
The Lutheran Light

"As the Body of Christ, St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church is called by the Father through the Holy Spirit to worship God and witness to others."

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The Pastor's Prism



What Shall We Pass On?

God gave instructions through Moses to Israel after they had been delivered from Egyptian slavery. They were to remember what God had done for them in leading them out of bondage and through the Reed Sea (Deuteronomy 4:6-8) **"Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise."** Thus, God's leading Israel was a faith story that was to be passed on to succeeding generations.

There are faith stories and memorable experiences here at St. Mary's as well that need to be passed on to those who come after as well. Next year in 2012 we will be celebrating our 250th anniversary as a Christian congregation. It is God's grace that connects us with those who have preceded us and now to be passed on by us.

Thus, we are embarking on a project to collect oral stories from members, former members, and friends of the congregation connected with St. Mary's. Once these stories are collected, we plan to put them in some sort of format that can be shared widely during our 2012 anniversary, and to communicate to those who will come after us of our life as Christians

during this era.

In order to make this possible we need your help! There are a number of ways you can help. First, of all, you have your own story(ies) of what you have experienced or heard from others that involved St. Mary's. Simply jot them down on a piece of paper or e-mail us here at the church office. We will be accepting stories and anecdotes throughout most of 2011 as an exact cut-off time has yet to be identified.

Secondly, if it works better for you to give us oral memories, please call the office so we can schedule an interview. What might be helpful in collecting these stories is to jot down on a list key words that will help you remember the incident. Such an approach can be helpful if you have a number of stories. Then when you're sharing the memory you have something to jog your memory. Also, you may find that in the process of remembering an incident, another memory will come to mind.

We will give a caption to each item that is submitted and identify the person who was the source of the information. It is possible that more than one person will remember particulars of the same incident, perhaps in a differing way. Where there are differences, we'll also include that information and again identify the source.

Furthermore, we will communicate back with you, before producing what you have given us in order to verify that the information we have from

you is correct.

God has given us a long history at St. Mary's that stretches back well before our independence from England, to 1762. Now is our time to reflect on that history and how He has blessed us and our spiritual ancestors who have worshiped and worked to carry forward His mission. His mission continues among us, and an important component is being able to communicate what we know and have experienced by His grace from our spiritual ancestors as well as others. By connecting with our past, we may be better informed in our present, and prepare for the future. We can be grateful to God for what He has given to us but it needs to be told, and that can be done only with your help.

+ "Pr. Lee"

Almighty God, we thank You for the long history of our spiritual ancestors who have worshiped You in this community, and through whom You have entrusted with carrying forward Your mission. Help us in our time to receive joyfully what we have known and have graciously received. Stir up in us Your Spirit that we, too, might know and carry forward Your mission in our time. Then inspire us to remember and communicate that which we have known so that those who follow us here might enjoy our worship and praise of You as we serve the needy neighbor. We ask these things through Your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Whose Name we pray. AMEN