



# Proclamation

January - 2018

Volume 5, Issue 42

**From the desk of the Congregational President**

**Paul Mehrkam**



President Newsletter January 2018

Happy New Year!

This is the time of the year when most of us reflect on what God has done for us at St. Paul's. Thank you to everyone that volunteered and donated for the many events and ministries during 2017. The new year, 2018, is just another year of opportunity to harvest the mission field in southern Maryland.

Winter is definitely upon us bringing adverse conditions requiring cancellation of Sunday worship, Sunday School, and scheduled events at St. Paul's. We want to ensure that everyone is notified of these closures. Please contact the church office secretary if you had any changes to your emergency contact information or preferred method of contact. In addition, we will be posting the closure status on the church Facebook page and website.

Dear Lord, Thank You for another year to serve in Your ministry of southern Maryland. Guide us as we begin planning for 2018 with projects and ministries to evangelize Your Word while helping those in need. Also, instill in us a sense of hunger and thirst to study Your scriptures so that we continue to baptize others in Your name, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## A View from the Pew

*Some thoughts on sharing the Good News---“A man’s reach should exceed his grasp.”*



A long, long, long time ago I heard these words proclaimed by our High School Valedictorian in which we were asked to always extend our efforts beyond our perceived limitations in all that we encounter in life. I never forgot the charge and upon reflecting I realized that reaching beyond my grasp in work and serving others became part of my lifestyle. As followers of Christ the motto should read **“A Christian’s reach should exceed their grasp”** always in doing God’s work. That means here at St. Paul’s and beyond as God directs. It is part of your “Time and purpose” on earth.

Consider Ecclesiastes 3:1 **To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven---** What follows are twenty eight listings related to every life. The key words are

“A time to” and thus we begin the year of our Lord 2018 with abundant work before us. **How will you serve the Lord this year?** Whatever we undertake may it be done with our whole heart as we reach beyond our grasp in doing God’s will.

If you are prompted to make new resolutions, consider a planning resolution about what you wish to accomplish **FOR THE LORD** this year. A yearly plan is a big charge and can be overwhelming and it is suggested that you break it down into months and finally weeks. Looking at a week’s goals is far more attainable based upon our busy lifestyles. Include goals such as: daily bible reading, bible studies including attending our on-going bible study, volunteer to serve one of our church ministries, sustain your gifts for God’s work, reach out to those in need and most importantly tell the story of Jesus to the unsaved. Once committed, honor your obligation to the Lord.

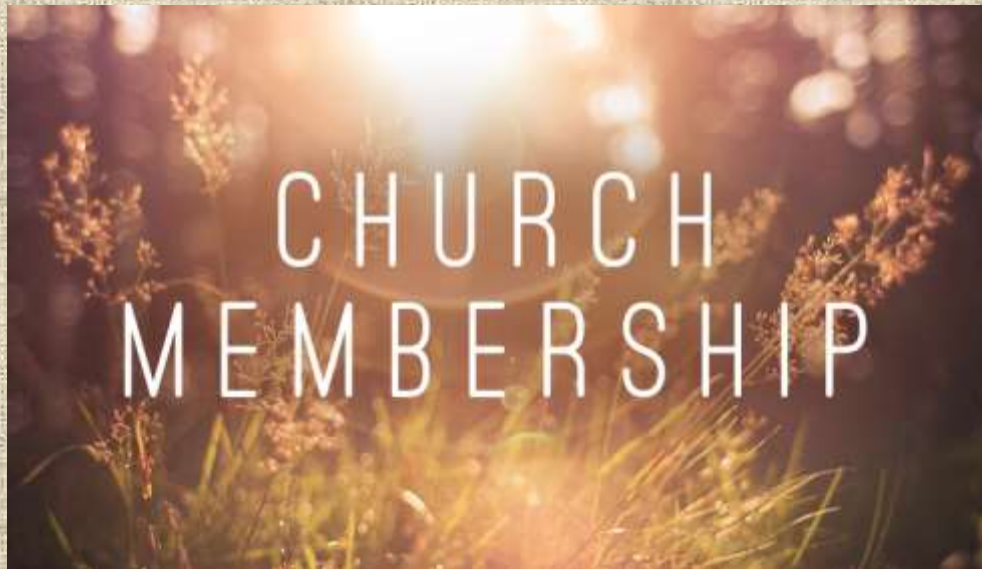
Prepare yourself and God will open doors. Take heart from Paul’s words to the Philippians 4: 5-7 regarding excellence living characteristics for the Lord’s servants.

<sup>5</sup> Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A charge as noted in our Sunday Bulletin

*We Entered to Worship --- We Exit to Witness!*





### **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





## 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."*

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Sunday School Christmas program and the potluck lunch that followed last month. A special thank you to Lois Beverage who wrote and directed our program, to all our Thrivent members at St. Paul's for taking care of the fellowship lunch and the gifts for the children and to all of you for sharing your wonderful children with us throughout the year. As I sit here listening to some Christmas music by Kenny Rogers the words to one of his songs plays over and over in my head. In this song he sings; "the Christmas star shines once a year and then it fades away"..... How hard it seems to be for us to fight our way through all the distractions of life see the amazing gift of love that God gave us that first Christmas and then how quickly we get caught back up in all the craziness of life as soon as we take down our tree! In 2018, we will be trying to help our kids to keep the Christmas spirit of love shining throughout 2018 by using their gifts and talents in service to God and others.

To get us started, we will be having a Sunday school staff meeting on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 PM. Please let me know if you will not be able to attend.

The staff and I wish all of you a very Happy New Year filled with God's peace and love!  
Sunday School will resume for all classes on January 7th  
Brenda Bowling

## *FROM THE DEACON'S DESK*

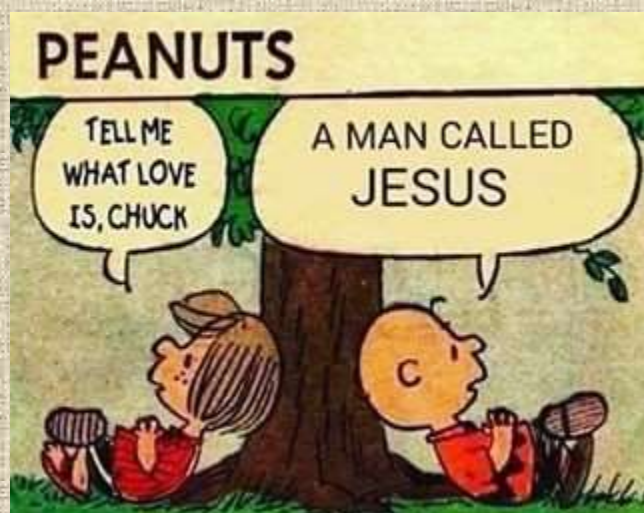
First off, I would like to wish one and all a Happy and Blessed New Year! I must say that it has been an honor to have served St. Paul's these last few months. I look forward to the new year and the challenges and blessings that will face this upcoming year. As we look at this new year, let us let go of the weight of last year's burdens and sins. We are renewed and refreshed through the sacrifice of Christ and we should approach this new year through that lens. We sometimes get so bogged down in what we can't accomplish in our lives. Let this fresh start remind us of the unlimited potential we have in serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We must go to Him in both the bad and the good. He wants nothing more than for us to be free of the sin that binds us. He felt so strongly about removing our sin that he paid the price that was surely ours to pay. That love is what this next year should be about. We must Love our Lord and seek him out in our daily lives. We too must love our neighbors and try to help them in any way possible. That's what Christ's Love was all about. He came for ALL mankind. We too must love as Christ did. So, this year, let us continue to build His Kingdom here at St. Paul's and be witnesses of His Grace and Mercy through our actions for all to see. Let's take back lost ground in our world in God's name in efforts to save the world. There is no greater a challenge than this. God Loves you and so do I.

Deacon Gary Pomrenke



# St. Paul's Funnies

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





# JANUARY 2018



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