our sinful self at the foot of the cross. Jesus willingly sacrificed himself to allow us to become beings reconnected with God through Him.

We might not gleam in glory as Martin Luther states but we are absolutely being purified the more we say it is not about me and all about you dear Lord. Thy will be done.

Now take this knowledge of complete forgiveness in Jesus Christ and SHINE.

Peace and Love be with you all,

Gene Bostwick

LWML News

by Tracie Pomrenke

As you all know Pastor and I had the privilege of representing St Paul's at the national convention in Kentucky. What a wonderful experience. We were able to see where our mites have gone to support the work of God. IN case you are new to LWML, "mites" are what we call the money donated to support ministry grants. For example, Grace Lutheran in La Plata has received grants to support their Compassion Center that helps local people in need. It is a tractor trailer which can be dispatched to emergency situations that we can assist at. This ministry came about after Katrina hit New Orleans and we wanted to do more than pray.

The convention was very mission oriented and it reminded Pastor and I that we are ALL missionaries. Some are here to benefit those that are local, like we do each week with the food donations at our local food pantry. We also heard of people sharing God's love in far off lands by offering medical assistance and educational opportunities in impoverished areas.

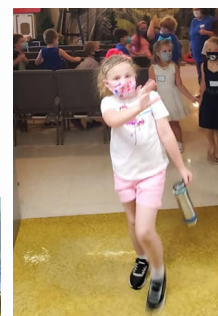
I am now motivated to find another opportunity to go on a mission trip!! Also to take my mite donations more seriously. I am including a calendar that they have on their website to make a game out of collecting mites for the chosen grants to continue God's missions. Both in the United States and abroad. I put an Avon bag on the narthex table with plenty of mite boxes so grab one and let's get them filled up!! Once they are full give them to me to send in. If you would prefer you can also just write a check made out to LWML and I will send them all together.

In the fall we are having a Fall rally so please reserve the date of September 25th. I do not currently have a time but it will be held at Grace in La Plata. I am hoping to be able to attend and I would really like to have other ladies from St. Paul's join me. When I learn more about the timing and if they are doing an in gathering collection I will make sure to get the information out to you.

LWML Mite Challenge Calendar August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 National Sister Day. Thank God for sisters in Christ! Donate 20¢.	2 List those in your life who might need support. Plan ways to help. Donate 40¢.	3 Do you have garden abundance? Share with others. Donate 30¢.	4 Select a mission grant to pray for each week this month. Donate 20¢.	5 Support a caregiver through prayer and action. Donate 10¢.	6 Is there a Friday fish fry in your area? Invite a friend. Donate 20¢.	7 National Mustard Day. Read Mark 4:30–32. GO and sow! Donate 20¢.
8 Support your pastor with encouraging words. Donate 40¢.	9 What is your favorite book in the Bible? Read it this week. Donate 30¢.	10 Pray for someone you know who is grieving. Donate 20¢.	11 Roll your shoulders. Get ready to serve the Lord today. Donate 10¢.	12 Volunteer for something in your area and share God's love. Donate 40¢.	13 Lovingly support fellow Christians. 1 Corinthians 12:12–31. Donate 50¢.	14 Check out mission service activities at lwml.org . Donate 25¢.
15 Relax in God's care. Read Psalm 46. Donate 20¢.	16 Teachers are getting ready for the school year. Prayerfully uplift them. Donate 30¢.	17 Read the beautiful description of God's support in Deuteronomy 33:12. Donate 10¢.	18 Consider ways to help a military family who has someone deployed. Pray for the family. Donate 40¢.	19 Sing "This Little Gospel Light of Mine" and let your light shine! Donate 25¢.	20 Are there fireflies in your area? Marvel at the impact of just one tiny light! Donate 40¢.	21 Donate to your local food pantry. Hunger is a heavy burden. Donate 20¢.
22 Talk to young people at your church today. Pray for them this week. Donate 30¢.	23 Are you bearing a burden? Share it with God in prayer. Donate 25¢.	24 Pray for the committees serving your congregation. Donate 20¢.	25 Read Matt. 11:28–30. Give your burdens to God. Donate 10¢.	26 Relax by imagining walking in a favorite place. Donate 30¢.	27 Thirsty? Have a refreshing drink, and think of Jesus, the Living Water. Donate 40¢.	28 Pray for those leading worship and helping tomorrow. Donate 20¢.
29 Look back at how you have been blessed this month. Praise God! Donate 20¢.	30 Sing "Jesus Loves Me." Substitute your name for "Me." Donate 25¢.	31 Revisit the list you made on August 2. Check on those people. Donate 30¢.	<i>Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).</i>			

VBS FUN



Compassion Committee

by Jenny Moonen

It's almost time for the official first meeting of the Compassion Committee. Want to know more about what we are all about and help to form this committee? Join us at St. Paul's Wednesday August 4th at 5 pm in the church office. Our initial meeting will be to discuss what we hope to achieve from this committee.

Some things I am hoping to see come from this group is to help organize meals and chore help for people after they have surgery, a baby, or are caring for a sick loved one, etc. In addition, if you know of someone who would love to come to church services but doesn't have a ride, we can organize someone who is nearby to pick them up on their way through. Those are just a few ideas. We are open to more suggestions.

Our first endeavor will be to help Pastor and Tracie Pomrenke. Tracie was in a bad car accident a few years ago and after many unsuccessful operations, the decision has been made to amputate her foot. Tracie will be having that surgery soon. During this time, she will be unable to work or be able to do many things until she is recovered. This will be a challenging time for Tracie and Pastor.

Many of you have asked, "What can I do to help?" The compassion committee has set up an on-line place for all of us to volunteer for specific needs they may have. It could be a meal or a ride or similar type things. Tracie or I will update the calendar with what needs to be done. You can either sign up on line or just let me know what you want to do and I will update the calendar for you. You simply go into your web browser and type in the unique code of <https://mealtrain.com/ve7rlg>.

Some of the easiest ways to help them would be a donation of gift cards to Safeway, or one of their favorite restaurants like Panera, Texas Ribs, Panda Express, Subway, Buffalo Wild Wings, Applebee's, Dairy Queen, Hunan Star, Vocelli's Pizza, Silver Diner, or KFC. Many of these gift cards can be purchased on the website we set up or simply dropped off at the office or with Pastor.

If you have any questions, please email me at info@stpaulssomd.com or call me at 301-884-5184. Please remember to keep them in your prayers.



Building and Grounds

by Brad Clements

We have had some electrical problems with the lighting behind the cross on the altar. Paul Pipho is working to resolve the problem and we hope it will be repaired in the near future. Thank you, Paul Pipho for your efforts in resolving this problem.

Status of Projects:

Kneelers and Pew Cushions:

The kneelers and pew cushions were ordered several months ago. The fabric that matches our chairs and altar carpet in the sanctuary has been obtained. Additionally, the foam rubber for the kneelers and pews has also been obtained. At this time, all materials have been secured. Labor shortages persist everywhere. No specific delivery date is currently available.

Special Thanks:

I would like to once again thank the Wigger's family for their support in maintaining the church grounds; especially cutting the grass. This is a huge task.

Future projects:

- Replace the floor in the main hallway/narthex of the church. Estimated cost \$2,500. On your next visit to the church please take a moment to look at the floor. This is our next project. If you are interested in donating for this project please identify your contribution accordingly.
- Replace the floor in the kitchen. Estimated cost \$1,500.
- Replace the exterior door and framing from the Pastor's office to the outside. Approximate cost \$1,000.
- Long-term project will be to repair and replace the deteriorating asphalt in the parking lot and entrance drives including repainting the striping for parking spaces. We have not received a specific quote for this work, but it will cost approximately \$25,000.

Sunday School News

by Brenda Bowling

To All Sunday School Families and Friends of St. Paul's! We hope that everyone is having a wonderful summer enjoying lots of family fun and adventures! Many opportunities will be offered this year to help all of us study God's Word so we can grow closer to him and feel strengthened by His love and promises as we go through each day.

It was also great to see many of our friends at our fantastic Rocky Railroad Vacation Bible School program this summer. Huge thanks to Meredith Johnson our director, this year's staff and crew leaders and Brad Clements for the amazing railroad sets he made. Brad and Frank Rappa were also there on site every day of the week to help with anything and everything that needed putting up, taking down and fixing to make sure things ran smoothly. VBS has always been an exciting and fun way for the bible to come to life for kids!

The Sunday School staff at St. Paul's is preparing to begin a new Sunday School year. Classes for all ages three thru adult will begin on September 12, 2021 with our annual Rally Day celebration. Sunday school classes will start at 9:15 AM in the education building with an all class opening before students break into their individual classes until 10:15 AM.

Extra forms are available on the bulletin board in the church hallway. Please place completed forms in my mail box across from the kitchen. All are welcome!

Pastor will also be leading an adult bible study in the kitchen on Sunday mornings beginning on September 19th for anyone who would like to join in from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM. Our Rally Day celebration will continue with a special worship service on the 12th which will include our Sunday School children leading the congregation in singing a couple of their favorite VBS songs. (If you were unable to attend VBS this summer, don't worry, the words will be projected for all to follow along!) A children's message and the installation of our teaching staff will also be included. Following the service all are invited to stay for a wonderful fellowship potluck picnic with games, good food, a fun moon bounce and great fellowship. Drinks and a meat (TBD) will be provided. Please bring a side dish and or a dessert to share! We thank our Thrivent team once again for helping to sponsor this great chance for all of us to come together as a church family!

*"Write it on your heart:
God has a plan for your life." Jer.29:11*

Brenda Bowling Christian Ed. Chairman

Upcoming Events:

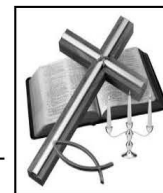
Sunday School teacher's meeting on Tuesday, August 10th at 6:30 PM. All current teachers and anyone else who is interested in helping out with openings or teaching should plan to attend. We will be discussing curriculum, teaching assignments and other preparations for the new year.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

2021 - 2022 Sunday School

Registration Form



Enrollment is for children 3 years old on or before August 1, 2021 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 Class

____ Choir

____ Confirmation class for 7th grade or older

____ Teaching or Substituting Sunday School

____ Youth group activities

____ Getting involved in other ways with the Sunday School

____ New member classes

Please return forms or direction questions to Brenda Bowling (301-373-8256). Her box is located across from the kitchen.



Member Spotlight Deacon Gene Bostwick



Deacon Gene Bostwick was born and raised in Suitland and Ocean City Maryland. He feels blessed to have lived in two locations growing up. Suitland during the work week and Ocean City every weekend, holiday and summer. Deacon Gene has worked with children with special needs for over 30 years. Deacon Gene met his wife Cathy in the school system. She was his school's new psychologist. He put a note

in her mailbox and asked if it was okay if he called her. She said yes, after correcting his spelling on the note. He has loved her ever since! They were married in 2004 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Ocean City with a very fun reception at the Carousel high-rise condominium. They have one daughter, Elizabeth who was born in 2009. She loves Guinea Pigs! She also likes to help with the 10:30 worship service.

Deacon Gene is the Church's Lay Deacon and is very proud and honored to be. He loves doing the children's message and reading the gospel at the 10:30 service. He has also discovered the love of preaching Christ Crucified and Risen when Pastor Gary is away. It is one of his greatest joys.

In his spare time Deacon Gene enjoys spending time with his family regardless of what they are doing. He also enjoys reading, collecting comic books, playing guitar, and hanging out at the beach!

This summer he has grown closer to God by keeping a schedule for Bible reading and prayer. Not books on the bible (which he also likes to read) but actual time in the word of God. If you want peace in this troubled world, he encourages everyone to carve out some time to be in the Word of God daily. God speaks to us through his word and we speak to God through prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Missions and Ministry by Lois Beverage

In June during St Paul's Lutheran Church VBS the children participated in a mission project entitled:

WHAT CAN A KID DO ??

When asked this question during VBS the answer was the same every time....”**WE CAN DO EVERYTHING !!**” This makes the heart so happy! How awesome that the children in our community feel empowered!! During our week together we focused on kids making a difference in three areas.

1. I can bring food to feed the hungry!
2. I can share a story!
3. I can share Jesus' love!

Throughout the week the children and their families brought in generous amounts of food, gently used books and notes and pictures showing Jesus' love for all! These gifts are being shared throughout our community for the young and the aged. Truly a child will lead them showing how we can all be a beacon of God's love when we support and care for each other.

We had three students help with this mission by creating a banner. Tyler Johnson drew wonderful pictures, Ethan Johnson did research on what the pictures should look like and Ryan Chew helped with hanging it up! Great team work!

Thank you so much for your generous hearts and love for each other!

Mission and Ministry Chairperson

Lois Beverage

Venturing Crew Update

by David Nelsen

What is Venturing?

Greetings to the congregation and particularly to the young adults, ages 14-20 (or 13 and completed the 8th grade). This month, the Venturing crew just wanted to share what “Venturing” and the “Venturing crew” is.

Venturing is an inclusive older youth/young adult program sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America. It is a relatively young program and is what “Explorers” became back in 1998 (for you young-at-heart adults who may remember it from your youth). It is also a fully co-educational program, meaning boys and girls participate together at the unit level which is the crew.

Venturing emphasizes four main areas, known as ALPS - adventure, leadership, person growth and service. The Venturing program uses the components listed below to meet our needs and the goals of the Boy Scouts of America, which include building character, developing citizenship and fostering personal fitness:

Leadership and Mentoring – Venturers are given opportunities to learn and apply proven leadership skills. A Venturing crew is led by youth officers. Training courses, such as the Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews, uses experiential learning to teach Venturers how to lead effectively. Once Venturers have led several activities, they are asked to then mentor the other leaders in their crew.

Group Activities and Adventure – Venturers work with teams on everything they do. Their success is dependent on the interaction and cooperation of all, preparing Venturers for their future careers and paths. The crew has experienced numerous adventures - backpacking in New Mexico, indoor skydiving, kayaking, caving and rock climbing to name a few.

Recognition – Venturing includes an optional awards program that acknowledges and recognizes our youth for their progress through Venturing’s four main areas of emphasis (ALPS).

Adult Association – Adults serve to advise the youth as they plan events and make decisions, while ensuring the program remains youth-inspired and youth-led. This partnership provides our youth with essential connections and lessons that will prove useful in their future paths.

Ideals – Venturers are expected to know and live by the Scout Oath and Law, ideals of Scouting created to inspire a culture of servant leadership, both inside and outside of Venturing. The Scout Oath (duty to God) and Law (a Scout is reverent), as well as Venturing’s Trust award, promote a greater awareness of their faith.

Group Identity – Venturers are not asked to conform to a set uniform. Instead, they have the opportunity to create their own standards for attire at their events and meetings, as they see fit. We have an official crew t-shirt but some members also like to occasionally wear the official Venturing uniform.

Service – Venturers serve their local and distant communities through personal and group service as the crew plans activities and individuals make progress through the Venturing awards program. We have participated in service for St. Paul’s, the local community and the environment.

All that in mind, we really aim to have fun together in various challenging and satisfying activities.

Want to “Lead the Adventure”? Please contact David Nelsen, the crew’s advisor, at danelsen@alum.rpi.edu or 301.997.5065.

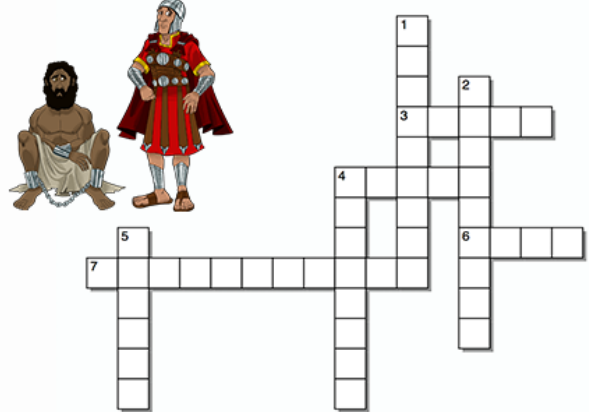
August Birthdays

Owen Meyers - August 1
 Jason Reithmeyer - August 2
 Renee Maxey - August 3
 Gregory Fox - August 4
 Paul Pipho - August 5
 Bobby Stasch - August 7
 Christian Wollin - August 8
 Jordyn Beall - August 9
 Tony Gray - August 12
 Kelly Fox - August 13
 Nathan Price - August 13
 John Bowling, Sr. - August 16
 Kelly Gray - August 16
 Brenda Bowling - August 19
 Lucas DeMorrow - August 22
 Stephen Maack - August 22
 Andrew Maack - August 28

Bible Pathway Adventures

CROSSWORD

PAUL & SILAS IN PRISON



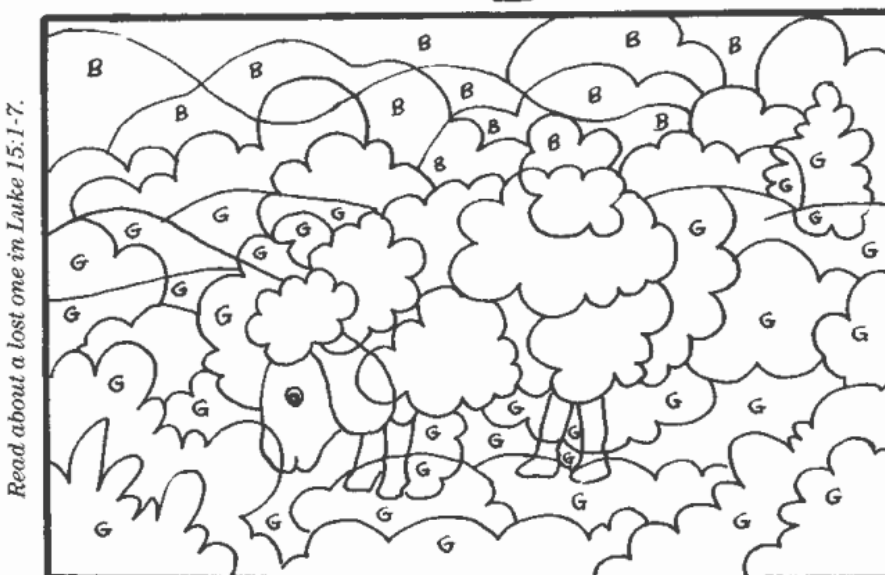
ACROSS

- 3) "They _____ the word of God to him and everyone in his house." (Acts 16:32 ESV)
 4) "The doors were opened and everyone's _____ were unfastened." (Acts 16:26 ESV)
 6) "Paul cried out, 'Do not _____ yourself for we are all here.'" (Acts 16:28 ESV)
 7) "The _____ have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace." (Acts 16:36 ESV)

DOWN

- 1) "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to Yah (God), and the _____ were listening to them.." (Acts 16:25 ESV)
 2) "He rejoiced along with his entire _____ that he had believed in God." (Acts 16:24 ESV)
 4) "Paul took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was _____ at once, he and all his family." (Acts 16:33 ESV)
 5) "The _____ called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas." (Acts 16:29 ESV)

IF YOU COLOUR IN ALL THE **B**'s BLUE
 AND ALL THE **G**'s GREEN...



Read about a lost one in Luke 15:1-7.

... YOU WILL FIND AN ANIMAL JESUS KNEW WELL.

Kid's Corner

Happy Anniversary

Robert & Lois Beverage
 August 14



S F T W T M S

1 WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	2 Venturing Crew Mtg. 7-8:30pm (Education Bldg. Large Classroom)	3	4 Council Meeting: 6:30 pm (Church)	5 Zoom Bible Study: (Acts) 7 pm	6	7
8 WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	9 Venturing Crew Mtg. 7-8:30pm (Education Bldg. Large Classroom)	10	11	12 Zoom Bible Study: (Acts) 7 pm	13	14
15 WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	16 Venturing Crew Mtg. 7-8:30pm (Education Bldg. Large Classroom)	17	18	19 Zoom Bible Study: (Acts) 7 pm	20	21
22 WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	23 Venturing Crew Mtg. 7-8:30pm (Education Bldg. Large Classroom)	24	25 Elder's Meeting: 6:30 pm (Church)	26 Zoom Bible Study: (Acts) 7 pm	27	28
29 WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	30 Venturing Crew Mtg. 7-8:30pm (Education Bldg. Large Classroom)	31				

AUGUST





St. Paul's Lutheran Church
37707 New Market Turner Road
Mechanicsville, MD 20646