



# Proclamation

## Lenten Ramblings 2015

March 2015

Volume 2, Issue 11

By Pastor Tim McNutt

Well, Lent 2015 is off and running to quite the rocky start this year at St. Paul's, but that's how life is, isn't it? Saving for a trip – extra bills come in the mail. Important day at school or work – unexpected cough or flu. Having a great time with friends – someone doesn't even realize they said something that hurt your feelings. All ready for the perfect date night – and no sitter!

Everyday life promises much, but in the end Lent's Ash Wednesday reminds us we are dust and to dust we shall return. We are the creatures and HE is the Creator.

Our plans turn out to be a real mess sometimes, but He is always in control. This is why we need Lent each year to step back and to focus WHO really matters. Plans are important or nothing would ever get done. But in the end the Christian faith is about our knowing God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Lent is the time of year to think about your relationship with God. Just how well do you know God? It's as simple as St. John 17:3 - ***And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*** (John 17:3 ESV)

Knowing God begins in the Word and through the Sacraments, especially baptism and the Lord's Supper. Yet Lent reminds us knowing God is also about time that is quickly passing unless consumed wisely. Lent is about investing time in knowing God through prayer, meditation, listening, giving, serving and reading.

To know God, you have to spend time with Him. This is not a guilt appeal but to remind you plans may fall apart as they have this year at St Paul's. But you still have to pause and make and invest the time no matter what roadblocks come your way.

The cool thing is – as you invest time into your relationship with God and you come to know Him better – the roadblocks won't matter as you grow in Him. AMEN.



From the desk of the President

*Paul Mehrkam*

Brothers and Sisters,

I am happy to announce that we are moving forward on our building program with two modular buildings over the old chapel location. Blessing and Thanks to the donor who contributed \$50K to make this possible. We are looking forward to begin using the new facilities in September with the start of Sunday School.

With approval of the refinancing on the land mortgage, we begin the journey to improve St. Paul's financial health. During the course of this year, you will see a stewardship program being set in place to help learn the valuable blessings of giving. One of the initiatives that we are considering will make it possible to contribute online, using your phone, and automatic contributions.

On March 21, our Sunday School is having a yard sale. Please come, help out, and/or buy a lot of stuff.

I do encourage everyone to check out the revamped St. Paul's website and Facebook page. We need to ramp up our communication efforts with what is going on. On the website you will find calendars of events, announcement boxes to the right, the current and past new letters, visitor information, picture gallery, and so on.

The Church Council, Elders, and the Church Secretary are going to work out the process so that all folks can get contacted by more than one means. This includes the traditional phone calls, emails, Facebook posting, and church website. We might even add texting to the mix.

You will continue to see the signs of mission growth and community involvement at St. Paul's. With the anticipated arrival of the modular buildings, I definitely look forward to expansion of our mission to teach God's Word, baptize, and serve the community in the name of God.

*Dear Lord, Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

*Continue to guide Your church in serving Your will and outreaching to the community.*

*In Christ's name we pray. Amen.*

Paul





# 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. We continue to come together each Sunday and learn more about the amazing love God has for us.

Due to the forecasted snow, we made an early call and RESCHEDULED THE MARCH 7<sup>th</sup> YARDSALE FOR MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>!!! So....March 21, 2015 the Sunday school and Thrivent Financial will be hosting a huge indoor and outdoor yard sale at the church from 7:30 AM to 2 PM. The Youth Group will also be selling donuts, coffee, hot dogs and sodas out of the kitchen as well on Saturday. All funds raised from the yard sale will be going to help furnish our new Education and Mission Outreach Building that we are building this summer. We will use these funds to purchase much needed equipment such as new white boards, cabinets, shelves and supplies, as well as furniture and audio visual equipment for the new rooms. While God's Word never changes, there are many new and exciting ways our teaching staff can use to bring God's Word to our kids and community!

We need the support of all *of our church and Sunday school families* to make this yard sale a big success. Help will be needed Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> after the Lent Service to take down the chairs and set up tables. We will also need help Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, from 4 PM to 7 PM, and Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, from 1 PM to 7 PM, to set up, empty the Compassion shed, organize donations and price items. On Saturday we will need more help for final set up as well as people to man the various areas and checkouts during the sale. Additionally we will also need help taking down everything and cleaning up afterwards. Any and all help is appreciated and needed to make this event a success. Please sign up on the poster in the church hallway. If you have been cleaning out your house during these long winter months, you can also help out by donating all your items to the church or renting table space for \$20 to sell your own things. One person's junk is another person's treasure. Most importantly, please remember that working alongside your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Paul's is always a rewarding and fun day whether you come to shop, browse or help out. Please be sure you circle the NEW DATE of MARCH 21st and come on out.

We are also already looking forward and excited about the upcoming Easter season. Again this year, we welcome all the Sunday school children for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held Easter morning, Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>, as a part of our special group Easter Sunday school class and activities. We hope all the students can attend to help us celebrate the most glorious event of the church calendar! All are invited and we are always happy to welcome new faces.



Lastly, don't forget clear your calendar for this year's Vacation Bible School trek to EVEREST, where we will learn to "Conquer Challenges with God's Mighty Power." This year VBS will be a little early, June 29<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup> so that we can have plenty of time for the summer construction of our new Education and Mission Outreach Building. VBS is always a wonderful time but takes a lot of hard work from as many volunteers as we can get. Please make sure to sign your kids up for the fun and maybe yourself as well. See the sign up poster in the church hallway.

**In His Service, Melissa Chew**



## A Conversation with the Head Elder

Gary A. Wollin

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As you all know, I was elected to be a member of the Board of Elders at the November 2014 voters meeting. Once elected to the board, the members of the board choose me to be their chairman. Even though I have held office in other Lutheran Churches that I attended, this is the most challenging office I have held. I view this as a high honor with solemn responsibilities.

In reviewing our Saint Paul's constitution there are seven basic responsibilities assigned to the Elders. I have met with Pastor and our congregation President, Paul Mehrkam as well as having discussions with some of the board members and collectively, we have concluded that three of the seven responsibilities are of the highest priority.

1. Assist the Pastor in the spiritual care of the congregation...
2. Encourage faithful attendance at divine service and at the Lords supper...
3. Provide for an atmosphere of reverence and devotion and see that all services are conducted in decent and proper order.

In addition to these specific responsibilities, it has been the practice at Saint Paul's that the elders assist the Pastor in preparation of the altar for the services, assisting the Pastor in distribution of the Lords supper and as ushers to receive the offering.

In the coming weeks and months, the elders will be looking into ways in which we can address the three aforementioned responsibilities to better meet the needs of the congregation. One area of focus will deal with altar preparation and serving of communion. Some of us elders are new to this (I more than any) and need to be trained by others who have it down pat. We will be doing this through on the job training and by developing written Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Sorry about the military terminology but I have worked for the U. S. Navy for 50 years and old habits are hard to break. This effort addresses responsibility number three above.

With respect to responsibilities 1 and 2, we have been kicking around ideas but we need to have further discussions before proceeding.

If any members have thoughts about your expectations from the board please feel free to share them with any member of the board, Pastor Tim or our congregation president Paul Mehrkam.

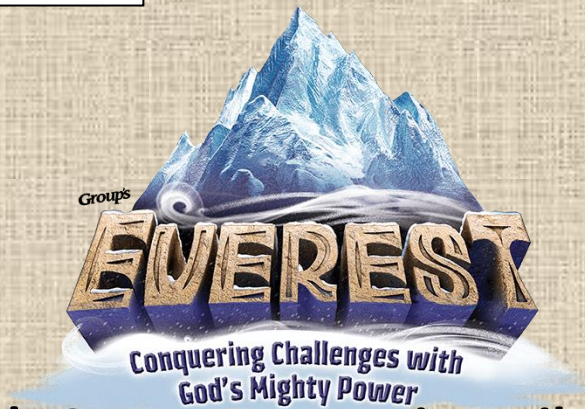
If anyone wishes to contact me directly, I am in the church directory however, the 301-392-3450 number is no longer in service. We found land line phones to be obsolete and only use cell phones.

My cell # is 240-210-0970 and my e-mail is [gawollin@gmail.com](mailto:gawollin@gmail.com). I don't do face book, tweet, twitter or any of that other social media stuff. I prefer to talk to people but do appreciate e-mails as well.

Thank you all for your patience and with the Lords help we will go forward and do wonderful things in his name.

Your servant in Christ: Gary A. Wollin





## 2015 Mt. Everest's Summer Vacation Bible School Program

"Conquering Challenges with God's Almighty Power"

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

Please note the early dates for this year's VBS program. We have moved up our dates this year to accommodate the new Educational and Mission Outreach Modulares that St. Paul's is excitingly anticipating coming this summer. Upon completion of this building project we will have much larger classrooms for our Sunday School and Vacation Bible School programs. We will also have space to expand St. Paul's mission outreach programs in the future.

Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board if you can help out during this summer's VBS program. We need to know that we will have a full staff as plans begin to get underway for this fun and faith filled week as St. Paul's. We will need teaching staff and helpers for each station, crew leaders, help with registration, and everyone's prayers for a successful program. If you have any questions, please call Melisa Chew (301-481-2427) or Brenda Bowling (301-373-8256). Registration information and forms will be coming out next month!





## ***Easter Altar Flowers***



**Easter flower orders are due by Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Don't miss out on your chance to get flowers. Checks should be payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church earmarked "*Easter Flowers*".**

Prices are **\$ 11.00** for Easter Lilies and **\$13.00** for Hydrangeas  
(Assorted Colors)

**Plant# 1**     Lily\_\_\_\_\_ Hydrangea\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

**Plant# 2**     Lily\_\_\_\_\_ Hydrangea\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

**Plant# 3**     Lily\_\_\_\_\_ Hydrangea\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

**Plant# 4**     Lily\_\_\_\_\_ Hydrangea\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

**Given by:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Circle One:**

Will Take

Will leave for Church





## 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: *Dale Bittner*

SPECIAL REQUESTS

The family of Jim Barry at his passing on February 21.

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CONGREGATION

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

Tammy Nichols, Dianne Nichols daughter-in-law, recovery and healing  
Aunt Edna, Dianne Nichols, serious health concerns

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

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.

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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](#)*



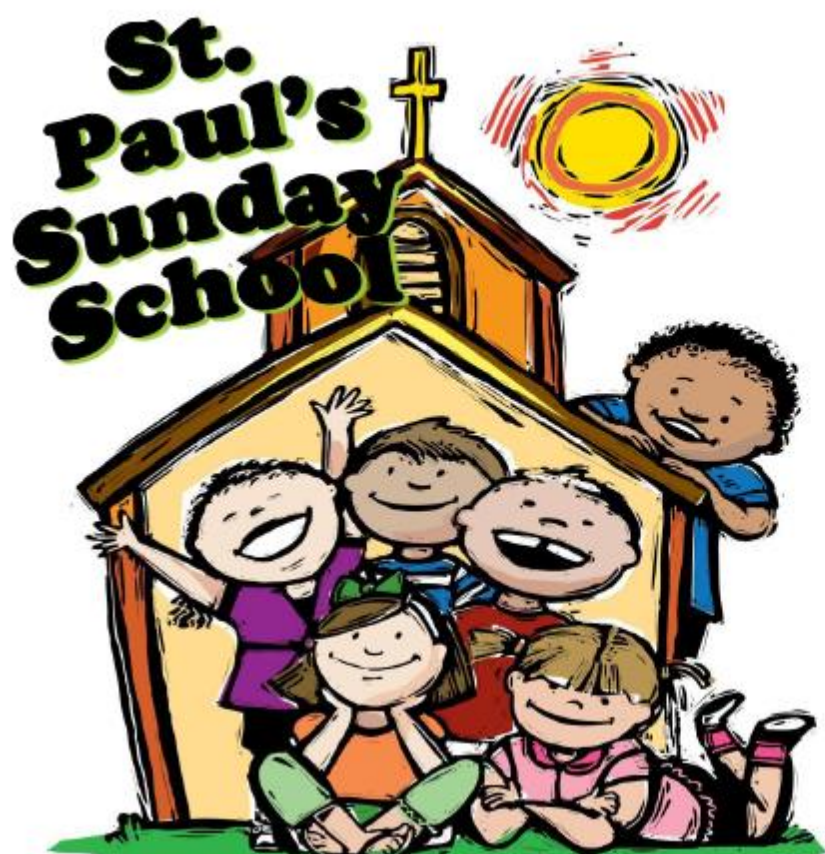
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>1</b> Service Times: 8:00am 10:30am Sunday School – 9:10am	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Wednesday Night Service 6:30pm  Bible Study, Confirmation and Choir Practice 7pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Day Light Savings Time today at 2 am – Spring Forward 1 hour  Service Times: 8:00am 10:30am Sunday School – 9:10am	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Building Committee Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>11</b> Wednesday Night Service 6:30pm  Bible Study, Confirmation and Choir Practice 7pm	<b>12</b> Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Special Divine Worship: The Feast of St. Patrick  Service Times: 8:00am 10:30am Sunday School – 9:10am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b> Wednesday Night Service 6:30pm  Bible Study, Confirmation and Choir Practice 7pm	<b>19</b> Yard Sale set up 4 pm	<b>20</b> Yard Sale set up 1 pm	<b>21</b> <b>Sunday            School and            Thrivent            Yard Sale</b> <b>7:30 am –            2:30 pm</b>
<b>22</b> Service Times: 8:00am 10:30am Sunday School – 9:10am  <a href="#">Easter Flower orders            Due!</a>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Wednesday Night Service 6:30pm  Bible Study, Confirmation and Choir Practice 7pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 PALM SUNDAY</b> Service Times: 8:00am 10:30am Sunday School – 9:10am	<b>30</b> <b>HOLY            WEEK</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> No Service	<b>2</b> <b>MAUNDY            THURSDAY</b> 7pm Svc.	<b>3</b> <b>GOOD            FRIDAY</b> 7pm Svc.	<b>4</b> <b>EASTER            SATURDAY</b> 8 pm Svc

notes

Don't forget the Church Yard Sale on Sat. March 21.  
 Tell your friends and family to attend.







# YARD SALE

Rescheduled for

**SAT., MARCH 21, 2015**

**7:30 AM – 2 PM**

## INDOOR/OUTDOOR YARD SALE

St. Paul's Lutheran Sunday school and Thrivent Financial are hosting an indoor and outdoor yard sale to raise money to purchase much needed educational supplies for our new Education and Mission Outreach buildings coming this summer. We are raising money for everything from furniture to audio visual equipment and educational supplies. Stop by and check it out or call to reserve your own table for \$20.

WELCOME HOME



Items for sale include, but are not limited to, nearly a whole house full of furniture and household items, dishes, adult and children's clothing, baby items, toys, books, and so much more!!!  
**OR CALL TO RENT A TABLE OF YOUR OWN FOR \$20**



## ST. PAULS LUTHERAN CHURCH

37707 New Market Turner Road  
 Mechanicsville, MD 20659  
 301-884-5184

[stpaulslcmsmd@netzero.net](mailto:stpaulslcmsmd@netzero.net)

[stpaulssomd.org](http://stpaulssomd.org)



# Funnies and Coffee with Jesus



**“Next week spring starts. How many snowballs do you think I can fit in the freezer?”**



<p><b>RFB</b></p> <p><i>The Original</i> <b>COFFEE WITH JESUS</b></p>	<p>It's so easy to <i>say</i> I forgive someone, Jesus, but the reality is I still hold bitterness toward them in my heart.</p>	<p>Ann, if I could bottle your honesty and distribute it... You're halfway there!</p>	<p>OK, so how do I get <i>all the way</i> there?</p>	<p>You say you forgive them? Now <i>pray</i> to forgive them.</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CoffeeWithJesus.com</p>
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Proclamation

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

37707 New Market Turner Road

Mechanicsville, 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](http://www.stpaulssomd.org)

Email: [stpaulslcmsmd@netzero.net](mailto:stpaulslcmsmd@netzero.net)

Behold, now is the favorable time;

Behold, now is the day of salvation.

2 Corinthians 6:2

### Reminders:

**Sunday School and Thrivent YARD SALE**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>**

**Easter Flower orders due Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**