

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Dover & Trenton Roads
Upperco, Maryland 21155
410-239-3456
The Rev. Melvina Stricklin**

April & May 2010



**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Dover & Trenton Roads
Upperco, Maryland 21155**

To:

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SAINT PAUL'S VOICE April/May 2010

We have just come through the season of Lent. It is a time for us to reflect on our sins and to sacrifice our time, talent, and money for the sake of others. As we end the season of Lent, we are driven to sorrow over the suffering of Jesus. He is rejected, spit on, whipped, and then nailed to a cross. It is hard to look at that excruciating suffering as he hangs there in pain, alone, and abandoned.

The good news comes to us Easter morning. On the third day, Mary Magdalene goes to anoint his body early in the morning. When she arrives at the tomb, it is empty. The Lord is gone. She races back to tell Peter and the other disciple, probably John. They, too, go to the tomb and see that it is empty. Then they return home.

Mary stays at the tomb, in tears. Then she hears a voice ask her why she is crying. She laments that they have taken her Lord away. She does not recognize the voice and thinks it is the gardener.

Then a most amazing thing happens, Jesus calls her name, "Mary". It is then that she recognizes Jesus. How elated she must be in this moment. Jesus tells her that he is returning to his Father, and her Father, to his God, and her God. Mary goes to tell the other disciples this news. Mary is the first witness to Jesus resurrection.

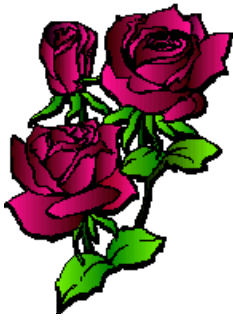
What an amazing story, what an amazing gift. Through Jesus' resurrection we are given that promise of eternal life. Jesus did it for us and for all people out of love for us. There is no other gift more profound than this.

As we walk through the year, can we daily keep this gift in our hearts? The resurrection is real. We cannot separate it from the cross on which Christ died. Remember always that Jesus is not dead. He is alive. He is risen. Christ comes to us as he came to Mary Magdalene that first Easter morning. He calls each of us by name. Do you hear Jesus' voice calling you?

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. He is risen, he is risen indeed. May you have a blessed and Happy Easter.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Mel Stricklin



**THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER
WE PRAY FOR:**

MEMBERS: Lois Armacost, Hazel Ashe, Kim Boose, Mary Burk, Sue Bosley, Matilda Griffin, Cassie Harris, Shirley Harris, Mildred Hasson, Sydney Henry, Matthew Jones, Oneida Jones, Mary Louise Miller, Bill Stratton, Shari Underhill, Leslie Vink-Hood, Helen Utz, George Walter, Lorraine Walter, and all homebound members.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Genny Casper, Esther Watson, Carol Graff, Debbie Hahn, Bill Peters, Jim Howard, Braylynn, Joyce Rhoten, Pastor Gene Alexander, Bishop Jerry Knoche, Shirley, Ex Officio Bishop Mocko, Becky Norwood, Bill Higgins, Christine Wheeler, Pastor Dick Michael, Ruth McGee, Tanner Yingling, Wade Lease, Emma Miller, Julia Wagner, Shawn Hogan, Nancy Yingling, George Kahlert, Kay, Kelly, Lillian Zepp, Shawn Mehaffie, Jennifer Trennan, Kaylee Stem, Erin Kauffman, members of Sykesville Fire Co., Jordan Harris, Ken Morris, Renee Adams, Sally Fuller, Ruth Horner, The Shaw family, Jessica Front, those facing job loss, and those in broken relationships.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES: family and friends of Gloria Moore, Janet Stewart, Patricia Klaput, Jimmie Entwistle, Bill Norwood, Jim Hale, Shirley Koehne, baby Rabberman, William Geodeke, Annette Jenkins, and Ann Folfas

May the promises of our resurrected Lord bring them peace and comfort.

THE PRAYER: Merciful God, bring wholeness to those who are broken, healing to those who are sick, hope to those who are despondent, and comfort to those who are afraid especially (names), that they may know your loving care. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What soap is to the body, laughter is to the soul.

Yiddish Proverb

Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you'd have preferred to talk.

Doug Larson

It's no trick loving somebody at their best. Love is loving them at their worst.

Tom Stoppard

The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot.

Michael Altschuler

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BIBLE TRIVIA

1. In what city was Jesus almost killed by an angry mob?
2. Who sent spies to act as followers of Jesus and to try to trap him?
3. What king did John the Baptist call an adulterer?
4. Who bribed the guards at Jesus' tomb to say that the disciples had stolen the body?
5. Who made for Jesus a feast that was attended by many tax collectors?

Thank You, Thank You!



To the youth for putting on a skit about the Souper Bowl and collecting funds that go to feed the hungry.



To all those who weathered all the snow blizzards this winter and helped their neighbors during this snowbound time.



To Ms. Patti Schunk and Carol Hilgartner for heading up the Heifer Project and for holding several events during Lent; including a skit during the children's sermon, a Heifer Project egg hunt and an interesting gossip game with the congregation. To Ms. Patti who organized food from various countries for our Fellowship Sunday in March.



To Derek and Jamie DuBois who held our first ever Shrove Tuesday meal of sausage and pancakes. There was a huge turnout and a good time was had by all.



To all those who provided soup and bread for all the meals held during Lent. A big thank you goes to Carol Hunt and all who helped her for heading up the Seder meal held on Maundy Thursday; and for providing the appropriate liturgy for the meal.



To all those who helped with the indoor spring cleaning including Sarah Morris and Susan Fleming who organized the event. The church is now in a much more sparkling condition.



To those who attended the fundraising workshop to plan the events and to recommend what projects the money would support.



To all who helped with a very successful Easter egg hunt especially Colleen Geldmacher who helped organize the event and to all those who helped her.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE TRIVIA 1. Nazareth (Luke 4:29) 2. The chief priests and scribes (Luke 20: 19-20) 3. Herod (Mark 6:17) 4. the chief priests (Matthew 28:11-15) 5. Matthew (or Levi) (Luke 5: 29-32)

Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

April 4, 2010

Sisters and Brothers All:

There was but one sentence on the front of the Easter bulletin: *There are just two kinds of people here this morning: those who believe in the resurrection and those who wish to heaven that they could.* No doubt some were surprised and wondering: “Which one of those am I?”

It might just depend upon the day. Sometimes, there is no doubt at all. On others...! There are many who know the angst of the father of the demon-possessed son who cried out to Jesus: “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24) Been there! Done that!

Ours is not simply a 21st century phenomenon. When it comes to the resurrection from the dead, be it Jesus’ or ours, belief has never come easily. Jesus’ most faithful followers, on the way to the tomb before dawn on that first Easter, were not expecting a resurrection. They were worried about rolling a stone away. As Mary Magdalene tarried in the garden, she did not recognize her risen Lord. She thought he was the gardener. Then there was the ever-famous Thomas, “Doubting Thomas.” (I think we give him that judgmental name because we project our own guilt in this matter upon him.)



Saint Paul confronts disbelief head on as he writes to the Christians at Corinth. “How can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?” (1 Cor. 15:12) Perhaps the problem is that belief in the resurrection is just too good to be true. We have often been cautioned that if an offer is too good to be true, it probably is. Or as Saint Luke tells us, the disciples “disbelieved for joy.” (Luke 24:41) Yet Saint Paul would contend that believing this good news is central to the very Gospel itself. That is to say, “If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all most to be pitied.” (1 Cor. 15:10)

Easter’s message is not one about miracles...or whether we believe in miracles...but about what we believe about God. Saint Paul speaks consistently of Christ’s resurrection in the passive voice, “Christ has been raised.” As one former parishioner liked to say it: “I believe that God created all things; the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars, and all of space, as well as all of us. If God can do that, then he can raise someone from the dead if he wants to.”

Easter is not about believing in miracles but about believing in God. Again, we hear Saint Paul: “God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself.” (2 Cor. 5:19)

The good news then and now is bound up in this fact: God has the last word, and that word is life! The religious leaders had spoken, the crowd had spoken, and Pilate had decreed. The charges were insurrection, blasphemy, and treason. Then God speaks. The ground shakes, the sky goes dark, stones shatter and roll, graves are opened, and in the morning angels ask: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” (Luke 24:5) “He is not here. He is risen! Look for yourselves.” (Matthew 28:6)

So do it. Look for yourselves. Such good news gives us the courage to live beyond ourselves and in the light of the Good News - and even to risk dying in Christ’s name, without fear.

“Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!”

+ Bishop Schneider

Your church is one of 182 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congregations in the two-state area which make up the Delaware-Maryland Synod. To learn more, visit DeMdSynod.org and elca.org.

News

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Michael Todd and Beth Armacost on the baptism of their son, Cooper, and brother to Jackson. He is the grandson of Michael and Helen Armacost and great grandson of Lois Armacost. He was baptized on Sunday, February 21. May God bless him in his spiritual journey.

SECOND OFFERINGS

Each month there is a second offering that is designated for local charities and non-profit organizations. To name a few, there are NESAP, Carroll Rape Crisis Services, Carroll Hospice, Interfaith Housing, and Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry. We also collect funds to help Carroll Lutheran School and Carroll Lutheran Village. Your generosity helps them to fulfill the ministries that God has called them to do. It is through you and many others that the lives of those in need are helped because you care. Thank you for reaching out to others with your donations.

OUTREACH

On Palm Sunday, Outreach and the Sunday School classes delivered Easter bags to the residents at Long View Nursing home. We also took "Thinking of YOU" baskets to some of our members. May 1st is the Spring Blood Drive from 8:30 - 2:00. DONORS NEEDED.

SPAGHETTI DINNER SOCIAL

The spaghetti meal that was originally planned for in February had to be postponed because of bad weather and the rescheduling in March

created a conflict in schedules. It is now hoped that we can have a social gathering of a meal and a fun night of games some time in May.

EASTER PROGRAM/BREAKFAST

The children will be putting on an Easter program during worship, Sunday, April 11. Come and see the pageant they have planned. Following worship services, there will be an Easter Breakfast with a free-will offering to cover the cost. Come and enjoy a special Sunday with the children and then have some good food.

HEIFER PROJECT

During this Lenten season our children have partnered with the adults to raise funds for the Heifer Project. This is approach was so successful last year we were able to raise \$750.00! This surpassed their previous amount raised which was over \$500. The \$750 bought the "Knitting Basket" (which consists of two llamas and two sheep) one pig, six geese and four bunnies. Won't you join with one of our youth and help them reach their goal of matching last year's total?



Heifer Project kick-off, February 14

HEIFER PROJECT (CONTINUED)

This year's Heifer Project kick-off occurred on February 14 with the children spelling out "Heifer" on sign boards during the Children's Service. The following week the children located Easter eggs that had their names on them, which were scattered about the church. They have been filling them with money earned by doing chores at home. March 7 church members

played a game of "gossip/telephone" to learn new facts about Heifer International (we had fun, but discovered we are not very good at gossiping). On March 21, the congregation enjoyed Fellowship Around the World and tasted foods from different countries. Our students wish to thank everyone who has supported them on this project.

The Lord's Laughter

From the *Joyful Noiseletter*, May 2010 edition

Some answers given by Sunday school children to the following questions:

Q. Why did God make mothers?

A. To help us out when we were getting born.

Q. How did God make mothers?

A. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.

Q. What did mom need to know about dad before she married him?

A. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?

Q. Why did your mom marry your dad?

A. My grandma says that mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

Via Winslow Fox, MD
Chelsea, MI

A Sunday school teacher asked her little children, "How many of you would like to go to heaven?" Everyone raised their hands except little Jimmy. "I'm sorry, I can't," he explained. "My mommy said to come right home after Sunday school."

Via Peter Dring
Land O'Lakes, WI

A drunk who reeked of booze sat down on a bus seat next to a priest. The disheveled man opened a newspaper he was carrying and began to read.

After a while, the drunk turned to the priest and asked, "Hey Father, do ya know what causes arthritis?"

"Of course, my friend," the priest replied. "It's caused by loose living, drinking too much alcohol, smoking, cavorting with wild women, not taking baths, and things like that."





"Well, I'll be darned," the drunk said, returning to read his paper.

"I'm sorry I came on so strongly," the priest apologized. "How long have you had arthritis?"

"I don't have it, Father," the drunk replied. "I was just reading here in this paper that your bishop does."

Via Pastor Dale Schoening
Renwick, IA

April

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 600pm Passover Seder Meal 700pm Service 	2 Good Friday  Service of Darkness 700 pm	3 1200 pm -130pm Pastor's Office Hours
4 900am – Worship  Youth Sunday Food Collection	5	6 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours 300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours	7 730 pm AA	8 700pm Confirmation Class	9	10 1200 pm -130pm Pastor's Office Hours
11 900am – Worship Youth Easter Program Second Offering Carroll Lutheran School  Easter Breakfast After Worship	12	13 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours 300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours 700pm –Council	14 730 pm AA	15	16	17 800am-400pm Flea Market 1200 pm -130pm Pastor's Office Hours
18 900am – Worship	19	20 800am Sandwich Making 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours 300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours	21 645 pm Healing Service @ Christ Lutheran 730 pm AA	22 700pm Confirmation Class	23	24 1200 pm -130pm Pastor's Office Hours Spring Cleaning Outside
25 900am – Worship	26	27 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours 300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours	28 730 pm AA	29	30	9

May

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1 830-200 Spring Blood Drive 1200 pm -130pm Pastor's Office Hours
2 900am – Worship Food Collection Youth Sunday	3	4 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours 300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours	5 730 pm AA	6	7	8 1200 pm -130pm Pastor's Office Hours
9 900am – Worship Second Offering Carroll County Rape Crisis Services	10 130pm Worship and Music Committee	11 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours 300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours 700pm -Council	12 730 pm AA	13 700pm Confirmation Class	14	15 800am-200pm Flea Market 1200 pm -130pm Pastor's Office Hours
16 900am – Worship Fellowship after service	17	18 800am Sandwich Making 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours 300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours	19 645 pm Healing Service @ St. Paul's 730 pm AA	20	21	22 930am Mission Statement workshop 1200 pm -130pm Pastor's Office Hours
23 900am – Worship	24	25 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours 300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours	26	27 700pm Confirmation Class	28	29
30 900am – Worship	31 Pastor Mel Vacation					

Celebrations for April & May

April Birthdays

2 Colton Dubois
4 Anna Schultz
6 Wendy Folfas
7 Tyler Kuhn
9 Bryan Benson
10 Bobby Fuller
11 Corey Durham
Sherry Zour
18 Richard Harris
John Folfas
20 George Hancock
27 Tevan Fuller

April Anniversaries

3 George & Kay Hancock
8 John & Jayme Folfas
23 Derek & Jamie Dubois

May Birthdays

3 Shari Underhill
9 Todd Armacost
11 Bonnie Fuller
18 David Henry
21 Jason Smith
23 Mary Burk
John Letts
26 Barb Utz
29 Roland Hale
Bill Hale

May Anniversaries

2 Thomas & Barbara Green
8 Tim & Maidie Brown
12 Bob & Ruth Bare
15 Bill & Shirley Stratton
16 Bob & Pat Graff
Lynn & Bobbie Fuller

Council President's Message

Welcome to spring 2010, I'm so glad winter is over and all the snow is gone. St. Paul's council is very busy with completing our 2010 Goals; soon you will be hearing about our next project updating "St. Paul's Mission Statement" this will involve the entire congregation. Details will be forthcoming soon with dates and times for meetings, start thinking about what you would like to see our mission statement tell others about St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Another project is amending our constitution to include the new Synod items and the Emergency Expenditure addendum that was voted on in the 2009 Annual Congregational Meeting. Also we are reviewing St. Paul's Bylaws for updates and changes needed.

St. Paul's Flea Market has a very busy year ahead with our first Flea Market event scheduled for April 17th. The dates for the Flea Markets are the third Saturday of each month except the last one which is the second Saturday in October on the 9th. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated if you would like to help please let me know, there are many jobs available. I have been told that we maybe adding Snowballs to our menu, there are endless possibilities for everyone to get involved. We are also adding Sausage and green peppers and onions to our lunch menu.

It has been so nice to see so many of you attend our weekly soup supper's great soup and bread and fellowship as well as learning about Jonah at our evening Lenten Services. Outreach is preparing Easter basket/bags for our members at Longview and our shut-in members at home.

Busy hands are happy hands working to spread Gods Love!

Sincerely,

Sarah R. Morris
Council President