

REVELATIONS

Shedding light on all the activities of our congregation,
So that we can work together as a family in Christ.



February 2012

Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church
Where the Spirit is alive and Christ's love is shared

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On behalf of the staff, thank you for the gifts you gave us at Christmas. We appreciate your generosity of spirit and your remembrance of us during the holiday season. Once again, thank you.

It feels strange to look back so far, even if the "so far" was only one month ago. I suppose that's what makes following the Spirit so exciting. Sometimes the Spirit circles back and we can revel in old memories, yet experience tells me that most of the time the Spirit is forward-moving. Most folks are already anticipating Spring (I wanted to be sure to capitalize that, since I'm pondering forward direction. I mean THE Spring - one of the four seasons). The weather doesn't help this pining. Mild temperatures and no snow make it feel as if Spring is just beyond our fingertips. It's so close, we can almost touch it.

The only things standing between us and Spring are February and March. They seem like mere nuisances right now - a handful of weeks to get through before the big payoff of warmer weather, soft ground to dig in and outdoor furniture to dust off. A general attitude develops around this time: bear down, get through it without a lot of attention, and wait for the big payoff.

(Continued on page 2)



2012 Lent Services

All WORSHIP services begin at 7:30PM

All "*" dates include dinner at 6:30PM followed by a Bible Study at 7PM.

The evening is comprised of 3 increments--dinner, bible study, and worship--so we encourage everyone to attend at ANY time during the evening. For example, if you cannot make the dinner, feel free to come during the bible study or the worship service.



Wed. February 22nd Ash Wednesday at United Methodist Church

*Wed. February 29th at United Church of Christ

*Wed. March 7th St. at Paul Lutheran Church

*Wed. March 14th at United Methodist Church

*Wed. March 21st at United Church of Christ

*Wed. March 28th at St. Paul Lutheran Church

NO LENT DINNER OR SERVICE ON WED. APRIL 4TH

Thursday April 5th Maundy Thursday at St. Paul Lutheran Church

Friday April 6th Good Friday at United Church of Christ

A Passover Seder is currently being planned with the United Church of Christ to be held at St. Paul. More details to follow.

Can I tell you a truth? I'm afraid that's exactly most folks attitudes during Lent. Turns out, February and March also usher in a wonderful, contemplative and holy time in the church year. Forty days of preparation. Forty days of wrestling with what it means to put God first in our lives. Forty days with a million opportunities to say "no" to the people, events and places that run us ragged, and twice as many opportunities to say "yes" to God working in our lives.

The observation of Lent and it's extra worship and study times seems to be a dying practice in the church, at least the church as it's lived out here in Jefferson. I don't know how to fix that, and that gives me great pain. Here's what I do know how to do, though. I know how to observe it. I know that it's tough to come to church an extra day of the week, especially when I'm already there - a lot. I give up one of my few "free" evenings during the week to hang out and eat soup, study the bible and listen to *another* sermon during the week. I know what it's like to struggle with my own hubristic thinking that I'm already holy enough, busy enough and biblically smart enough not to need the "extra attention."

That's sin. It's the sin that marred my forehead with an ashly cross on Ash Wednesday, and one that I carry all through Lent. It's the battle in my own

desert that Jesus wages with me for forty days. He'll win - he does every time - whether I participate or not. I can't tell you, however, how much, well, *cleaner* I feel when I'm through. It takes the full forty days, and most of them aren't gigantic "ah ha" moments. It's a slow, steady march up a fairly substantial mountain I've built for myself. Yet here's another thing I know - it makes the music of Easter so much sweeter.

I'm open to listening to you, specifically about how we can craft the church's forty days of Lent into something meaningful for you. If you don't have a conversation directly with me about it, then I don't hear it. (By the way, that's a great rule for every conversation we have). Begging, guilting, cajoling and inviting have all had marginal success. Here's what the pastoral leadership of Jefferson is going to do this year - we're going to model Lent. We're going to show up, prepared and engaged in dinner, bible study and worship. We're going to struggle with being a disciplined disciple. We're going to give things up and take things on as a practice of Lent. We're going to fail, becoming more in tune with the sound of our own hubris in our ears. Jesus is going to win - he always does - and at the end of the journey we'll give over to his Easter statement of that fact.

Packing for the journey,

PK

Read the Book, Go to the Movie or See the Movie, Read the Book

There are two books that have recently been made into movies. One is *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*: a novel in words and pictures, by Brian Selznick. Don't be discouraged by the width of the book. Much of the book contains the black and white sketches of the author. The artwork is stunning, and so enhances the story. Hugo lives in the train station in Paris, France in the 1930's. He has skill with mechanical objects and is trying to repair an automaton that is his last link to his father. He is sure that if he repairs the automaton, there will be a message from his father. This is truly a story about the magic that movies can create. Martin Scorsese brings the story of Hugo to the screen in 3-D.

The second book is *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Foer. You will meet nine year old Oskar Schell, an inventor, Francophile, tambourine player, Shakespearean actor, jeweler, and pacifist. Oskar is on a search to find the lock to a mysterious key that belonged to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on 9/11. Oskar's search will take him to all five boroughs of New York. Oskar meets many interesting people along the way. The movie stars Tom Hanks and Sandra Bullock as Oskar's parents. Both books and audio recordings are available through the C. Burr Artz Library.

From the President:

Jesus you are first. I am second. You will never leave me nor forsake me. You give me a sense of peace and calmness. You are always watching over me. You allow me to stay humble. I need you Lord.

Recently, I stumbled across a website; IamSecond.com. And, it was amazing. I was especially touched by the incredible videos on the site. I am Second is a movement to inspire people of all kinds to live for God and for others. The videos include actors, athletes, musicians, business leaders, drug addicts, your next door neighbors and even people like you telling their authentic stories that deal with the typical struggles of everyday living. I would encourage you to visit this site. I think you may find a video which speaks to you or someone you know. My personal favorite is a video by, Josh Hamilton, a baseball player for the Texas Rangers. Bailee Madison, a child actress, was another video that was inspiring to me. There are many more and they all deliver fantastic messages.

Another site I came across was; demdsynod.org/mission-teams/mission-through-partnerships/daart/. This site was first brought to my attention in "The Lutheran" monthly magazine." Daart stands for Definitely Abled Advocacy Resource Team. This wonderful ministry group works to raise awareness and provide resources to congregations seeking to be more accessible and fully inclusive to individuals of all abilities. Their mission is to encourage and equip all congregations to become places where all people – especially those with physical, developmental, and mental disabilities will feel welcome and find meaningful opportunities to participate fully in the community of God.

Both of these sites speak to who we are as Lutherans and who we should continue striving to be each and every day. It is a great testimony that these wonderful ministries exist in our communities and how we, as a people, can have a positive impact on the lives of others. How many times in our own lives have we turned our back to the broken? Or, to the person who at that moment and time did not act like us, live like us or scared us because we did not know what to say to them or how to respond to them. It is a sad testimony, but far too often it is true.

As Lutherans, we believe that we are all created and loved by God and as His people we are to love one another just as we are. And, it is programs like these that can bring this focus back into our lives. We need to embrace and love all people. As a congregation, we need to open our doors and open our arms to all people no matter what struggle they may be living with whether it be mental or physical. And, especially, we need to open our minds and open our hearts and show the world, as Lutherans, that we lead as we speak and speak as we lead.

For Jesus you are First and I am second.

Valley Quilters Quilt Guild

Valley Quilters, TLC quilt guild will be holding its monthly meeting at St. Paul Lutheran Church at 3864 Jefferson Pike in Jefferson, MD on Wednesday, February 1st beginning at 7:00 PM with social time from 6:30 to 7:00. We meet each month on the first Wednesday. February's program will be Hand Applique by Joanne Langan. For more information call Becky at 301-696-1607 or send an email to valleyquilters@hotmail.com.

"Faith is a knowledge within the heart, beyond the reach of proof."

—Kahlil Gibran



A View from the Pew:

A few weeks ago, I was having a discussion with my 10-year old daughter about a story I had heard on the radio a few hours earlier concerning the salaries of teachers. And, I said in my ignorance without even thinking “It was stated that in many areas of the country janitors make the same or more money than teachers do.” As I continued, I told her, “That’s crazy! There is no way a janitor should be making more than a teacher.”

And, do you know what her response was? “But Dad, aren’t janitors and teachers equal?”

It was right then I just stopped talking (or in this case putting my foot in my mouth) and replied, “Honey you are right, janitors and teachers are equal.”

I had gotten caught up in the how much money or stature someone should have or make over another while she was looking at the personal and humanistic side of the conversation. Our Lutheran beliefs tell us we should value everyone the same. Children can teach us lots of great lessons. I certainly learned one that day that I will remember for a long time.

Thanks

Many thanks for the congregation’s Christmas gift money. It’s gratefully appreciated and I feel it’s an honor to be able to play for the traditional service and to be able to serve our Lord with the talent he’s given me over the years.

Again, many thanks

Eleanor Ott

Bold Women's Sunday

February 26th is recognized as Bold Women's Sunday by the Churchwide Women of the ELCA. It is a time to remember and recognize the women who have made a difference in our lives and have been witnesses for Jesus Christ. Bold can take many forms, so don't dismiss the quiet witness of patience, persistence, faithfulness, help, and encouragement.

We also recognize the 60th anniversary of the Feeser Scholarship Fund, which provides financial aid for women in the DE-MD Synod who are called to serve in church related vocations. Mrs. Feeser recognized the need for higher education for women and established a fund to offer financial aid. Preference is given to women called to ordained ministry, associates in ministry, and diaconal ministry. Members of St. Paul have served on the board of directors and received scholarship aid.

Claudia Harrington



“THE PATH OF
THE RIGHTEOUS
IS LIKE THE
LIGHT OF DAWN.”

PROVERBS 4:18, NRSV

Spirit Giving for February to Aid the Feeser Scholarship Fund

The Feeser Scholarship Fund was established in 1952 by Mrs. Minnie Feeser of the Silver Run Parish in Carroll County, Maryland. Mr and Mrs. Feeser had three daughters, and realized how important education was for women. Mrs. Feeser left a bequest of \$30,000 to establish a scholarship fund for women in the DE-MD Synod. The desire was to provide aid for women who are called to church related vocations. The scholarship fund is administered by the Synodical Women's Organization. In the past 25 years members of St. Paul have served on the scholarship board, and Leslie Huffer Byrd, Susan Stoutamyer, Kathryn Henderson DeYoung, and Hannah Duncan have received some financial aid. To qualify you must be actively involved in an ELCA congregation, be enrolled as a full-time student, demonstrate academic excellence, and financial need. If you enter a secular vocation, the financial aid becomes a low interest loan. In 2012 the Feeser Scholarship Fund celebrates 60 years and over 150 women have received financial assistance. We are asking you to be bold in supporting our scholarship fund and supporting the women who respond to God's call.

Claudia Harrington

News from the Primary Sunday School Department

We continue to support our ELCA World Hunger Appeal by collecting money to buy an alpaca through God's Global Barnyard. Alpacas are new additions to God's Global Barnyard this year. The soft fleece of an alpaca can be made into colorful clothing, bedding, and rugs that are much warmer and softer than those made from sheep's wool. Alpaca products sell at a high price at the market, and alpacas have a long life-span. A family can depend on a steady source of income for 20 years or more. We have almost reached our goal of \$175 and hope to start on the buck-a-chick campaign during Lent and Easter.

In February we will complete the Akaloo 1 unit: Becoming a Disciple. Children will be looking for answers to the questions: Who loves me?, How can I be a good friend?, Why do I serve others? We will do activities to observe the beginning of Lent on February 19th. Our new unit will begin February 26th.

All children are invited to join us for fellowship and learning in the parish house.

Claudia Harrington

Thanks

Just want to say thanks to the traditional service choir, the brass players, to all those who so generously perform through out the year.

The Lord has certainly provided us with much talent here at St. Paul

Also, it's a privilege to work with the contemporary service group when we have special services.

Eleanor Ott

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

—Anne Bradstreet

Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA, Sunday Circle and guests enjoyed food and fellowship at the annual covered dish luncheon. Four women are planning to attend the Day of Renewal on Saturday, January 21st at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Fullerton. The presenter will be the Reverend Sandra Alexis, who will speak on the topic "Loose Ends."

Our next evening meeting will be Monday, February 13th at 7:30PM in the Pathway Room. Cindy Sigler will serve as leader and Charlotte Roosa and Jane Smith will be hostesses.

Bring items for the Cold Weather Shelter: coffee, hot chocolate, select a size paper towels, facial tissue, toothbrush, travel size toothpaste, razors, new adult undergarments and crew socks. All women are invited to gather as we grow in faith and action.

Claudia Harrington



Our website is ever-changing!

Please visit frequently, at <http://www.stpauljeff.org>, for up-to-date information on activities, events, worship, calendars, newsletters, worship helper schedules, and much more!

We Get the Nicest Letters!

To JEM, Joint Ecumenical Ministries—Thank you! We love our Christmas tree! The kids had a great time picking the tree out and all agreed together on it. And thought it was so neat to watch them put it through the string. Thanks again to everyone! The Stream Family.

Larry & Patsy Bussard wish to thank Pastor Katrina and the members of St. Paul for their kind thoughts, prayers, cards, calls and visit during Patsy's illness. You surely are a caring congregation and it is greatly appreciated.

May the Peace and Joy of the Holidays be with you today and through the New Year. Michael Proffitt and Proffitt & Associates Architects.

Dear St. Paul Congregation, Thank you so much for donating the November Spirit Giving of \$241.00 to the Jefferson Food Bank. As we all know, the need remains great. Sincerely, Joe Whitney.

To St. Paul Congregation, many thanks to everyone for their cards, food and prayers during this trying time. It certainly means a lot to me and the family. Thanks again and God bless to each and everyone. Jenny Routzahn.

All of you -thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated! Warm Regards, "The Tarleton Family."

On behalf of the family of George Schech; we would like to thank everyone who played a part in making his memorial service a wonderful tribute to his life. We would like to extend a special thanks to Eleanor Lee and the band and to Pastor Katrina. We would also like to thank those who provided food for the luncheon following the service. We have all appreciated the many cards and kind words that each of you have expressed. We are blessed to have so many people who care in so many ways. God's peace to you all.

Long Range Planning Update

The Long Range Planning Committee has been busy at work the past year. One of the main goals we achieved was working with and updating the Church Council to keep our vision in sight.

Long Range will be making a presentation at the Congregational Meeting to update the congregation here at St. Paul with preliminary ideas and drawings to give a true "feel" to the vision. Long Range Planning will be looking for continued support from Church Council as well as the congregation for recommendations, ideas and opinions as the process proceeds.

As we move forward, it will take a joint effort from everyone here at St. Paul and the community as a whole to make this vision a reality. Please feel free to join or attend any and all of the Long Range Planning meetings that are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm here at the church. Your input is greatly appreciated by all the members of the Long Range Planning Committee. The current committee members are; Craig Birkholz, Warren Huffer, Bill Hopwood, Bob Piccerillo, Jennifer Piccerillo, Fred Chopin, Mark Summers, Mykel Hitzelberger, Don Tarleton and Pastor Katrina.

Jefferson Food Bank

February 4 & 18—SATURDAYS

Help is needed from members of St. Paul to assist with the Jefferson Food Bank between 9 am and 11:30 am. We request members to help with carrying bags of food to the patron's vehicles. Each time the Food Bank is open, a Food Bank supervisor is present, yet it is a task that cannot be completed alone by the supervisor. Please remember to bring your empty grocery bags, both plastic and paper, to the Jefferson Food Bank or place in one of the two Food Bank containers in the church. Your donations enable us to continue serving the community and those in need. The Jefferson Food Bank is a member of the Frederick County Religious Coalition.

"To love another person is to see the face of God."

—Lyrics from *Les Misérables*, Claude-Michel Schönberg

CHURCH OFFICE

We want to hear from you

Please take a moment

to notify the church office:

- † when you (or a family member) would like a visit from the pastor.
- † when there is a death or serious illness in your family.
- † when you are admitted to the hospital. If you cannot call, perhaps a family member or friend can call for you, so that visits can be arranged.
- † when you wish to add someone to the prayer list.
- † when you move to a new address or your phone number has changed.
- † when your committee or group plans a meeting or an activity, or when you would like to use the Pathway Room for a private event. Dates must be cleared and the parish calendar noted.
- † when you wish to borrow something from the church.
- † when you want to sponsor altar flowers for Sunday's worship.
- † when you need information about scheduling a baptism or wedding, submitting an article for the newsletter, or participating in programs or events.
- † when you would like to have offering envelopes.
- † when you want to volunteer for one of the congregation's ministries
- † when you think the church can assist you in any way.

Church Office Telephone: 301-473-8626

Email Address: info@stpauljeff.org

***Note: Phone and e-mail messages are checked only
during business hours on weekdays.***

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

when you are unable to reach the church office:

You may call **Pastor Katrina Holland, 301-401-4904** (cell phone),
or email her at pastor@stpauljeff.org.



FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

• • • • DIRECTIONS • • • •

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.



gain as or ear van an for give
gave her on it one other he an a

B _____ w _____ h each
ot _____ d _____ give
_____ e an _____ if _____ y
of you h _____ grie _____ ce
a _____ st some _____ .
For _____ as t _____ L _____ d
for _____ you.”

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” Colossians 3:13, NIV

FORGIVENESS Game

Try this twist on musical chairs.

What you need:

- 28 large index cards
- Black marker
- Two teams of people
- Radio or CD player

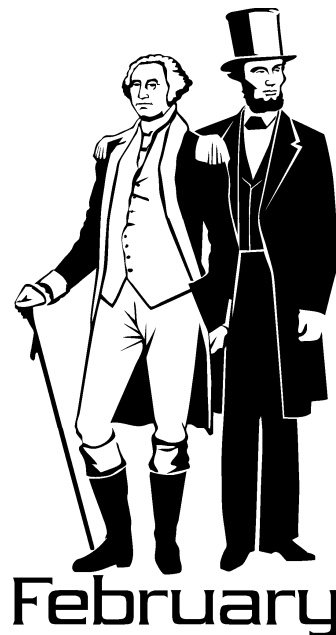
What you do:

1. On index cards, write out *forgiveness*, one letter per card. Make two sets (two F's, two O's, etc.).
2. Mix up the cards and form them face up in a circle on the floor. (You'll have six blanks mixed in.)
3. Have teams mix themselves up and stand in a circle around the cards. Ask an extra person to turn the music on and off.
4. As the music plays, teams walk around the circle. When the music stops, players each pick up the card nearest them.
5. Team members take their cards to a designated area and try to spell forgiveness. Any double letters or blanks go back to the “music person,” who reorganizes remaining cards, spacing them evenly into a fresh circle.
6. Play continues until one team spells *forgiveness*.



February Birthdays

Kathy Iverson	2/1	Brenda Keeler Sparks	2/25
Emma Damazo	2/5	David Stockman	2/27
Jacob Birkholz	2/6	Will Summers	2/27
Carly Cooper	2/7		
Gene Foltz	2/8		
Mary Handley	2/8		
Betty L. Smith	2/8		
Rick Ingram	2/11		
Bill Floria	2/12		
Danny Griffin	2/13		
Joey Galicic	2/15		
Landon Yost	2/16		
Jane Smith	2/18		
Amy Huffer	2/20		
Jennifer Morgan	2/21		
Joe Whitney	2/23		



Note: The Birthday and Anniversary lists include the baptized and voting confirmed members.

We would like contributions of news articles from all corners of St. Paul Church family: youth, choir, women's and men's groups, Sunday School, etc. Please submit your material by placing it in the mailbox marked **Newsletter** or emailing to Newsletter@StPaulJeff.org. Please include your name and phone number. If possible, submit your material by email or on a computer diskette, with a hard copy, noting the type of word processing software used to create it. Note: Items submitted after the deadline may be held until the subsequent newsletter.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 AM Contemporary Service
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Traditional Service
Nursery available

Holy Communion celebrated every Sunday
Food Bank collection the first Sunday of each month

CHURCH MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Church Office: 301-473-8626
www.StPaulJeff.org
Pastor, Katrina Holland
Church Secretary, Secretary@StPaulJeff.org
Andrew Bromhal, Youth Director, Youth@StPaulJeff.org
Fred Chopin, Council President
Lorraine Schneider, Revelations Editor

REVELATIONS

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