



# Proclamation

## Make Lent Great Again

By Pastor Tim McNutt

MARCH- 2017

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No, this isn't a play on a politician's catch-phrase.

Rather, our friends in the Eastern Orthodox Church have always called Lent the "Great Lent." I've admired their approach to Great Lent because it truly is a drawn-out time of preparation, self-awareness, and therefore, self-discipline. It's more than focusing on a couple of days but a "greater" focus on self-awareness and discipline over the weeks leading up to Good Friday.

Lent in our own times however has become full of complacency and satisfaction with the status-quo. There is little focus on confession and absolution because we see little reason to change. There is little focus on fasting because we can't see our lack of self-control. Without a dependency on the Holy Spirit we love ourselves 'just the way we are' a little too much..... We're more with God's blessings than wondering how far we are from the Presence of Who God Is. Not only have we become unconcerned about the idols in our lives we have also become as indifferent towards the lack of Holy Spirit fruit in us as well.

For us to make Lent "Great" again begins in honest self-awareness as enabled by the Holy Spirit. As we make the journey towards Jerusalem with Jesus, pray and ask the Lord to reveal your life to you: how you live in spirit, soul, and body. Where do you authentically need to lay down your life and pick up the cross and follow Him?

Jesus gives us a parable in Luke 18:9-14 that actually typifies the value of Lent.

*He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."*

Are we like the Pharisee – self-satisfied and complacent with our lives? Unaware of a lack of spiritual maturity and any need for growth? Are we ignorant of our lack of love for God and love for neighbor?

Or are we like the tax-collector – unwilling to even look towards the Presence of God and call on God's mercy? Do we have an awareness in ourselves of our lack of love for God and our failings to love our neighbors as ourselves? Are we aware that although we may be justified by grace our lack of practicing that justification impacts the lives of those around us?

In the ancient Christian traditions, Lent typically begins with going and seeking the forgiveness of others around us. Why? Because other people are more of an authentic mirror of our lives than the gaze in our own mirrors. Just like in Luke, I may pretend that I am not like other people, but in dialogue with others I will find out I have hurt and sinned against my friends and neighbors and co-workers in so many different ways. Eventually pride gives way to self-awareness and the need of more Holy Spirit repentance in our lives (and less of self) as we listen to those around us.

How do we make Lent “Great” again? We can pray all that we want. But until we live in authentic relationship and understanding with others and learn to see ourselves in the ways they see us, we are sometimes fooling ourselves. Only with greater awareness will we even see the need to pick up the cross and follow Jesus in His passion and death.

**“Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.”**







Greeting St. Paul's Church, members and friends.

Thank you to all who filled out and returned the survey forms about possible upcoming activities. I was pleased to see that the ones we selected were for the majority of you, well received. Rooted, especially in it's "renewed" beginnings will focus on activities for the entire congregation,

The first activity we are scheduling is BINGO!! The Bingo game is scheduled for March 24th from 6:30 to 8:30, with light refreshments and prizes. I would like to thank in advance Jimmie Swain, who has volunteered to be our official Bingo call for this event. This is OPEN to ALL members of the congregation and if you are able to attend, I will be putting up a sign-up sheet so we can prepare. I hope to see you all there.

I have not determined when we will have meetings but I do see that from the returned forms, Thursday works best. Please continue to send in the survey forms, so I can best accommodate the greater majority of the youth. Please note that the warmer weather will soon be on us and we would like to take advantage of the weather and summer break so if we are to get things rolling, the more input we have now, the more we can do later.

As always  
Rooted in Christ

Cindy Werth

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AND  
BINGO

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### **Friday, Mar. 24 – St. Paul's Bingo Night!**

**6:30-8:30 pm All ages!**

We are looking for prizes and if you have any to donate, here are a few ideas: (drop off on Sundays)

Child prizes: small stuffed animals, bouncy balls, toys, candy, etc.

Teen & Adult prizes: puzzle books (sudoku, crossword), candles, tools, etc.

If you have any questions, please call the Church office.

# Sunday School News

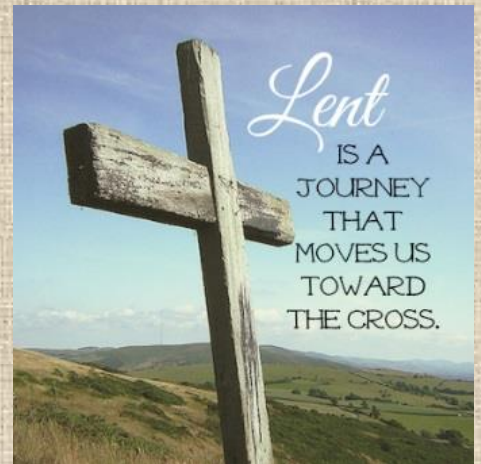


## The Little Children and Jesus – Matthew 19:13-15

*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."*

Greetings from the Sunday school. We continue to come together each Sunday and learn more about the amazing love God has for us.

As we start the Lenten season, we will be continuing to encourage and help our students find ways that they can share God's love with others in the congregation and their community. And then of course we are all looking forward and excited about the upcoming Easter celebration as well. Again this year, we welcome all the Sunday school children for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held Easter morning, Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, as a part of our special group Easter Sunday school class and activities. We hope all the students can attend to help us celebrate the most glorious event of the church calendar! All are invited and we are always happy to welcome new faces.



We will also be having a Sunday school meeting, Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> in the Sunday school building at 6 PM.



Also, do not forget clear your calendar for this year's Vacation Bible School maker Fun Factory, where we will investigate how we are "Created by God and Built for a Purpose." This year VBS will be Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. VBS is always a wonderful time but takes a lot of hard work from as many volunteers as we can get. Please make sure to sign your kids up for the fun and maybe yourself as well. See the sign up poster in the church hallway or talk to this year's VBS Leader, Meredith Johnson.

In His Service, Melissa Chew



# Missions & Ministries



Thank you to everyone who came out to  
Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner!

Also a big thank you to Gayle, Jimmie, Kelly, Bobby, Jake, Josh, Mary,  
Allison, and Melissa!

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**Pastor Tim & Amy** will be presenting their mission trip to Uganda at the DCMARVA LWML Spring Rally held at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Washington DC on Saturday, April 29. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board. If you are interested in attending please call the church office by Wed., April 12. A \$10 donation includes continental breakfast & lunch.

The LWML is collecting toiletries for N Street Village, which provides housing for homeless women and St. Paul's is helping! Please drop off donations during services during Great Lent. A box is set up in the entry.

*Travel size & Full size Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Toothbrush Cases, Travel size Bar Soap, Soap Cases, Travel size Shower Gel/Body Wash, Blush, Eye Shadow, Lipstick, and Mascara.*

The need is still out there for food and clothing-we are continuing to collect for St. Paul's Shares: Eva Turner School & The Mission.

**Eva Turner School** in Waldorf needs are:

Winter clothing for children, grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. Hats, scarfs, mittens and coats (gently used or new and please remove all store tags)

**Non-perishable boxed and canned foods**

**The Mission** in Lexington Park:

Canned meats: tuna, chicken, ham, turkey

Top Ramen or any meal that just needs water

Vegetable stew or soups

Cereal (Boxed)

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Canned Vegetables or Fruit

Small Can Openers

Pasta or Rice

Spaghetti Sauce

Crackers

Chef Boyardee or store brand items (Beef Ravioli, Spaghetti, etc.)

**A VIEW FROM THE PEW – by Jim Shewbridge**  
***Some thoughts on sharing the Good News--- “God, I don’t want to deal---”***

Several Sunday’s ago, I had the pleasure of joining the Ladies Bible Study- I pledged not to interfere & they joyfully welcomed me. Their current study is titled “Beloved Disciple.” Admittedly, I did join in the conversations and at one point related how June and I had been ministering to several individuals who became intertwined with our daily lives which many times caused us to be at a loss as what we could possibly do to help them. There were many prayerful times and some with June’s tears and my anger. I remember blurting out ***“God I don’t want to deal with these deadbeats anymore.”*** Immediately, the indwelling Holy Spirit rebuked my words- I was dead wrong! I asked for God’s forgiveness many times while dealing with one who threatened to kill himself (searched for hours for him) and another ended up in Federal Prison. Since my cry to God, He has seen fit to continually send others into our lives. The Apostle Paul ask for relief three time without healing and recalling that, I never bothered to question God again- bring them on!

In my arrogance I forgot ***1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2: 3-4 This is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.***

In God’s eyes all mankind is worthy of salvation and we must never forget that. Too often we pass by others because they don’t look or sound like us. Once bypassed, you may never know if God placed that person in you path- what was their need? What did God want from you?

The shunning or ignoring of individuals has continued for centuries and God’s elect even then were reminded that God calls all humanity! ***Ezekiel 33:11 "Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord GOD, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'***

Will we ever learn? Whom did you meet today? Were they saved in Christ’s name? Did they need food and or shelter or just a friend to pour out their heart? Now in preparation for your encounters ask yourself: are you versed into scripture to convey God’s messages?

If not, please join the ladies on Sunday morning for the enrichment and fellowship received by studying God’s Word. I am returning next Sunday- there is no graduation day in studying God’s Word! As we work out logistics, more studies will be forthcoming. Be ready to join.

*Each day, who you are will determine what you see.  
Moreover, what you see will determine what you do.  
Always in Jesus name, Amen*





# MARCH - 2017

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>March Birthdays</b> 2 – Gary Werth 5 – Abigail Drury 10 – Jim Hiller 13 – Megan Green 20 – Meredith Johnson 22 – Jack McNutt			<b>1</b> <b>Confirmation Class</b> 7-7:45 pm Christian Education Bldgs.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Service Times:</b> 8:00 & 10:30 am <b>Praise Service:</b> 9:15 am <b>Sunday School:</b> 9 am <b>Adult Class:</b> 9:10 am  <b>Acolytes:</b> 8:00 Dylan Otte 10:30 Mary McNutt <b>Reader @ 10:30:</b> Melissa Chew	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Confirmation Class</b> 7-7:45 pm Christian Education Bldgs.  <b>Lenten</b> <b>Service 7 pm</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Daylight Savings</b> <b>Service Times:</b> 8:00 & 10:30 am <b>Praise Service:</b> 9:15 am <b>Sunday School:</b> 9 am <b>Adult Class:</b> 9:10 am  <b>Acolytes:</b> 8:00 Aidan Price 10:30 Kathryn Nelsen <b>Reader @ 10:30:</b> Stephanie Boyer	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Church</b> <b>Council</b> <b>Meeting</b> 6:30- pm	<b>15</b> <b>Confirmation Class</b> 7-7:45 pm Christian Education Bldgs.  <b>Lenten</b> <b>Service 7 pm</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>     St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>Service Times:</b> 8:00 & 10:30 am <b>Praise Service:</b> 9:15 am <b>Sunday School:</b> 9 am <b>Adult Class:</b> 9:10 am  <b>Acolytes:</b> 8:00 Danielle Hoffman 10:30 Allison Werth <b>Reader @ 10:30:</b> Lois Beverage	<b>20</b>     Spring Begins	<b>21</b> Circuit 8 Pastors Meeting 8am-1pm	<b>22</b> <b>Confirmation Class</b> 7-7:45 pm Christian Education Bldgs.  <b>Lenten</b> <b>Service 7 pm</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>BINGO</b> <b>Night</b> 6:30 – 8:30 pm 	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>Service Times:</b> 8:00 & 10:30 am <b>Praise Service:</b> 9:15 am <b>Sunday School:</b> 9 am <b>Adult Class:</b> 9:10 am  <b>Acolytes:</b> 8:00 Emily Maack 10:30 Josh Gray <b>Reader @ 10:30:</b> Dale Bittner	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>VBS</b> <b>Planning</b> <b>Meeting</b> 6pm 	<b>29</b> <b>Confirmation Class</b> 7-7:45 pm Christian Education Bldgs.  <b>Lenten</b> <b>Service 7 pm</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	



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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

Contemporary – 9:15 am

Sunday School: 9:00 am

Adult Bible Study: 9:10 am

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

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](#)

*Behold, now is the favorable time;  
Behold, now is the day of salvation.  
2 Corinthians 6:2*

Connecting with Jesus, each other, & Southern Maryland

### Dates to Remember:

Wednesdays in March – 8, 15, 22, & 29 – Mid-week LENTEN services

@ 7 pm



Spring Forward on Sunday, March 12



Bingo Night Friday, March 24 6:30 – 8:30 pm



VBS Planning Meeting – Tuesday, March 28 6:0 pm