



# Proclamation

July - 2018

Volume 5, Issue 48



## *Words from The Deacon....*

Good Day My Beloved,

What a crazy busy month it has been for our church. From Our June Jubilee Yard Sale to Father's Day to our Ship-Wrecked Vacation Bible School to the upcoming celebration of Our Nation's Independence. We are a congregation that is a got a lot of things happening in our lives. As we get ready to potentially head out on our vacations, we must remember that we are blessed for numerous reasons. First and foremost, we are His children. We also live in a nation that we have the freedom to assemble and Worship Him without fear of persecution. That is a luxury many faiths in foreign lands don't have. So, let us embrace that. Let us be aware of the blessings that we have as Americans. We work hard, but we are blessed beyond measure because of the sacrifice that Jesus made on that cross for all of us. Because of Jesus, we are able to take a few days off and travel to an "exotic" location and enjoy the fruits of our labors. As we plan and enjoy all of the things that this country has to offer, let us never lose sight of Our Savior and Our Father God. They never go on vacation and forget about us, so we should always plan to take them with us as well. I pray that you all travel safely and know that you will always be welcomed home. Buckle up St. Paul's, this congregation is moving, and we are going to do great things with The Triune God in our corner. Let us re-take lost ground in His Name. Amen?

And remember - *It's Not A Religion ... It's a Relationship*

Blessings,

Deacon Pomrenke

## Sunday School News

Thank you to a wonderful teaching staff who has been such a blessing to St. Paul's this past year by sharing the Word of God to the young people in our congregation. They have given their time and love to help so many great kids remain strong in their faith. Thank you so much Emily Maack, Meredith Stallman and Megan Green, Brenda Bowling, Felicia Bowling, Melissa Chew, Gene Bostwick and Cindy Werth. Teaching Sunday School has many extra blessings as well. As hard as we try, life pulls us in so many directions that weeks may go by without opening and reading God's word. Preparing a lesson every week keeps you grounded in His Word. I've been teaching for over 30 years and still am amazed at how many times I still learn something new as I prepare each lesson. If you would like to be a part of our teaching staff, please contact me or Gene Bostwick, our Christian Ed. Chairman. We are always in need of substitutes and aids for our classes as they begin to grow larger.

Thank you to all our Sunday School kids for doing a great job sharing their "Stewardship in Action" worship service on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We were all very proud of them!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in July for our **"Super Fun Summer Sunday School"** which will be held in the Educational Building on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. All classes will be meeting together for a fun time of bible stories, crafts, games, activities, music and snacks. We will first be learning about some famous Old Testament heroes like Daniel, Jonah, Shadrack, Meshach and Abednego then finish up the series by hearing some answers that Nicodemus learned to some very important questions he had for Jesus. All kids from ages 4 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome. Please bring a friend! An adult class on the Book of Isaiah will be meeting in the kitchen at the same time for anyone who is interested.

Regular Sunday School classes will begin again in the fall on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> with our Rally Day celebration!

Brenda Bowling, Sunday School Superintendent

"Let all that you do be done with love." 1 Corinthians 16:14



Thanks for Sharing your Child with us! Mrs. Bowling





## A View from the Pew

### *Some thoughts on sharing the Good News--- Life Saving Service---*



I recently heard this parable for a third time and note it is an illustration of the decay of an organization's purpose and goals with the passage of time. The story portrays potential dangers churches may experience and the resultant impact upon the spiritual life of congregations.

<For your information>

The **United States Life-Saving Service** was a [United States government](#) agency that grew out of private and local humanitarian efforts to save the lives of shipwrecked mariners and passengers. It began in **1848** and ultimately merged with the [Revenue Cutter Service](#) to form the [United States Coast Guard](#) in 1915.

On a dangerous seacoast notorious for shipwrecks, there began a crude little lifesaving station. The station was merely a hut with only one boat but, the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the turbulent sea. With little thought for themselves, they ventured out day and night tirelessly searching for those in danger as well as the lost. Many lives were saved by the group's courageous team of rescuers.

Some who were saved as well as others along the seacoast become associated with this little station. They willingly gave their time, energy and money in support of its objectives. New boats were purchased and new crews trained. The small station that was once obscure, crude and virtually insignificant began to grow. In time, some members became unhappy complaining that the hut was unattractive and poorly equipped. Thus, they began to "upgrade" furnishing as they felt a more comfortable place should be provided. Emergency cots were replaced with lovely furniture. Rough, hand-made equipment was discarded and sophisticated, classy systems were installed. The hut, of course, had to be torn down to make room for all the additional equipment, furniture, systems, and appointments. By its completion, the life-saving station had become a popular gathering place, and its objectives had begun to shift. It was now used as sort of a clubhouse, an attractive building for public gatherings. Saving lives, feeding the hungry, strengthening the fearful, and calming the disturbed rarely occurred by now.

Fewer members were now interested in braving the sea on lifesaving missions, so they hired professional lifeboat crews to do this work. The original goal of the station was not altogether forgotten, however. The lifesaving motifs still prevailed in the club's decorations. In fact, there was a liturgical lifeboat preserved in the *Room of Sweet Memories* with soft, indirect lighting, which helped hide the layer of dust upon the once-used vessel.

About this time, a large ship was wrecked off the coast and the boat crews brought in loads of cold, wet, half-drowned people. They were dirty, some terribly sick and lonely. Others were "different" from the majority of the club members. The beautiful new club suddenly became messy and cluttered. A special committee saw to it that a shower house was immediately built *outside* and *away from* the club, so victims of shipwreck could be cleaned up *before* being allowed inside.

The next meeting brought contention with strong words and angry feelings resulting in a division among members. Most of the people wanted to stop the club's lifesaving activities and all involvements with shipwreck victims. "It's too unpleasant, it's a hindrance to our social life, and it's opening the door to folks who are not *our kind*". As you would expect, some still insisted upon saving lives, that this was their primary objective—that their only reason for existence was ministering to *anyone* needing help regardless of their club's beauty or size or decorations. They were voted down and told if they wanted to save the lives of various kinds of shipwrecked people, they could begin their own lifesaving station down the coast! They did.

As years passed, the new station experienced the same old changes. It evolved into another club and yet another lifesaving station was formed pursuant to the original goal of saving lives. History continued to repeat itself and if you visit that coast today, you will find a large number of exclusive, impressive clubs along the shoreline owned and operated by those who have lost all involvement with the saving of lives.

My brothers and Sisters in Christ, you are operating a life station here in St. Mary's County. The lifesaving you are offering is salvation from eternal hell. There are shipwrecks around each of us each day and we are called to respond. *When is the last time you told anyone about Christ's lifesaving promise?* May St. Paul's never become complacent to our calling as they did along the seacoast.

Col 4:2-6 NIV <sup>2</sup>Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. <sup>3</sup>And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup>Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. <sup>5</sup>Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup>Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Amen



# Stewardship

## *Do you have a “got to” or “get to” attitude?*

As the Apostle Paul traveled to churches, he collected offerings for the Christians in Jerusalem who were experiencing hard economic times. When Paul was speaking to the Corinthians, he used the Macedonian believers as an example of people who, in spite of their own economic troubles, gave joyfully to the people in Jerusalem. The Macedonians' love for Christ and their concern for their fellow believers moved them to give beyond their ability. The Macedonians gave themselves first to the Lord, and then, Paul said, they “urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints” (2 Corinthians 8:4). In Christ, they saw their giving as an **opportunity** to help other believers in need.

Does someone who views giving as an obligation plead for the opportunity to give more? Probably not. When giving is an obligation, we will give, but giving as an obligation will not give us the joy or the attitude of pleading for the privilege to give that the Macedonians had. As God's people, we have both an **obligation** and an **opportunity**. Scripture is clear that we are called to give. Paul said, “On the first day of the week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made” (1 Corinthians 16:2). Giving is an **obligation**, but, just as God changed the hearts and minds of the Macedonian people, He changes us so our attitude toward giving can change from being an **obligation** to an **opportunity**. As renewed and changed people, our attitude toward giving changes from a “**got to**” to a “**get to**” attitude. We stop giving grudgingly, and we start giving willingly and cheerfully. We want to give, because giving is an expression of our love and gratitude to God for who He is and what He does for us through His Son, Jesus.

So what **opportunities** to serve God are calling to your heart? What opportunities can you get involved with here at St. Paul's that would cause you to “urgently plead for more of the privilege to share?” I believe that the Vacation Bible school staff, even though very tired after the long week, were all very sad that the opportunity to share God's word was over. Many of you find great joy in keeping the church and church grounds clean tidy. I have seen the heartwarming look on many faces in the congregation when you know that you have helped support different mission projects or by simply volunteering to put up the church Christmas tree. The more we give of ourselves and our gifts, the closer our relationship with Christ becomes, and the more we want to give, and the more God blesses us which only further enables our continued giving. “You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God” (2 Corinthians 9:11). So as I have in the past, I want to encourage you to step up and take hold of the opportunity that God calls you to serve in. I call you to be a part of the greatest thanksgiving to God. Join the Bible study, volunteer to teach Sunday school, cut the grass at the church, attend the next Men's Prayer Breakfast, join the church Altar Guild, ask how you can participate in the next mission project or make a special donation to the Altar Paraments Fund. Whichever **opportunity** you take hold of, remember the Macedonians and start the processes of changing your “got to” attitude to a “get to” attitude. Think about it, by serving in an area that you are passionate about, we “get to” enjoy the task and praise God! What an amazing **privilege**.

Jesus said, "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). By grace, God enables our giving and, as He strengthens our faith and changes our hearts, we can generously give our time and our talents. We thank God that he fills us daily with His love so that we as members of His Church here on earth see giving as a **privilege** and an **opportunity** to praise and thank Him.

*"You were the first to not only give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means."*

~ 2 Corinthians 8:10-11

Stewardship Board Chairperson,

Melissa Chew



# *Building Grounds*

I want to thank all those who have been working so hard to keep our church and the church grounds looking so nice. Special thanks to Gayle Gepert and Jimmie Swain for coming up weekly to cut all the grass and keep everything so neatly trimmed and Brad and Pam Clements for weeding and mulching the flower beds and power washing the Educational Building. Brad and Frank Rappa were also seen on the roof fixing some loose siding and gutters... many thanks as well! As with our own homes, God's house also needs care and maintenance. If you see anything that needs repairing or notice a problem with something please let me know. Another work day will be scheduled after the upcoming Voter's meeting. More information about the date and a list of things we hope to accomplish will be coming out soon. Thanks again for the support and help that St. Paul's members have always shown.

John Bowling

Building and Grounds Chairman

# LWML NEWS

In September

the

LWML Chesapeake District Convention will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Richmond Virginia from September 21 to 23. Registration will begin in July for this event. The registration fee includes some meals and the event but it does not include the hotel fees. I will be there and would love to have a few other ladies from St. Paul's join me. We can carpool and share rooms to help keep costs to a minimum. The theme for the convention is "Our Journey With the Lord".

If you are unable to attend please let me know if you would like to make a donation toward the wonderful causes that the LWML are supporting like Faith House in Frederick MD where homeless women and children are given shelter and shown God's love, Orphan Grain Train which feeds many Haitian's and teaches them about their Heavenly Father, and even right here in southern Maryland where they gave Grace Lutheran's Prison and Recovery Ministry \$4000 to teach those who have been incarcerated that God loves even them. At the convention I will be participating in the "Mission Pledge Walk in the Park" to raise funds for these very worthy causes.

We are also looking for someone to quilt a banner representing St. Paul's LWML which is to be a quilt that will be donated after the convention to babies in need. I have the specifications which are in this month's Chesapeake Breeze which is the newsletter for the LWML in our area. Feel free to take a look at [www.lwmlchesapeake.org](http://www.lwmlchesapeake.org) If you are interested in making our quilt/banner I have lots of material that I would be happy to donate. I have never made a quilt but I have made receiving blankets and if you are willing to teach me this skill I would be willing to help.

Every Lutheran Woman is part of LWML whether you actively participate or not. Deacon Gary has made the comment that if St. Paul's disappeared, would we be missed... Help me build our St Paul's LWML and go forth and show God's love in ALL that we do in His name. God bless you! Have a safe and compassionate summer and enjoy the beauty of this world that God made!

Blessing,

Tracie Pomrenke





## Looking for a way to serve the Lord?

St. Paul's is looking for volunteers to dedicate their time and talents to our Altar care.

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

**WE NEED YOU!**



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

### **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
- Take down flowers

We also need volunteers to tend to the cleaning and care of the altar linens and to bake unleavened bread for an authentic communion addition as well.

And speaking of Altar linens, do not forget that we are currently raising funds to new Altar Paraments/Linens. These special paraments are not cheap, but ours are in bad shape and very dated. The faster we can raise the money, the faster we can outfit the Lord's Altar in the proper way. 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. 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.

# July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</b> 7/1- Dillion Mozingo 7/8- Lisa Reithmeyer 7/3- June Shewbridge 7/9-Bob Maxey 7/4- Ken Mueller 7/12 Andrew Wiggin 7/6- Christopher Pipho 7/16 Brittany Lewis 7/7- Nettie Trimbath 7/18- Ryan Chew				 7/27- Mark Lewis 7/28- Christopher Green 7/28- William Green 7/30- Nicole Williams 7/31- Janet Butterfield		<b>Happy Anniversary</b>  7/16- Kelly & Matthew Price   7/26- Stephanie & Stephen Stowers
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Adult Bible Class: 9:15 am	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room					
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room			Council Mtg. 6:30 PM		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room					
29	30	31				



<b>Service Times:</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:30 am</b> <b>Adult Bible Class 9:15 am</b>	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room						<div> <i>July 2018</i> </div>
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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.-Thurs. 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](#)

Connecting with Jesus, each other, & Southern Maryland