

A LIFE OF FAITH

Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

October 2021

Vol 5 Issue 9

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A LETTER FROM PASTOR POMRENKE

Beloved,

It's hard to believe that we are entering the month of October. Fall is no doubt my favorite season of the year and October might just be my favorite month. The tastes of Fall, the smells of Fall, and of course the beauty of Fall. I also believe that it is the most beautiful month regarding God's landscape and the beauty that could only be created by Him.

I want to thank all of you who have been praying for my lovely wife Tracie following her foot amputation.

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Autumn Prayer

O God of Creation, you have blessed us
with the changing of the seasons.
As we embrace these autumn months,
May the earlier setting of the sun
remind us to take time to rest.
May the crunch of the leaves
beneath our feet remind us
of the brevity of this earthly life.
May the steam of our breath
in the cool air remind us that it is you
who give us your breath of life.
May the scurrying of the squirrels and
the migration of the birds remind us
that you call us to follow your will.
We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.
Amen.



I am thankful beyond what words can express regarding the help that we have received. I must give some shout-outs in this department. I would like to thank Johnny Butterfield for installing the walk-in tub that was purchased for Tracie. I would also like to thank Brad Clements for the numerous hours that he has been there helping us prepare the house for Tracie's needs. And Jenny, our beloved Administrative Assistant, for setting up the Compassion Committee and coordinating meals for us as well as the other members of the committee who were instrumental in meeting the needs we had as well as reaching out to others in our congregation as they faced surgeries and trying times. I feel incredibly blessed to be recipients of much of this Agape Love.

We have returned to school ... we had Rally Day and once again have immersed our youth in Sunday School. Many thanks go out to the staff that is willing to dedicate another year to instructing our youth in the power of The Gospel of Jesus Christ! Schools are buzzing with activity ... Sports are being played ... Things are returning to a more familiar setting than what we have experienced during this Covid Crisis. I pray that your hearts and eyes are fixed on our serving our neighbors through the eyes of Our Lord. We are facing different things in our lives, but we must remember that we are never alone, and WE ARE THE CHURCH! We are here to be Jesus in this dark world ... so as we enjoy the activities and the beauty of the season, let us not forget the task that Jesus has given us ... to love others as He loved us. Shine His light for all to see. Amen?

Pastor Gary R. Pomrenke



The Deacon's Den

by Deacon Gene Bostwick

Being Born Again

“Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 3-3:1 John A beautiful point can be made about the use of the word “again” in verse 3. It can mean 1) a second time (as we usually use the word again) or 2) From Above. You see it has a double meaning in Greek. He also uses the present tense “cannot” not “will not” in these first verses. Our God chose the exact right words to use as He always does.

Most of my life I thought I knew what these verses meant. Lately I have come to realize that I was completely wrong. I only understood them on an intellectual level and always associated them with baptism and death. Our Lord says in verse 5. “Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” 3:5 John

Baptism into the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the blessed water element of these sacred verses and as Lutherans we believe we die with Christ in our baptism and therefore will rise with Christ in the final resurrection, surely that is the Spirit connection, but is that all? I do not believe so anymore. I believe now that acknowledging we are born “again” will completely change our lives as God intended and align us with the track God has for us. We pray “Thy Kingdom Come” and when we acknowledge we are born from above we get to see right now the initial phases of Gods blessed Kingdom right here in our midst. If you believe life doesn’t end in death why would the Kingdom only be seen in death? It is all around us if we just open our newborn baby eyes and see. It is in the things we do for complete strangers. It’s in our tears of Joy. It’s in how we raise our children. It’s in the smile of someone else reciprocating their love. It is in what we do for others every single day and most importantly ‘It is loving our God with all of our heart, all of our soul and all of our minds and loving our neighbors as ourselves. ‘Mt. 22:37-40 “Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”” 3:3 John Even what we see now are faint, fragmented images of what I know will be all around us one day. Just like Paul said in First Corinthians 13:12 “For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Love is the key. Jesus is the door. Open it this week and see what He can do right now. AMEN!



A Message from the President

by John Bowling, Sr.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I can't believe that it is fall already but here it is! We have a lot of important things coming up in the weeks ahead. The voter's meeting will be held on November 7th immediately after the 10:30 AM worship service. A soup lunch will be provided. On the agenda will be the election of new officers and the approval of our 2022 budget. St. Paul's needs your input on these important matters so please circle this date and plan to attend. Please consider serving our congregation by taking one of the offices we need to fill this year: Vice President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Mission and Ministry Chairman, Christian Education Chairman, Stewardship Chairman and 4 Elders. If you can help, please talk to Karen Wigger the head of the Nomination committee. We have people serving on our council who have given of their time and talents for many years and I want to personally give my heartfelt thanks to all who have served with so much love for our church and God. We will also be having a fall workday on Saturday, October 16th. We will be doing lots of general maintenance around the church (cleaning up leaves, cleaning out and organizing the sheds, etc.). Watch for additional information that will be coming soon. St. Paul's is presently working on replacing the floor in the narthex and the kitchen. Thank you Brad for all your hard work over the past couple of years to renovate St. Paul's! Everything looks fantastic! Hope to see everyone on October 16th for our Work Day and on November 7th for our Voter's meeting.

In His Service,

John Bowling



Missions & Ministries

by Lois Beverage

Once again the light of our Lord shines brightly on our community from the church on the hill. When my husband and I arrived at the St Mary's Helping Hands Food Pantry

September 17th the volunteers there stated "St Paul's just brings the best stuff!" How wonderful to be known as the congregation with the best stuff!! Also that what we have to share doesn't stay on our hill but goes out to those in need, we are here to help as we can! Not just with food but praying for those struggling whomever they may be. Thank you for the continued support and generous hearts!



Take this to the grocery store with you:



Current Needs:

- Jelly
- Stove Top Stuffing
- Pancake Syrup
- Canned goods

Common Needs:

- Applesauce
- Canned Beans
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Meat
- Canned Vegetables
- Cooking Oils
- Crackers
- Spices
- Canned Fruit
- Granola Bars
- Instant Potatoes
- Peanut Butter
- Boxed Meals
- Pasta
- Rice
- Shelf Stable Milk
- Cereal
- Soup, Stew, Chili



Member Spotlight

John Bowling

John Bowling, Sr. was born and raised in St. Mary's County, in Hollywood and Mechanicsville.

John has lived in St. Mary's county his whole life except for the 5 years he went on an adventure to Minnesota, where he farmed in a small town called Detroit Lakes.

John currently works as a construction manager, where he does everything from ordering to being a gopher. He has been married to his beautiful bride, Brenda, for 49 years in October. He met her in high school. They have 3 children, and eight grandchildren, seven boys and one girl.

Here at St. Paul's, John has worn many hats. He is currently the President of the council. He has also held the positions of Vice President, Elder, Buildings and Grounds, and a Sunday School teacher. He joined St. Paul's in 1978.

When John isn't working at his job or St. Paul's, he likes to fish and farm. That pretty much takes up all his free time per John. What a blessing he is to this church community!



Buildings and Grounds

by Brad Clements

Status of Projects:

New Floor Tile and Rubber Base in Narthex and Kitchen

Due to contributions that funded the removal and replacement of the oil tank earlier this year. There are funds in the building and grounds budget account that have been reallocated to replacing the narthex and kitchen floors. The same floor tile and vinyl base that we used in the restrooms will be installed. This work is scheduled to be done the first week in November.

Kneelers and Pew Cushions

The kneelers and pew cushions were ordered several weeks ago. The fabric that matches our chairs and altar carpet in the sanctuary has been obtained. Additionally, the foam rubber for the kneelers and pews has also been obtained. At this time, all materials have been secured. The date for delivery of the kneelers and pew cushions is pending due to a worker shortage at the company with which we have contracted. The company hopes to deliver them within the next 2 months.

Future projects:

- Replace the exterior door and framing from the Pastor's office to the outside. Approximate cost \$1,000.
- Long-term project will be to repair and replace the deteriorating asphalt in the parking lot and entrance drives including repainting the striping for parking spaces. We have not received a quote for this work, but it will cost approximately \$15,000 to \$30,000.

Special Thanks

I would also like to recognize the Wigger's family for their support in maintaining the church grounds; especially cutting the grass. This is a huge task. They have done Amazing Job !!!!!



Fall Work Day: Saturday October 16, 2021 9 am

Clean up and clean out the following areas:

- Tractor Pole barn storage area
- Vacation Bible School storage unit
- Furnace Room
- Table and chair storage area off of the sanctuary
- General cleaning of kitchen

- Powerwash the exterior of the education buildings
- Assist in planting and mulching around the educational buildings

We will need some trucks to take the trash/junk across the street to the transfer station.

Christian Education

by Brenda Bowling

It was great to see all of our Sunday School children's smiling faces on Rally Day as a new Sunday School year began for us. We look forward to coming together to experience God's everlasting love for all of us in many ways throughout the coming year. We were blessed with a beautiful day for our Rally Day fellowship picnic and an opportunity for the kids to have fun outside together with a variety of games and a fantastic moon bounce. A big thank you to Thrivent once again for always being willing to help out and share God's love in so many ways here at St. Paul's and throughout the country.

At his time, we are still following the state and county guidelines for wearing masks while inside all of our classrooms. Following the procedures set for our public school system, masks will not need to be worn while outside. To give us all an opportunity to put the masks aside for a time we are planning a Fall Fun Day outside on October 17th (Rain date October 24th) during our regular Sunday School time. We will hold our normal opening outside with a parachute activity followed by games and activities that will help us celebrate God's goodness as we enjoy the changes in the world around us as Fall arrives and also help us to remember during this season of harvest that God wants us to also go out into the world to bring others into the kingdom of God.

**"You will receive power...
and be My witness." Acts 1:8
Be powerful! Tell others about
Jesus! Share God's love!**



Compassion Committee News

by Jenny Moonen

I continue to be amazed and feel extremely blessed to be a part of the compassion committee at St. Paul's. We are really enjoying putting together baskets to brighten people's days or sending out cards just to let people know 'we care'. Last month we set up a mealtrain for Pastor and Tracie as she recovered from her surgery. We also gave/brought gift baskets to a couple of other people as they recovered from their surgeries.

If you are interested in joining the fun, just email me at info@stpaulssomd.com. We are always taking donations of individual snacks, puzzle books, prayer books, etc. Please leave them in the basket outside of the women's bathroom. Thank you in advance and God Bless!

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13:34-35

**SAVE THE
DATE**

Venturing Crew Car Wash.
Saturday October 30, 2021, 9
am - 3 pm at St. Paul's. All
monies raised will help fund the
Venturing Crew's upcoming
trip to Minnesota



Venturing Crew Adventures

by David Nelsen

Venturing Crew's Final Summer Flings

The Venturing crew tackled a couple of final adventures for the summer before the weather turns cooler - an overnight open-water kayaking trip and Eastern Shore campout.

In August, after completing swimming checks the Monday before at the Donald Wade Aquatics Center in Charles County, we met up to hash out the planning details over dinner at Dairy Queen in Charlotte Hall. We identified sufficient kayaks and transportation, talked about the gear we would need to pack and weather forecast and planned our menu. That Wednesday, we met at church to get the crew gear we needed and do a practice pack on a kayak to make sure all our personal and crew gear would fit. Friday night we went grocery shopping at Food Lion.

Saturday morning, we rendezvoused at Abell's Wharf, packed the four kayaks with gear and water and put in for the paddle across Breton Bay to Newtowne Neck State Park. We left a float plan and a crew picture with our kayakers with our families in case of emergency. The park has two paddle-in only campsites available to the public for reservation. Thankfully, it was a little cloudy and we had the wind and waves at our backs for the trip over and arrived after about two hours paddling.



The campsite is adjacent to a sandy beach that has formed behind a breakwater over the years. The afternoon was hot and humid, especially for a couple hours when the breeze dropped off, so we relaxed in the shade playing cards and talking. Thankfully, the breeze picked back up at dinner time to cool things down. After enjoying dinner, we watched the sunset and moonrise, played some more cards and Farkle before heading off to sleep in our tents on the beach.

Sunday morning, we paddled about a mile to the park's kayak launch point to take out and head home.



Venturing Crew Adventures [Continued]

by David Nelsen



September's campout found us heading over to Pocomoke River State Park on the Eastern Shore. The weather was beautiful and after a breakfast of pancakes and sausage, we enjoyed the morning kayaking (again) on the Pocomoke near Snow Hill. After lunch back at the campsite, we drove over to Assateague National Seashore to see their wild horses and spend some time on the beach soaking up some sun and wading in the Atlantic Ocean. There was rough surf and the lifeguards are gone for season, so we couldn't go swimming but the water was refreshing nonetheless. Before heading back to the campsite for dinner, showers and a campfire, we stopped for some locally made, hand-dipped ice cream. Who says you can't enjoy dessert before dinner?



October Birthdays

Joe Willet, Jr - 10/2

Louis Rymer - 10/3

Robert Beverage - 10/4

Allison Werth - 10/5

Michael Pipho - 10/7

Cathy Bostwick - 10/12

Julia Rymer - 10/12

Yvette Smith - 10/16

Melissa Werth - 10/21

John Butterfield, Jr - 10/22

Walt Spangler - 10/22

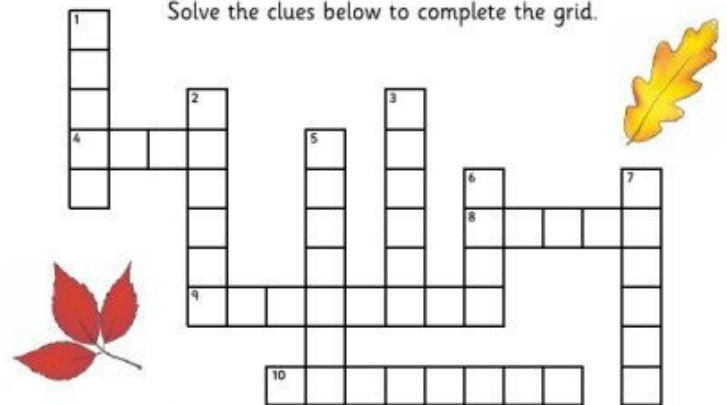
Francis Tennyson - 10/25

Jaime Vickers - 10/28

Kid's Corner

Autumn Crossword

Solve the clues below to complete the grid.



Across ActivityVillage.co.uk **Down**

4. Use one of these to tidy up fallen leaves.

8. Orchard fruit.

9. Furry animal with a bushy tail.

10. Spiky animal who can roll into a prickly ball.

1. The seeds of oak trees.

2. They fall from the trees in autumn.

3. They fall from horse chestnut trees and are fun for games.

5. You might light one of these to burn leaves and twigs.

6. Another name for autumn.

7. One of the colours you might see autumn leaves change to.



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October Anniversaries

John & Ashley Short - 10/3

John & Brenda Bowling, Sr. - 10/6

David & Sydney Heino - 10/16

Dominic & Shari Holmes - 10/17

Margit & Charles Wigen - 10/20

Riddle Answer from Last Month:

**What do you get when you
drop a pumpkin?**

Squash

