



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, February - 2021, Volume 6, Issue 02

We love because
He first loved us

PASTOR'S MESSAGE - FEBRUARY 2021

Beloved,

Its amazing to think that we are approaching the Lenten Season already this month. It seems like we just finished with Advent, whipped through Epiphany and are now entering lent on February 17th which is Ash Wednesday. I have had many people inquire to the significance of Lent and why it matters so much. Below is our answer from our own LCMS Website.

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 focus or purpose. 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.¹ So, beloved, introspection is a central theme in Lent that we do indeed need to spend considerable time pondering. We need to reflect on our sinful desires and come to the resolve that it is ONLY through Jesus Christ that we are saved. Let us take this journey together but let us also put the proper focus on Christ and what He accomplished for us during the period we now commemorate as Lent!

Blessings,
Pastor Pomrenke

¹ <https://www.lcms.org/about/beliefs/faqs/worship-and-congregational-life#lent-significance>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Bowling, President

I can't thank everyone enough for the donations and all the support to help us get our heating problems in the church fixed and paid for. A huge thank you to Brad Clements for spear heading this project as well as securing a new air conditioner unit that will take care of the kitchen, hallway, nursery room and bathrooms. It is overwhelming and humbling to witness how God has blessed St. Paul's during these very trying COVID times. Our church's financial needs are being met and our future projects such as the new air conditioner and our audio visual project that you see in the beginning stages at the front of the church have been paid for because of some amazing donations. Thank you to everyone. God is good! Can't wait to see what God has planned for our church. I pray that COVID and all its repercussions will be under control soon so we can all be back together to worship and celebrate in great fellowship.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School News - Brenda Bowling



Christian Education It's great to have our Sunday School back together again after pausing for a few weeks during Christmas for family travels as well as an abundance of caution to keep everyone safe and healthy. As we begin our new year together, our Sunday School classes are looking at ways we can reach out to others to share God's love and to let His love shine brightly through our actions towards other. I watched some of the boys Sunday as we dismissed to go to classes rush to hold the doors for Tracie Pomrenke because she was carrying her grandson and then continue to hold the doors for the rest of the kids and teachers going to class. I had to smile

and give them a thumbs up! Such great kids! **We will also be beginning the season of Lent this month on Ash Wednesday, February 17th.** We will be preparing for Easter during the Lenten season by learning of Jesus' ministry, reflecting on His suffering and death and thinking about God's awesome love for all of us. Jesus resurrection means that we too will have new life and will someday live with Him in heaven forever! We welcome all of you to strengthen your faith together as a family by worshiping at St. Paul's during Lent, Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Pray for good weather on Easter Sunday as at this point, we are planning to hold our Easter celebration activities for our Sunday School outside with an awesome egg hunt, some fun parachute activities and music activities.

A big thank you to Thrivent who has once again given us a Thrivent Action Team grant to help with our Easter activities. More information will be coming in our next newsletter. Plans for our summer VBS are beginning to be discussed at this time. Meredith Johnson, our VBS Director, is looking at all possibilities so please keep her in your prayers and support her in any way you can. It is the prayer of our Christian Ed staff to help our students see God's love for them as a beacon of light that will always be there to lead them through any storms in their lives. A beacon that will help them to always be able to sing loudly "Jesus loves me, this I know!"

STEWARDSHIP

2 Kings 4:1-7 - The Widow's Oil

A widow cried out to Elisha as her late husband's debt collectors were coming to take her two sons as slaves to pay the debts. She explained that the only thing she had was "a little oil." Elisha instructed her to go to her neighbors and gather all the empty oil jars that she could. She was then told to go back to her house and take the little bit of oil she had and fill as many jars as possible. She filled every jar until her sons told her there were no more to fill. She went and told Elisha, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts."

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

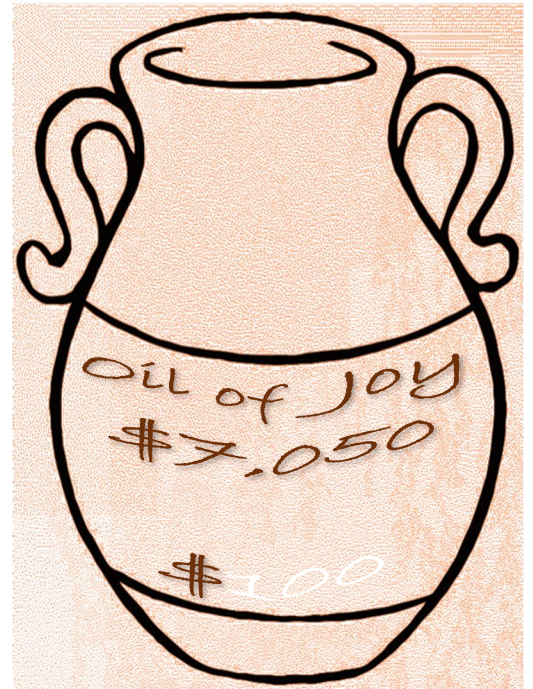
Just a little over two months ago, we launched the efforts to raise money to cover the costs of replacing and removing the old underground oil tank. The bill for the oil heater project was \$7,050, and I am delighted to report that we have met our goal! For everyone who contributed or prayed for our fundraising efforts, THANK YOU! The oil tank replacement and removal has been completed and paid for by everyone's generous efforts.

Even though the fundraiser is over, please do not forget how our Lord has provided for us and allowed our 'little' church to do great things by working together and trusting in Him. When we thought we had nothing, we gathered up our jars, and just like the widow, God provided us with everything we needed! I can not express how inspired and grateful I am that God has directed such generous actions through this congregation, especially in the current time where so many things threaten to overshadow His true love and grace. GOD IS GOOD!

You love righteousness and hate wickedness, therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the Oil of Joy. ~ Psalms 45:7

Stewardship Board Chairperson,

Melissa Chew



MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES

What's Going On??

February 2021

Our current ministry outreach of food donations to our neighboring food pantries is still a very important one and, of course, with our country's current situation an ongoing need. I will certainly keep the congregation informed as to changes in what would be helpful to donate. I also want to share that as I go to the food pantry each week with our congregations donations, and we are now known as a reliable source of support. Those volunteering at the pantry will say, "Here is St Paul's"! This past Friday morning I had a trunk load of food and personal care products from our church and started to unload when some of those waiting in line for assistance came over and asked if they could help? So they did; a lot of gratitude for a caring community!



Please also remember to let me know if there are needs you become aware of whether it is for one or many!



**Mission and Ministry Chairperson
Lois Beverage**

Cell:301-653-0771 Home:301-769-3499

loisbeverage@aol.com

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

**39th Biennial Convention
June 24-27, 2021 • Lexington, KY**



RUNNING TO LEXINGTON – Now is the time to make plans to attend the 39th Biennial LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, June 24-27, 2021! Join your LWML sisters who are “Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus,” the convention theme based on Hebrews 12:1-2. Attendees will be inspired by the convention goal, “Looking to Jesus, we run the race set before us and proclaim

the joy of the Lord.” As most of you know our beloved Pastor was elected to be the LWML Chesapeake District’s Jr Pastoral Counselor and as a part of his duties he will need to attend the convention. I am also planning to attend!! We would love to have others join us! Once the conference is over my mother and niece will also be joining us to see some amazing sights in the area. Have you heard of The Creation Museum or The Ark Encounter? Both are within an hour’s drive of the convention location and I am very excited to be able to experience this opportunity. Register before March 15th and save \$20 on the registration fees.

Now we just have to pray (even harder) that 2021 brings us back to some form of “normal”. It has definitely already started off with being just a continuation of the craziness we experienced in last year. I have truly missed our breakfasts and pot luck meetings. I miss seeing your faces and hearing about St Paul’s history from before my time while taking part in developing relationships between our current St Paul’s family memberships. I have to say though that I could not be more honored to be your LWML president and your pastor’s wife. I remember the first time we were asked to come to St Paul’s and how nervous I was and now I truly feel at home here. I have seen a little country church share God’s love and blessings over and over again in absolutely astounding ways.

ON that note as pastor and I are heading to Kentucky in June they are collecting items to be donated for those less fortunate who could use our help. The items they are collecting are: baby toiletries (shampoo, diaper cream, lotion etc.), baby towels, burp clothes, baby wipes, crib sheets, disposable diapers up to size 3, clothes (newborn to 12 months), diaper bags, toys, small Christian themed books (board, cloth or vinyl), gift cards for \$10, \$20 or \$25 for Walmart or Target, and new or like new reading glasses. These items will go into the wicker basket under the mailboxes in the narthex.

I am praying that this year is filled with good health and well-being for you and yours and I pray I am able to see you more of you. Even if we cannot be together know that you are part of the St Paul’s family and you are loved not only by us but also by an ALMIGHTY God!! May His peace be with you during this year and always.

Blessings, Tracie Pomrenke

Tracie Pomrenke

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Mechanicsville MD



VENTURING CREW MID-WINTER UPDATE

The Venturing crew would like to start by thanking the congregation and church leadership for their continued support. The crew cannot exist without a chartering organization to sponsor it. We must recharter annually and with both continued sufficient youth interest and support by St. Paul's, we were able to do so for 2021 to begin what will be our fourth year in existence. Thank you, St. Paul's! **We are always looking for youth, ages 14-20, from the congregation and local community to join us for adventure, leadership, personal growth and service.**

In November, the crew participated in its final campout of 2020 by having "Campsgiving" at Summerseat Farm. In addition to picking up trash along the road and clearing fallen trees and limbs from Summerseat's nature trail. We spent the afternoon in friendly competition in outdoor skills including fire building, axemanship, orienteering and geocaching. The adult leaders prepared a piping hot Campsgiving feast in Dutch ovens of a hearty Thanksgiving stuffing casserole for dinner and pumpkin crisp, topped with whipped cream, for dessert.

In December, we turned our efforts to community service. In addition to putting up the angel Christmas tree in the hallway and main Christmas tree in the sanctuary, the crew prepared holiday meals of ham, carrots, macaroni and cheese, rolls and frosted cake for three Arc of Southern Maryland group homes in the local area. We enjoyed a beautiful Sunday afternoon to have an outdoor crew Christmas party at the pole barn with socially distant games, gifts and snacks.

Unfortunately, the governor's new public health declaration on 17DEC forced us to cancel our planned high adventure trip to northern Minnesota over Christmas break and return to virtual weekly meetings until local public health conditions improve. Thankfully, we were able to cancel our travel arrangements with minimum expense and reschedule the trip for the same dates for 2021/2. Weather (or rather the lack of accumulated snow) also forced us to cancel our planned January snowshoe/cross-country skiing trip to western Maryland. We're keeping our fingers crossed that alpine skiing planned for February at Liberty Mountain will happen.

We're hopeful that public health conditions will improve soon not only for everyone's benefit, but so we can finally redeem all those aluminum cans you have all be kind enough to drop off under the pole barn (I think all the barrels are full now) and get back to a more robust and unfettered program of activities!

**To learn more about Venturing or join the crew, contact David Nelsen, 301.884.4631
or danelson@alum.rpi.edu.**

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARIES

Please send any additions, deletions, or corrections to info@stpaulssomd.com

February Birthday's



Brynside, Rochelle ó 2/2

Bowling, Felicia ó 2/5

Werth, Cynthia ó 2/11

Price, Aiden ó 2/12

Gumtow, Patty ó 2/13

Wiggen, Garrett ó 2/13

Gumtow, Patty ó 2/13

February Anniversaries



Maxey, Bob & Renee ó Anniversary - 2/8

Shewbridge, June & Jim - Anniversary



God's Valentine Gift

God's Valentine gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man,
So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us,
So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and
Instruction, good and true--
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.

By Joanna Fuchs

FEBRUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
<p>In-House Services 8 & 10:30 am 10:30 Live Stream</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 in Edu. Bldg. High School in Nursery</p>	<p>Online Venturing Crew 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Zoom Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Contact: mehrkam@ yahoo.com</p>		<p>Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. Church</p>		
14 Valentines Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
<p>In-House Services 8 & 10:30 am 10:30 Live Stream</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 in Edu. Bldg. High School in Nursery</p>	<p>Online Venturing Crew 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Shrove Tuesday No Bible Study</p>	<p>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 6:30 PM</p>			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<p>In-House Services 8 & 10:30 am 10:30 Live Stream</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 in Edu. Bldg. High School in Nursery</p>	<p>Online Venturing Crew 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Zoom Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Contact: mehrkam@ yahoo.com</p>	<p>Mid-Week Lent Devotion</p>	<p>Elder's Meeting 6:30 p.m. Online</p>		
28						
<p>In-House Services 8 & 10:30 am 10:30 Live Stream</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 in Edu. Bldg. High School in Nursery</p>						

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
37707 New Market Turner Road
Mechanicsville, MD 20659-3075

Sunday School: 9:15 am

Adult Bible Study: 9:15 am

Teen Bible Study: 9:15 am

Office Hours Mon.-Fri. 10:00am to 2:00pm

Phone: 301.884.5184 Fax: 301-884-2063 Website: www.stpaulssomd.com

Email: info@stpaulssomd.com Facebook: [St. Paul's Lutheran](#)