

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. 40, No. 03, March 2018

A Word from The Pastor



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Please permit me to introduce myself. I am Rev. W. Allen Reed and I have contracted with your congregational leadership to serve as your interim pastor for the next year.

I live in Hagerstown, MD and my wife Judy and I will be traveling to St. Mary’s for worship each Sunday. In addition, I will be visiting shut-ins, making hospital visits, and meeting with the Church Council each month. I will normally be in the office of Fridays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

If you need to reach me at any time for any reason, please call me at 301-331-6368 or you may e-mail me at either pastor@stmaryselc.org or pastorallenreed@myactv.net.

I look forward to getting to know each of you and walking with you in our common journey of faith.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Allen Reed

Lord Jesus Christ, as we continue moving through this Lenten season, may the cross of Your suffering for us be remembered, and empowering so that in the transitions we experience in life might clarify the vision of the future You want for us. Draw us closer to You and Your cross in ways that will help us to live out faithful and committed service to You and Your people in thankfulness and in accordance with Your divine will. We ask these things in Your Name **AMEN**



Pastor Lee’s Thank You Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Once more Ann and I have been blessed by the outpouring of your love and generosity in the farewell pot luck luncheon (surprise for me, if not for Ann) on Sunday, December 31, 2017. I only knew something was up when I went to the parish house kitchen to bring drinks over for our Property Committee Social time. Yes, I saw the tables were set-up and those there said they were getting ready for a New Year’s party, but then, I didn’t recall seeing anything on the calendar, but I did have moment of wonder if something more might be in planned. I naively decided that a New Year’s party was a possibility because not everything gets on the calendar. However, when I took the drinks over to the church I saw that not much had been done in getting things ready for the social time, and I wondered some more! Then, we had lots more people show up for church than usual, including the Scouts, but I did not dwell on the fact that something might be up because it was time for worship...and worship we did, giving thanks to God for His beloved Son coming among us and receiving the Gift of Word and His special Presence with us through the mystery of faith.

The luncheon was great, thank you, but I regret I didn’t take more time from eating the delicious food to meet with each of you. The comments made about Ann were generous and she really appreciated them. I felt the ones directed my way, while given kindly, were a bit exaggerated because my service with you over these 26+ years is expected and normal for any pastor, “From

everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required, and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded” (Luke 12:48).

Ann and I are also very appreciative of your loyal and faithful support over the years as together we have tried to serve Jesus Christ with you, including reaching our brothers and sisters who are struggling to have their basic needs met. This is evidenced through where most of the proceeds from the Christmas Bazaar and Strawberry Festival go to support groups like Silver Run Community Food Pantry, Rape Crisis, and Shepherds Staff. We pray that this ministry for others will continue, as you shown your support for God’s work being done through the World Vision program as support for Punithkumar Revanna in Bangalore, India, and through our missionaries, Prs. Eric and Wendolyn Trozzo at the Sabah Theological Seminary in Malaysia.

It was very thoughtful of you to make a donation in our honor to the Student Scholarship Fund at the United Lutheran Seminary. Seminary students struggle these days to pay for their education and most come away with heavy debts. You are showing your concern for them and the importance of quality education for our pastors. Thank you for this gift as well.

Again, it has been a privilege to serve together with you our God Who has called us as His children in the love that He has shown us in the life, death, and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord as we know Him through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Your very grateful brother and sister in Christ,

+ “Pr. Lee” and Ann Brumback

Council Highlights



Items from February 12, 2018 Council Meeting:

1. This year for the Lenten soup and bread, we will be featuring the film “The Shack” every Sunday evening from 5-7 beginning Feb 18 and ending on March 25. We will be watching the movie in six parts with light discussion after. If you are interested in contributing a light meal (soup and bread), you are encouraged to sign up, but it is not necessary, you are still welcome. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to provide one of the meals, see Forest Fleischer after church or call 443-789-6603.
2. The Sunday School is working on the Peep Show project which is the Nativity Scene to appear at the Peep Show from March 29-April 10. The Sunday School invites the congregation to come to Carroll Arts Center to support the Sunday School kids.
3. The Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, March 24 at 10am at the Parrish House. The Sunday School is looking for help from the congregation to hide eggs, help with bingo and provide donations. If you can help contact Kelli Scott or Christina Hollenbaugh
4. Mark your calendar for this year’s Vacation Bible School which will take place July 16-20 from 6-8pm with the Theme: God’s Good Creation. If you can help, please contact Kelli Scott or Christina Hollenbaugh.
5. The Sunday School is planning a fieldtrip to Pineview Farms in Littlestown, PA to attend their Easter egg hunt on March 31. Parents will provide transportation for their own children. For more information contact Kelli Scott or Christina Hollenbaugh.
6. The council has approved to make needed repairs to the church roof. We are looking for donations to the building fund to offset the costs.
7. The council has implemented a bad weather policy. If the weather is bad the Pastor and the Council President will decide whether to cancel services and people will be notified by email or phone.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Gail Wisner
 Secretary

Lenten Focus Meals 2018

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Our Ash Wednesday worship service is at 7:30 p.m. will comprise of confession, imposition of ashes, and Holy Communion. Our Lenten offerings will go towards the support of Prs. Eric and Wendolyn Trozzo, missionaries, who serve at the Sabah Lutheran Seminary at the Ecumenical Seminary, Malaysia.

Lenten Focus meetings will be held on Sunday evenings, beginning February 18th through March 25th from 5 – 7 p.m. with a simple supper of bread and soup in the Parish House. We will be watching the film “The Shack” in six parts, followed by light discussion afterwards.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to provide one of the meals, please contact Forest Fleischer after church of call her at 443-789-6603

Below is a list of the remaining Lenten Focus dates:

March 4	Open	March 18	Open
March 11	Wisners	March 25	Open



After suffering a family tragedy, Mack Phillips spirals into a deep depression that causes him to question his innermost beliefs. Facing a crisis of faith, he receives a mysterious letter urging him to an abandoned shack in the Oregon wilderness. Despite his doubts, Mack journeys to the shack and encounters an enigmatic trio of strangers led by a woman named Papa. Through this meeting, Mack finds important truths that will transform his understanding of his tragedy and change his life forever.

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



4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Meal
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Pantry Open

Non-Perishable Food Items Distributed.
 All Are Welcome!
 Donations Accepted!
 Email: foodpantry@stmaryselc.org

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

Positive thinking: Stop negative self-talk to reduce stress

Positive thinking helps with stress management and can even improve your health. Practice overcoming negative self-talk with examples provided.

By Mayo Clinic Staff

Is your glass half-empty or half-full? How you answer this age-old question about positive thinking may reflect your outlook on life, your attitude toward yourself, and whether you're optimistic or pessimistic — and it may even affect your health.

Indeed, some studies show that personality traits such as optimism and pessimism can affect many areas of your health and well-being. The positive thinking that usually comes with optimism is a key part of effective stress management. And effective stress management is associated with many health benefits. If you tend to be pessimistic, don't despair — you can learn positive thinking skills.

Understanding positive thinking and self-talk

Positive thinking doesn't mean that you keep your head in the sand and ignore life's less pleasant situations. Positive thinking just means that you approach unpleasantness in a more positive and productive way. You think the best is going to happen, not the worst.

Positive thinking often starts with self-talk. Self-talk is the endless stream of unspoken thoughts that run through your head. These automatic thoughts can be positive or negative. Some of your self-talk comes from logic and reason. Other self-talk may arise from misconceptions that you create because of lack of information.

If the thoughts that run through your head are mostly negative, your outlook on life is more likely pessimistic. If your thoughts are mostly positive, you're likely an optimist — someone who practices positive thinking.

The health benefits of positive thinking

Researchers continue to explore the effects of positive thinking and optimism on health. Health benefits that positive thinking may provide include:

- Increased life span
- Lower rates of depression
- Lower levels of distress
- Greater resistance to the common cold
- Better psychological and physical well-being
- Better cardiovascular health and reduced risk of death from cardiovascular disease
- Better coping skills during hardships and times of stress

It's unclear why people who engage in positive thinking experience these health benefits. One theory is that having a positive outlook enables you to cope better with stressful situations, which reduces the harmful health effects of stress on your body.

It's also thought that positive and optimistic people tend to live healthier lifestyles — they get more physical activity, follow a healthier diet, and don't smoke or drink alcohol in excess.

Identifying negative thinking

Not sure if your self-talk is positive or negative? Some common forms of negative self-talk include:

- **Filtering.** You magnify the negative aspects of a situation and filter out all of the positive ones. For example, you had a great day at work. You completed your tasks ahead of time and were complimented for doing a speedy and thorough job. That evening, you focus only on your plan to do even more tasks and forget about the compliments you received.

- **Personalizing.** When something bad occurs, you automatically blame yourself. For example, you hear that an evening out with friends is canceled, and you assume that the change in plans is because no one wanted to be around you.
- **Polarizing.** You see things only as either good or bad. There is no middle ground. You feel that you have to be perfect or you're a total failure.

Focusing on positive thinking

You can learn to turn negative thinking into positive thinking. The process is simple, but it does take time and practice — you're creating a new habit, after all. Here are some ways to think and behave in a more positive and optimistic way:

- **Identify areas to change.** If you want to become more optimistic and engage in more positive thinking, first identify areas of your life that you usually think negatively about, whether it's work, your daily commute or a relationship. You can start small by focusing on one area to approach in a more positive way.
- **Be open to humor.** Give yourself permission to smile or laugh, especially during difficult times. Seek humor in everyday happenings. When you can laugh at life, you feel less stressed.
- **Follow a healthy lifestyle.** Aim to exercise for about 30 minutes on most days of the week. You can also break it up into 10-minute chunks of time during the day. Exercise can positively affect mood and reduce stress. Follow a healthy diet to fuel your mind and body. And learn techniques to manage stress.
- **Surround yourself with positive people.** Make sure those in your life are positive, supportive people you can depend on to give helpful advice and feedback. Negative people may increase your stress level and make you doubt your ability to manage stress in healthy ways.
- **Practice positive self-talk.** Start by following one simple rule: Don't say anything to yourself that you wouldn't say to anyone else. Be gentle and encouraging with yourself. If a negative thought enters your mind, evaluate it rationally and respond with affirmations of what is good about you. Think about things you're thankful for in your life.

Here are some examples of negative self-talk and how you can apply a positive thinking twist to them:

Negative self-talk	Positive thinking
I've never done it before.	It's an opportunity to learn something new.
It's too complicated	I'll tackle it from a different angle.
I don't have the resources.	Necessity is the mother of invention.
There's no way it will work.	I can try to make it work.
It's too radical a change.	Let's take a chance.
I'm not going to get any better at this.	I'll give it another try.

Practicing positive thinking every day

If you tend to have a negative outlook, don't expect to become an optimist overnight. But with practice, eventually your self-talk will contain less self-criticism and more self-acceptance. You may also become less critical of the world around you.

When your state of mind is generally optimistic, you're better able to handle everyday stress in a more constructive way. That ability may contribute to the widely observed health benefits of positive thinking.

Stewardship News

Stewardship of Community

Posted by [Center for Stewardship Leaders](#) on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 7:00 AM

I was recently approached by a congregation looking for advice on advertising. You see, they wanted more people to attend their church and give money to their budget. So, they figured, I might have some insight about the places young families went on the internet to search for information about churches.

I ended up having a great conversation with the leaders of the congregation, but it didn't have much at all to do with *advertising*. Instead, we talked about the Spirit's work beyond their walls. We considered how to invite others to join in the Spirit's work in their own congregation. And, mostly, we sought to find a different set of questions -- not about "advertising" at all. Today's post affirms this mindset by considering the stewardship of community.

Yours truly, Adam Copeland, Center for Stewardship Leaders

Stewardship of Community

Ryan Dockery

During my entire process preparing for ordained ministry in the ELCA, I've been surrounded by the notion of the dying church. Churches are getting smaller and smaller. The motto "if you build it, they will come" is no longer a reality. The theory that adults will return to church when they begin having a family is simply no longer valid. Together, we find ourselves asking, "What are we going to do?" "How will the church respond to this societal change in which people no longer find religion to be a necessity for their faith?"

I think we are past the time of the church simply being a place to gather. No longer can we judge the "success" of a congregation by how many butts are in the pews and how much money is in the offering plate each week. Being a good steward of our communities means recognizing that the people who do gather inside the walls of a church do not make up the whole community. There is a group of people missing. Therefore, I think we are in a crucial time of inviting and equipping those who do *gather* to then *scatter*. **It is time we take seriously the charge we cry out at the end of worship: Go in peace and share the good news!**

Part of this call to being good stewards in our communities is a call to take the good news of Jesus Christ into the very places we dwell -- the places we work, shop, hike, drink our coffee, and anywhere else outside the walls of the church. No longer can the Christian community be a once a week gathering. It must become a part of our daily lives. After all, we are called to *go!*

We are called to go into the community to be witnesses. The trick, though, is not to go as though we are bringing God to a place of need. The truth is, God is already present there and our role is simply to be present and aware of what God is up to. So, part of our call to stewardship involves going into our communities to *listen* intentionally to those who aren't in the pews.

When we go, we are not trying to convert people; we are simply trying to live with and among them. We are there to open our ears and hear what the community has to say. We go with no agenda. We do not treat the community like an object, rather a subject. We are called to see communities as God's beloved children.

In *Starting Missional Churches*, Mark Branson writes, "If we are to know God's love of the world, we need to be carried by that love, and that means we will be changed by those who are different." Being good stewards in our communities means encountering those who look, think, and act differently than us. It is not only about what we can bring to the community, but what the community can bring to us. And, in the process, we too can be transformed as we encounter God in and among the communities we serve -- perhaps especially in the places we least expect.

Ryan Dockery is the Pastoral Intern at Messiah Lutheran Church in Vancouver, Washington and is in candidacy through the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod.

Author information was updated as of the article's post date. Author profiles may not reflect author's current employment or location.

World Vision News

WV India relief reaches 22,500 people

The August 2017 floods rattled the north-eastern states of Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Mizoram, taking a toll on more than 790 lives, affecting 30.2 million people. While rescue operations were still on, the local residents struggled to come in terms with, their homes and dear ones being washed away.

55-year-old Budha Sada from Darbangha lost the house he lived with four other family members. "I can't think of rebuilding my house. But, right now my concern is food. We don't have any food left with us," said Budha Sada.



In Bihar alone 2,30,000 people took shelter across 1085 relief camps set up by the government. While in Assam 91 relief camps housed 24,557 people. In West Bengal, the economic damage stood at 14,000 crores. The state government officials and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) took up the rescue operations in the affected areas. Community kitchens were built in many places and relief funds were declared by the governments, besides food and shelter facilities.

Along with the governmental aid, the emergency relief of World Vision India too reached more than 22,500 people. The communities in seven ADPs (Area Development Programmes) of World Vision India, namely Kumarkhand, Saharsha, Khagaria, Lowaripowa, Jorhat, Nabagram and Bardhman, were affected by the floods. Around 3,610 households in Kumarkhand, Saharsha and Darbhanga were provided with dry ration, cooking oil, soaps and tarpaulin sheets.

In Mizoram, World Vision India distributed dry ration and other necessary non-food items to 833 households. World Vision India's immediate relief and recovery measures like food, shelter, sanitation and short-term livelihood facilities played a major role in supporting the lives of the affected people.

I'M YOUR NEW SPONSORED CHILD!



Punithkumar Revanna

World Vision India now plans to provide 8000 families with relief assistance (dry ration, shelter, non-food item) in Bihar (Saharsa, Khagaria, Darbhanga, Kumarkhand), West Bengal (Malda) and Assam (Lowaripowa and Dhemaji)

The West Bengal government has written a letter to World Vision India to provide assistance to the affected families in North Bengal, through water, sanitation and hygiene interventions.
https://www.worldvision.in/ChildSponsorship/stories_details2.aspx?code=328

The Sunday School sponsors Punithkumar Revanna through World Vision with a monthly pledge of \$30.00. **Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate throughout the year, please mark as "World Vision Support".**

Thank you [St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church] for your generous gifts in 2017 totaling \$360.00.

Go Green for 2018

Help save resources (paper, toner, postage, and time) by joining St. Mary's newsletter email list, you'll be emailed the newsletter 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. The current issue of the newsletter along with prior issues can be found at

<http://www.stmaryselc.org/pagenewsletter.html>

Newsletter Information

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

Please contact the office when:

- your committee plans a meeting or activity so it can be listed on the 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).



News Around the Parish

- Church Women United is sponsoring a bus trip to see “The Miracles of Jesus” on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at the Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster, PA. Cost - \$105 per person (included is the bus, show family style lunch at Good & Plenty Restaurant after the show). Tip for bus drive not included. Leave Westminster 8 a.m. from parking lot adjacent to Shepherd Staff, Carroll Street, Westminster. 2nd pick-up from Sunshine Day Care parking lot, Lineboro, MD at 8:40 a.m. Reservations and money due by Sunday, February 25. See Fran Crist for more information.
- World Day of Prayer, Friday March 2, 2018 10:30 a.m. at Carroll Lutheran Village in Krug Chapel sponsored by Church Women United. Program Theme: “All God’s Creation is Very Good” written by Women from Suriname located on the Northern part of South America. Children from Carroll Lutheran School will be participating in the program. All are welcome – men, women and children. If Carroll County Schools are delayed or closed, the World Day of Prayer Service will be held on Friday March 9th.

ELCA Global Church Sponsorship



Missionaries • Young Adults in Global Mission • International Leaders • Global Ministries

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings from ELCA Global Church Sponsorship!

...as we celebrate the revelation of Christ to all nations, we give thanks for your gifts and investments in God’s global work. Your gifts and sponsorship of our missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) volunteers enable our church to engage with every corner of the globe. Without your generosity, we wouldn’t be able to walk alongside our companions as they grow and live into God’s mission.

The missionary sponsorship program is based in mutuality – your prayers, communication, and support allow missionaries to fully live into their ministry, and through this support, you connect with our global companions, deepening in faith and understanding of our global calling in Christ. Through missionary sponsorship, we all grow as a church – **together.**

Recognizing and rejoicing in these relationships, we share the news of a new addition to our Global Church Sponsorship team – Charlotte Flynn joins us as Congregational Support Manager. This new position was created to specifically steward the relationship between your congregation and the mission personnel you support. From sharing news of your missionary, to arranging visits during home assignment, to following up on sponsorship contributions – Charlotte is here to ensure you continue to grow in relationship with your missionary and know the impact possible through your sponsorship.

Because of your support, the ELCA remains committed to supporting and engaging the global church. We will continue to equip and send missionaries, send Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers into a year of service, support evangelism work and provide scholarships to Lutheran companions from around the world. As we continue to live into God’s abundance, we realize this is our chance to make a difference in the world.

Together in Christ,

Andrew G. Steele

Director, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship



Missionary Support (not in our budget) is raised through such things as our Lenten offerings, Strawberry Festival, Christmas Bazaar, and individual donations.

Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate throughout the year, please mark as "Missionary Support".



February 6, 2018

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

Dear Members of St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Give thanks to the Lord, for our God is good; his love endure forever! – Psalm 107.1

What a joy to have St. Mary's in partnership with us in Forward in Faith.

As you may know, I spend a lot of time at Mar-Lu-Ridge, where significant gifts through *Forward in Faith* have made it possible to diversify and expand its staff, deal with delayed maintenance and make a place for 700+ children and youth to have a life-changing experience in Christ!

LEAD, Living Every Day as Disciples, is a process of discernment for which eight of our congregations are finishing their first year and ten more are about to embark on the journey. *Forward in Faith* subsidizes that process so that we can have healthier, more vibrant ministries across this corner of Christ's kingdom!

Campus Ministry across our synod received a generous gift through *Forward in Faith* assuring the future for the next generation and making valuable resources available for service-learning, on campus Bible Studies and Suppers and travel to see the larger life of the church at work. Because of your generosity, Angela sought the sacrament of Baptism; a new life begun in Christ!

Your St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church gift of \$160 in thanks for Pastor Robin Simpson Litton's time with you will go toward our *Forward in Faith* campaign and is making a difference in the life of this church, in our congregations, in our ministries – and in the lives of real people, real seminarians. Your gifts combined with the gifts of many others have already helped us to crest our original 2.5 million goal and is helping us reach deeper and further, stretching our goal to \$3.5 million and that many more lives and ministries touched by your generosity and God's grace.

Thank you for your partnership – and for making a difference for the sake of Christ and this world God loves so very much.

With real gratitude,

The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Bishop
 Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA

WHEN GRIEF COLORS THE HOLIDAYS

**Managing the Absence of a Loved One
 During the Festive Season**

A free program offered by Spiritual Care and Education
 of WellSpan Health

Presented by: The Very Rev. Dr. Vasyl E. Marchak
 Manager, Spiritual Care and Education

Friday, March 16, 2018

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

At Gettysburg Hospital's Boardroom

Please call 717-337-4310 for reservations

Seating is Limited – Parking is free



Egg Hunt and Bingo

All children ages 0-13

March 24, 2018 at 10:00AM

St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church
 3978 Littlestown Pike, Westminster Md.

For more information contact

Kelli Scott 717-359-0575 or

scottrk1@embarqmail.com

Or the church office at 410-346-7146

Will be held rain or shine!!

B	I	N	G	O
7	25	44	57	62
15	22	40	50	70
11	30	FREE SPACE	46	74
2	28	37	55	68
10	27	39	59	75

Donations & Help Needed

I am beginning to collect donations for our egg hunt. I am looking for medium plastic eggs, chocolates (preferably no nuts), bingo Prizes, or monetary donations. **I am looking for help on March 24 at our egg hunt.** If you are able to help or if you know a teenager looking for service hours, please contact me, Kelli Scott. For questions, contact Kelli Scott at

scottrk1@embarqmail.com or 717-359-0575.

Prayer Ventures

- 1 Pray for the work, advocacy and networks of ELCA Disability Ministry and that our congregations and ministries work together to invite, embrace and include people living with disabilities in the life of the church – without hesitation or preconceptions.
- 2 Remember in prayer our 65 synod bishops, ELCA presiding bishop and secretary gathered for the Conference of Bishops in Chicago. Give thanks for their service to the church and pray their times of worship, study, sharing and business strengthen their faith and leadership and guide the mission of our church.
- 3 Give thanks for music in our lives and worship, a gift that lifts our spirits, draws people together, gives expression to our emotions and thoughts, helps us reflect on our faith and Scripture, and expresses our praise and thanksgiving to God.
- 4 The church is not immune from the temptations of commercialization, profit and consumption. Pray we keep Jesus Christ at the center of all we do, strive to be and witness to; ask God to help us be mindful of the teachings of Jesus commending generosity, simplicity and attentiveness to the needs and circumstances of our neighbor and the world.
- 5 Remember in prayer communities nervously anticipating potential spring storms and severe weather. Pray their preparations, if needed, help preserve life and property, and give thanks for Lutheran Disaster Response, first responders, volunteers and members of the military who stand ready to assist.
- 6 Pray our personal reflections during Lent, as discomfiting and disheartening as they may be, do not lose sight of the promise that we are not worthless, lost or alone – God knows us, loves us, draws us close and graciously claims us.
- 7 In a time when we bicker over power, superiority and influence, give thanks that through the humility, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus we experience a different understanding and use of power and authority – God's unrivaled power and sacrificial love for the sake of the world, especially our neighbors who are oppressed, hungry, poor, ignored, suffering and long for hope.
- 8 Pray for farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers preparing for planting crops, managing animals and livestock, and the hard work that comes with every spring, that the world may be fed and nourished through their bountiful harvests and endeavors.
- 9 Give thanks for our ELCA seminaries and lay schools for ministry. Ask God to bless their work and efforts in identifying, inviting, preparing, renewing and encouraging women and men for ministry in diverse contexts and communities.
- 10 Remember in prayer the service and witness of the 10 young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Madagascar; the Rev. Kirsten Laderach, YAGM country coordinator; and the Rev. Lancelot Themba and Kwena Mkhabela, regional representatives for Madagascar, West and Central Africa.
- 11 We ask God to help us be thoughtful and articulate in our witness and interactions with others, that we are comfortable in using our own words and imagery to respond to questions about our faith, describe God's love and activity in the world, and talk about Jesus.
- 12 We remember in prayer Lutheran Men in Mission and Women of the ELCA, ministries that strengthen the faith of Lutheran men and women of all ages, encourage bold lives of faith and service, cultivate leaders, and attend to needs of men and women.
- 13 Give thanks for the rich partnership and relationship we have with the Presbyterian Church (USA), a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997. Pray for their church and ask God to further our respect for one another and work together sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.
- 14 "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever." In every danger, illness, uncertainty and difficult circumstance, turn to God in prayer asking for God's loving attention, mercy, direction and healing.
- 15 Pray the Spirit will help us focus on the cross throughout Lent, seeing with greater clarity and richness its symbolism and meaning for the world as a daily reminder of the gift we have in Jesus Christ, a gift that gives newness, hope, purpose and direction for daily life.
- 16 By grace we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ – a wonderful, undeserved gift from God. Praise God!
- 17 Pray the leaders of our nations are moved to heal old and new rifts, work together for justice and peace, and share resources for the well-being and prosperity of all people.
- 18 In baptism our old, flawed self is washed away – and dies – revealing a new life and identity we have together in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Pray we each remember our baptism and the promise of God's daily, enduring gift of forgiveness and love.
- 19 Make Psalm 51 a frequent prayer during Lent: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit."
- 20 Pray for our continuing generosity in response to *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*; give thanks for its impact, including the support of 11 Global Ministry Projects helping strengthen, support and empower our companion churches in building new congregations, outreach to youth, training pastors and evangelists, and much more.
- 21 The ELCA and The Episcopal Church are committed to prayer, fasting and advocacy addressing cuts to public programs that are vital to hungry people who are living in poverty. Remember to pray for these concerns, our leaders and people in need on the 21st of each month through December 2018.
- 22 We remember in our prayers people who travel frequently for work, spending time away from their home, family, social networks and congregation. Pray they remain connected and can find opportunities for worship and renewal when away from home.
- 23 God's word and ways are written on our hearts, part of our very being and existence as baptized children of God. Ask God to help us be attentive in daily life to the spirit within us that gives our lives purpose, inspires us to be just and merciful, and helps us make decisions that please God and consider the needs of our neighbor.
- 24 Remembering the life, witness and advocacy of Oscar Romero (1917-1980), bishop of El Salvador, we recognize and give thanks for our brothers and sisters in Christ who work against oppression, defend the rights of the poor and risk their lives for peace in Central America and elsewhere in the world.
- 25 *Palm Sunday* Drawn into the passion story in the Gospels, we pray the vulnerability, sacrifice and love of Jesus Christ stirs our faith and instructs and emboldens us as followers, servants, leaders, citizens and bearers of the good news.
- 26 Ask God to strengthen us as servants who are given new life and freedom in Christ and are called and endowed with the Spirit to help bring peace, justice, hope and light to the world.
- 27 Pray our Holy Week and Easter traditions, worship and family activities are grounded in God's word and the gospel and not distracted or diminished by the commercialization or popularization of this time of anticipation, reflection and celebration of Jesus Christ – our salvation and hope.
- 28 Whenever we gather as the people of God to celebrate Holy Communion, we come together to receive God's grace and to be nourished and sustained for sharing our faith, serving our neighbor and growing the church. Give thanks and praise to God for the presence of Jesus Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 29 *Maundy Thursday* Pray we, as modern-day disciples, are not afraid to draw close to one another and our neighbor to better understand and serve each other with humility, empathy, compassion and courage.
- 30 *Good Friday* At the foot of the cross and remembering the suffering and death of Jesus on our behalf, we reaffirm that, although we are not strangers to sin, darkness and death, we also live in the reality of God's mercy, grace and new life given to us through the risen Jesus. With both humility and joy, raise up prayers of thanks and praise to God.
- 31 *Vigil of Easter* In the midst of the joy and thankfulness bound up in the good news of Easter and Jesus' resurrection, we confess we sometimes have questions and skepticisms we keep to ourselves. Ask God to create in us hearts and minds receptive to the wonderful gift and mystery of our salvation, place people in our lives who encourage our faith, and help us be alert to signs of God's redemptive presence and work in the world.

March 2018

** Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday.

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Class 11:00 a.m. Adult Bible Discussion 11:00 a.m.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Anniversaries: Rodney and Linda Bupp - March 17, 1990 Arthur and Gail Wisner - March 20, 1982	Worship Helpers Communion Assist: Laura Bennett Altar Guild: Ruth Warfield, Donna Reed Usher: Fleischer Family			1 Kelsey Powell	2	3 Kelli Scott
4 3 rd Sunday in Lent – Purple Exodus 20: 1 - 17 Psalm: 19 1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 25 John 2: 13 - 22 Basket Offerings – Pleasant Valley Fire Co. Lenten Focus #3 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	5	6	7 Bertha Miller Silver Run Food Pantry 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Meal 5:30 – 6:30 p.m Open	8	9	10 Faye Boughter Paul Sell
11 4 th Sunday in Lent - Purple Numbers 21: 4 - 9 Psalm: 107: 1 – 3, 17 - 22 Ephesians 2: 1 - 10 John 3: 14 - 21 Lenten Focus #4 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m..	12 Donna Myers Church Council Meeting – 7 p.m.	13	14	15	16	17
18 5 th Sunday in Lent – Purple Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34 Psalm: 51: 1 - 12 Hebrews 5: 5 – 10 John 12: 20 - 33 Lenten Focus #5 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	19 Jason Bennett	20	21 Newsletter Deadline 10 a.m. Silver Run Food Pantry 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Meal 5:30 – 6:30 p.m Open	22	23	24
25 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday – Scarlet Processional with Palms: Mark 11: 1 - 11 Isaiah 50: 4 – 9a Psalm: 31: 9 - 16 Philippians 2: 5 – 11 Mark 14: 1 –15: 47 Lenten Focus #5 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Social Time – Council Members	26 Dorothy Bowman	27	28	29 Maundy Thursday Service - 7:30 p.m.	30 Stations of the Cross – 2 p.m. Good Friday Service – 7:30 p.m.	31

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. W. Allen Reed, Pastor



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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."

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