



Proclamation

September - 2017

Volume 4, Issue 38

From the desk of the Congregational President

Paul Mehrkam



President Newsletter September 2017

You may already seen and heard the announcements that we are asking for folks to join the council officer nomination committee. Contact me or the Church Office Secretary if you are interested in joining this effort by September 10th. Committee meetings will begin shortly after. Council offices that are currently vacant include Stewardship, Missions and Ministries, and Buildings and Ground. More information will come on which council positions require re-election and any other ones requiring a nomination for a backfill of a position being vacated.

Thank you to those who attended the meeting with District President John Denninger to discuss the next steps for St. Paul's without a Pastor. For the short term, we will be getting a supply pastor to come for communion. In the next coming months, you will see the Elders' ministry role expand as they fill in for the Sundays without a Pastor. In addition, the Elders will continue to meet spiritual needs of the church. Please contact the church office secretary if someone is seriously ill, in the hospital, needs spiritual support, or has gone to the Lord. We will work with the Elders to make sure your needs are met.

We will also be standing up a Pastoral Call Committee. The first task will be to evaluate and develop our mission, vision, and goals. Having an agreed upon mission and goals helps us to create events, programs, and initiatives that best support in connecting with Jesus, connecting with each other, and connecting with Southern Maryland. More importantly, this will greatly help us to call for a Pastor who has the same goals and calling by God.

Dear Lord Heavenly God, Please, listen to our prayers and keep our hearts filled with Your hope knowing with expectation that you will fill our needs and eternal salvation. In Jesus's name, we pray. Amen.

Deacons Den

BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!

So as I was cleaning my very messy “computer room” the other day, I came across a bunch of books by C.S. Lewis and somewhere along the line that day someone mentioned Benjamin Franklin to me as well. What do these men have in common? This burned in my brain and then it hit me! C.S. Lewis wrote some of the best Christian apologetic books ever created and there was something Franklin did that didn’t involve flying a kite....then it hit me again. Good old Ben started the very first lending library where people could borrow books, return them, and borrow some more!

So I thought let’s do this at St. Paul’s! We have an empty office with a ton of bookshelves, I personally have many many books on Christianity and Theology, let’s start a simple lending library out of Pastors office where members can borrow books of interest, read them, and return them for others to read with a simple honor system check out sheet.



But first we need your help! If you have any books about the Bible or Martin Luther, or Christian related books by C.S. Lewis, Rick Warren, and many others please consider donating them so that others may enjoy them as well. Books were meant to be shared and enjoyed and since we have the space to do this at this particular time let’s do it! I would imagine after a couple weeks of collecting books the Library will be open before and after all services on Sunday and during the week as the church is open in the morning with Kelly.

If you do not have any books but would like to contribute to the lending library feel free to write a check earmarked library and monies will be used to purchase books we do not have.

One of my favorite passages in the Bible is found in 2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

God Bless You All

Gene Bostwick

A View from the Pew

Some thoughts on sharing the Good News---“All my life I’ve wanted to lead a great Army into battle---“



In the movie Patton, George C. Scott offers a pronouncement just before engaging Rommel's Africa Corps. in battle. The scene prior to the battle shows Patton's aide dressing him for the fight. Looking into the mirror, Patton muses "All my life I've wanted to lead a great army into battle and now I am going to do it. I'll not be denied my destiny." And thus, having put on his "armor for battle" - he leads his troops into the fray.

I may have his words a little off from the movie script, but the context is there. In full battle attire, he met the enemy. Patton was awoken to meet the challenge and as we awaken each day may we be ready to meet the enemy. Who is the enemy? It is the devil and all of his wily schemes that are placed before you each day. **1st. Peter 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.** From Clark's Commentary on this verse: *"Your adversary the devil - This is the reason why ye should be sober and vigilant; ye have an ever active, implacable, subtle enemy to contend with. He walketh about - he has access to you everywhere; he knows your feelings and your propensities, and informs himself of all your circumstances; only God can know more and do more than he, therefore your care must be cast upon God."* Even though expressed in original King's English these are words to remember.

In **James 4: 7** we learn that we are to: **Submit yourselves then to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.** Sounds great – God you take care of it! But, indeed there is more. Paul notes in several of his writings that we are not to battle the devil like Patton fighting the Germans, but to **stand against him**. Not to battle, but to stand. **Ephesians 6:14-17**
¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Well, how equipped are you to stand this day? Are you versed in God's Word? If not, you can take heart that an upcoming bible study will soon start on Sundays. If you don't know the truth, how can you stand for our Lord? May the church be filled to hear and study from His Holy Book.

STUDY

Dwell onto God's Word every day and pray without ceasing for enlightenment.

Amen



Sunday School News

The Little Children and Jesus – Matthew 19:13-15

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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.

By the time this goes out to everyone, I believe that all of our children will be back in school! It is hard to believe that another wonderful summer is behind us. I know, though, that our children are probably happy to be back in a routine and seeing their friends even if they don't say so out loud. I am even more positive that they are all looking forward to starting another spectacular Sunday school year and so am I!

This year our **Rally Day celebration will be on September 10, 2017.** Sunday school classes will begin that Sunday at **9 AM in the MAIN WORSHIP SANCTUARY.** We will start with an all class opening and then students will break into their individual classes until 10:15. We will have classes for all children ages 3 to high school age and with our growing Sunday school we are actually expanding in to an extra class. This year I am very happy to welcome back and welcome some new faces as well to our dedicated teaching staff. The classes and teachers for this year are as follows.

Nursery Class (3-4 year olds) – Ms. Emily Maack

Kindergarten Class – Mrs. Meredith Johnson and Mrs. Megan Green

1st & 2nd Grade Class – Mrs. Brenda Bowling

3rd-5th Grade Class – Ms. Felicia Drury

Confirmation (6th-8th Grade) Class – Mr. Andrew Maack

High School Class – Mrs. Cindy Werth

We ask that each Sunday school student fill out a yearly registration form so that we can have updated contact and grade level information. Extra forms are available in this newsletter and on the bulletin board in the church hallway. Please place completed forms in my mail box across from the kitchen. All are welcome!

To continue our celebration of bringing young lives closer to God, there will be a special "Unity" church service on the 10th. There will be no 8 AM service but the 10:30 service will include two of the children's favorite songs from this summer's Vacation Bible School and we will also be taking some time during the service to install this year's amazing teachers and staff.

After the church service, we would like to invite all of our Sunday school families and the entire congregation to stay for our annual **Rally Day Picnic pot luck lunch.** The Sunday school will provide hot dogs and hamburgers and we would like to ask everyone that plans on attending to bring a tasty dish, savory or sweet, to share. The Sunday school plans on having a **moon bounce and other fun activities** lined up as well. It will be a great afternoon of fellowship.

If you have any questions or are still interesting in getting involved in the Sunday school, please feel free to reach out by phone or text at 301-481-2427 or by email at melissachew21@yahoo.com. I hope everyone has a great first day of school and I am looking forward to celebrating an even better first day of Sunday school on September 10th. See you there.

In His Service,

In His Service,
Melissa Chew



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

2017-18 Sunday School

Registration Form



Enrollment is for children 3 years old on or before September 1, 2014 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 classes or weekday
adult classes

_____ Confirmation class for youth 7th grade or
older

_____ Youth group activities

_____ New member classes

_____ Choir

_____ Teaching or Substituting Sunday School

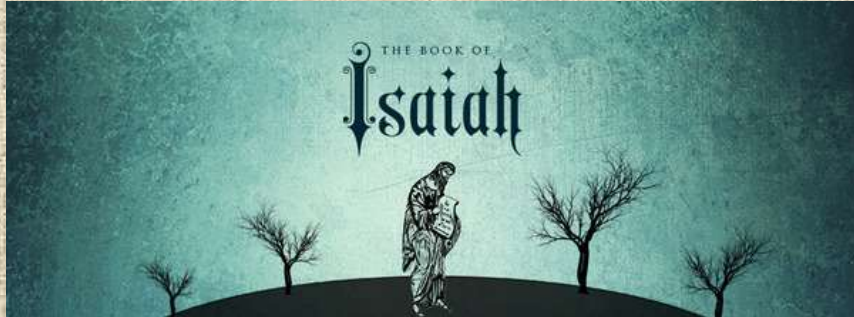
_____ Getting involved in other ways with the
Sunday School

Please return forms or direction questions to Melissa Chew (301-481-2427). Her box is located
across from the kitchen.

St. Paul's Adult Bible Class

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St. Paul's Adult Bible Class will start on
Sunday, September 10 @ 9:10 am
and we will be studying the book of Isaiah and
we would like everyone to join us!



Isaiah's prophecy has been called "The Fifth Gospel". For churches that use Sunday lectionary readings, Isaiah dominates the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Nearly one-third of Old Testament readings come from Isaiah! Many of his passages sound familiar to us, but do we understand them in their context or the prophet who recorded them?

We will be using Lighthouse: Isaiah Part 1 – Study Guide,
which can be purchased online at: <https://www.cph.org>

Thank you, Karen Wiggen
oldcars@md.metrocast.net



Youth Ministry

I hope that you have enjoyed your summer and are ready to get back to school!

I am planning a Back to School Party, scheduled for September 15th open to all school aged children. I will put up a sign-up sheet by the end of August for those interested in attending and if you have a friend that you'd like to invite, sign them up too! All necessary details will be there!

Hope to see you there!

God bless and stay Rooted

Cindy Werth

BITTER SWEET!
Welcome Kelly and Farewell
Lorrie!

Welcome to St. Paul's,

We would like to introduce Kelly Hall to St. Paul's as the new Office Administrator. She lives locally in Charlotte Hall, is a blended mom of 9 of which 4 still live at home, has previously been a Licensed Childcare Provider for 10 years, has worked in the Accounting field, and is finishing up her Bachelor's degree in Accounting with Liberty University. She is a member of Emmanuel Church in Huntingtown, MD where she gratefully serves in the Children's Ministry and as a Leader of Celebrate Recovery. We are glad to have her here at St. Paul's and know everyone will provide her with a warm welcome!



Dear family of St. Paul's,

Thank you for allowing me to get to know you these past 3 ½ years and for the lovely farewell get together on the 20th. If you were unable to be there, the congregation gave me a beautiful silver necklace. It was so perfect and Gayle was completely lead by the Holy Spirit when she picked it out! It is a heart locket with a cross on it and for me it represents my heart belonging to God & you. You are all very dear to me and I will miss you.



I would like to share that during my time as a member of St. Paul's, I was fortunate to have participated in the Peacemaking process. It was an eye-opening opportunity to see how the study of God's Word in looking at conflicts, resolutions, and forgiveness deeply affects you! I took the Peacemaking Bible study in Phoenix a long while ago and applied it to my personal life, the lessons I learned then and again here where I could study more adeptly with the Peacemaking & Reconciliation Team was life changing. I want to encourage you to consider having a Peacemaking Bible study at some point here at St. Paul's and that you all would participate! You will see how much it can benefit your personal and church life! *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."* Matthew 5:9

Thank you again so much and I will end with I love you all and here is my prayer for you:

Dear heavenly Father, thank You for leading me to Your church in SOMD! Please watch over and protect the families at St. Paul's. Grant that they continue to share the saving grace of Jesus with the world and the salvation of life eternal with You. God, please guide us to always act first in love and then with respect as we deal with adversities in the world and with those close to us. Keep the evil one from the spiritual warfare that he wages on those who believe in You. Help us to always share Christ's forgiveness with each other. Father thank You for sending Your only Son, Christ Jesus, to come to earth and suffer so that we would be saved through His grace. Amen.



Lorrie Ching

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Birthdays 6 – Dale Bittner 10 – Gene Bostwick 10 – Janice Otte 12 – Lois Beverage			Anniversaries 21 – Andrew & Sherri Maack 29 – Brent & Meredith Johnson		01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Acolytes: 8:00 10:30	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main room					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunday School Rally Day Sunday School @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am One Worship service @ 10:30 am Picnic following service	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main room	Council Meeting 6:30 pm CEB			Back to School Party ALL Ages	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am Acolytes: 8:00 10:30	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main room					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am Acolytes: 8:00 10:30	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main room					

September 2017



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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 – Starting 9/10/17

Adult Bible Study: 9:10 am – Starting 9/10/17

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

Phone: 301.884.5184 Fax: 301-884-2063

Website: www.stpaulssomd.org

Email: stpaulslcmsmd@netzero.net

Facebook: [St. Paul's Lutheran](https://www.facebook.com/St.PaulsLutheran)

Connecting with Jesus, each other, & Southern Maryland

**Sunday, September 10 – Sunday School RALLY DAY & Adult
Bible Class & CHURCH PICNIC**

Only One service Sunday, Sept. 10- 10:30 am