



proclamation

APRIL- 2017

Volume 4, Issue 33

Do You Deny or Support the Resurrection?

By Pastor Tim McNutt

Easter changes everything! Typically we think of support for the Easter resurrection in terms of rational belief. In other words, you either believe in the resurrection or you reject the belief that Jesus was resurrected from the dead.

But what if I were to share with you that you can also reject the resurrection by the way in which you live? It's true!

In 1 Corinthians 15, the Apostle Paul spends 57 verses explaining and defending the resurrection of Jesus as the Christ as according to the Scriptures. Then in summary, he writes: ***So then, my dear brothers and sisters, stay firmly planted—be unshakable—do many good works in the name of God, and know that all your labor is not for nothing when it is for God.***

Do you understand what Paul is saying? In the context of the entire 15th chapter, Paul's writing that if Jesus was NOT resurrected, none of our good works in life matter. Why? Because if Jesus has not been raised then nothing matters (***And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.***).

Doing many good works in the name of God matters. If you don't do good works in God's name, then in a sense you are denying God exists and that He raised Jesus from the dead. Every good work proves and demonstrates God is at work in your life by His Holy Spirit.

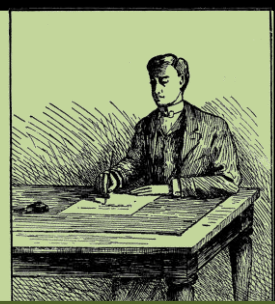
This means we need to be God's people who have every reason to love and to serve others. Because Jesus has been raised, we have hope to live and hope to believe in life after life. Because of the resurrection, we have hope to be willing to serve our neighbors.

Let me encourage you therefore that after you read this to be on the lookout to share God's love. Why? Because Jesus lives, proving that life after life truly exists! And because life after life exists, it matters how we treat everyone around us..... in our neighborhoods, at our places of employment, where we shop, where we go to the movies, where we relax, where we get our haircut, where we go to the doctor, anywhere you can imagine!

God has created you as ***the product of His hand, created in the Anointed, Jesus, to accomplish the good works God arranged long ago.*** Why? Because Jesus lives. **AMEN.**

From the desk of the Congregational President

Paul Mehrkam



Spring is here and it's time for cleanup day at St. Paul's. Please come out and help with spring-cleaning at St. Paul's on Saturday, April 8th starting at 8 AM.

Holy week is happening this month. Take this opportunity to invite family members, friends, and neighbors to any of the worship services.



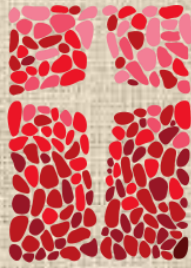
**Voters'
Meeting**

Mark your calendar, we are having a Voter's Meeting at 11:45 in the large meeting room in the Christian Educational buildings on

Sunday, April 30th at 11:45 (after the 10:30 service). In addition to the regular council and committee reports, there will be an update on the tracking of dedicated contributions. I also want to discuss the possibility of forming a building and grounds committee to take care of the maintenance at St. Paul's.

*"Dear Lord, thank you for the beautiful spring weather which serves as a reminder of Your Resurrection and every lasting salvation.
Amen."*





CHRIST

THE CORNERSTONE

Early this month we have the April Worship Night. It will be on April 7 from 7pm-8pm. I love being able to lead worship and I love when I hear people singing along with me. What I'm most excited for at this worship night is the song we will introduce. The song is called "Build My Life" by worship band Housefires. We have done a couple songs by them in the past, but this one is suddenly my new favorite.

"Worthy of every song we could ever sing.
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring.
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe.
We live for You."

Jesus is so worthy of every song, praise, and breath that leaves our very body. Think of all He has done for us? Is dying on the cross and bearing our sins not enough? He. Is. Worthy. Let us PRAISE HIM!

The bridge of the song is what stands out to me the most. This is the part of the song where if I'm not careful I will sing at the top of my lungs and lose my voice.

"And I will build my life upon Your love. It is a firm foundation. And I will put my trust in You alone oh Lord and I will not be shaken."

We shall not be shaken! Jesus is the most firm foundation that we could build upon. He is the rock. He is the base. He is the steady ground that we can step out onto and not be afraid to build our lives on Him.

Please. Join us in worshipping Jesus, the foundation that we build our lives on.

Jack McNutt

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

DRAW NEAR TO GOD, AND HE WILL DRAW NEAR TO YOU

April 7th from 7-8 pm

@ St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Invite your family & friends to a
wonderful evening of Contemporary
Worship.

Drinks and snacks will be served
before and throughout the service.



Youth Ministry Report

On March 24th, St. Paul's held the first (of what I hope to be many) bingo night. It was a success in that about 20 people were in attendance. We had refreshments, prizes for every age. It lasted about 2 hours and a good time was had by all. Another one will be planned for May or early June. Thank you to Jimmie Swain for calling the games with enthusiasm and fun commentary and for Lorrie Ching for all her help. Thank you also to those who donated prizes and refreshments.

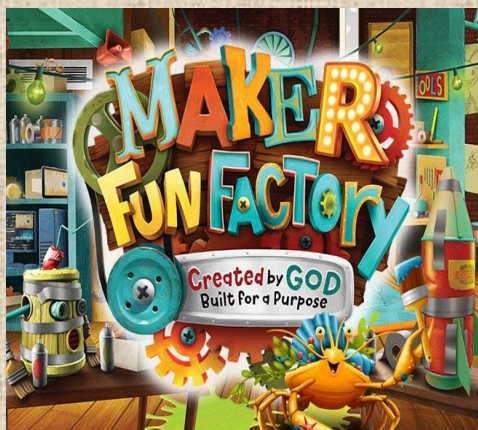
The next activity will likely be a game night, scheduled probably in May, but the details have not been finalized. The focus of the Youth Ministry at this time is to encourage participation and start bringing the congregation together for fellowship and most likely food.

We still are accepting surveys and the more we get, the better I will be able to determine a good day and time for most of the youth to meet. There are many activities that we can plan that are specifically for the teens and we need to meet for setting up these activities.

Keeping the members of St. Paul's Rooted in Christ!

God Bless you all, Cindy Werth

Vacation Bible School



This year, St. Paul's Vacation Bible School, Maker Fun Factory: Created by God Built for a Purpose will be June 26-30 from 8:50-12:00. We welcome all kids from Preschool to 5th grade.

To register your kids or sign up for one of our many volunteer opportunities, please go to our website: vbapro.events/p/stpaulslutheran or you can pick up a registration form in the hallway under the sign up sheet.

Also, feel free to spread the word and invite your friends and family to come and experience an amazing week filled with fun as we learn more about how God lovingly created us.

If you have any questions please contact Meredith Johnson: 301-653-0792 or meredith.s.johnson@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you there! Meredith Johnson



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. The Sunday school children have been talking a lot about Lent and reflecting on how Lent and spring time often happen together. I came across a great children's sermon that the children really enjoyed and I thought I would share an abbreviated version here. The focus is that there are a lot of standard spring cleaning ideas that we should be applying to our cluttered Christian closets as well.

As we OPEN UP our houses and let the warm spring air come in, we should be reminded during Lent to OPEN UP our Bibles and read them more as well. It is amazing how much comfort God can provide for us when we simply open up our hearts, and our busy schedules, to His Word.

As part of our traditional spring cleaning, we might also be CLEARING OUT all the clutter that has piled up over the winter, but we should take some extra time to CLEAR OUT things in our lives that might be cluttering up our focus on Jesus. If we clear some of those distractions out of our way, we might be rewarded with more time to study God's word or a clearer vision of his path for us.



Many of us are putting our brooms to good work right now as well. The winter has left all kinds of debris and cobwebs inside and out around our houses that we are probably trying to SWEEP UP. However, I was reminded in the children's sermon that this is also a good time to SWEEP UP all of the dirt and messes we have swept under the rugs of our hearts during the winter as well. Lent is a good time to ask ourselves, "Have I made any mistakes or messes that I need to clean up? Do I need to apologize to someone for something I said or did? Do I need to ask God to forgive me?"

Lastly, and one of my favorite things about the spring, is that it is time to PLANT. I look forward to pulling out all the old dead plants in my flowerbeds and replacing them with seeds and seedlings that I know will grow into beautiful, lush plants for the entire summer. For Lent, it is good for us to PLANT a different kind of seed, ones that will also yield beauty and be a vibrant example of how wonderful God's creation is. Sharing the Gospel and the grace bestowed on us through the Easter story might just plant a seed in someone's heart that God will cultivate and transform into a living example of His glory. There doesn't seem to be anything more beautiful!



Sunday School News

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So as you observe Lent this year, try to focus on how you can OPEN UP your Bibles to study God's word more, CLEAR OUT any clutter that might be creating an obstacle for you to get closer to God, SWEEP UP the messes of your past sins and PLANT seeds of God's grace everywhere you go. As you do this, also know that the children of the church are doing the same.

With those reminders for the Lenten season, we certainly looking forward to and excited about the upcoming Easter celebration. Again this year, we welcome all the Sunday school children for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held Easter morning, Sunday, April 16th, 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 are also trying to gather information about congregational needs or desires for our middle to high school aged students. We would like to know what we can do to better serve this important population and we are asking if you have a child in this age group to please take some time and complete the following survey or have your child fill it out themselves. Once you are finished, you can place the survey in my mailbox across from the kitchen or email me at melissachew21@yahoo.com.



Lastly, 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 26th – Friday, June 30th. 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

alleluia!
Christ has Risen!

Middle School & High School Sunday School Interest Survey

St. Paul's Sunday School is looking to better serve our Middle and High school aged students. Please respond to the questions below. When you are finished, you can email your responses back to Melissa Chew at melissachew21@yahoo.com or place them in my box across from the kitchen.

Do you, or does your Middle/High school student, regularly attend Sunday school classes?

YES

NO

If not, why? Check all that apply or enter your own

_____ Currently participating in confirmation class

_____ Completed confirmation class

_____ Time/schedule constraints

_____ Little interest

_____ Other (please explain)

What option below would you be most interested in attending during the Sunday school morning (9:00 AM to 10:15)? Please check all that apply

_____ The Middle/High School Bible study curriculum that features lessons plans designed to help students dig deeper into God's Word.

_____ Lessons based on real questions asked by real youth. Students will learn how to search the Bible for answers and build a faith foundation that guides wise choices. Plunges youth into the Bible to find answers to their biggest questions about relationships, faith questions and choices.

_____ A curriculum series that will help all teenagers—new and longtime Christians alike—think about important aspects of the faith journey. Students will have opportunities to ask questions, explore the Bible, and grow their relationship with Jesus.

_____ Being an aide for a younger Sunday school classroom.

_____ Other: Please let us know what you are looking for.

You are (circle one): A parent of a middle/high school student a middle/high school student

The student is a: middle school student high school student

Please let us know about anything else we can do to better serve you.


Missions & Ministries

We are raising funds for “Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area” for their INTO THE STREETS – Day of Service in May!



On the following Sundays – March 23rd & 30th and April 7th - we will be serving coffee & donuts after each service and are asking for a free will offering and all proceeds will go to **Luther Social Services.**

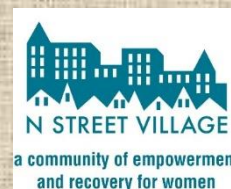


If you would like to help with setup and serving during one of the services and dates, please contact Lorrie Ching during her office hours of 9am-1pm @ 301-884-5184 or @ 602-549-7238. Thank you 



Pastor Tim & Amy will be presenting their mission trip to Uganda at the DCMARVA Lutheran Women's Missionary League 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.

A VIEW FROM THE PEW – by Jim Shewbridge

Some thoughts on sharing the Good News--- “Share, Pray & Love---”

Last month, we were directed to answer Jesus' question, “Do you love Me?” And He answered “Feed My sheep.”

*The article also called for us to be prepared having a foundation in scripture. There is one more central part that cannot be overlooked. We must repent of our sins before God and remain repentant! **God will not use us in His work if that is not fulfilled.** We are called to be His Holy people. Repent now and become a living witness to all whom the Lord places in your daily path.*

SHARE

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

PRAY

Pray for the people that they may receive the gift of living water to purify their lives.

LOVE

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” ESV John 13:34

Amen & Amen.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April - 2017						1
2 Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am Sunday School: 9 am Adult Class: 9:10 am Acolytes: 8:00 Dylan Otte 10:30 Jake Gray	3	4	5 Soup Supper 6 pm Lenten Service 7 pm Confirmation Class 7-7:45 pm Christian Education Bldgs.	6	7  7-8 pm	8 St. Paul's Cleanup Day 8 am 
Palm 9 Sunday Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am Sunday School: 9 am Adult Class: 9:10 am Acolytes: 8:00 Aidan Price 10:30 Nicole Williams	10	11	12 NO Confirmation Class	13  Maundy Thursday SERVICE 7:00 pm	14  WORSHIP Service 7:00 pm	15  WORSHIP Service 7:00 pm
Easter 16 Sunday Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am Sunday School: 9 am Adult Class: 9:10 am Acolytes: 8:00 Emily Maack 10:30 Mary McNutt	17 	18	19 NO Confirmation Class	20	21	22
 23 Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am Sunday School: 9 am Adult Class: 9:10 am Acolytes: 8:00 Danielle Hoffman 10:30 Kathryn Nelsen	24	25	26 Confirmation Class 7-7:45 pm	27	28	29 LWML Spring Rally Pastor & Amy presenting Uganda Mission Trip 9am-1:30 pm in DC.
 30 Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Praise Service: 9:15 am Sunday School: 9 am Adult Class: 9:10 am Acolytes: 8:00 Dylan Otte 10:30 Allison Werth		April Anniversary 3 - Gene & Cathy Bostwick 			April Birthdays 1-Stephen Stowers 9-Jessalyn Mehrkam 11-Betty Ann Wathen 15-Sally Gheen 21-Melissa Chew 25-James Short 27-Matthew Mehrkam 29-Gayle Gepert	



Proclamation

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

Email: 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:

Wednesday, April 5 – Soup Supper 6 pm LENTEN Service 7pm

Friday, April 7 – Night of Worship 7-8 pm

Saturday, April 8 – Cleanup Day starting @ 8am

HOLY WEEK Schedule

Palm Sunday April 9 @ 8am, 9:15am, 10:30am

Maundy Thursday April 13 7:00 pm

Good Friday April 14 Noon-3 pm Prayers

Good Friday April 14 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil – Saturday, April 15 7:00 pm

The Resurrection of Our Lord – Sunday, April 16 @ 8am, 9:15am, 10:30am

CONFIRMATION Classes

YES - Wednesday, April 5 & 26

NO – Wed., April 12 & 19