

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Newsletter

September 2020



Dear Saints of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

It is almost six months since COVID 19 changed our lifestyle. Most of us have never expected to live under the quarantine. We also did not expect to worship online. We did not even think of worshipping without singing while keeping social distancing. During this challenging time, our heavenly Father teaches us an important lesson. He reminds us that we are His children who live in the world.

Mark 9:30-37 is one of the texts that remind us of our childhood. Jesus' disciples were living in two worlds. In Mark 9:30-37, Jesus and His disciples were walking through Galilee to Capernaum. Jesus told them in Verse 32, his passion for the second time. Jesus said to them that he would be arrested. Then He will be killed. Also, after three days, he will rise from the dead. Jesus told them his passion (Mark 8:31). Two times, they responded with fear and confusion. Jesus' disciples did not understand the passion of Jesus Christ. They were even afraid to ask Jesus for an explanation. Instead, they chose to argue about who was the greatest among them (v.33-34).

When Jesus appointed and commissioned the Twelve disciples, he gave them authority. Jesus gave them the power to proclaim the Gospel. He also commissioned them to heal the sick. He even gave them the authority to cast out demons. There was an unmistakable era of triumph about their mission and their activities. The twelve disciples were confident in their ministry. Even Peter confessed that Jesus was indeed the Messiah (8:29). However, with the passion predictions, all has changed. Jesus' message goes against their cultural hierarchies of power.

"If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." V.35

In the Jewish culture, "first," meant rulers, aristocrats, ruling priests, and other persons of authority and influence (Luke 19:47; Acts 25:2; 28:17.)

Thus, to be "last," and "servant," was to be someone with no status, no authority, or privilege. - It is a status that humans usually did not covet. However, to be first in God's kingdom that Jesus proclaimed, one must seek to serve. He emphasizes the humility and the willingness to follow his example. Jesus humbled himself to become fully man. Jesus emptied himself and became a creature to save humankind from eternal death. Jesus saved us by humbling himself, even dying on the cross. Humility is the quality of greatness in God's kingdom. Jesus' disciples need a new

perspective. To be first has nothing to do with powers to heal the sick or exorcise demons. It has to do with service and humility. Jesus was their model. Jesus had been the model of the authority to heal the sick and to cast out demons. Jesus was also a model to serve in humility. He humbled himself to help and save humankind from eternal death.

To be great in God's kingdom, the twelve disciples had to adopt Jesus' principle of greatness. They began to realize that God's kingdom is different from their world. Jesus answered their question of greatness. Jesus taught them how to be great in God's kingdom.

Jesus taught the disciples that the one who assumes a humble position like a child would be the greatest in God's kingdom.

"And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and d taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and e whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me." V.35-37

A person assuming a child-like position is the greatest in God's kingdom. Welcoming the least in the name of Jesus means embracing Jesus himself. Therefore, we should respect those in such a humble position. To reinforce his teaching, Jesus declares that his disciples should receive such a fellow disciple and regard the weakest as the greatest. In doing so, they are actually at the same time receiving Jesus himself. Jesus' disciples needed to learn the character of the citizens of God's kingdom. They had to serve others in humility!

We live in a similar culture of worldly greatness. The twenty-first-century values that make a person great are based on things like money and power. Jesus' message goes against standard human hierarchies of power. He emphasizes the humility and the willingness to follow his example. Jesus chose an example of a child instead of a more visible person of authority or higher economic status.

As children, we are dependent upon God for everything: to supply our needs, to forgive our sins, to rescue, and to protect us from any harm and danger, including Corona Virus. Think of Jesus redefining greatness, interims of dependence. Jesus taught that the greatest person is the neediest person. We bring to God's kingdom our need for salvation and protection. Jesus' humble death on the cross, followed by His glorious resurrection, saves and protects us in body and soul to life everlasting.

Amen!

Pastor Teklu



Prayer Requests

Short-term prayers will run for 4 weeks. If at all possible, please list the need for the prayer. If the request requires long-term prayers, please indicate so and let the office know when it should be removed. Please contact Cindy in the office at info@stpaulscrofton.com if you have any questions!

Long-Term Prayers:

Adelaide Abend (health issues); Brian Arnold (health issues); Preston Arnold; Phyllis Ball (health issues); Barry (family and health issues); John and Monica Bagley (health issues); Terrence Brown (health issues); Peta Capello (health issues); Lorraine Clow; Cindy Craytor (major surgery); Marianne Foreman (health issues); Graham; Phil Myer (health issues); Janet Mox (health issues); Brian Spencer (health issues); Laurie Snook (health issues); Charles Spears (health issues); Dick Sulken (health issues); and Susanne Ziza (upcoming surgery).

Please pray for our members and friends serving in the military: Jake Godboldte, Dylan Harris, Rachel MacCumbee, Scott MacCumbee, Brian Wolford, and their families.

September Recognition

In late spring, prior to St. Paul's reopening, discussions were held regarding the possibility of St. Paul's actually holding VBS given concerns about the ongoing pandemic. It was suggested that maybe a late summer single Saturday VBS might work. Nothing looked optimistic so the decision was made to cancel VBS.

Then, St. Paul's Sunday School Director, Bonnie Weinhold, recalled BOLT, an online virtual VBS program used at her son's church. She asked a few to take a look and see if BOLT might work for St. Paul's. The answer was a unanimous, YES! With that, an ad-hoc committee was formed and multiple planning conference calls ensued. St. Paul's BOLT virtual VBS bolted into action on Monday, August 17th. Sixty three individuals representing twenty eight families registered for the four day virtual VBS.

Many thanks and much gratitude to Bonnie Weinhold and the entire BOLT VBS committee.

Well done!!

Zac



Many Thanks to the BOLT VBS Team!

Kudos to our BOLT VBS team who stepped out into a new virtual adventure! Planning, publicity, shopping, creating a picture slide show, making accompanying bags, and setting up and collecting items for the Lutheran World Relief mission were all part of the mix. Special thanks to Michelle Angeli who put in hours of work to create the online registration, plan St. Paul's beginning and end zoom programs, and get communications out to the community which included logins and passwords. We SO APPRECIATE your servant heart and tech skills, Michelle!

Deepest thanks to the entire team:

Michelle Angeli
Cyndie Dixon
Jane Felsentreger
Diane Segelhorst
Judy Tribby
Jen Weber
Heidi Wood

God bless you, good and faithful servants!
Bonnie



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Welcome Back To Sunday School!

We'll be getting back into Sunday School on September 13!

This year Sunday School will look a bit different as we are going virtual, at least to begin the year. Tell your friends about our easily accessible Sunday School link on our website.

More details coming soon!

We will begin a two year project of discovering God's story and our story in the Bible. Stories, crafts, recipes and games will still be a part of the faith and fun mix. If I haven't called you personally yet, you will be hearing from me soon!

Also, watch your mailbox for things that go along with each Sunday.

In the meantime, have you checked out the five *Creative Family Nights* on our website? Go to the Children and Youth section for online Bible flip books, songs and many activities.

Choose the things you want to do.

Also, BOLT virtual VBS is available to you until the end of this calendar year! You can watch and participate with it as many times as you want! Even if you haven't signed up, you can still access it by emailing music@stpaulscrofton.com for the login and password. You don't want to miss this fun adventure! And do share with neighbors and friends!

Please feel free to contact me directly by phone or email:

bonnie@weinholdonline.com

410-721-1604 or 410-971-3269

God bless you!

Bonnie

Sermons



DON'T MISS A SERVICE!

We are blessed to have an updated and fully functioning website that provides us with the information we need to communicate. Every Sunday, we have the privilege of virtually attending church service through the website. **If you are not comfortable attending worship, please visit us online at www.Stpaulscrofton.com.**



If you wish to dedicate flowers in honor or in memory of someone, the altar guild is offering fresh cut flowers for \$10/vase. The sign up sheet is in the narthex. Checks should be made out to St. Paul's with "flowers" in the notes section.



Our next meeting is September 21, via ZOOM...same time and place. The book that we decided on is **The Giver of Stars** by *JoJo Moyes*. This is the story, historical fiction, about the packhorse librarians during the Depression in remote areas of Kentucky, This actually was a program instituted by Eleanor Roosevelt. If you wish to join in, contact Sandi Corwin for a ZOOM invite at sacorwin1001@gmail.com.

Did You Know?

Do you ever wonder why St. Paul's Worship Band is called "Whatever"?

Think on These Things

By: MacCrory and Swanson

Intro: G2 G^{maj7} C9 C2 (2X)

Verse 1:

G2 G^{maj7} C2
Your ways are higher than my ways
G2 G^{maj7} C2
Your moment extends beyond my days
E[#]m7 D2 C2 D
Your wisdom doesn't mire in the burden of my desire
E[#]m7 D2 C2 G G^{maj7} C9 C2
Your mercy rest so quietly in all that I require.

Verse 2:

G2 G^{maj7} C2
Your law is written on my heart
G2 G^{maj7} C2
Blot out my pride rewrite my part
E[#]m7 D2 C2 D
Open my eyes to see the beauty of your Mystery
E[#]m7 D2 C2 G2 D
While trouble thoughts subside inside of your perfect peace.

Chorus:

C2 D C2 D
Whatever is just. Whatever is lovely, Whatever is pure
C2 D C2 D
Whatever is true. Whatever is noble, Whatever is sure
E[#]m7 D2
I lean on Your understanding.
E[#]m7 D2
Seek me Lord and find me here. And...
E[#]m7 D2 C2 (Pause)
And in the quiet of my heart
C2 G G^{maj7} C9 C2
I think on these things.

[Second ending to bridge:]

C2 G2 C2 G2 C2
I think on these things.

(Capo 2 play in G) - Key of A

Verse 3:

G2 G^{maj7} C2
Your love is lovelier than my song
G2 G^{maj7} C2
Your truth more powerful than my wrong
E[#]m7 D2 C2 D
Your Mystery is so near, no eye can see, no ear can hear,
A[#]m7 E[#]m7 D2 C2 D
My mind cannot conceive the wonder of that place you prepare.

[Chorus]

Bridge: (2X)

G2 C2
Rejoice Always
G2 C2
Rejoice
G2 C2
Rejoice Always
G2 C2
Rejoice

Ending:

E[#]m7 D2
I lean on Your understanding.
E[#]m7 D2
Seek me Lord and find me here. And...
E[#]m7 D2 C2 (Pause)
And in the quiet of my heart
C2 G G^{maj7} C9 C2
I think on these things.

Outro: G G^{maj7} C9 C2

Our name "Whatever" is found in the book of Philippians 4:8.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

The Story: The first core band members came up with the name based on how we all operated as musicians (everyone could play and do multiple things within the band, so we all sort of played musical chairs but with musicians). Since we were all new to playing in a praise band and to contemporary worship songs, at the time, we were all figuring out how to play it and add our own touch to it. Heidi Swanson, the creator of the 'band' would bring a song and we would start playing/ singing and the song would miraculously come together by us all individually bringing our talents to the table. Heidi

would bring the next new songs and would say 'okay let's see what we can do' and later it morphed into okay play "Whatever". The name whatever took time to catch on with us. The name was tossed around, and we almost became 'Fish with teeth', but we wanted something that fit more with the bible and one day Heidi was flipping through the Bible and landed upon this book, chapter, and verse. And after a few more months of thinking, Heidi Swanson and the half leader at the time, Wayne MacCrory, wrote their first song together and our naming song, Think on these things.

OUTREACH/FELLOWSHIP News -- The Outreach and Fellowship Teams are providing **CARE bags** to 18 households of our most senior and/or shut-in friends. CARE bags can consist of snack crackers, activity books (word search, crossword or jigsaw puzzles, etc.) tissue packets, small hand lotions/sanitizer, pens/pencils, devotional materials, and the like. Many of the non-food items can be found at Dollar Tree stores. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, please leave items on the conference room table and let Penny Courtney know so that the items can be used in the next CARE bags. Thank you for your support!!

NEW PROCEDURES - Donations for CCCC Food Pantry & Baby Pantry

There are new ways for St. Paul's to donate grocery staples and baby items for the CCCC's Food Pantry, located at Seton Parish, and the Baby Pantry, located at Community United Methodist Church. These new procedures (once a calendar quarter) replace the weekly/monthly collection activities. Here's how to help.

Please note **Saturday, October 10th** on your calendars for the next St. Paul's Food Drive to benefit these local good works. We'll be collecting grocery staples and baby supplies as well as gift cards if you'd prefer that way to contribute.

Specific lists of goods requested will be sent out in mid-September so that you can begin to stock up when you see bargains.

Questions?? -- see Sandi Corwin, Judy Tribby, Bernice Prescott, or Penny Courtney





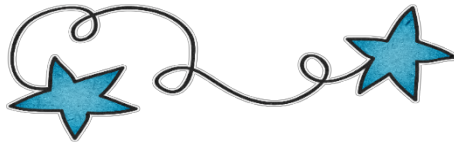
Creative Family Faith Nights

**Check out the first of five
Family Faith Nights
from Creative Communications.**

**This is a series of five newsletters with fun ideas
to nourish family faith life and encourage discipleship.
It is great to use as an at-home midweek family night
or to follow up Sunday worship.**

**Although it is for families with children,
there are many things for “kids” of all ages to enjoy.
The fifth one is for adults, older children, and youth.**

**To view, go to stpaulscrofton.com and click on “Children and Youth.”
Scroll down, down, down until you get to “Creative Family Faith Nights.”
Click on the link.**





LADIES' LUNCH will be held Tuesday noon, September 8th, at the picnic tables at church. All ladies are invited to attend and are encouraged to bring a friend. Please bring **YOUR OWN LUNCH, DRINK, and CHAIR.** We will be social distancing and wearing face masks. If needed, the bathroom in the basement will be available. In the event of rain, we will eat our lunches at home and try for next month.

Ladies Breakfast Group



All women of the church are invited to the next breakfast gathering. It will be on September 24th at 8:30 a.m. We will meet at the picnic tables in the back of the church. Bring a lawn chair and your breakfast including a drink. The restrooms in the Fellowship Hall will be opened for use, but only one at a time. If it rains, breakfast is cancelled. At this time we are not meeting in the church. If you have any questions, please call Jane (410 -721-7519) or email mjfelsentreger@outlook.com.

*Please wear a mask!

Virtual Communion

We have made a virtual communion video available for those members who Live stream from home. Please login to the members-only section on our website on Sunday to access the virtual communion link. Please contact Patrice Jenstrom at web@stpaulscrofton.com or call at 443-254-6765 if you do not have the password. This will be available every week for members.

Here are the steps to access:

1. go to www.stpaulscrofton.com on Sunday
2. log in to Member tab (get the password from Patrice if you do not have it)
3. go to view "Holy Communion" video

The Service will last around 20 to 30 minutes. You will need to have available the following:

1. Wine or grape juice in a small glass or cup for each person
2. A small piece of bread
3. Bring a willing spirit and faithful heart

The Order of Service is from the LCMS Pastoral Care Companion.



Social Distancing at St. Paul's

It has been wonderful for St. Paul's to be open again for worship on Sunday mornings! It's a blessing to be with friends in church, and we want to be able to continue to do so! However, we need a reminder to be vigilant about our procedures; we have become too relaxed about social distancing.

With the reopening of St. Paul's, worshippers were instructed to enter the church wearing a mask and observing social distancing – 6 feet apart – and proceed up the stairs to sign-in. After signing in, worshippers were instructed to go directly into the sanctuary, sit down, and stay put. At the end of the service worshippers are dismissed by the ushers and, maintaining social distancing, are to leave the church building. Worshippers can visit with their friends outside while continuing social distancing.

As worshippers we are *not* to stop in the narthex to visit with friends before or after worship service. ***Visiting with friends is done outside observing social distancing.***

As worshippers we have done an excellent job wearing masks, but we need to do a better job with social distancing.

We all need to make an extra special effort to practice social distancing inside and outside of the church. The Health Department is watching our compliance with the regulations about wearing masks and social distancing. ***As a church we want to stay open for worship and the possibilities of fellowship activities.***



Save Your Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

The aluminum pull tab project that supports Ronald McDonald House is still alive and active. Please continue to save them and bring or drop off at church when you can. Judy Parker and the Ronald McDonald House thanks you!

Help Spread The
GOSPEL
Not The Germs :-)

Please Use Hand Sanitizer