

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

July 2019

"God Blesses us, We are Blessed, We Bless Others"

My birthday comes in July and I'm still counting. My family always said I was born "with a bang" because they claimed it all got started right after my Mom climbed the bleachers for the fireworks on the 4th. Two years ago when I turned 75, I threw a party because, well, I like parties. What I remember most about it was that many who were older could only say things like "that's not old" or "you are a spring chicken" or wait to you get "really old." It felt like they were trying to take away my joy or excitement or enthusiasm at being 75, or in my words, because it sounds better, "I'm three quarters of a century old." That gives it some dignity, I protested.

Anyway, this July month includes, I'm told, the 243rd birthday of our nation if you start with the Declaration of Independence or the 527th if you start with Columbus. Wherever you start, we are old, though not nearly as old as many others around the world, many of whom might be called "ancient."

I know many of you have heard the expression "God Bless America." I like that when it is understood as a prayer, or a solemn thought for meditation, or even a wish on the part of a loyal citizen. I like the recent addition to Major League Baseball contexts, which includes the singing of "God Bless America" during the 7th inning

stretch. What I fear is that the "God Bless Americas" we hear, would sound more like a demand than a prayer. It's spoken or shouted in a way that sounds like we have earned this or deserve it or somehow have a right to it; come on God, get with the program. I rebel against that kind of thinking and approach for a lot reasons.

I would like to think that you, and everyone, are joining me on this birthday of our nation in thanking God for this nation and every blessing we have as citizens in it, including its natural beauty and abundant resources, the diversity of its citizens, the freedoms we enjoy, including the joyful practice of our faith, the protection of our civil rights, the prosperity we enjoy, and more.

Of course, I'm saying, and many of you are thinking, there is a good bit wrong with our nation. Only someone who has their head in the sand, or works hard at turning a blind eye would say, we do not have problems. It would be great if we could all embrace those problems and work together in faithful and reasonable ways, in a spirit of cooperation, to improve difficult situations like immigration, Medicare, equality for all, the health care system, the opioid crisis, feeding the hungry, housing for the poor, climate change, and more.

In talking about God blessing America, how about this idea? To bless means to give something, or to add something to another or a situation in a good way, a positive way, or a helpful way. How about if we would use the blessings, the gifts and freedoms we have as citizens of the US of A, to bless our nation, especially in areas where it is

desperately needed, and in places in need around the world? Using and sharing the gifts, freedoms, resources, knowledge, and technical resources we have, to bless others, would certainly add to the lives of others in our own nation and around the world. In fact, I believe that is exactly what God wants us to do, and why he has given us so many blessings, so that we can share our blessings with each other and the world. Perhaps the hymn, I will call it, God Bless America has an equally valuable second emphasis for Americans to bless America and the world.

PEACE,

Pastor Dave†

This song about a beautiful and beloved land is regarded by many as a second national anthem, and its call to prayer in search of God's blessings and protection invites us to reflect on the words of Saint Augustine, the Bishop of Hippo Regius, who said, "He who sings, prays twice."

-The Catholic Review

***Keeping the faith, sharing the faith, and
living the faith...***

in our community and in our world.

www.stpaulscrofton.com

1370 Defense Highway,
Gambrills, MD 21054
410-721-2332

In order to keep our prayer list current, we need to hear from you. *Prayer concerns will stay on for 4 weeks unless you tell us otherwise.* If you have a prayer request that needs to be added or removed from the list, please contact Cindy in the office at cdofficemngrstpauls@verizon.net.

Calling all kids entering 7th grade or above and who have not been confirmed.

Confirmation Class will begin in September. Class will run for two years with 15 sessions each year and should end in April. Study guides and catechisms will be provided for each student. Please call the church office (410-721-2332) with your child's information and you will be contacted in late summer about specifics.



Prayer Requests

See Cindy, church office manager for hard copy of list



July Altar Guild

Linda Craig and Diane Von Seggern

The Altar Guild is always looking for new members. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Jackie Abend at 410-703-1369 for information.

Thank you for serving! We are always in need of people to help serve communion, usher and read scripture. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact the office.

THE FOOD PANTRY Is always in need of our donations.

In July, they have asked St. Paul's to donate canned vegetables.

Ongoing needs: cereal/oatmeal, pasta, beans, spaghetti and sauce, and canned tuna.

Your generosity is appreciated! Please leave your items in the drop off box in the narthex.

Please join us on July 14th after service for HOT DOG SUNDAY. The fellowship team will provide hot dogs and all of the fixings! Please plan to join us!

Living Stones Via de Cristo
<http://www.livingstones-vdc.org>



2019 Weekend Dates

Men's Fall Weekend #70: Oct. 3-6
(Pilgrim applications due no later than Sept. 19)

Women's Spring Weekend #75: Oct. 10-13
(Pilgrim applications due no later than Sept. 26)

Please check the website for testimonials, information, and how you can register for this event.





Congratulations!

St. Paul's would like to congratulate our graduates! We wish you many blessings as you start this next chapter of your life!



Caitlyn Houck

2019 Graduate of South River High School. Caitlyn will be attending Shenandoah University in the fall and plans to study exercise science and physical therapy.

Good luck Caitlyn!



Megan Rudy

2019 Graduate of South River High School. Megan will be attending Anne Arundel Community College in the fall.

Good luck Megan!

News from the Quilters....

It seems like we have two shifts in our quilting group. Some early birds come in at 7:00 AM. We set up the tables, get the work to be done out, water the flowers, make the coffee and start sewing on whatever our job is at the time. The others come in whenever, but they stay till 1:00 PM. or later. It's their turn to continue the work that is started, then they put the things away, take down the tables, clean the coffee pot and the floors and lock the doors.

Some members do not attend every week but we average 15 girls every Tuesday. We use 2 sergers and have an average of 7 people sewing on machines, others cut fabric, iron, pin, put yarn in them and tie the quilts. We find a job for everyone.

We still make children's blankets for the Binky Patrol program, patriotic laps for the veterans and don't forget the homeless blankets. Our specialty are the laps and twin size blankets that we give away to the veterans homes, the nursing homes and just anyone who could use one. We invite YOU to ask for one or more if you know a need.

You can also support us by donating used jeans, sheets, and mattress covers, and by attending and promoting our annual Quilt Sale.

Dorothy Clark



Helen's Helping Hand Lending Closet



St. Paul's has a lending closet in memory of Mrs. Helen Lehtonen that is located downstairs in the church and has been doing a booming business! If you have borrowed something and are using it, we are thrilled. **Please just let us know you have** it (by leaving Cindy a note in the office or sending her an e-mail) or signing the sheet on the closet door so we can keep track. If you have borrowed something and no longer need it, please return it so we can keep passing it along.



St. Paul's believes that using photos/video of our events in our print and web publications foster a greater sense of community. Photography and video recordings enhance the quality of our print materials, newsletters, website, social media, and public relations. As a member of St. Paul's you have a right to opt-out of inclusion in photographs/media, but unless a "Media Opt-Out Release" is signed and on file in the office, participating in St. Paul's events implies permission for the use of images taken at our events. The Media Opt-Out Release form is available in the Narthex or can be requested through the office. Please note that this applies only to adults 18 years and above. All minors will need a completed "Photo Release Form" on file in order for their images to be used in any publications.

The photo release form for minors can be found on the table in the Sunday School area.

The next Ladies' Lunch will be Tuesday noon, July 9th, at Light House Bistro, 202 West Street, Annapolis.

This restaurant is extra special in that it works in conjunction with the Light House

Shelter - enjoy a wonderful lunch and support a worthy outreach cause all at the same time! All ladies are invited to attend and are encouraged to bring a friend. We will carpool from the church at 11:15. There are currently reservations for 12 people. Please Marj Kane know if you plan to attend so reservations may be adjusted accordingly. Marj may be contacted at 410-721-3426 or email kane3426@verizon.net.

