



# Proclamation

Dec - 2018

Volume 5, Issue 53



## *Words from The Deacon...*

My Beloved,

It is December. What a great year we have had up to this point. As we start Advent this week, I would challenge you to really consider what this season is about. Not necessarily to you personally, but to God's Children as a whole. For the month of December, I will be doing a sermon series entitled Who is Jesus? We will use the genealogy of Jesus as recorded in the book of Matthew as a reference for this series.

We will be offering Advent Services on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM. These will occur on the 5th, 12th, and the 19th. I hope that you will come and be refreshed during this busy time by a specially selected message for each week. The Wednesday night sermons will be totally different than the Advent series that I have been referencing.

Our Inaugural Praise Service will be on Saturday December 8th at 5:00pm. These services will be provided on the second and fourth Saturday nights at 5:00 PM and will last about an hour. I pray that this ministry outreach will be supported by St. Paul's and our community. It is yet another option for people to hear the Gospel. I will typically be preaching the same sermon on Saturday's as I will on Sunday morning.

Our Thanksgiving service was very well attended, and I am truly thankful for that. Like at Thanksgiving, at the end of every year, I kind of take an inventory of the past year and notes successes and failures in hopes of building on the successes and correcting the failures. I like to do this because it helps drive me and it also lets me yet again inventory the blessings that I had encountered over the year. We must never lose sight of that.

During the Holiday Season, we get so busy that we forget to be thankful. We forget to love others as Our Savior has loved us. We must remember that love and grace we get from Our Savior Jesus Christ is better than any gift we could possibly receive this Christmas. So, let's do something different this year ... lets love without ceasing. Let the Gospel be reflected in all we do or say. Let the World see Christ in us.

I have said it before, but it's true ... I have the greatest job in the world, along with the greatest congregation. May God continue to guide us all.

DVP Pomrenke





## From the desk of the Congregational President

**Paul Mehrkam**

### President Newsletter December, 2018

Tis the season to celebrate Christ's resurrection for giving His life on the cross in exchange ours. During this month of December, be sure to reach out to your family, friends, and neighbors to check on them and wish them a blessed Christmas. If you are on travel, be sure to include worshipping God on your itinerary.

You may notice more people visiting St. Paul's with the holiday services coming up. To help them feel welcomed, please be sure to walk over, introduce yourself, and try to get to know them.

Thank you to all those who supported and encouraged me during the four years that I serve as council president. Please continue to give your support to John Bowling Sr. and the church council when the new term begins in January.

I will say that our congregation has grown stronger through the experience of overcoming the challenges of building projects, conflict resolution and peacemaking, calling pastors, and starting a new praise service. With all of this set-in place, we now face the greatest challenge of bringing the unchurched to Jesus.

Dear Lord, heavenly God, please forgive us for our sinful nature and thank You for the gift of eternal salvation. Please bless the members of our congregation so that they may serve as Your disciples in welcoming others in worshipping You. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.





## Sunday School News

As November comes to a close, I want to first say thank you to all of our Sunday School children and their families for their wonderful response to our collection of items for the food Pantry at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington Park during the month of November. It was very heartwarming to see their happy faces bringing in their bags of donations each week and then excitedly helping me load up my car on Sunday so I could deliver them to Trinity this week!

The Sunday School is now looking toward Bethlehem and the amazing events that took place there as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of God's son through the following activities this month:

**Advent Wreath** - Our Sunday School classes will be taking turns lighting the Advent wreath prior to the beginning of our 10:30 AM worship service during the 4 weeks of Advent.

**Christmas Program and Potluck** - We have also begun working on our Christmas program "Christ the Savior Is Born" that we will be sharing with the congregation during the 10:30 AM worship service on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Some parts have been given out to the children already and the rest will be given out on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Classes will be telling the Christmas story as only children can through narration, special music and reenacting the events that took place in Bethlehem on that first Christmas.

Following this special service on December 16<sup>th</sup>, we invite everyone to join us in our annual Christmas potluck lunch. We thank Thrivent Financial for once again generously supporting our "Christmas Day of Sharing". Thrivent will be helping to purchase gifts for every child as well as purchasing the main course for our lunch. Everyone is asked to bring either a side dish, salad and or dessert to share.

A Saturday practice for our program will be held for all Sunday School children and teachers on December 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM followed by a pizza lunch. If your child will not be here on the 16<sup>th</sup> for our program please let me or your child's teacher know so we can reassign their part.

Please note that there will be no Sunday School classes on Sunday, December 23<sup>th</sup>. Classes will resume on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>.

We pray that you have a blessed holiday season where the miracle of the manger brings joy and peace to all of you!

Merry Christmas to All of You from the teachers and staff of St. Paul's Sunday School!

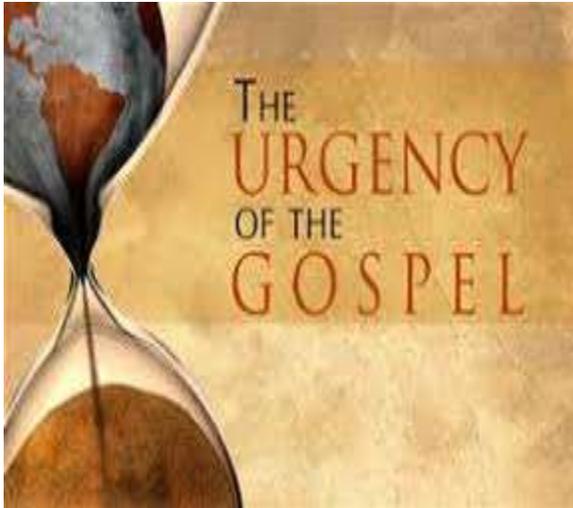
Thanks for Sharing your Child with us! Mrs. Bowling 





## A View from the Pew

Some thoughts on sharing the Good News---“How can you Care if you do not prepare---”



*How can you Care if you do not prepare to share the Good News of Salvation?* Simply saying God Loves You; is that enough to proclaim salvation's message to the unsaved? You know the answer. People of St. Paul's- get into God's Words. You are the translator of the life-saving messages revealed in scripture. Let the lost see your hope as you witness. The questions below are to help assess your knowledge of scripture. All are asked to participate in this exercise! Hopefully you will be surprised at your knowledge. You may not

1. In the beginning God created-
  - a) A solar system
  - b) Man, in His image
  - c) The garden of Eden
  - d) The heavens and the earth
  
2. Exodus 25:1-2 *<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give.* For what was the offering to be used?
  - a) Buy food from the surrounding villages
  - b) To equally spread the Egyptian fortunes to all tribes
  - c) Construct the tabernacle
  - d) Construct God's Ark
  
3. Acts 13:47 <sup>47</sup>*For this is what the Lord has commanded us: I have made you<sup>[a]</sup> (singular in the Greek) a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.* Does this scripture pertain to:
  - a) Silas & Paul
  - b) Paul & Barnabas
  - c) Barnabas
  - d) Paul
  
4. Which of the four Gospels mentions angels most often?
  - a) Matthew
  - b) Mark
  - c) Luke
  - d) John

5. Each Sunday we read the reason why we are there and our responsibility.  
Where do you read this? \_\_\_\_\_  
What is the statement? \_\_\_\_\_
6. In Numbers 22, the false prophet Balaam could not see the angel blocking his path, but...
- a) His companions did
  - b) His enemies did
  - c) His wife and servants did
  - d) His donkey did
7. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:28 And God has appointed these in the church (List the order as shown in the chapter):
- a) Teachers
  - b) Prophets
  - c) Apostles
  - d) Healers
  - e) Helps
  - f) Administrations
  - g) Miracles
8. What were the three metals God ask the Israelites to give for question 2?
- a) Gold
  - b) Copper
  - c) Iron
  - d) Bronze
  - e) Aluminum
  - f) Silver
9. James 1: 12-13 ***Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted " \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ "***
10. For whom was John's Revelation originally written?
- a) Christians in Rome
  - b) Christians in Thessalonica
  - c) Christians in Corinth
  - d) Christians in Asia Minor
  - e) Christians in Jerusalem

**Answers are on page 8.**



# Stewardship

Looking for a way to serve the Lord?

**St. Paul's Altar Guild** is reorganizing and looking to take over the care of the Lord's Altar by the New Year but

**WE NEED YOU!**

St. Paul's is still looking for volunteers to dedicate their time and talents to our Altar care. By the start of the New Year we hope to have the new Altar Guild up and running. We have currently completed the Altar Guild Instruction manual for setting up, taking down and caring for the Lord's Altar. We also have a handful of people who have volunteered to join the altar guild – BUT that doesn't mean that we don't have space for more, in fact having a few more people on board would certainly be a blessing.

Currently we need more volunteers to help out with the Altar care for the 8 AM and 10:30 AM church services. We especially need volunteers for the 8 AM service.

## **8:00 AM Service Responsibilities**

- Set up communion
- Put flowers on the altar
- Check oil in candles

## **10:30 AM Service Responsibilities**

- Refresh communion supplies for 10:30 service
- Take down communion after service
- Take down flowers after service



If you don't think that you can volunteer to serve in the Altar Guild, please consider making a financial donation to the Altar Paraments Fund. Altar Linens are not cheap, and ours are in bad shape and very dated. We are currently in the process of updating the Paraments and you will probably be noticing the beautiful new blue altar linens this Christmas season. We are very lucky to have Kathy Lewis working hard on this project and her efforts are really amazing as you will see for yourself. THANK YOU KATHY! Overall, the more money we raise, the better we can outfit the Lord's Altar in the proper way. If you are interested in making a donation just drop it in the collection plate with a note that the money is for the Altar Paraments. Every contribution is very much appreciated. If you want to physically join the Altar Guild, please contact the church office, or email Melissa Chew, Stewardship Chairperson, at [mbchew@smcps.org](mailto:mbchew@smcps.org) if you would like to serve in any way.

Stewardship Board Chairperson,

Melissa Chew





# *Building Grounds*

**Just want to say thank you to all those who came out to help at the last work day. We had a great group of people working together in various ways to help clean God's house and the church grounds to get St. Paul's ready for the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas season. The blessings of working together as brothers and sisters in Christ are immeasurable!**

**John Bowling**



## An Advent reflection.... on Genesis 3:23, 4:1, 8 Luke 2:4, 7 Luke 23:46

When preparing for Advent I often think of these passages and how Eve and Mary's circumstances were similar. Both women would give birth to a child in unfamiliar surroundings with only their husbands to comfort them.

Eve, as the first woman, had no mother or grandmother to guide her through the birth process, she had no sister or aunt to turn to with questions on what to expect.

Mary left her mother, grandmother, sisters, and aunts behind as she traveled with her husband to Bethlehem to register and be taxed. She too, would have no woman to guide her.

Eve, being banished from the beauty of the garden would give birth to her child in a harsh and unfamiliar environment outside of the garden.

Mary having traveled far from her home and family would give birth to her child in the harsh environment of a stable.

Both would be filled with an overwhelming joy as they held their newborn for the first time.

Eve and Mary would nurture, guide, and love their child into adulthood.

And then, both women would know the unspeakable pain in the death of their sons.

Two different women...two different times...each bound together by God who touched them differently but with the same loving care.

Submitted by,

June Shewbridge



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*Mission and Ministries*

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**What's Going On??**

**December 2018**

**Just as our heavenly Father gave us the greatest gift of all, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in this season we too want to share. Part of our mission at St Paul's is to shine the light of Christian love to our community. To let Southern Maryland and the world know that the little church on the hill is a church of action. We have a few Mission projects going on at this time. Please consider one of them as a way to give hope and share God's love. If you are not able to contribute please pray for our neighbors in need. We are currently collecting gifts for our veterans who live at the Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home, food items are always needed by St Mary's Helping Hands, and our Angel Tree is up for children in need. Information on all of these projects is in the church front hall.**

**Looking ahead a bit to January 2019 we will be celebrating the ordination of our Deacon to be our SMP Minister. This wonderful event will be on January 27<sup>th</sup> with a special service in the afternoon. Following the service, we will be hosting a dinner for all who attend. If you are willing to help with this event please let me know**

**As always thank you for your generous hearts and the love our congregation shares!**

**Lois Beverage  
301-769-3499**



## **December Newsletter**

**Some opening thoughts, “Lord be our light when worldly darkness veils us!” We know that Jesus was sent to us to be a light in this dark world. Please remember in this season of celebration that He is the Christ in our Christmas!**

**The Elder’s would still appreciate volunteers to help with services by being a reader, helping with offering, and being a greeter. Please let an Elder know if you are interested.**

**We look forward to sharing another wonderful fellowship with the Men’s Prayer Breakfast on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30AM. Let others know to join us.**

**There will be special services in celebration of Christmas on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> during the 10:30 AM service as well as Christmas Eve. I hope to see everyone at this joyous time.**

**Please remember if you have questions or needs and you would like to speak to someone your Elder’s are standing with you.**

**Your Brother in Christ,  
Bob Beverage**

# LWML NEWS

Last month there was a little mistake in my article because I used a 2018 calendar. We will be holding the first woman's breakfast on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. Bring a breakfast dish to share with everyone. It will be a potluck. I will lead devotion and then we can discuss anything we would like see the woman of our congregation involved in.

Any woman who attends a Lutheran church has already met all the qualifications to be a member! So, consider this to be your official invitation to a group that you are already a member of (if you are a woman).

Have a very blessed December and remember in all the hustle and bustle of the holidays what the TRUE reason for the season is!



Answers to the 10 questions

1. d) The heavens and earth. Gen 1:1
2. c) Construct the tabernacle Exodus 24:8
3. b) & d) Translations differ and there is enough reason to select either answer. However, in the beginning Barnabas was the leader and then over time he yielded to Paul much the same as John the Baptizer who proclaimed about Jesus "I must decrease---
4. c) Luke because of the Angels surrounding Jesus' birth.
5. Our bulletin's back page proclaims the message. The words: *"We Entered to Worship... We Exit to Witness!"*
6. d) His Donkey did. Numbers 22: 22-35. These verses are a wild account and the Lord opened the Donkey's mouth and spoke! Be careful what you say around your pets.
7. In order of scripture: 1- Apostles, 2- Prophets, 3- teachers, 4- miracles, 5- healings, 6- helps, 7- administration 8- a variety of tongues. These are from the New King James version- other versions may list the arrangement in a slightly different order.
8. a) Gold, f) Silver, d) Bronze Exodus 25:3
9. "I am tempted by God" James 1: 13
10. d) Christians in Asia Minor. The basis centers on the 7 churches in Asia Minor. Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Smyrna, Philadelphia, Ephesus and Laodicea. John wrote this while secured on the Greek Island of Patmos, a barren rocky place. His only human view was rocks, goats and the sea. However, awe did he not have the most incredible view of heaven as it is now and the new heaven and earth to come. Amen

IF you missed 5 to 10 questions, **YOU NEED TO BE IN BIBLE CLASS NOW!**

IF you missed 1 to 5 questions, **YOU NEED TO BE IN BIBLE CLASS NOW!**

IF you did not miss any questions, **YOU NEED TO TEACH A BIBLE CLASS NOW!**

Adult Bible Class meets each Sunday @ 0900 hours in the kitchen- join us in the study of Ephesians.



# December



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
12/04- Dylan Otte 12/05-Elizabeth Bostwick 12/05- Danielle Hoffman 12/06- Jack Guntow 12/07- Melva Fuchs 12/09- Paul Mehrkam 12/09- Lucy Price 12/11- Chris Curtis		12/15- Sherri Maack 12/20- John Short		Bruce & Jill Hayden- 12/05  Elvis & Betty Wathen- 12/19		
02	03	04	05			06
<b>Service Times:</b> 8:00 & 10:30 am <b>Adult Bible Class 9:15 am</b> <b>Sunday School: 9:00 am</b>	venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room	Praise Team Practice 6 pm	<b>Advent Service @ 7pm</b>			Men's Prayer breakfast @ 0830 ----- Praise Service @ 5 pm
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>Service Times:</b> 8:00 & 10:30 am <b>Adult Bible Class 9:15 am</b> <b>Sunday School: 9:00 am</b>	Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room	Praise Team Practice 6 pm	<b>Advent Service @ 7pm</b>	Council Meeting @ 6:30PM		<b>Christmas Program Practice 9 am to 11:30 am</b>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>Service Times:</b> 8:00 & 10:30 am <b>Adult Bible Class 9:15 am</b> <b>Sunday School: 9:00 am</b> ----- <b>Sunday School Christmas Program @ 10:30 Service</b> <b>Potluck to follow</b>	Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room	Praise Team Practice 6 pm	<b>Advent Service @ 7pm</b>			Praise Service @ 5 pm
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>Service Times:</b> 8:00 & 10:30 am <b>Lessons &amp; Carols @ 10:30 service</b> <b>Adult Bible Class 9:15 am</b> <b>No Sunday School</b>	<u>Christmas eve Service @ 7pm</u>	<b>Christmas Day</b>		Elders Meeting @ 6:30PM		
30	31	<h2><u>December 2018</u></h2> <p><b>HOW MANY MISTLETOES DID YOU SEE THROUGHOUT THE NEWSLETTER?</b>  <b>(ANSWER ON THE TOP RIGHT OF THIS PAGE)</b></p>				
<b>Service Times:</b> 8:00 & 10:30 am <b>Adult Bible Class 9:15 am</b> <b>Sunday School: 9:00 am</b>	Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room					



Proclamation

## 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.-Fri. 10:00am to 2:00pm

Phone: 301.884.5184 Fax: 301-884-2063

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

Email: [stpaulslcmsmd@netzero.net](mailto:stpaulslcmsmd@netzero.net)

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

It's not a Religion.....It's a Relationship!!