

A LIFE OF FAITH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR

by Pastor Gary R. Pomrenke

Beloved,

It is November ... Hard to believe. I believe this to be the most beautiful time of the year. The colors and smells of Fall are very close to my heart. I love looking at God's handiwork through the transformation of our nations landscape. He does great work!

I would like to thank you all for the prayers and the support that Tracie and I have received throughout our recent "Life

IN THIS ISSUE:

PASTOR'S MESSAGE ...PG 1
 DEACON'S DEN...PG 3
 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...PG 4
 LWML....PG 5
 MEMBER SPOTLIGHT...PG 6
 MISSIONS & MINISTRY....PG 7
 BUILDING & GROUNDS... PG 9
 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION..PG 12
 COMPASSION COMMITTEE...PG 13
 B-DAYS & KIDS CORNER..PG 14
 CALENDAR.... PG 15

Change." She is now making the transition from using a wheelchair to using her prosthetic leg. (cont. on pg 2)

PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED:

It has been more of a challenge than either of us had anticipated. But she is doing well, and we are super appreciative that we are one step closer to the “new normal.” Once that has been mastered, driving will be the next challenge. Again, heartfelt thanks to Johnny Butterfield and Brad Clements for all the assistance that they have provided as we have made our home handicapped accessible.

As we go through the month of November, we begin to focus on what we are thankful for in our lives. What we really should be doing is thanking God for all the blessings that He so freely provides for all of us every day of the year. Living with thankful hearts will always help us to maintain that Christ-Like attitude that we strive for. Others must see and recognize the light of Christ in each and every one of us. That's how we thank our Father in heaven.

We will again be celebrating Advent in just 4 short weeks. Most people love the excitement that Advent brings. It's this feeling of anticipation ... it's almost like a drug. So, I want us to enjoy this fall ... with all the anticipation and enjoyment that it brings ... but I don't want any of us to lose sight of the fact that the little baby Jesus in all our manger scenes ... was born SOLELY to die for the sins of mankind. So, as we journey through this fall ... let us first be thankful for Jesus' sacrifice and each of the blessings that God provides to us. Secondly, let us prepare for the coming of Our King. We must be prepared as we are closer to Jesus's return than we ever have been ... Let us rejoice in that baby, for He became a man and paid the price for us all. So, beloved, let the thanks be rightly placed and enjoy the beauty in which this season brings.

Blessings,

Pastor Gary R. Pomrenke

THOUGHTS FROM DEACON'S DEN

BY DEACON GENE BOSTWICK

Love your Neighbor as yourself. I think in some ways we forget that, we must, because we treat each other as if our master never added this second part to the Jewish shema from Deuteronomy 6:4,5 the shema reads "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" Jesus said this was the greatest commandment and added a second part to it that we find in Matthew 22:38,39 "This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself"

Please take a minute and think about this powerful parallel. Jesus is saying this second commandment is like the first one! Do we as Christians honestly Love our Neighbors as ourselves? If we think that my neighbors can only be my neighbors as long as they belong to MY group, we are missing the entirety of what Jesus taught and did. We would not have the Gospel of Matthew if Jesus did not love a hated tax collector let alone choose him as an Apostle of his ministry!

We have this misguided mentality I think because we align ourselves with different kingdoms than we should. Our identity in Christ should over ride our

identity in ANYTHING else. This simple second command was meant to knock us off of any self-righteous pedestal we might be on because our neighbors might be VERY different than ourselves. And even if our neighbors are so different than us that we feel they become our enemies Jesus says again in Matthew "But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," Matthew 5:44.

My point is this and C.S. Lewis said it far better than me in his book *The Weight of Glory* "He who surrenders himself without reservation to the temporal claims of a nation, or a party, or a class is rendering to Caesar that which of all things most emphatically belong to God: himself"

In other words we belong to the Kingdom of God in Jesus and that is where we should boast. Every other boasting is temporary, futile, and worst of all, sometimes divisive to loving our neighbors. Our neighbors may very well lead us to a closer walk with Jesus or more importantly get to know Jesus because of us. All of us are ambassadors to His eternal kingdom which outshines any and every man made one here on earth. The passports and marks that we present to show that we are from this eternal Kingdom is LOVE. Just Love.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY JOHN BOWLING

Thank you to everyone who came out for the work day in October. We had a great group of workers and accomplished many things to improve, clean up and beautify our church. The landscaping around the Education Building looks great and I can't wait until spring to see it begin to grow and bloom. Thank you to Karen Wiggen for planning this.

It was also fun to see our Sunday School children having so much fun during their Fall Fun Day last month. Building Christian friendships and participating in fun activities like this are so important to helping our kids hold onto their faith throughout their lives. Activities like our Work Days, Sunday School, Bible studies, fellowship picnics, worshiping together, etc. help keep us all strong in our faith and connected to each other.

Coming up next will be our Voter's Meeting after the 10:30 AM worship service on November 7th . A soup and chili lunch will available in the kitchen for all. On the agenda will be the election of new church council officers and approval of the 2022 church budget. This is a very important meeting so please plan on being there. We want to hear your ideas and thoughts about future plans and activities at St. Paul's.



LWML NEWS

BY TRACIE POMRENKE



Happy November Everyone!! Can you believe it? I love this time of year! The cooler days and crisp nights, the changing of the leaves (God makes the most beautiful art for us to enjoy!) and pumpkin everything!! That is just a few of the reasons I love fall.

This year I am enjoying having some down time to enjoy this time of year and have had time to really think about where I want to go from here. I know this is typically a New Year's thing to do but this is definitely a new beginning for me.

I was able to escort Pastor to the LWML "Spa for Your Soul" retreat. We were reminded that our roots need to be strong and the only way to keep them strong and unmoving is to take care of them. We need to "feed" ourselves the word. This needs to be more than a Sunday endeavor; this needs to be part of our DAILY routine. Once we have our roots fed what are we showing others?

When I was young someone told me that I needed to always show others that Jesus is in my heart. I cannot say "I am a Christian!" and then live a life that says anything but that and expect to be welcomed into heaven with open arms. If you want to hear "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:21) you need to live a life that is worthy of that greeting. That said we cannot earn our way to heaven but if you truly love God then you will want to do good works. As a child did you not try to do things that you knew would earn you praise from your parents. This is the same! Our Heavenly Father has given us the directions of what he is expecting from us. Jump into the Bible so you know what he expects.

When I was preparing for surgery, I found out that there was a test to be passed before being allowed to leave the hospital/rehabilitation facility.

I found out what that test was and then I started exercising, building my core and increasing my arm strength. We also had prepared our home to accommodate my new reality. This helped me go straight from the hospital to home because I had already accomplished what they planned to do at rehab. What if we focused on what God wants from us and then practice it. We are sinful so doing what is expected of us does not come naturally. If you are anything like me you have to read passages several times before remembering and incorporating it into my life. We forget, we get lazy, we find other things to occupy our time. I am not pointing fingers, I do this!! I am guilty! We make idols out of our jobs, our hobbies, even our family (Who is not obsessed with their grandchildren?)

Do not wait for the New Year to do better. Start diving into the word. Do morning (or evening) devotions, pray before your feet hit the floor in the morning, join our Sunday school hour Bible study or join us on Thursday nights at 7, go to retreats, do whatever it takes to have a relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Let's get back together and learn from each other. Life gets busy, we need to build our relationships with other Christian women. They help us to establish our roots and aid us in showing Jesus' love to others. Let's start getting back together for women's prayer breakfast. To make it easy to remember we are going to get together the 1st Saturday of every month at 9. I hope to see lots of woman on Nov. 6th and bring a breakfast item to share. Also bring your ideas of things you would like to see us doing to continue to build our relationship with each other and also our Heavenly Father.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

LOIS BEVERAGE

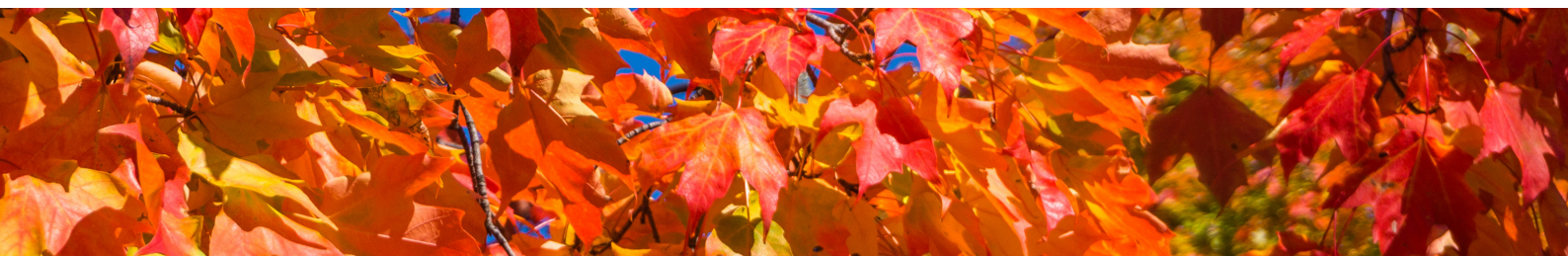
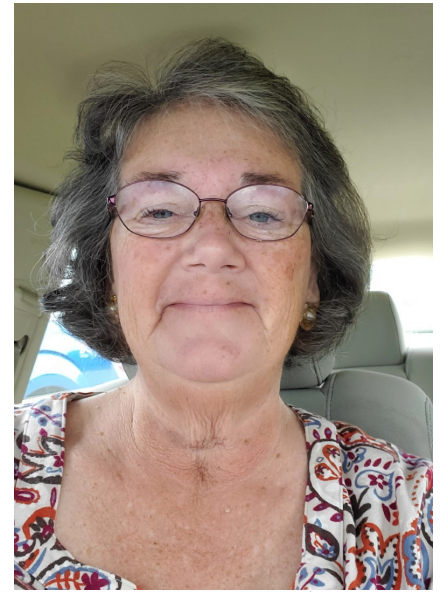
Lois grew up right in town by the church, just a few feet down in New Market, which is actually the name of the town where the church sits, despite it's mailing address of Mechanicsville. She met her husband Bobby while working at her family owned gas-station on the corner of Rts 5 and 6. They have three grown daughters, three son in laws, and five grandsons.

Lois retired from being a Registered Nurse four years ago, after working as a RN for 40 years.

She worked in Public Health for 31 years for the Maryland Department of Health. Prior to that, she worked in Emergency Medicine and Maternal Health.

Here at St. Paul's, Lois has worn many hats, and serves in whatever capacity is needed, but primarily focuses on Missions and Singing. We all appreciate her taking time out of her life to deliver the donations to the food shelf every week. You will also see her every day at VBS too.

Lois and Bobby love to travel and spend time with their family and friends in their spare time.



MISSIONS & MINISTRY

BY LOIS BEVERAGE



Today we tend to be people who focus on now and what the future may bring. In November let's take a moment to look at where we started. In 1909 Lutherans in Baltimore, Maryland began efforts to establish a Lutheran Mission in St Mary's County. Efforts were made to hold services in a few different locations in the northern part of the county, but it took a group of new residents from Kansas to get the mission going strong. In 1911 two families decided to answer a German newspaper article enticing farmers to come to St Mary's and purchase farms. The person who put the article in that newspaper was a banker in Prince Georges County. One of those who answered was his cousin Deitrick Badenhop and his wife Alma. Along with Deitrick and Alma came Alma's sister Elfrieda and her husband Heinrich Mueller.

CELEBRATING THE MISSION

112 YEARS IN HIS SERVICE



Both families bought farms on what is now New Market Turner Road with the Badenhop's buying the farm where our church stands today. The Mueller's bought a farm just a short distance down the road. Once settled the families set about being able to worship with the Mueller's offering their living room in their house as a place to start.

By November 1911 the Badenhop's had donated land carved out of their farm to establish and build a church to be God's house.

MISSIONS & MINISTRY CONTINUED

BY LOIS BEVERAGE

Elfrieda Mueller described it this way
(translated from German)

“ On November 24, 1911
have we with friends started
our church. And our kids baptized.
And the first child was Elfrieda and
then for the first confirmation
Lydia and Martha, and the first
marriage couple was Maria. ”

This is a picture of the original altar in the
original church building (shown on the
previous page). In our sanctuary today
there are two pieces still being used, see if
you can recognize them.



CELEBRATING THE MISSION

112 YEARS IN HIS SERVICE

The same altar area but a
few decades later



Let us then thank and
praise our Lord God for the
blessings of the past 112
years and ask His guidance,
love and continued
blessings for the days
ahead.

**Mission and Ministries
Chairperson
Lois Beverage**

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

BY BRAD CLEMENTS

“Many Hands Make For Light Work”

I want to thank everyone who came out on Saturday October 16, “Workday at the Church”. In three hours 20 people completed:

- Cleaning Furnace room
- Cleaning two storage rooms
- Cleaning windows
- Weeding flower beds
- Planting and mulching and installing a boarder around the educational buildings
- General Cleaning taking several loads of trash/junk to the transfer station



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS CONTINUED

BY BRAD CLEMENTS

Status of Projects:

Painting and installation of the New Floor Tile and Rubber Base in Narthex and Kitchen IS Complete!!!

Old Floor:



New Floor:



Special Thanks

I would also like to recognize the Wiggen's family for their support in maintaining the church grounds; especially cutting the grass. This is a huge task. They have done Amazing Job !!!!!

I would also like to recognize Frank Rappa for installing the boarder around the landscaping on the church grounds.

Kneelers and Pew Cushions

The kneelers and pew cushions were ordered several months ago. The fabric that matches our chairs and alter carpet in the sanctuary has been obtained. Additionally, the foam rubber for the kneelers and pews has also been obtained. At this time, all materials have been secured. The date for delivery of the kneelers and pew cushions is pending due to a worker shortage at the company with which we have contracted. The company hopes to deliver them within the next month.

Future projects:

- Replace the exterior door and framing from the Pastor's office to the outside. Approximate cost \$1,000.
- Long-term project will be to repair and replace the deteriorating asphalt in the parking lot and entrance drives including repainting the striping for parking spaces. We have not received a quote for this work, but it will cost approximately \$15,000 to \$30,000.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS CONTINUED

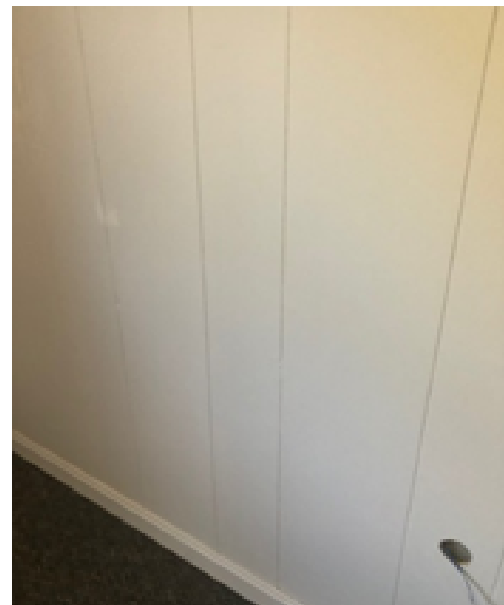
BY BRAD CLEMENTS

Restoration of Pastor's Office:

Before



After



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BY BRENDA BOWLING

Fall with its many beautiful changes outside is my favorite time of year. Cooler temperatures, trees changing to gorgeous yellows, reds and oranges and the sound of geese flying overhead are only some of the blessings of this wonderful season. The Sunday School celebrated the fun of the season with our Fall Fun Day held on the 17th. It was a bit chilly but God was good and blessed us with sunshine and held off the strong winds until we were done. Thank you to our teachers, our high school and confirmation classes and parents for helping with the games and snacks to help make this a great day for all.



As I watched the kids during the sack race hopping towards the finish line where Jesus and lots of celebration bubbles were waiting, I prayed that they will always remember to keep their eyes focused on Jesus as they go through life. Our song "Fly" from one of our past VBS programs was used during our parachute activity. This song reminds us that no matter what happens in our life time we can trust that God will never leave us and will always be by our side to help us get through any storms we may encounter in our lives. "Nothing is Impossible and Everything is possible with God."



"Let God's Light Shine in You!"



COMPASSION COMMITTEE

BY JENNY MOONEN

It's that time of year when we all are reminded of things we are grateful for. One of the things I am grateful for is the congregation of St. Paul's church. Through your many thoughtful donations we have been able to reach out and touch the lives of many of our brothers and sisters at the church. We have received a lot of positive feedback from both the recipients and donors. God is good! Please let us know if you know of anyone in the church that is in need of some compassion.

Thank you Lord so much for Deacon Gene and Cathy Bostwick, Gayle Gepert, Pam Clements, Nicole Keller and Kelly Gray for their commitment and dedication. Without them, this ministry would not work so smoothly. Want to be a part of the fun? Join our next meeting: December 8th at 5pm in the church office (Jenny's desk). We generally meet every other month unless a need arises in the meantime.

Have a very blessed Thanksgiving!

30 Days of Thanks

{CULTIVATING GRATITUDE THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER}

30-Days of Thanks Challenge:

I challenge you to write down something you are thankful for every day in November. Start each day with a grateful heart.

November 1: _____
November 2: _____
November 3: _____
November 4: _____
November 5: _____
November 6: _____
November 7: _____
November 8: _____
November 9: _____
November 10: _____
November 11: _____
November 12: _____
November 13: _____
November 14: _____
November 15: _____

November 16: _____
November 17: _____
November 18: _____
November 19: _____
November 20: _____
November 21: _____
November 22: _____
November 23: _____
November 24: _____
November 25: _____
November 26: _____
November 27: _____
November 28: _____
November 29: _____
November 30: _____

FUN FACTS:

([HTTPS://WORLDSTRIDES.COM/](https://worldstrides.com/))

- The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 over a three day harvest festival. It included 50 Pilgrims, 90 Wampanoag Indians, and lasted three days.
- Turkey wasn't on the menu at the first Thanksgiving. Venison, duck, goose, oysters, lobster, eel, and fish were likely served, alongside pumpkins and cranberries (but not pumpkin pie or cranberry sauce!)
- Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday on October 3, 1863. Sarah Josepha Hale, the woman who wrote "Mary Had A Little Lamb," convinced Lincoln to make Thanksgiving a national holiday after writing letters for 17 years.
- There are four towns in the United States named "Turkey." They can be found in Arizona, Texas, Louisiana, and North Carolina.
- The history of U.S. presidents pardoning turkeys is patchy. Harry Truman is often credited with being the first president to pardon a turkey, but that's not quite true. He was the first to receive a ceremonial turkey from the National Turkey Federation – and he had it for dinner. John F. Kennedy was the first to let a Thanksgiving turkey go, followed by Richard Nixon who sent his turkey to a petting zoo. George H.W. Bush is the president who formalized the turkey pardoning tradition in 1989.
- The average number of calories consumed on Thanksgiving is 4,500.
- The tradition of football on Thanksgiving began in 1876 with a game between Yale and Princeton. The first NFL games were played on Thanksgiving in 1920.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jessica Werth - November 2
 Marion Garland - November 11
 Chris Kalnasy - November 20
 Jenny Moonen - November 20
 Rayne Lindauer - November 22
 Philip Drury - November 29

KIDS CORNER

Thanksgiving Word Scramble

Unscramble the Thanksgiving words and then use the highlighted letters to form the secret message. You will have to unscramble the message as well.

ICUONROPCA

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ETRSHVA

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

MEVRNOEB

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ILIGPMR

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

KUTEYR

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

BCNERRRAY

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

YRAOMEFWL

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

TMOLPYUH

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

AYHLIOD

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

GWNMPAAAO

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

INKPMUP

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

NOVEMBER 2021

BE GRATEFUL

S
M
T
W
T
F
S

7
Worship Services:
8:00 AM
10:30 AM
Sunday School 9:15
Bible Study 9:15

1
Venturing Crew
Mtg. 7-8:30pm
(Education
Bldg. Large
Classroom)

2

3

4
Zoom Bible
Study:
(Acts) 7 pm

5

6

14
Worship Services:
8:00 AM
10:30 AM
Sunday School 9:15
Bible Study 9:15

8
Venturing Crew
Mtg. 7-8:30pm
(Education
Bldg. Large
Classroom)

9

10
Council
Meeting:
6:30 pm
(Church)

11
Zoom Bible
Study:
(Acts) 7 pm

12

13

14
Worship Services:
8:00 AM
10:30 AM
Sunday School 9:15
Bible Study 9:15

15
Venturing Crew
Mtg. 7-8:30pm
(Education
Bldg. Large
Classroom)

16

17
Elder's
Meeting:
6:30 pm
(Church)

18
Zoom Bible
Study:
(Acts) 7 pm

19


20

21
Worship Services:
8:00 AM
10:30 AM
Sunday School 9:15
Bible Study 9:15

22
Venturing Crew
Mtg. 7-8:30pm
(Education
Bldg. Large
Classroom)

23

24

25
Happy Thanksgiving

Office Closed

26
Office Closed

27

28
Worship Services:
8:00 AM
10:30 AM
Sunday School 9:15
Bible Study 9:15

29
Venturing Crew
Mtg. 7-8:30pm
(Education
Bldg. Large
Classroom)

30



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
37707 New Market Turner Road
Mechanicsville, MD 20646