



# Proclamation

May - 2018

Volume 5, Issue 46



## *Words from The Deacon....*

He is Risen! Alleluia! We are still in the Easter season until Mid-May. On that note, let us continue to celebrate Christ's Resurrection as it is the biggest reason that we, as Christians, still have any hope of an eternity in Heaven. That is worth shouting about. Amen?

Spring is a wonderful time of change. We start to feel the warmth of the sun against our faces again. We start to see the blooming of the plants and trees amongst God's beautiful creation. We feel differently ... and no, that's not our allergies. We feel a newness around us. I feel it too. As we are entering that last few weeks of our stewardship sermon-series, I hope you are feeling that newness as well. I hope you are understanding how we, at St. Paul's, can reach out through our gifts and abilities, to minister to each other and to our surrounding community of Mechanicsville / New Market (Depending on who you ask ☺). I hope I have challenged your views on what stewardship entails and how we should be approaching it. It's incredibly important to our growth as Christians. It's about the heart ... and your willingness to serve in whatever capacity that God has shown you.

We have a new spirit rising here at St. Paul's. We are starting to re-define who we are in attempt to forge a new identity in our community. I pray you take that charge to heart. This is important mainly due to the following question: "Would St. Paul's be missed, more importantly the people of St. Paul's, if something tragic happened and St. Paul's was no more?" As many congregations around our county, in the state, and in our country, are closing their doors, what are we doing to make St. Paul's relevant to the community that we are charged to reach? We must serve our neighbors ... that has been at the core of this sermon-series. How are we managing our resources? ... How are we managing God's resources? How are we ensuring that our neighbors are being provided for? Those are questions that everyone of us needs to start asking ourselves and those sitting next to us in the pews each Sunday.

When you voted to call me as your next Pastor you were told ... be ready to Move ...and that is exactly what I want for us at St. Paul's. Moving towards our God, moving towards meeting the needs of our congregants and our neighbors, moving to make a difference in the lives all around us. "They will know us by our Love." Let that be the charge we take into battle with Satan to re-take lost ground for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"God is Good ... All The Time *and* All The Time ... God is Good!"

*Deacon Pomrenke*





## 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."***

Seems very hard to believe, but we are now focusing on the last 5 weeks of our Sunday School year together before we break for a month to focus on Vacation Bible School. We have journeyed through the Old Testament this year together learning about many bible heroes. You can't help but be totally amazing and awed at God's unending love and patience with His chosen people as they repeatedly turned away from God to worship idols and do "their own thing". Over and over again God would send a Prophet, Judge or King such as Jeremiah, Ezra or Josiah to reteach them God's word and bring them back to Him. The word of God is what anchors all of us. If we don't study and hear God's word we too soon become tossed about like a ship in a storm with no anchor. We pray that the bible stories your children have learned about this year help them to remain close to God throughout all of their lives.

On Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>, Kathe Vachalek will be coming to our opening to talk about her upcoming trip to Nicaragua. All the kids will be helping her to pack the books and stickers they donated in suitcases for her to take to give to the children she will be administering too while there. Thank you everyone for your generosity!

We will also be spending the remaining weeks of Sunday School learning the importance of using our gifts, talents and faith to serve God by serving others. We are all members of God's church and each of us, no matter what our age or size, has something to contribute to give God glory. The Sunday School would like to share some of what we have learned and experienced during the past year with all of you on June 3<sup>rd</sup> during the 10:30 AM worship service. Children will have the opportunity to serve the Lord and share His love in many different ways during the worship service that Sunday. All are invited to a Congregational Potluck picnic following the service.

Thrivent is once again helping us with our picnic by supplying the main meat, drinks, some games and some extra helping hands. Please bring a side dish and or dessert to share! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board so we can get an estimate of the amount of food to purchase. Looking forward to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and another day of fun and fellowship with all of you!

Looking Ahead.... Super Fun Summer Sunday School – July 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."  
Ephesians 2:10

Thanks for Sharing your Child with us! Mrs. Bowling



Don't forget to clear your calendar for this year's Vacation Bible School called "Shipwrecked", where kids will learn the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms. This year VBS will be June 25 – June 29<sup>th</sup> from 9-12pm. VBS is always an exciting, fun and faith building experience for all who participate, but it takes a lot of hard work from as many volunteers as we can get. If you can help out this year please talk to this year's VBS Leader, Meredith Johnson.



"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." Col. 3:15  
In His Service, Meredith Johnson

## A View from the Pew

*Some thoughts on sharing the Good News--- We Entered to Worship-  
We Exit to Witness (?)*



***Uncle Sam Want You!*** I am old enough to recall this call to arms while our nation was engaged in World War II. The posters were on display in store windows and billboards throughout our country. It represented a call to arms for all Americans to stand together and defeat our enemies. America rallied to the call.

Based upon the above, how will you respond to:

***Jesus who is the Christ wants you***

to go forth and proclaim the year of our Lord to all. I lifted the following from Dr. Graham's website (a follow up to last month's article *with edits*) that may help your witnessing.

God does not call the equipped; He equips the called - and as Christians, we are all called to share what Christ has done. Some of Christ's last words on earth were, **"Go and make disciples of all nations"** (Matthew 28:19). Sharing our faith is not a suggestion, **it is a command**. God is always with us **when we obey Him**.

One of the best ways to share your faith is to **live a godly life**. Non-Christians often look at Christians as hypocritical because we say one thing but do another. Show those close to you that you care- spend time with them, help meet their needs and offer to listen when they have problems. You might not be able to answer all of their questions, but they cannot deny the reality of what Christ has done in your life. If you find this is hard to do, perhaps God is speaking to you about your own need to **walk more closely with Him every day**.

Make a habit of studying the Bible, praying without ceasing and attending worship just as Jesus practiced. These things should not be done for attention or for the sake of doing them, but to help you **grow in your own faith**. Being passionate about Christ will help others see that there is something different about you. You will also reflect Christ through kind words, patience, a gentle temperament, choosing to love even difficult people, carefully monitoring what you watch or listen to, and treating others with respect. At the same time, we must do more than live godly lives. People need to hear the Gospel - to hear that God loves them, Christ died for them and that they can have eternal life. Romans 10:13-14 **"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."** **How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"** As a living witness, You are the answer – **Go Forth Now**

# MISSIONS

Leaving the Church to grow the Church

## What's Going On??

As mentioned during the congregation meeting I would really like to get a Mission and Ministries Committee organized. With many hands working on our congregation's mission we should be quite a force! Please look for a sign up sheet under St Paul's Shares on the bulletin board. We have a few celebrations coming up in our congregation. On May 20<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the confirmation of some of our young members. We will be honoring them with a celebration following the service at 10:30. If you would care to help please let me know. Also, the Sunday School staff will be celebrating a wonderful year of Christian Education with a picnic on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We have as a congregation a need to raise funds for new altar paraments. The ones we are using are decades old and not in good repair. To replace these will cost a few thousand dollars. To meet this need I am asking everyone to help with a fundraising event for this purpose. On June 16<sup>th</sup> I would like to organize a combination of a yard sale/vendor/lunch sale. We would sell space for those who may want to have their own sale as well as tables for the church with donated items to sell. Please remember this as you are doing your spring cleaning. It would be helpful to receive donated items close to the date of the sale as storage is limited. We will need several members of the congregation to make this a success including those who would be willing to prepare a hot dog lunch for sale so please look at the sign-up sheet for where you can help.

Also, in June will be one of our big outreach and mission events of the church year. This is our Vacation Bible School. This year it will be the last week of June. So many of our community become aware of our church through this Christian Education event. Please make sure to let families you know who have children know about this event. Registration is now open. During VBS there is also a mission project that the children and the congregation can participate in to aid those in need. This year we are looking to partner with Trinity Lutheran Church to assist children and their families. There will be more information to come.

As you can see this is an active congregation with many opportunities to serve and enjoy being part of the team! Thank you in advance for your service.

Lois Beverage

# LWML NEWS

## God Loves Marriage

### 2018 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends

Your marriage relationship provides one of the greatest potential for earthly happiness. Is your living up to its potential? These marriage encounter weekends include two nights lodging, 5 meals, and all the supplies needed for just \$100 per couple!! You will be given the opportunity to make an confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish to keep the program going for other couples like you. To register and see other dates of availability in other locations go to

[www.godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org)

September 14-16, 2018 at Spruce Lake Retreat in Canadensis, PA

October 19-21, 2019 at Olmstead Retreat Center in Allegheny National Forest, PA

If you have questions contact Fred and Julie Schamber at 724-325-3166 or email them at [fjschamber@comcast.com](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.com)

## LWML News

If you are Lutheran and a woman you are part of the LWML! On April 28<sup>th</sup> I joined other Lutheran woman in the DMV for the LWML Spring Rally. Please join me from September 21-23, 2018 for the District Convention in Richmond VA.

I am hoping to build our group of women at St. Paul's. It is all about serving God together as part of a supportive community. I am open to any suggestions you may have so feel free to contact me! My cell phone number is 920-901-5840 and my email is [journeysandpromises@gmail.com](mailto:journeysandpromises@gmail.com).

Blessing,

Tracie Pomrenke





### *A Word from Your Elders...*

**I am putting out an invitation to the men of St Paul's and other men in the community to join us on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:30AM for our next Men's Prayer Breakfast. This is a great event for a few reasons the first is the really good food, but also the fellowship and the chance to get to know each other better. So please spread the word and put this on your calendar.**

**I also want to mention that on April 22<sup>nd</sup> the Lord called home to Him one of our dear members at St Paul's, Mrs. Bunny Bailey. Her presence in our congregation will be missed greatly and we pray God will bring comfort to her family as we know she was the center of their lives.**

**Your Brother in Christ  
Bob Beverage  
Head Elder**

# St. Paul's Inspirations

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13*



When you fall  
to your knees  
& ask God  
for help-  
don't forget to  
fall back to  
your knees  
& say Thank You  
when He answers.

"IN Happy  
MOMENTS,  
PRAISE GOD.  
IN DIFFICULT MOMENTS,  
SEEK God.  
IN QUIET  
MOMENTS,  
Trust GOD.  
IN EVERY MOMENT,  
THANK God."



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</b> 5/2 – Tyler Johnson 5/5 – Brett Wiggen 5/8 – Joanne Pipho 5/18 – Thomas Chew 5/18 – David Mozingo			<b>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</b> 5/7 – Joe & Jeanne Willett 5/12 – James & Diana Hiller 5/17 – Christopher & Megan Green 5/27 – Mark & Kathy Lewis			
		01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room		Council Mtg. 6 pm			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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27	28	29	30	31		
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## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

37707 New Market Turner Road  
Mechanicsville, MD 20659-3075

Sunday Services:

Traditional - 8:00 and 10:30 am

Sunday School: 9:00 am

Adult Bible Study: 9:15 am

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

Phone: 301.884.5184 Fax: 301-884-2063

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

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Facebook: [St. Paul's Lutheran](#)

Connecting with Jesus, each other, & Southern Maryland