



Proclamation

November - 2017

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From the desk of the Congregational President

Paul Mehrkam



President Newsletter November 2017

Thanksgiving is the time of the year when we celebrate the beginnings of our country. The early settlers were thankful to God for surviving through the harsh winter, the great fall harvest, and friendship of the helpful native Indians. Not only are we to celebrate their thanksgiving in memory, but we need to always reflect in our hearts and give thanks to God for supplying all of our needs and guiding us during difficult time. We also need to be thankful for our brothers and sisters who have been with us in spiritual worship of the Lord. Please join us for worship on Thanksgiving Eve on 22 November at 7 PM.

We are having our Fall 2017 Voter's Meeting on 19 November after the 10:30 service in the large meeting room of the educational buildings. To help in sharing fellowship during this meeting, we will have some drinks and light snacks. The main agenda topics will be approval of the 2018 budget and voting of Church Council Officers. In addition to council reports, we will be discussing and voting for mulching the playground use of the yard sale proceeds. We will also talk about fellowship and steward ship at St. Paul's.

We are planning to do a makeover of the playground with new mulch. We have a quote estimate of \$2,700 for rubber mulch and a new liner. Although more expensive, rubber mulch will last ten years or more and resists weeds well. In addition to the mulch purchase, we will need manpower from the congregation for removing the old and laying down new mulch and liner.

With so much loss and devastation from hurricanes, tornadoes, fire, floods, and earthquakes, one may wonder how can St. Paul's help. In the Voter's meeting, we will discuss donating the proceeds to Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Disaster Response. We are also planning to donate more with the bake sale proceeds in the upcoming Christmas Bazaar. Below is the link for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Disaster Response where you can get updates on the ongoing response efforts and learn how you can contribute financially or even volunteer.

<https://www.lcms.org/disaster-response>

Here are just a few more administrative tidbits for the upcoming Voter's Meeting. If there are any additional topics that you wish to discuss at the Voter's meeting, please contact the church office secretary by 9 November. If you will not be able to attend the voter's meeting, you can submit a proxy vote by contacting the church office secretary by 15 November. If you wish to review the minutes of the previous voter's meeting in April 2017, you will find them on the church website under Church Business Operations. <http://www.stpaulssomd.com/>

Dear Lord, The world is full of lost sheep who do not know your voice or where to turn to. Each time they look to the world for help, instead they find chaos, uncertainty, and fear. Please send Your Holy Spirit on them so that they may joyfully return into Your fold. Forgive their sins, renew their faith in You, and protect them from the dangers of this world. Amen.

A View from the Pew

Some thoughts on sharing the Good News---

"You got to believe to receive Brother!"



I really enjoy TV's Deadliest Catch program. I am constantly amazed at the hardship and long work hours harvesting King, Opilio, (snow) and Bairdi crabs. I have been in 20 foot seas in a 27' boat, but nothing I experienced compares to gigantic 30+ foot waves in the Bearing Sea.

Enduring waves, wind and frigid cold, the crew carries on hoping for the **unseen harvest**. A crew member put it well-

We can apply that statement to our spiritual lives too. We have to believe to receive- in our case the promised eternal salvation in the name of Jesus who is the Christ. Assured in our faith, we are called to reach out to that **unseen harvest**. Matt 4:19 **And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."** That message applies to us today and tomorrow. We are not all called to preach, but God has granted you a gift for His work whether by words or deeds. 2Tim 1:7 **For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.** That power is in you through the Holy Spirit and is a call for response. Hear this story: *Three salesmen were leaving a meeting in Chicago and were rushing to O'Hare Airport to catch an imminent flight home. As they arrived at the terminal, they heard the boarding call for their flight and began rushing through the concourse brushing people aside in their dash to the plane. One of the men knocked over a vendor's table filled with baskets of apples spilling the contents across the floor and mass of rushing people. The three men stopped for a moment and then one called for the other two to go on, he would go back help clean up and catch a later flight. He had noticed that the vendor was a blind young woman. He quickly came to her and began salvaging the apples and baskets- some of which had to be discarded due to damage. Once the table was reset, he opened his wallet and gave the woman money to cover the damages- apologized for the mishap and started walking toward his departure gate. As he walked away the woman asked "Are you Jesus?" *I am not aware of his answer.*

Hopefully, the man was moved by true faith and maybe even 2 Tim 1:7 and perhaps when you go to the aid of those God places in your path that they will see the light of Jesus in your endeavors. May it always be! I have penned enough articles since returning home to St. Paul's and you know I am always pitching "**get into the Word.**" Only by knowing God's word can we be effective in God's work. It is never too late to join the on-going study and we are willing to start a second study now. Make a commitment and honor your pledge.

SHARE

Cleansed in Christ's Blood, daily by words and deeds tell the story of Jesus' salvation.

Amen

DEACON'S DEN BY: GENE BOSTWICK

2 Corinthians 1: 2-6

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.

This verse and many others in the Bible have helped me this week in a pain that I cannot put into words, but I would like to dedicate this to Brother Gary Pomrenke on the passing of his mother.

I know that everyone has experienced this kind of pain. When this happens all kinds of unwarranted guilt, sadness, and anxiety creeps in and keeps us away from the only one that can truly free us from ourselves; The Lord Jesus Christ.

Again in 2 Corinthians 12:9 Paul writes speaking of Jesus:

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

C.S. Lewis wrote in The Problem of Pain: Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.

GOD LOVES US.

If you ever doubt this, know that Our Father Loved Jesus and Jesus Loved Our Father.

Matthew 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is My **beloved** Son, in whom I am well pleased!"

John 14:31 but so that the world may know that I **love** the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me Get up, let us go from here.

The more we endure and call on Him for help the more Christ like we become. The more we help, heal, give, love, comfort, and treat other people with the kind of respect that they do not even treat upon themselves...the more Christ like we become.

I love the way Jon Bloom ends some of his works by pushing these two verses together and so it is how I will end this piece.

"Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5). And when that morning comes, "death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more" (Revelation 21:4). Amen.



Why should a person join a congregation?

It's all about the church, the church united in God's sole purpose to do the work he has set before us. In this celebration of the Reformation, let us concentrate on the tasks our Lord has set before St. Paul's now. We the members are called to worship, praise, proclaim the gospel and share our talents and treasures in all we do in Christ's name.

The Elders are in the process of exploring our listing of church members vs. friends as our church roster does not distinguish between listings.

Our purpose is to identify non-members and offer the hand of fellowship to join in St. Paul's work. Please consider the following from the LCMS website.

Q: *Could you please tell me why a person should join a congregation? Couldn't they just go to the church, give a little here and there, and do the things a member does without joining? What benefits would I have by joining a church?*

A: Joining a church says to the public you are a Christian, that you are a member of God's own people, who are called "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation" (1 Peter 2:9), and that you believe and act thus and thus as a witness to the Christian faith and as an example to others. It means that you are doing what the very first Christians did in joining together to devote themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Acts 2:42). It means that you will be able to receive the encouragement, strength, prayers, baptism, the Lord's Supper and the application of God's Word from fellow Christians and a pastor, which you may not have the privilege of receiving as a non-member. It will tell other Christians and the world that you have considered it a serious matter to be able to join together with Christians to support the work of the church of calling a pastor, providing instruction in the Christian faith for the youth, adults, the older set, doing evangelism and mission work at home and abroad.

It would not only witness to other people who you are and what you are about, but it would show God that what He wants of His groups of His chosen, His own people, that you are not just talking about and maybe doing half-heartedly, but are involved whole-heartedly in doing what He expects. Joining is a serious declaration that you intend-with His help-to participate fully in doing the things of God. In most congregations, only members who have joined receive the Lord's Supper, the privilege of voting, recognition by the government for tax purposes, full use of the church and other amenities. What would happen to God's church if everyone decided not to join with other Christians to BE His own people?

Please let an Elder (listed in the bulletin) aware of your decision and a pastor will be available for further discussion.

Amen

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

It's that time of year again!

St. Paul's annual Christmas Bazaar will be held on December 2, 2017 from 9-2. We will have vendors, food, bake sale, book sale, and of course, fun! We are actively seeking volunteers to help with this wonderful event. Please volunteer using the sign up sheet located in the church hallway. We are also seeking used books and gently used items to be sold by St. Paul's during our event. Any donated items can be left in the hallway in the box marked Christmas Bazaar. If you have any questions, please contact Meredith Johnson at 301-653-0792 or meredith.s.johnson@gmail.com

**St. Paul's Lutheran
Church Christmas Bazaar
December 2, 2017**

9-2

CRAFTERS

BAKE SALE

VENDORS

FOOD

VINTAGE BOOK SALE

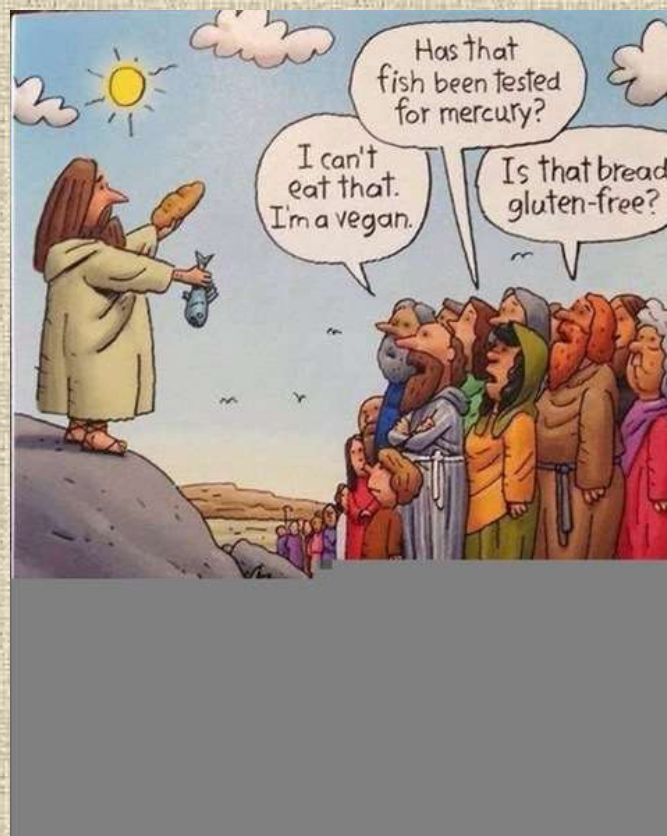
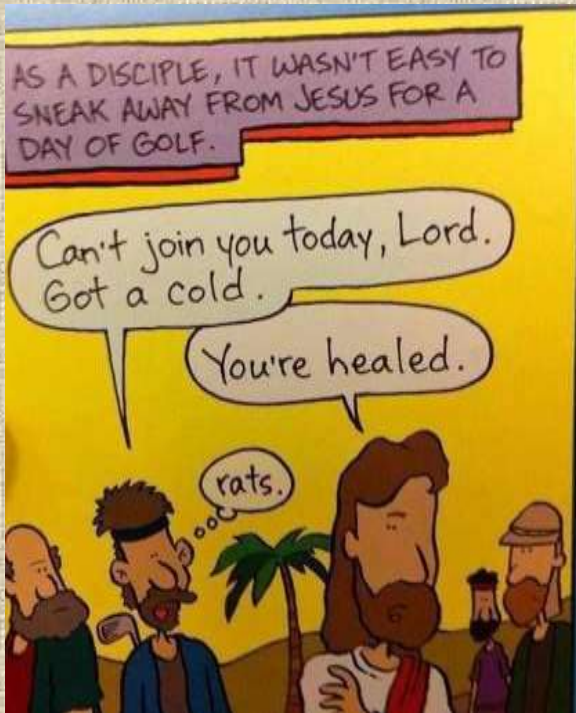
KIDS CRAFT ROOM

* SCENTSY, PERFECTLY POSH, DOT DOT SMILE, JAMBERRY, LULAROE, MARY KAY, ORAGAMI OWL, PINK ZEBRA, AND MORE!

37707 New Market Turner Rd. Mechanicsville, MD 20659

St. Paul's Funnies

A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. Proverbs 17:22



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>Birthdays</i> 2 – Jessica Werth 22 – Rayne Lindauer 29 – Philip Drury			<i>Anniversaries</i> 1 – Gary & Cindy Werth 11 – Fred & Sally Gheen			
			01	02	03	04
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main room					
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main room					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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. 6:30 pm			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am Voters Mtg after 10:30 svc	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main room		Thanksgiving Eve Service 7PM	Thanksgiving		
26	27	28	29	30		
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main room		November 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

Adult Bible Study: 9:10 am –

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

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Connecting with Jesus, each other, & Southern Maryland