



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, November - 2020, Volume 5, Issue 73



PASTOR'S MESSAGE - NOVEMBER 2020

My Beloved,

I cannot even believe that it is November already. It seems like October passed in the blink of an eye. Maybe that's what happens as we get older. The next thing we know, Advent will be here. Well, I pray that everyone is healthy and doing well. It has been an interesting few months.

When we opened back up in late June, we didn't really know what to expect. I am very pleased that we are getting closer every week to what our previous "normal" numbers were. This shows me a couple things. First and foremost, that there is a tangible level of comfort for those who have chosen to return. Secondly, that the efforts and actions that we have taken to allow us in-house worship are working. We have been blessed to return to some semblance of what worship used to look like. We also have been blessed in being able to once again start Sunday School.

The one thing that I have grown to accept is that we will never be where we were. The one thing that I think we have all learned throughout this year is that change is constant, and our standards have shifted in relation to how we worship. For many churches this pandemic has shown them a new avenue to reach people and share the gospel. Technology is evolving and congregations can still stay, somewhat, intact through its use. That is a good thing. But I must caution us all that not physically connecting as the body of Christ will truly affect the effectiveness of that body. People have gotten used to church in their pajamas and done in time when they can fit it in their busy schedules. That is not God's intended way to their worship.

1st Corinthians 12: 12-26 (ESV) tells us the following:

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

What my intention in sharing this passage is not to upset anyone, but simply to offer us all a reminder that we need each other. Together, we complete the body of Christ. When we are not counted amongst the body ... the body suffers. I am **NOT** suggesting that members that have medical conditions should throw caution to the wind and return. Those are just and sound reasons. But as I stated in last week's sermon ... Pay to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God, what is God's. Worship is our opportunity to show God our gratefulness for the blessing that He has provided to us all. Let us not get too complacent or too comfortable in staying at home. Let us instead have a plan to return to the body. Let us have a plan to exhibit our faith over our fear.

The below statement is one that I found online during my scriptural studies and I think is completely appropriate:

“Covid-19 is not our enemy, fear is. You will not die one day sooner or one day later than God has planned for You. But He also did not create you to live in fear. The bible says “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power. And of love, and of a sound mind” (2nd Timothy 1:7).” Amen?

Your Pastor and Friend,
Rev. Gary R. Pomrenke



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Message from the President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I want to take this time to remind everyone about the upcoming **Voter's Meeting on November 15th immediately after the 10:30 AM service**. We have some important items on our agenda to cover this time including passing a new budget for 2021 and electing new officers for the Church Council. We want to hear your ideas and opinions about issues that will prayerfully move us into a great new year of serving God by serving others. I also want to thank those who will be stepping down off the council in 2021, for all their hard work and dedication. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galations 6:9

In His Service; John Bowling

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

I would like to thank a few people for their support in maintaining the building and grounds of our church.

First, I would like to recognize Joel Solberg for his ongoing support in maintaining the grounds by cutting the grass, trimming trees and performing other grounds care. This is a monumental task, that Joel has demonstrated a commitment to the beatification of the God's house. We sincerely thank him for his support.

The Adventure Crew has been busy this month with their own activities, but they found the time to support the church. One Saturday, while holding a car wash, they washed and cleaned up the church's information sign along the road. It needed some tender loving care. On October 17th, they weeded the playground area in preparation for additional mulch. We thank the Venture Crew for their ongoing support for our building and grounds.

Last but not least, I would like to thank **Beverage Home Improvement** for arranging and paying for the cleaning of the furnace this fall. This will serve us well as we move into the winter months. Thank you, **Lois and Bobby**, for your support in maintaining God's house.

We have had a few items come up that we will need to address in the maintenance of our building and grounds.

The air conditioning unit that services the restrooms, nursery and Sunday school room and kitchen has failed and will need to be replaced. The replacement cost is approximately \$6,866. We do have a little time for we will not need the air-conditioning until spring.

The playground mulch will need a topping off so that we are able to maintain the proper playing surface. We will need approximately 20 tons, that would be delivered to the parking lot and then moved to the playground and spread about. The Venture Crew has expressed an interest in helping to support moving and spreading the mulch.

As I complete this term as the Council Member for Building and Grounds, I want to sincerely thank the congregation for their financial support towards the needed services in maintaining and improving our church. May God bless each of you as we continue to praise and glorify his name.

**With a Sincere Thanks,
Brad Clements**

Message from the congregation: And a sincere thanks goes to **Brad Clements** for serving the church well as Building and Grounds Manager during this term. Grateful thanks Brad!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School News by Brenda Bowling

Sunday School classes are going very well as we begin the month of November. During these difficult times our kids are hearing a lot of negative things daily which can bring on great anxiety and fears. During the coming month, we want to help our kids see a different side of life and focus on the many gifts and blessings our great and loving God blesses us with each and every day. Special music, lessons, activities and crafts will help our kids in Sunday School see not only the gifts God gives us but to see beyond the gifts to the Giver, a God who walks with them every day. Plans are also in the works to decide just how we will be able to celebrate the birth of our Savior next month safely. We will let everyone know as soon as we have definite plans and dates. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our Sunday School. Have a Blessed Thanksgiving! **“You shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord God has given to you,”**

Deuteronomy 26:14

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES

What's Going On??

November 2020

Brother and sisters of St. Paul's:

I want to begin my portion of the newsletter by saying your loving and generous hearts have reached so many families in our community with your donations and prayers for those in need. St Mary's Helping Hands food pantry has between 30 to 40 families weekly asking for assistance. The contributions from our congregation always seem to meet the needs. This mission will continue and below I am listing some current shortages they are trying to meet.

Looking ahead our congregation has also traditionally supported some families in our community for the Christmas holiday. We intend to continue that as well. So on November 29th the Angel Tree will put up in our church narthex. We intend to support 20 children in our community. The details for when to bring in Angel Gifts will be in the December Newsletter.

**Thank you as always for your generous hearts
Mission and Ministry Chairperson
Lois Beverage**

St Mary's Helping Hands Needs:

1. As always non-perishable foods.
2. Personal Care items...Adults
 - Soap
 - Deodorant
 - Body Lotion
 - Mouthwash
 - Shampoo
 - Toothpaste (all ages)
 - Toothbrushes (adults)

A VIEW FROM THE PEW

Jim Shewbridge

Some thoughts on sharing the Good News--- "The problem with living in the past---"

There is a Kia car commercial currently running on TV showing cars running in circles in a rural farm area and the announcer proclaims the following:

"The problem with living in the past and always looking back, you miss what is coming in the future." I surmise that the commercial's end message is look at what we have for you now. In the unbelievable world in which we now live have you pondered "where are the good old days." *Remember when---* The idea of past living occurs in many churches today and sadly, their ministry may not fulfill Christ's great Commission. We must always live for today and the hope for tomorrow witnessing and proclaiming our Lord's message of Salvation.

What about St. Paul's?

Are we living in the past in our efforts to witness to the unsaved? How do we witness and serve others in the confines of the global pandemic edicts. Your Pastor and Elders eagerly seek your suggestions. As written in *Acts 22:15* ¹⁵ *You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard.* Moreover, witness we must as called by the Lord. Thus, prepare with prayer and study now for the opportunities that God will place before us. As noted before in our sequestered state, there are numerous bible studies available via radio and the internet. Remember St. Paul's has a current ZOOM study on Tuesday nights for your participation. If you do not prepare, how can you share?

Consider:

**You go nowhere by accident.
Wherever you go, God is sending you.
Wherever you are, God has put you there.
He has a purpose in your being there.
Christ Who indwells you has something
He wants to do through you, where you are.
Believe this and go in His grace
And love and power.**

Rev Dr. Richard Halverson D.D. former Senate Chaplin

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

(Please send any additions, deletions or changes to info@stpaulssomd.com)



Werth, Jessica ó 11/12

Lindauer, Rayne ó 11/22

Vogt, Dylan ó 11/24

Drury, Philip ó 11/29

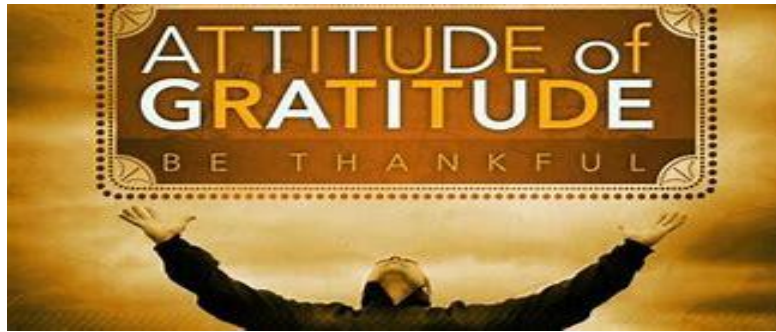
BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Congratulations

Pastor and Tracie Pomrenke announce the birth of their new grandson Enzo Ricardo Savoy, born on Monday, October 26, 2020, at 7:28 a.m., 7.1 lbs, 21".





Want to be Happy? Write a Gratitude Letter or Email and/or Make a Gratitude Visit

Powerful gratitude exercise: Write a hand-written letter to a person you are particularly grateful to have in your life. Be detailed. Express all the wonderful qualities about this person, and how they personally have affected your life for the better. *If you have the time personally deliver this letter to the person yourself.*

The positive effects of this gratitude exercise were researched and carried out by Kent State professor Steve Toepfer, associate professor in Human Development and Family Studies. In his 2007 study, his undergraduate students experienced enhanced levels of life satisfaction and happiness, as well as decreased symptoms of depression. Toepfer's goal of this study was to determine the psychological benefits, if any, for the authors of these **gratitude letters** (Vincent, 2007). The results of this study are quite straightforward. If you wish to increase your gratitude and happiness levels then intentionally script letters to inspiring people in your life.

Try to pick someone who you can visit within the next week if you are practicing the visit component. Next, write them an email or letter. Use these guidelines to write an effective and grateful letter:


- Write as though you are addressing the person directly.
- Describe what this person has done that makes you grateful, and how they have impacted your life. Be as concrete as possible here.
- Describe what you are doing in life now, and how frequently you remember their act of kindness or generosity.
- Try to keep your letter to about 300 words or so.

If you are delivering your letter in person via a gratitude visit, follow these steps:

- Plan a visit with the recipient. Let him or her know you would like to meet with them to share something, but be vague about what you have to share.
- When you meet this person, let them know that you are grateful and that you would like to read them a letter you wrote **expressing your gratitude**.
- Take your time reading the letter. While you read, pay attention to the reactions of both you and the recipient.
- After you have read the letter, listen to his or her reaction to the letter and be ready to discuss your feelings together.
- Remember to leave the letter with this person when you leave.

If you are located far away from this person, you can arrange a phone call or video chat instead.

NOVEMBER 2020
***VOTER'S MEETING FOLLOWING 10:30 A.M. SERVICE, NOVEMBER 15, 2020**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01**NOTE	02	03	04	05	06	07
10:30 a.m. Online Live- Stream and 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. In-House Church Service Sunday School 9:15 am Education Bldg. Main Room High School 9:15 a.m. Adult Church Nursery	Venture Crew Outdoors (or CEB) 7 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Contact: mehrkam@ yahoo.com				
08**NOTE	09	10	11	12	13	14
10:30 a.m. Online Live- Stream and 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. In-House Church Service Sunday School 9:15 am Education Bldg. Main Room High School 9:15 a.m. Adult Church Nursery	Venture Crew Outdoors (or CEB) 7 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Contact: mehrkam@ yahoo.com		Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. Church		
15 **NOTE *VOTER'S MTG.	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:30 a.m. Online Live- Stream and 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. In-House Church Service Sunday School 9:15 am Education Bldg. Main Room High School 9:15 a.m. Church Nursery	Venture Crew Outdoors (or CEB) 7 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Contact: mehrkam@ yahoo.com		Elder's Meeting 6:30 p.m. Online		
22**NOTE	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:30 a.m. Online Live- Stream and 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. In-House Church Service Sunday School 9:15 am Education Bldg. Main Room High School 9:15 a.m. Church Nursery	Venture Crew Outdoors (or CEB) 7 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Contact: mehrkam@ yahoo.com	Thanksgiving Evening Service 7:00 p.m.	Blessings to You & YourFamily 		
29**NOTE	30					
10:30 a.m. Online Live- Stream and 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. In-House Church Service Sunday School 9:15 am Education Bldg. Main Room High School 9:15 a.m. Church Nursery	Venture Crew Outdoors (or CEB) 7 p.m.					

***NOTE: Adult Classes in Kitchen 9:15 a.m.**

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](#)