



Proclamation

March - 2018

Volume 5, Issue 44

From the desk of the Congregational President

Paul Mehrkam



President Newsletter March 2018

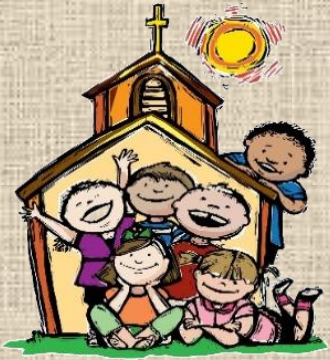
Well March has definitely blown in with strong winds, but nothing is strong as our God. This March is when we continue to follow Jesus in His ministry and journey during this season of Lent which leads to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Then to the cross and His glorious resurrection on the 3rd day, Easter Sunday.

This month, the playground is being refurbished as an Eagle Scout project which includes a new liner to hold back the weeds and engineered wooden mulch make it safe. The Eagle Scout has done the planning and his performance and quality of the work will be reviewed as part of the Eagle Scout achievement award.

Thank you to everyone who participated in Deacon Pomrenke's installation last month. I believe that this is the first such installation for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in the South East District that St. Paul's belongs to. Deacon Pomrenke will be graduating in May from his ministry studies and will be eligible to be our Pastor. Before he can be ordained as our Pastor, will schedule a Special Voter's meeting during April to pray, discuss, and vote on him being our Pastor at St. Paul's. I will say this this process of bring on a new Pastor is probably much different from the past. Having a Pastor in the church is much like a wedding. Not only are we voting our agreement on the Pastor's commitment to our congregation, but also on our commitment and support to the Pastor and his family.

Dear Lord, Thank You for continuing to mold leaders for Your church here at St. Paul's. Guide us with wisdom as we begin a new chapter in ministering to those in need in Southern Maryland. Amen.

Sunday School News

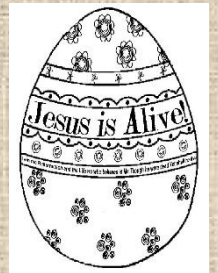


The Little Children and Jesus – Matthew 19:13-15

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."

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 will be collecting children's books, packages of stickers and both children and adult reading glasses during the next 2 months to send to Nicaragua with Kathe Vachalek in May when she travels there as a volunteer with "Hope Without Borders" a mission outreach trip sponsored by Concordia University in Wisconsin where she is currently finishing her studies to become a nurse practitioner. A basket has been placed in the Narthex for the children to place their donations.



We are also looking forward to and are excited about the upcoming Easter season. Again this year, we welcome all the Sunday school children as well as new and old friends for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held Easter morning, Sunday April 1st, 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!

Lastly, don't forget to clear your calendar for this year's Vacation Bible School called "Shipwrecked", where kids will learn the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms. This year VBS will be June 25 – June 29th. VBS is always an exciting, fun and faith building experience for all who participate, but it takes a lot of hard work from as many volunteers as we can get. If you can help out this year please talk to this year's VBS Leader, Meredith Johnson.

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." Col. 3:15
In His Service, Brenda Bowling

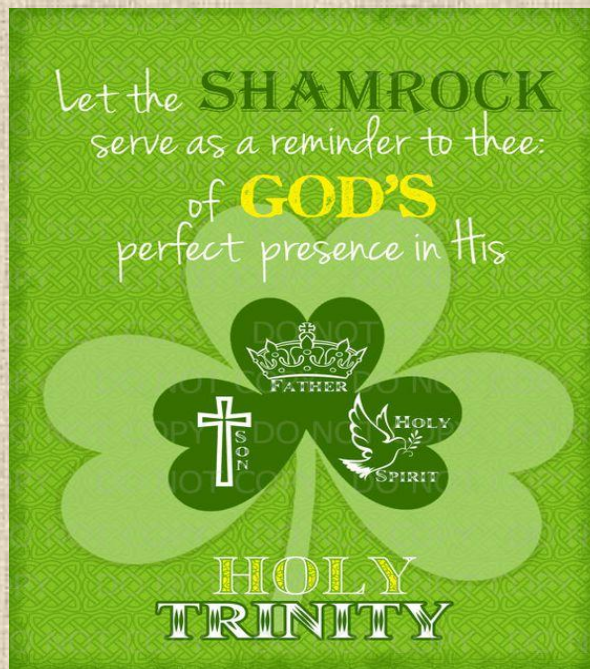


ROOTED

Colossians 2:6-7

St. Patrick's Day Celebration!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN
EVENING OF FUN AND
FELLOWSHIP!



WHO: KIDS OF ALL AGES & FAMILY

WHAT: GAMES & MUSIC & PIZZA WILL ALL BE PROVIDED!

PLEASE BRING A SNACK/TREAT TO SHARE.

WHERE: ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

WHEN: SATURDAY MARCH 10TH 6-8 PM

WHY: FUN! FUN! FUN!

May God Bless you and I look forward to seeing you on Saturday the 10th!

Rooted in Christ, Cindy Werth



Thoughts form the Spiritual Team

..... For God so loved the world that He gave His only son.....

Just as many of us have a team of physicians who take care of us medically. Here at St Paul's you have a team of the Deacon and Elders for your spiritual health. Please call on us when you have a need for our support, prayer or comfort. Someone is in the hospital or home bound and would like a visit. Just as we will keep a watch on the flock. With Deacon Gary the team includes our Elders Bob Beverage, Jim Shewbridge, Mark Lewis, Gene Bostwick, John Bowling, and Tony Gray.

In these times of events that are frightening and concerning I would like to share a passage from the book of Philippians chapter 4, verses 6 and 7:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Bob Beverage

MISSIONS

Leaving the Church to grow the Church

Dear members of St Paul's

Let me introduce myself for those who may not know me. I am your new Chairperson for Mission and Ministry, Lois Beverage. I am not new to this position having served before but it has been a few years. St Paul's has always, since it's beginning, been a congregation of giving, compassionate people who look to spread the good word. Ministry is by definition the act of ministering to someone. That someone could be inches from our church or around the world. Mission is our calling to go out and spread the love of our Lord. Put these together and what a powerful impact this would make! It is not a one person job of course and I would love to hear from you how you see yourself in this work, or ideas you have for St Paul's to shine His light! I look forward to working with you.

Lois Beverage

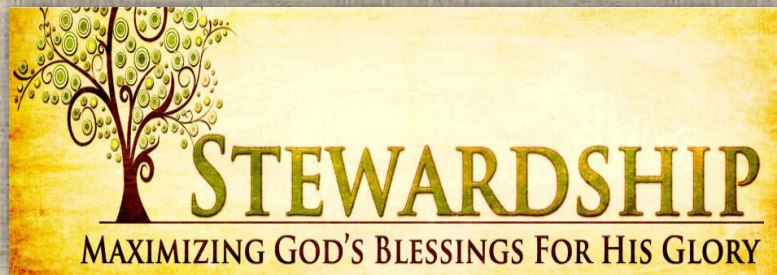
loisbeverage@aol.com

301-769-3499



We will be having a work day on Saturday, March 17th beginning at 8 AM for anyone who can come out to help.

On our agenda will be spring cleaning around the church grounds, cleaning out some of the outside storage sheds and some of the storage areas inside the church. Watch for more information coming.



*"My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can
with whatever I have- to try and make a difference."*

~ Jimmy Carter, 39th President of the United States of America

I am hard pressed to find a better understanding of Stewardship than this quote from Jimmy Carter. Today there are many people talking about our civic duty and making sure that we as global citizens do our part, but this quote from Mr. Carter starts with the true reason behind all of our good intentions... because of what our Lord did for us, because the Holy Spirit enters into us and because our faith demands us to follow Jesus's example, we are charged with using any and all the gifts that the Lord has given us to glorify his Name.

This quote also speaks to another problem that I think a lot of people have when asked to serve. "What can I possibly do or offer?!" Again, President Carter eloquently lays it out for us. The answer is simple- anything, anywhere and anyhow. The Bible also gives us a clear message about this as well when you review Romans chapter 12. "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. It is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully." The Lord does not seem to discriminate as long as you are doing it to the Glory of God and you are not wasting your talents. Remember the Parable of the Talents. The master gave each of his servants part of his property "each according to his ability." After a long time, the master returned to settle his accounts. Each servant that took what the master gave them and multiplied it were rewarded as good and faithful servants. Only the servant who was given one talent and then took that talent and buried it was reprimanded as a "wicked and lazy servant." His master even cursed him for not considering investing his talent so that it, at the very least, gathered interest.

The only wrong way to serve the Lord is by not serving at all. And so this brings us to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. As a child raised in this church and now as a parent myself, St. Paul's has always been a congregation that gave everything they could when there was a need.

This church needs you, and you and you and you. (Imagine me pointing directly to everyone that sit in those pews or chairs on any given Sunday. St. Paul's needs you to give an consistent tithe as you are able, St. Paul's needs you to attend some of the functions that go on here, St. Paul's needs you to volunteer for a work day and/or join a committee to support our Council positions. St. Paul's needs you to join others in the church and help take care of the altar, to greet our parishioners and friends with a smile on Sundays, to volunteer to help out with the Sunday school, the Youth group, the choir, our Bible studies, and/or to take care of our buildings and grounds. Not everyone has the same kind of calling or talent, and just as a body is made of all the individual and unique parts, a church is made up of a group of unique individuals... who serve the Lord as one body.

And so in closing, if you still are not convinced, or you perhaps you don't know where you fit in, or maybe you think you might not even be part of the body, hear the word of the apostle Peter as he wrote, "Each one should use *whatever gift* he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10). So I charge you now to really ask God to show you where He wants you to serve, but then listen as he is already directing you, and then reach out to Deacon Gary, the Elders, myself or the other Church Council members and let us know you are available to discover and use the gifts God has given you for His service. Above all, remember that the request is pretty general, *whatever* you can do, *wherever* you are, *whenever* you can make it for *as long as you can* with *whatever* you have is enough *as long as you do it*. And trust me, when you step forward and make that physical commitment to be active in this church and its mission to spread the good news of God's Grace, it WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

"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

LWML NEWS

Save the date!

- DCMarVa LWML Spring Rally is Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 9am to 1:30 am
- The theme is "Run and Tell It...Sharing the Gospel with EVERYONE" based on Matthew 28:7-8
- A donation of \$10 will include continental breakfast/lunch
- Please also bring donations of diapers and baby wipes to be donated to St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families if you are able.
- There will be worship with communion and the installation of incoming officers and a blessing of the donations
- RSVP with Tracie Pomrenke before March 18th and let her know if you have any special dietary needs that they will need to make arrangements for. We can carpool to the event so please let Tracie know if you are willing to drive to the event or would like a ride. Tracie's email is journeysandpromises@gmail.com





God Loves MARRIAGE

2018 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends Announced

Matthew 19:6
WHEREFORE THEY ARE NO MORE TWOIN, BUT ONE FLESH, WHAT THEREFORE GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER, LET NOT MAN PUT ASUNDER.

Your marriage relationship is one of the things in life that provides the greatest potential for happiness. Is yours living up to this potential? Please make 2018 the year you resolve to attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend to learn how to maximize the joy and intimacy that God intends for your marriage.

The following Weekends have been scheduled with one more to be added in Massachusetts in the fall.

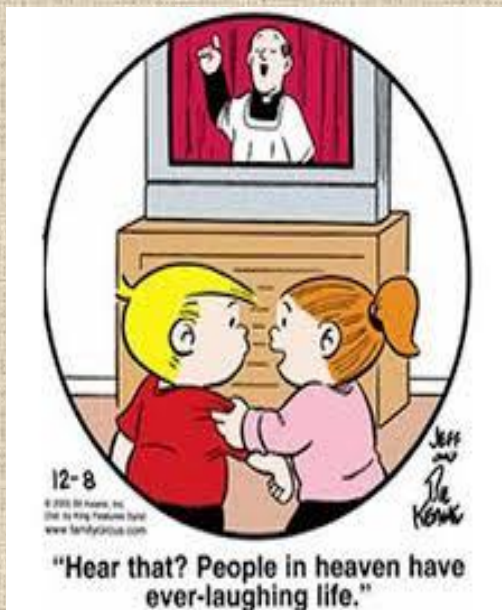
- * **March 16-18, 2018** at Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster, PA. A newly-renovated hotel, home of the unique treehouse-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's."*
- * **April 6-8, 2018** at Toftrees Golf Resort in State College PA. A peaceful resort surrounded by a golf course and nestled in the woods in the center of PA.*
- * **September 14-16, 2018** at Spruce Lake Retreat in Canadensis, PA. A lovely hotel-style facility in a wooded area of the Poconos, an hour north of Allentown.*
- * **October 19-21, 2018** at Olmsted Retreat Center. A stunning, hotel-style retreat next to Olmsted Mansion in Allegheny National Forest, 2 hours north of Pittsburgh.*

Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your \$100 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward the continuation of the program. To be sure to get the Weekend of your choice, sign up at your earliest convenience by going to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and paying the registration fee with your credit card, or marking the option to mail a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at [724-325-3166](tel:724-325-3166) or e-mail them at fjschamber@comcast.net.

We want to make sure that our congregation knows of this great resource for building strong marriages!

St. Paul's Funnies

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



That awkward moment at church
when you go for a handshake...



... and they go for a hug.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
HAPPY BIRTHDAY			HAPPY ANNIVERSARY			
3/2 – Gary Werth 3/5 – Abigail Drury 3/10 – James Hiller 3/13 – Megan Green 3/20 – Meredith Johnson			3/23 – Mary Guy 3/27 – Russell Watson 3/28 – Harry Price 3/29 – Kaleh Wollin None this month			
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
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		 St. Patrick's Youth Fellowship 6-8 PM
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room					BUILDING AND GROUNDS WORK DAY! 8AM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School @ 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room					



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

Email: stpaulslcmsmd@netzero.net

Facebook: [St. Paul's Lutheran](#)

Connecting with Jesus, each other, & Southern Maryland