



Proclamation

Sept - 2018

Volume 5, Issue 50



Words from The Deacon....

Good Day My Beloved,

It's crazy to think that it is September already. The summer is gone ... everyone is preparing to go back to school in some sort of capacity whether it is as a student, parent, or even a teacher. Schedules soon fill up with fall activities and once again our busy lives become busier yet again. It is very strange for me to not be ordering books and getting ready for another semester myself. Nice, but strange. ☺ We have been talking about a great number of topics in our sermon's this summer. Many of you have told me that you have felt very convicted by the messages of late. That is good to a degree. My job is to teach you about the gospel of Christ. In these gospel lessons and other lessons in scripture, we are to be challenged in all that we do. We are to continually be self-evaluating ourselves based on the example of Christ.

Being convicted is evidence that the Holy Spirit is at work in us. Being a Christian is not an easy task, nor was this road to eternity in heaven following Christ promised to not be filled with many challenges. If man wasn't in need of repentance than all of this would be easy. We weren't promised an easy road. We need to remember the lessons that we have read about. Christ was the "Ultimate Teacher." Our task then, as followers of Christ, is to be the "Ultimate Students." We must learn from our mistakes. We must be a visible example of God's Grace for all to see. We must also LEARN from our mistakes and not repeat them.

Over the next couple of weeks, we are going to be discussing how to use the tools described in Ephesians 6 to help arm us against Satan and His attacks. We must also be a ready bride for Christ. We can't wait until the last hour to prepare, because no-one other than God knows when that will be. Let us use the armor of God to take a stand against anything that doesn't fall into alignment with God's word. Let us be ready for the fight, because Satan is always ready, and he could defeat us if we are not armed and ready for the fight. With the Gospel of Christ in our corner, how can we possibly lose?

Blessings,

(D.V.P) Pomrenke

From the desk of the Congregational President

Paul Mehrkam



President Newsletter September 2018

I am writing this newsletter during a power outage caused by a thunderstorm storm. As usual, I just need to wait and be patient. Eventually the power will come back on. It is sad to think that there are many around the world who have been waiting a lifetime for necessities. Thank you to those that have volunteered, donated, and helped in ministering to those in need in the local area and abroad.

“Are we there yet?” You can now say that school is here. Please get your kiddos signed up for Sunday School. While they are in Sunday School, come to the kitchen to be served the word of God during the adult Bible study. The main course includes Isaiah and Ephesians with lots of seasoning from personal reflection and learning of God’s word.

Just as most stores are bringing out the Halloween and Christmas stuff, the council is preparing for a Congregational Voter’s meeting in November. The main agenda topics will include voting for council positions, church budget, and discussion on the next steps of expanding St. Paul’s outreach ministry. If you are interested in filling a council position, please let me know. This is to be my last year as President and what a wonderful year it has been.

Dear Lord thank You for the many blessing that you continually bestow on us. Guide us as we continue to expand your reach into Southern Maryland. Amen.



Sunday School News

To All Sunday School Families and Friends of St. Paul's!

Welcome to a new Sunday School year!! Many thanks to everyone who helped at our church work day getting the Sunday school classrooms set up and the sheds cleaned out and organized so we can have a great start to our new year. **All Sunday School classes for ages 3 thru high school as well as the Confirmation class will be beginning on September 9th here at St. Paul's with an exciting and fun Rally Day celebration.** The staff and I are excited to find out what amazing things God have planned for St. Paul's during the upcoming year as we share the wonder of God's everlasting love for all of us and His gift of salvation to all those who believe in Him with the children in our Sunday School. Sunday School classes for all ages three thru 6th grade will start at 9:15 AM in the main room of the education building after which they will go to their classrooms until 10:15 AM. Children should be picked up from their classrooms at 10:15 AM. Our teen class under the direction of Ms. Werth will be meeting in the church nursery beginning at 9:15 AM and our confirmation class will be meeting in the room to the right as you enter the main room in the Education building. A new adult bible class will be meeting in the kitchen on the book of Ephesians from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM as well. All are invited!!

Our celebration will continue with a special worship service during which all our kids will be leading the congregation in two of their favorite VBS songs. (***If you were unable to attend VBS this summer, don't worry, the words will be projected for all to follow along!***) The worship service will also include a children's message and installation of our Sunday school staff. Following the service all are invited to a potluck picnic with games, good food, a fun moon bounce/slide combo and great fellowship. Drinks and the main course will be provided by another wonderful Thrivent Action Team grant, please bring a side dish and or a dessert to share!

Please keep our teachers and our students in our prayers this coming year.

Mrs. Meredith Johnson and Mrs. Megan Green – Pre-K and Kindergarten
Emily Maack and Dylan Otte – 1st and 2nd Grades
Mrs. Felicia Bowling – 3rd and 4th Grades
Mrs. Brenda Bowling – 5th and 6th Grades
Mrs. Cindy Werth – High School
Mr. Andrew Maack – 7th and 8th Grades Conf. Class

In His Service,
Brenda Bowling

Sunday School Superintendent

Write in on your heart... God has a plan for your life. Jer.29:11

Thanks for Sharing your Child with us! Mrs. Bowling

VENTURING CREW

Venturing crew keeps the heat on

Summer is winding down, but it saw Venturing Crew 1785 of St. Paul's continuing to lead the adventure

In June, we learned about kayaking at Wicomico Shores before the crew kicked off the summer with a campout aboard NAS Patuxent River for an aquatics-themed campout. We kayaked, fished and crabbed in Goose Creek and went swimming in the base pool. Additionally, we got a tour of the highest point in Southern Maryland, the base's airport control tower, and played some basketball and Ping-Pong in the Drill Hall.

Summer camp was our big activity in July. The crew participated in the Ranger Experience at Camp Marriott at the Goshen Scout Reservation in western Virginia for a week over the 4th of July. While there, our Venturers engaged in a variety of activities that fulfilled requirements for their Ranger award including: First aid & CPR, wilderness survival, .22 rifle shooting, more kayaking, a COPE (challenging outdoor personal experience) course, backpacking, climbing & rappelling, land navigation and ecology. Additionally, the crew jointly prepared all its own meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner daily) and cooled off on a couple trips to a nice swimming hole in the nearby Maury River. We attended an evening Protestant church service led by a visiting chaplain from the Virginia Military Institute and had a curious black bear visit our campsite.

Finally, the crew enjoyed watching 4th of July fireworks over Lake Merriweather and celebrated its first birthday with a chocolate frosted cake that we baked over coals in a Dutch oven and also completed service projects establishing a bottle and can recycling program at Camp Marriott, screen window repairs, picking up trash along a trail and cleaning a drinking water fountain. The crew was recognized at the camp's closing ceremony as Camp Marriott's Unit of the Week.

We concluded our summer activities with a campout in late August at Prince William Forest National Park in Quantico, VA. The weather was spectacular and in between running through the woods with a map and compass on a couple of their permanent orienteering courses in the morning and evening, we visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps in nearby Triangle. If you have not visited it yet, it is an outstanding museum. The immersive exhibits and artifacts on display chronicle the history of the US Marine Corps from its founding through Vietnam. New exhibits covering its history since Vietnam will open later this year.

We've planned our adventures for the coming year, so if you'd like to join in on the fun, contact David Nelsen at 301.884.4631 or danelson@alum.rpi.edu.



Building Grounds

Thanks to everyone who came out to help at our last work day on August 25th. We had a great team of people who worked together and accomplished a lot.

Thank you to Paul Pipo for fixing the chirping smoke detector, to Brad Clements and Frank, Shawn and Skye Rappa for the transformation of the back corner in preparation for our new upcoming Praise Service and to Gayle Gephardt and Jimmie Swain for taking on the job of keeping our church grounds looking so nice. St. Paul's is blessed with many wonderful people who are always ready and willing to use their talents to serve the Lord and help out when needed.

Please let me know if you see something that needs repairing. You can drop a note in my box across from the kitchen, talk to me or give me a call.

Thanks for Everyone's Support!

John Bowling

Building and Grounds Chairman



A View from the Pew

Some thoughts on sharing the Good News---“Do you have the courage?”

In 2015, I offered a portion of this article regarding our missionary friend and his ministry to Muslims. Over the years Marlen's (named after Carl Marx & Lennon) has followed God's directives to many parts of the world. Marlen's zeal for sharing Christ's salvation to his Muslim brothers and sisters has never diminished. Please refresh your memory of his story and my perceived failures.

Some time ago June and I received an email (titled “Let my people go”) from our missionary friend Marlen Zharmenov. Marlen and his family (formally Muslims) live in Amity Kazakhstan where he proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ to his Muslim neighbors. I have related stories to some as how this godly man received Salvation and was enabled to proclaim the truth of the gospel (without being killed) to his Muslim neighbors. I know that God will do great things through His servant. June and I have been blessed by his visits; once with his wife and four daughters and at each parting, I cried. They were tears of joy and thanksgiving and then later tears of my failings in proclaiming God's word to the unsaved. Why can't I be like Marlen?

What keeps us from telling others about Christ? We openly proclaim Him each Sunday in worship together, but alas the week begins and then the cares of my world begins to flood my thoughts. I like to verbally proclaim Dr. Halverson's (former Senate Chaplin) prayer “You go nowhere by accident”, but does my daily walk with Christ demonstrate this proclamation? Please remember God has something He wants to do thru us where we are each day. I guess I want my “witnessing” to be like Phillip as he preached to the man of Ethiopia in Acts 8:35 **“Then Phillip opened his mouth and beginning at this Scripture, (Acts 8:32) preached Jesus to him.”** The eunuch believed and was baptized. Read the full account in Acts 8:26-40. My brothers and sisters in Christ, we may never witness instant conversions, but it would be wonderful if we

did. We are to plant the seed and God will provide salvation. I recall reading a text by a fellow church member at another place of worship entitled **“Witnessing for Christ”**. Herein is the benediction of our friend’s article. **“But a final admonition. WE do not convert, we merely sow the seed. Go forth then and sow the seed. Be ready to harvest when the field is ripe. You may go out to reap, but the field may not be ready. Do not lose heart. Be patient and try again later. May God bless all our efforts. To God be the glory!”**

*I challenge each of us to select at least one person/acquaintance and boldly proclaim God’s message of Hope and Salvation. Our time here is short; utilize your God given gift and remember there is no retirement plan in doing God’s work. Do not forget- God is with us every moment of our existence- be of good courage. Our friend Marlen and his wife are now in England reaching out to displaced Muslim people who have fled from war and strife in search of a new life. Marlen is there to guide these lost souls to the new life in Jesus Christ! May God bless this faithful servant’s ministry and **Your mission to others here!***

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u></p> <p>Kyla Smith – 9/1 Kara Thompson- 9/17 Lisa Curtis- 9/2 John Bowling Jr.- 9/18 Laurence Moeller- 9/5 Tyler Wathen- 9/18 Dale Bittner- 9/6 Kathy Lewis- 9/19 Cheryl Roberts- 9/8 Eric Smith- 9/19 Gene Bostwick- 9/10 David Roberts- 9/20 Janice Otte- 9/10 Winsley Hays- 9/21 Alan Hunter- 9/24 Garrett Moeller- 9/11 Vanessa Rudolph- 9/21 Emily Maack- 9/24 Lois Beverage- 9/12 Victoria Drury- 9/24 Donna Skurla-9/24 Dale Skurla- 9/17 Twhanna Green- 9/24 Floyd Duff- 9/26</p> 			<p><u>Happy Anniversary</u></p> <p>Andrew & Sheryl Maack – 9/21 Dale & Donna Skurla – 9/22 Kenneth & Angela Sprouse Jr. – 9/23 Brent & Meredith Johnson – 9/29</p>  		<p>01</p>	
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
<p>Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am</p>	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room					
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p>Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am Rally Day</p>	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room		Council Mtg. 6:30 PM			Men's Prayer Breakfast
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am</p>	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p>Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am</p>	 Venturing 7 pm CEB Main Room			Elder's Meeting 6:30 PM		
30	<p style="font-size: 2em;"><u>September</u></p> <p style="font-size: 3em;">2018</p>					
<p>Service Times: 8:00 & 10:30 am Adult Bible Class 9:15 am</p>						



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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.-Fri. 10:00am to 2:00pm

Phone: 301.884.5184 Fax: 301-884-2063

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It's not a Religion.....It's a Relationship!!