

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."

Vol. 36 No. 01 January 2014

The Pastor's Prism



Here We Go Again!

As we begin another year, we recognize that it is likely to be much like the last one. It's the same in the new year we will experience all sorts of changes that will affect our lives. The writer of Ecclesiastes 3, begins his comments in rather sardonic fashion this way, **"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, an time to die; a time to plant, and time to pluck up what is planted...etc."** He recognized the rhythm to the way things work in the world and comments, **"I have seen the business that God has given to every one to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end"** (3:11). While the writer leaves how the world works a mystery of God's grace, he recognizes that humans have a role in it, and that what humans do in the world is based on the skills He has given them.

In verse 14, the writer declares, **"I know that what ever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe of Him."** This understanding suggests humility about our living in the world and seems to be a helpful approach as we begin a new year. We are not in the world to prove anything but we are here to serve God and His people with the gifts He has equipped us, including using them for the good of our needy neighbors.

That's because as children of God, we have an inheritance that has already been obtained through Jesus Christ.

We obtained our relationship with God as children through Baptism. We have an inheritance that has come because of Christ's death on the cross for our sins and the promise of a future through His resurrection. Knowing this, means that our salvation is assured and we don't have to worry about trying to earn it. Earning our salvation is impossible for who could really be good enough to please God?

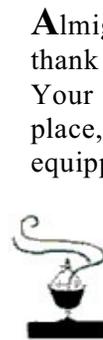
Rather as His children we can now focus on what needs to be done with that which He has given us for the new year. In some cases this will mean continuing doing what we've been doing all along. In other cases this will mean to continue developing or otherwise enhancing the skills He has given us, ultimately leading us towards more faithful living and better service to the neighbor. This is a kind of responsive living that brings us His peace since He has called us into being in the world for this time and place. We can even experience joy because we know He is our Father, and that Jesus through the Holy Spirit has brought us to Him.

The new year comes and it will have many similarities to 2013. We recognize we have little control over some things that will come but God gives us the strength to work with those we can control. Most of all He gives us the insight to know that what we can most control about this new year is how we enter and live in it as individuals, and that He will be with us at all times, for as St. Paul writes in Romans 8, **"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor thing present, nor thing to come, nor powers, nor**

height, nor depth, or anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Yes, here we go again into a new year but in the confidence that Christ is with us in all that we are involved and experiences that come.

+ "Pr. Lee"



Almighty God, we praise and thank You for calling us to be Your children for this time and place, and that You have equipped us with that which we need to be Your children for the world. Keep us in Your will as we begin this new year through using the gifts You have equipped us for Your glory and for the good of others. Strengthen our faith as we face all the unknowns that are ahead us with the confidence of Your abiding Presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord in Whose Name we pray. AMEN

Newsletter Information

Deadline: 3rd Wednesday by 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours: Mon/Wed/Fri 9am-1pm

Please contact the office when:

- ✓ your committee plans a meeting/activity so it can be listed on the master calendar.
- ✓ you have an announcement to be included in the newsletter. (Online Announcement form on our website. Paper announcement forms available on the church and parish house bulletin boards. You may also email your information to the church office, to newsletter@stmaryselc.org)

Council Highlights

The council of St. Mary's Lutheran Church met on Monday, December 9, 2013 at 7:00pm. In attendance were: Craig Fleischer, Dwyn Fleischer, Helen Wolf, Cindy and Rick Sparacino, Pastor Lee, and Treasurer Art Wisner.

1. The council thanks Helen Wolf for being on the church council and serving for five years.
2. Handicapped chairlift is activated for the auditorium and bathroom in Parish House is ready for use.
3. Ushers are needed for January.
4. Social hour for December is Property Committee. Social hour for January is the Church Council.
5. The church will be giving Christmas Care Packages to the shut-ins thanks to the St. Mary's Crafters and the generous donations of others.

The next council meeting will be Monday, January 13, 2014 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwyn Fleischer,
Acting Secretary

Contact Information

Council President: Craig Fleischer 410-346-6065,
Council Vice-President: Dwyn Fleischer 410-346-6065,
Council Secretary: Jill Spriggs 410-751-7670, **Treasurer:** Art Wisner 443-824-3914, **Funeral Reception Committee:** Marion Matthias 410-346-7380,
Outreach/Welcome Chairperson: Jim Crist 410-848-4391, **Christian Education Chairperson:** Laura Bennett 410-346-6729, **Property Committee Chairperson:** Gary Meadows cell 410-236-9161, **Staff Support:** Rick Sparacino 717-637-0067, **Stewardship Chairperson:** (), **Worship & Music Committee Chairperson:** (), **Flower Committee:** Ruth Warfield 443-732-6030 & Ann Pearre 410-346-6686, **Altar Guild Coordinator:** Fran Crist 410-848-4391, **Lector Coordinator:** Jim Crist 410-848-4391, **Acolyte Coordinator:** Zachary Scott, **Front Sign Preparer:** Crystal Ruby, **Bell Ringer:** Junior Miller, **Stamp Coordinator:** Helen Wolf, **Carroll Lutheran School Delegate:** Jim Huber, **Thrivent Liaison:** Donna Myers, **Carroll Lutheran Village Delegates:** Jim & Fran Crist, **Silver Run Food Pantry Program Director:** Brenda Meadows 443-244-0453

As Luther Says...*

Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to. Psalm 37 (v)

The Lord tends to smash to pieces the wisest possible counsels and then to set up others in their place that seem weak or even so despicable as to cause us all to despair. Then He wants from us to have what He has offered us in Psalm 50: "And called upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee". For when everything is either lost or ruined, when people have no other counsel, when everything has been destroyed so that you exclaim: "We are ruined and finished!", then God is there in this situation and says: "I do not want you to be ruined!" This is why we should trust in God even if we have already been supplied with the best and wisest counsels possible and that is why we should not lose heart in the reverse case of insufficient human guidance and help (...). For He is an omnipotent Creator: it is impossible for me to fall too low for Him to pick me up again nor can I be seated too high for Him not to be able to knock me off my own pedestal.

Schriften, 44. Bd., S. 482

*Luther's Breviary. A Meditation for Each Day of the Year, Wartburg Verlag GmbH, Weimar Und Internationale Martin Luther Stiftung, 2007, ISBN 978-3-86160-195-1

Carroll Lutheran School's 12th Annual Consignment Sale

**Saturday, February 8th
7:00 a.m. - Noon**



at the

ShIPLEY Arena

Carroll County Agricultural Center



Kid's Clothing, Shoes, Toys, Sporting Equipment,
Games, Books, Baby Equipment,
Baby Furniture, and Maternity Clothes.

Now Accepting Junior Size Clothes

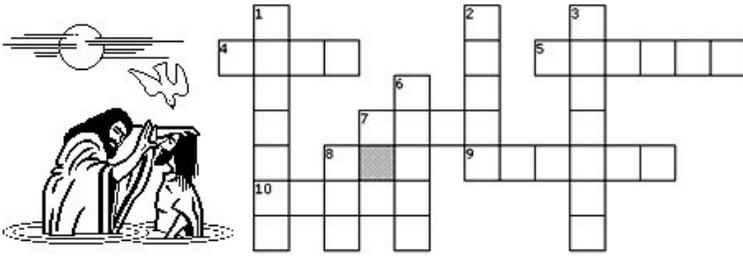
½ Price Sale 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For more information check the School's website at:
www.carrolllutheranschool.org

Kids' Corner

The Baptism of Jesus

Mark 1:10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.



ACROSS

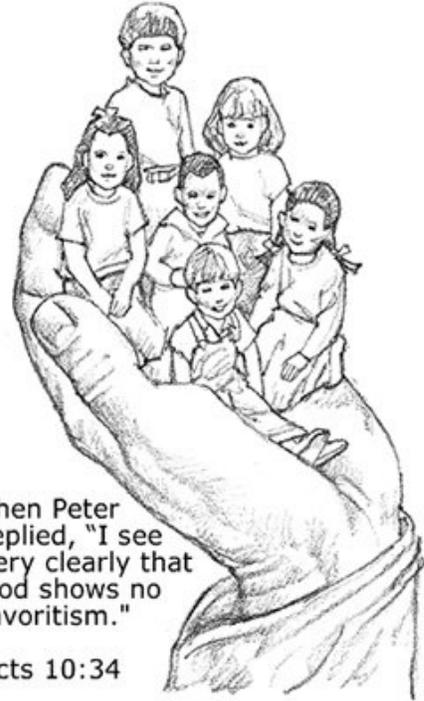
- 4. Name of the man who baptized Jesus.
- 5. The river where Jesus was baptized.
- 7. The Spirit came down from heaven like a _____.
- 9. To turn away from sin.
- 10. What was heard when Jesus was baptized.

DOWN

- 1. To pardon for sins.
- 2. The liquid used to baptize someone.
- 3. To admit that you have done wrong.
- 6. A sticky, sweet fluid made by bees.
- 8. To break one of God's commandments.

Words Used

sin	voice	repent	honey	John
confess	dove	water	forgive	Jordan



Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism."

Acts 10:34

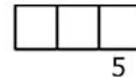
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R	W	B	M	S	T	N	S	H	W	P	T	H	E	A
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I	V	L	R	H	F	P	L	P	Z	L	L	P	E	E
N	F	I	T	N	D	J	G	Q	F	G	H	D	N	R
S	P	O	O	L	O	C	U	S	T	S	O	N	T	M
S	L	C	M	I	F	L	R	Q	F	A	G	B	S	N
C	Z	K	K	J	W	E	S	W	F	Z	O	U	E	N
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G	R	O	R	T	J	C	P	V	Q	Q	A	V	Y	Y
X	D	N	J	K	E	V	B	A	L	E	W	I	N	B
E	A	E	Q	O	S	Y	U	W	H	V	P	H	Q	F
J	N	Y	M	Z	U	J	N	J	M	A	O	M	Z	M
N	O	H	B	L	S	I	T	S	P	J	Q	U	Y	F

John	confess	clothing	Jesus	baptized
sins	locusts	water	repent	Jordan
wild	heaven	forgive	river	Spirit

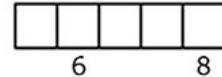
All the Children of the World

Unscramble each word, then use the marked letters to reveal the secret word.

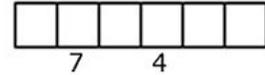
ERD



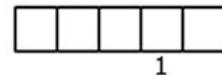
WORN



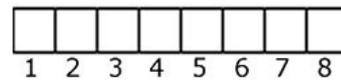
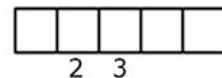
LEYWOL



LKABC



TIHWE



Here is a clue in case you need help!
All of the scrambled words except the final answer are colors.
"They are precious in His sight!"

Go Green for 2014

Help save resources (paper, toner, postage, and time) by joining St. Mary's newsletter email list, you'll be notified monthly when the newsletter has been posted to our website (by the 1st of each month), and a paper copy will no longer be printed and mailed for your household. To join, send an email to newsletter@stmaryselc.org requesting to be placed on the list.



Offering Envelopes

2014 Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up in the overflow room of the church. . Persons with an envelope number above #72 have been issued a lower box number for 2014. **Please fill out your "I intend..." cards and place them in your January 5, 2014, offering envelope.** Your intentions help us in our financial planning and provide a commitment for regular giving. On January 5th we will offer a petition seeking God's hlep and blessings on our intended giving in 2014.



News Around the Parish

COMMITTEE LEADERS - The church office needs the 2014 schedules for usher, altar guild, social hour, etc. as soon as possible. This information is used when typing the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter.

WE ARE UPDATING OUR MAILING LISTS for "The Word in Season" and "The Lutheran" publications that are mailed out by Augsburg Fortress. Please notify the church office in the next two weeks if your household would like to be added or removed from either of these two mailing lists.

REMINDER: Thrivent Members who have Thrivent Choice Dollars to allocate, please go onto the Thrivent web site or call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 to allocate those dollars to the organization of your choice (St. Mary's Lutheran, Carroll Lutheran School, etc.). Also, please be aware that you must re-assign the dollars at least once a year - there is no longer the option to choose an organization once and to keep having your Choice Dollars directed to them.

Notes & Thank Yous

BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Christmas Bazaar on December the 14th. We had enough help that we could provide fill-ins to give others a break. Despite the weather we had a good crowd of visitors (est. 200 to 250). Money is still being tallied but it looks like we cleared over \$4,000.00. The Boy Scouts had 12 boys who helped with parking and the Venture Crew had 6 girls who helped by carrying items to people's car.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR BAKERS! Over 140 dozen cookies were baked and donated to our Christmas Bazaar, also breads, cakes and candies. Those bakers who helped: Janet Heltibridle, Delores Heltibridle, Ruth Warfield, Ann Pearre, Crystal Ruby, Anna Ruby, Jill Spriggs, Suzy Spriggs, Marion Matthias, Helen Wolf, Ann Brumback, Linda Bupp, Cindy Sparacino, and Fran Crist. Thank you to all those who donated ingredients for our baking. Also, thank you to those who came to help with final craft preparations: Stephanie Sparacino, Sandy Warfield (Ruth's daughter).



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to everyone who donated groupings or single items for the Silent Auction. Our profit from the Silent Auction this year was \$1,188.00 Wow!! Many of the successful bidders told me how much they appreciate our auction and bazaar - for several, this is where they do all their Christmas shopping. Thank you again, Fran Crist

THANK YOU TO THE CRAFTER'S GROUP for the 30 decorated gift bags donated to the Food Pantry. They were filled and given out to each family attending on Wednesday, December 18th. The Crafter's Group also decorated and filled gift bags for our shut-ins. Thank you to all who provided items for these bags. They will be delivered today by those members caroling.



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR "CHURCH FAMILY" for the many, many cards, gift cards, food, and honorariums received on the occasion of our 50th wedding anniversary. Thank you all!

~ Jim and Fran Crist

Wellness Notes

We live in a fast paced, high stress world and find less and less time to eat well and exercise. Neglecting our physical well-being affects us not only mentally, but also spiritually.

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Top Ten New Year Resolutions for a Healthier You

At the beginning of each year, people make a list of what they want to achieve for that year. There are many types of New Year resolutions; but in this age, a good list should be focused on your health. So here are the top ten health resolutions for 2014 that can make you healthy and prolong your life.

Increase Your Awareness About Health - Being in the know about many aspects of health can go a long way in your pursuit of a happy and healthy life. Things like ideal weight, important vitamins and minerals, correct posture, right amount of sleep, and proper skin care among other health issues will allow you to prevent or avoid many diseases not only for this year, but for the rest of your life.

Do Regular Exercises - You may have spent a lot of time on your sofa or office chair. So this year, it is time to add more activity to your life, and the best way to stretch your body is through exercise. Studies have repeatedly shown that regular exercise can significantly lower the risk of debilitating diseases like heart ailments, various forms of cancers, and hypertension among others; it also gets you back in shape!

Visit The Doctor And Have Screen Tests - Another year means another increment to your age. As you get older, you need to make it a point to see your doctor and have a medical test every year. Checks must be done for you to know where you stand as to blood pressure, sugar level, cholesterol levels, and other vital aspects of your health. After the New Year fireworks have cleared away,

you must remember to set an appointment with your doctor.

Say No To Alcohol - Alcoholism can bring you diseases like hepatitis and cirrhosis. As heavy drinking can damage your liver, you are left with a malfunctioning cleansing system in your body. This will pave the way for the accumulation of toxins and other wastes and lead to the development of other diseases. The perfect timing to put a stop to your drinking habits is during the New Year as it represents a fresh start in your life.

Stop Smoking - Your smoking habit deserves a special mention on your list of New Year resolutions; because it is such a hard habit to break and it runs completely contrary to your health and fitness goals. You can make use of a wide array of products that can help you quit smoking; like nicotine patches and nicotine replacement chewing gums. A smoke-free year is a good start for your overall health.

Watch Your Blood Pressure - High blood pressure has always been compared to a ticking time bomb. With the way that most Americans are living their lives, high blood pressure has become one of the most devastating health conditions around; the worst part is, you never know when it will hit you. This is why you have to put special attention to and maintain an ideal blood pressure.

Start Taking Vitamin And Mineral Supplements - Vitamins and minerals are very important for your health. But the problem is you can not get all these nutrients from the food that you eat everyday. As 2014 ushers in, it is

time for you to pop into your mouth all the important pills or supplements that will augment the levels of all the vitamins and minerals that your body needs.

Get Better Sleep

You may not be aware of it, but you are getting less and less sleep as the years go by. And that can really be bad for your health. Despite the hectic daily work schedule or big responsibilities at home, always squeeze in at least eight hours of continuous sleep every night.

Enjoy Life - Having a positive take on life in general is a big step towards attaining a happier and disease-free life. It is no use if you only focus on your physical aspects and you forget about your mental or spiritual well-being. Enjoying your life more despite problems at home or at work will allow you to have a balanced way of life.

Lose Unwanted Pounds - Among all types of New Year resolutions, losing weight has been a mainstay on the list. And this has gained more significance now that over 60% of all Americans are considered obese. Being overweight can bring all sorts of ailments physically and mentally.

Come to think of it, losing weight has all the benefits that all the other resolutions mentioned above can provide. Going for your ideal weight is like hitting the whole nine yards of good health. So, as you start a new year, you might want to set realistic goals and focus on the prospect of shedding all those unwanted pounds.



**BUS TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND
THEATRE**

in Lancaster, PA - To See "MOSES"
Sponsored by
Church Women United of Carroll Co.

DATE: Wed. May 28, 2014
COST: \$95.00 Per Person

**Price Includes Bus, Lunch at Plain & Fancy
Restaurant (Family Style) at 12:30 Pm & Show
from 2:45 - 5:45 Pm**

1st Pickup - Bus Leaves at 10:30 Am from
Shepherd Staff Parking Lot, Carroll St.,
Westminster, Md.

2nd Pickup - Bus Leaves at 10:50 Am from Lazarus
Church Parking Lot, Lineboro, Md

Will Return to Westminster by 7:30 Pm
(One Bus Is Filled. Don't Wait to Make
Reservations.)

**Call Mary Jane Graf at 410-374-4478 for
Information and to Make Reservations**

**Money Is Due by April 15, 2014.
Make Checks Payable to
Church Women United,**

**Send To: Mary Jane Graf
5115 South Church Street
Lineboro, MD21102**

Any Questions? Contact Fran Crist 410-848-4391

Stewardship Notes

We've been told this since our days in Sunday school: We want to give and we need to give gladly. A spirit of generosity isn't enough to guide us in our decisions. What else does Scripture have to say on the subject? Three kinds of financial giving are mentioned in the Bible: offerings, tithes and alms. Understanding what they mean helps us achieve a thoughtful, balanced plan for our cheerful giving.

Offerings and Tithing - *On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come* (1 Corinthians 16:2). The faith practice of making a regular financial offering to your congregation is grounded in a "first fruits" philosophy. We might think of this giving as "business as usual." You pay the rent, you buy groceries and you contribute regularly to help carry out God's mission in the world. Your generosity isn't an afterthought; it's part of your day-in- and-day-out joyful response as a child of God. These offerings first help to support local ministries, outreach and more. Your congregation then shares a portion of your offering—mission support—with your synod and the churchwide expression. *Stories of Faith in Action* is filled with examples of how mission support enables us to do God's work with our hands. Many Christians talk about their regular contribution as a tithe. This helps them to differentiate between their financial commitment to their congregation and the special offerings they designate to specific causes. Such causes may include ELCA World Hunger, a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, your congregation's building fund or a pan-Lutheran organization such as Lutheran World Relief. We encourage your designated support of these worthy causes. But we also recommend that these offerings are given above and beyond, and never in place of, your commitment to your regular congregational offering.

Alms - *Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys* (Luke 12:33). Alms are our compassionate, heartfelt response to the people Jesus mentioned in Matthew 25: those "least" of our sisters and brothers who are "less" than we in circumstance only and always our equal in their humanity. This is our most personal and spontaneous kind of giving in response to people in need. Think about the homeless man you see everyday by the bus stop or the family in your congregation whose home was lost during a fire. Your outreach makes God's love for them feel very real and very immediate; your kindness reveals Christ's presence within them as well.

Time and Talent - It's also important to remember that when we focus exclusively on giving in terms of money alone, we lose sight of the bigger picture. God calls us to be generous in all areas our lives and invites us to explore the many opportunities to share ourselves through our time and talent.

When we ground our giving in a biblical context, our financial generosity becomes an expression of our love for God, for our neighbor and for ourselves. We are new people in Christ: compassionate and eager to share. We give cheerfully because God has given us so much.

Silver Run Community Food Pantry
located at
St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church

(Distributed from Parish House located directly
behind Church, Mayberry Road Entrance)



**1st & 3rd Wednesday
of the Month
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

Non-Perishable Food Items Distributed.
All Are Welcome! Donations Accepted!

Email: foodpantry@stmaryselc.org

January 2014

Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation Class 11:00 a.m.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>Worship Helpers</u> Acolyte: Usher: () Communion Asst.: Jim Crist Altar Guild: Fran Crist, Jill Spriggs</p>	<p><u>Anniversaries:</u> Donald & Shirley Stansbury - 1/10/1960 Robert & Dorothy Bowman - 1/29/1956</p>		<p>1 Church Office Closed Silver Run Food Pantry 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>2 Vicki Harner</p>	<p>3 Sonja Main Mark Ruby</p>	<p>4 John Haladej</p>
<p>5 2nd Sunday of Christmas - White Jeremiah 31: 7 - 14 Psalm: 147: 12 - 20 Ephesians 1: 3 - 14 John 1: 1 - 18 Basket Offering - Carroll County Prison Ministry</p>	<p>6 Gail Wisner</p> <p><i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i></p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Linda Bupp</p>	<p>10 </p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Baptism of Our Lord - White Isaiah 42: 1 - 9 Psalm: 29 James Acts 10: 34 - 43 Matthews 3: 13 - 17 Installation of Church Council</p>	<p>13 Church Council Meeting - 7 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Joy Utz Mary Carrington Janet Heltibridle Newsletter Deadline 10 a.m. Silver Run Food Pantry 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>16 Crystal Ruby</p>	<p>17 Suzy Spriggs</p>	<p>18 Melvin Leese <i>Confession of Peter</i></p>
<p>19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany - Green Isaiah 49: 1 - 7 Psalm: 40: 1 - 11 1 Corinthians 1: 1 - 9 John 1: 29 - 42</p>	<p>20 Laura Bennett Roma Harner Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Donald Lawyer Zachary Scott</p>	<p>24 Donald Stansbury</p>	<p>25 <i>Conversion of Paul</i></p>
<p>26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany - Green Isaiah 9: 1 - 4 Psalm: 27: 1, 4 - 9 1 Corinthians 1:10 - 18 Matthew 4: 12 - 23 Social Hour - Council Members</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 </p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	



The Silver Run
Lutheran Light

St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church
 3978 Littlestown Pike
 Westminster, MD 21158-1541
 (Corner of Route 97 and Mayberry Road)
 Silver Run

The Rev. Dr. H. Lee Brumback, II, Pastor

Telephone/FAX: 410-346-7146
 Pastor E-mail: pastor@stmaryselc.org
 Office Email: office@stmaryselc.org
 Food Pantry Email: foodpantry@stmaryselc.org
 Outreach Email: outreach@stmaryselc.org
 Newsletter Editor: newsletter@stmaryselc.org
www.stmaryselc.org

OUR MISSION "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."

**St. Mary's Evangelical
 Lutheran Church**
 3978 Littlestown Pike
 Westminster, MD 21158-1541

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Place Label Here

Go Green for 2014 - Join St. Mary's email newsletter list. You'll be notified monthly when the newsletter has been posted to our website and a paper copy will no longer be printed and mailed for your household. To join, send an email to newsletter@stmaryselc.org requesting to be