

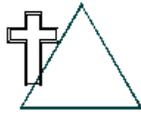
The Lutheran Light

“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. 08, October 2014

The Pastor’s Prism

Remaining Positive with Christ



As a youth growing up on the farm I looked forward to the cooling days of fall after the humid, hot days of August of putting up props under the fruit laden branches in the apple orchards. Fall was a time when I could make some money for purchasing Christmas gifts from picking apples. It was a time as well for squirrel hunting and preparing for deer season surrounded by all the beauty of fall colors, bright, clear skies, and increasingly crisp nights.

My appreciation for fall has changed with the years now that TV and telephone are so much a part of our lives. This fall we are constantly subject to political ads and phone calls, which are beyond annoying, from candidates running for one office or another. The political ads come on TV during a prime time show that Ann and I often watch, and the telephone calls seem to come always around our supper time.

The negative political ads are particularly troubling. Obviously, the use of negative campaigning in winning votes is believed to work by the candidates or they wouldn’t be using them! Such ads may feed into our fears at what might happen if the candidate spoken against wins the election, particularly if the candidate spoken against doesn’t counteract what’s being said about him/her.

We do tend to remember negative things said about people more than complimentary things. For example, think how long you remember when someone said something negative about you as opposed to how long you remembered a compliment. Perhaps remembering the negative is tied into a primitive portion of the brain where

remembering negative experiences prepared humans for the next dangerous encounter in a world that seemed threatening.

Negative campaigning may be effecting us in other ways as well. Could it be a factor in declining voter turn-out at the polls that indicates our disgust with government in general, and particularly politicians? This feeling may have been further expanded in us because the political parties, particularly at the highest level of government, seem to be constantly at odds with one another and unable to arrive at solutions for many of the problems facing this country.

All this may be effecting us and our relationship with one another. Do we see evidence of this in the road rage, which seems to be more prominent these days? Could this negativity and unwillingness to cooperate be another reason there are so many divorces, as couples seem unable to work out their differences?

Of course, one can’t simply relate negative campaigning to everything presented above because we are dealing with a paradox, like whether to blame first the culture or blame first, the candidates. It may be like which came first, the chicken or the egg

As Christians, we are not likely to change the negative campaigning but by being aware of what’s happening to us individually can be an important first step in minimizing its influence.

As Christians we have the model of Christ to follow in living differently from the negative things that come from the culture. His model is the way of God’s love. The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) gives us the way of living

in His love that is different from the negatively of our culture. It is the way of honoring God as we try to understand ourselves and serve our neighbors. In His sermon He teaches about being proactive to the culture which invades our lives. We are called to be the salt of the earth and light to the world as we deal with our anger, live in families and deal with government (oath taking), how to handle those who have wronged us, sharing our resources, dealing with our enemies, judging others, etc. Jesus said that those who build on His words and acts on them in love will be like those who built their homes on rock. It is the way of God’s love and such a house built on Him will not fall when the negativity, aggravations, and storms that come from candidates and others.

+ “Pr. Lee”

Almighty God, we delight in the changes of the seasons as we experience the fall and Your wondrous creation all about us. At the same time we are concerned about those who try to make this a



season of negativity through their political campaigns. Keep us free from their damaging influence and lead us to follow

the love that Your Son spoke to us about and lived out for us. Send Your Spirit that we live and promote His love for all people by being who You have called us to be in all circumstances of our lives. We ask this through Your Son Jesus Christ 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

- October 5th – Creature Blessings Service here in Parish House at 9:30 a.m.. Please bring your pets.
- October 19th – Healing Service. October 26th – Luther's Choral Service
- Please consider being on council. We will be having many openings starting 2015!!
- Let Cindy Sparacino know if any events are going on in Parish House from now until Christmas, as the crafters will be needing/using the space. They will clean up as needed.

Submitted by Jill Spriggs

News Around the Parish

Church Council Members Needed! Rick and Cindy Sparacino and Dwyn Flesicher will be leaving the church council at the end of 2014, leaving us with Craig Fleischer, Frank Blickenstff, and Jill Spriggs (maybe?), with Pastor Lee as ex officio member. Basic responsibilities: "The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" (Constitution and By-laws of St. Mary's ELC, C12.04) Please give prayerful consideration to serving your church in this way. Term of office is for three (3) years, with the possibility of an additional three years.

Daily Faith Practices is the theme of a Bible Study class Pastor Lee will be leading each Sunday during the month of October from 11 a.m. – 12 Noon (the Sunday school hour). Studies will focus on readings from Philippians and Thessalonians, and how they connect with our lives today. Classes will be held in the Parish House Kitchen. Classes will begin on October 5th. Contact Pastor Lee (410-346-7146) if you would like more information

Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on August 17 was Riley Brett Haines, infant son of Brett Michael and Andrea (Hood) Haines. God parents are Joshua Sanders (Brett's 1st cousin) of Littlestown, PA, and Hannah Wood (Andrea's sister) of Coppermine, MD. Riley was born on March 20, 2014 in Sun Ridge, Wisconsin.

As Luther Says...*

We Christians are admittedly not citizens here on earth, where the worldlings dwell and have their home and heaven. But our citizenship, says St. Paul (Phil. 3:20), is with Christ in heaven, that is, in yonder life. For this we are waiting. We are hoping to be released from this world as the Jews hoped to be released from Babylon and to go where we shall be citizens and lords forever. But since we must continue in this misery of our Babylon as long as God wills it, we should do as they were commanded to do. We should live with the people here, eat and drink, keep house, cultivate the soil, rule, be peaceable in our relations with our fellow men, also pray for them until the hour arrives in which we are to depart for our home.

Now whoever can lead such an orderly and discriminating life will know how to withstand successfully the sectarian spirits of all sorts who are opposing this way of life by their shocking behavior. They either want to escape from the world entirely, unwilling to associate with anyone, or they begin to disturb civil government and order, subverting everything;... they meddle with the government of the world under the very pretense and name of Christianity, lusting to be temporal lords. But since we, as Christians, have the forgiveness of sins and are now the people of God and children of the Kingdom, who no longer belong to this Babylon but to heaven, we should also know that during the time we are still to live here among strangers we should live godly, honorable, and orderly lives. We should aid in maintaining the common civic and domestic peace and by our advice and help serve and benefit even the wicked and ungrateful. Meanwhile, however, we are continually to remember and ponder our inheritance and the Kingdom for which we are destined."

**What Luther Says*, Ewald M. Plass, compiler, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House. 1959. 8th printing. 1402:4523

5 K Run to Benefit the Tory Mae Chandler Foundation

(Young lady dies as a result of car accident, who worked for Brewer's Market) on Saturday, October 4th, at Hashawha Environmental Center, 300 John Owings Road. Registration is at 9 a.m. with the run starting at 10 a.m. Drinks and cash are also welcome. For more information, please contact Forest Fleischer, 443-789-7603 and/or you may wish to visit the website

www.active.com/westminster-md/running/distance-running-race/tory-s-trek-2014.

Prayer Ventures

October 1 - Guide the U.S. president, his counselors and all men and women in authority that they may be just in purpose, wise in counsel and unwavering in duty.

October 2 - We pray for the 63 ELCA young adults who have begun a year-long journey in which they will live, learn and serve with ELCA companion churches and partner organizations overseas.

October 3 - We give thanks for the Lutheran, Anglican and Episcopal leaders and their recent pastoral message on climate change. As Christians, we are united in our concern for the well-being of our neighbors and of God's good creation.

October 4 - In gratitude for the lives of saints, especially Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, and Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, who we commemorate today and in whom God reveals God's love for the world.

October 5 - We celebrate and give thanks for our church's five-year comprehensive campaign, *"Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA,"* which seeks to raise funds to sustain and grow the ministries of the ELCA.

October 6 - Inspire us with the memory of William Tyndale, translator and martyr, whose faithfulness led to the way of the cross, and whom we commemorate today.

October 7 - We give thanks for your servant Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, who was faithful in the care and nurture of your flock. We pray that, following his example and the teaching of his holy life, we may by your grace attain our fullness in Christ.

October 8 - We give thanks for ELCA's Good Gifts, designed to help grow this church, fight hunger and transform lives. We are a church that is freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

October 9 - We pray for the West African nations that are struggling with Ebola outbreaks of unprecedented severity. Through ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster response and the ELCA Malaria Campaign, we walk together with our Lutheran companions all over the world as they respond to hunger, disaster and disease with compassion and action.

October 10 - With gracious and open hearts and minds, we give thanks to ELCA members and congregations for their commitment to engage in an important study and conversation this fall, centered on the invitation to Holy Communion.

October 11 - Merciful God, help us reach out to those who are stumbling in deep, dark sadness, and who have thoughts towards suicide. As a community of faith, guide us as we bring awareness to this very real and tragic epidemic, so that those who suffer may find hope and meaning for their lives.

October 12 - We give thanks for all those who lead in worship. We are a church that, through worship, are fed and sent in the name of Christ for the sake of the world.

October 13 - On this Day of Thanksgiving in Canada, we give thanks for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. As members of The Lutheran World Federation, the ELCA and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada share a vision of "living and working together for a just, peaceful, and reconciled world."s m

October 14 - We give thanks for ELCA Vision for Mission and its call to do God's work with our hands. Gifts to Vision for Mission help open doors to new ministries, revitalize existing congregations, share the gospel with others and grow the church for the sake of the world.

October 15 - We praise you for your servant Teresa of Avila, teacher and renewer of the church, who we commemorate on this day. Like Teresa and the saints who walked with her, raise up in our own day teachers and prophets inspired by you with voices that give strength to our church.

October 16 - We pray for unaccompanied and migrant children arriving in the United States, as a result of risk factors causing them to leave their home countries. As members of the ELCA, we are called to love and welcome all.

October 17 - Inspire us with the memory of Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch and martyr, whose faithfulness led to the way of the cross, and who we commemorate today. Bless all women and men who have given their lives in witness to your love and truth.

October 18 - Let us celebrate Luke, who we know as the author of both Luke and Acts. Guide us as we meet God in Scripture, where God's relationship to and intention for humankind is revealed.

October 19 - Gracious God, cycles of violence seem never-ending. Lead us from prejudice to truth and deliver us from hatred, cruelty and revenge.

October 20 - In a living example of caring for our neighbor, we give thanks to those who, through the ELCA and Lutheran Disaster Response, are responding to unaccompanied and migrant children with grace and compassion.

October 21 - God of wisdom, we give thanks for the incredible work being done across this church and beyond to make faith formation among our children and youth a relevant, meaningful process.

October 22 - We give thanks for the thousands of ELCA members who served their communities as part of "God's work. Our hands." Sunday in September. Help us remember that we truly are the body of Christ together in service.

October 23 - Inspire us with the memory of James of Jerusalem, martyr and whose faithfulness led to the way of the cross, and who we commemorate today. Like James, give us courage to bear full witness with our lives to Jesus' victory over sin and death.

October 24 - Guide those who lead and participate in the Book of Faith Initiative, which strives to increase biblical literacy and fluency for the sake of the world.

October 25 - Help us discover ways of walking with and serving alongside people who are living with HIV and AIDS. Ground us in your love and forgiveness, as we are called to discern what it means to be a church that is HIV-positive.

October 26 - We give thanks for Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann and Paul Gerhardt, hymnwriters, who all worked in 17th century Germany in times of war and plague, and who our church commemorates on this day. Inspire all who offer their gifts of music in glorifying God.

October 27 - Bless all our congregations and ministries that are invited to celebrate Global Church Sunday this fall, with the goal for deepening our church's connection and common mission within Christ's global church.

October 28 - We give thanks for the apostles, especially Simon and Jude, who we celebrate today. As they were faithful and zealous in God's mission, so may we with our faith and devotion make known the love and mercy of Jesus Christ.

October 29 - Our faith liberates us to embrace each person in their wholeness. We give thanks for the ELCA's Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries team, and its mission of assisting our church in becoming more culturally diverse and anti-racist.

October 30 - We give thanks for the ELCA Malaria Campaign, ELCA members and our companions overseas who help reduce the number of deaths from this preventable, treatable disease. We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world— together.

October 31 - We thank you, God, that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. On this day when we celebrate Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, guide the planning and efforts for the ELCA's observance of 500 Years of Evangelical Reformation in 2017.

Why We Worship

Over the next six editions of this newsletter we plan to offer a review on “Why We Worship”, which is hoped to enforce understanding and growth of the worship experience we share in Christ.

I. We Worship Because It Is Sunday

It would be terrible if every day were alike, if the year were nothing but an endless cycle of producing and consuming and disposing, working and spending and playing and working again. Life would be but a treadmill of drudgery and meaninglessness.

One day of the week, however, invades time and stops the drudgery. It is Sunday, a very special day – not because it it’s a day for sleeping late or playing golf or reading the newspaper, but because it is the Lord’s Day.

Sunday came to be called the Lord’s Day because it has always been the day on which the Lord’s Supper is celebrated. Why the Lord’s supper on Sunday? Because in that meal the risen Christ is revealed to his people. Sunday is the day we go forth to meet the crucified one who has risen from the grave, the day we assemble to share his body and blood. IN the Lord’s Supper on the Lord’s Day around the Lord’s table, we encounter the risen Lord! Sunday is not principally a day for rest or recreation but the day when we assemble for worship. In Word and Sacrament, Christ gives us his life, without which we cannot live.

Sunday is the day Christians are lifted off the treadmill of life, and we lift up our hearts and give thanks to the Lord. Sunday’s rhythm is different from the other days of the week – for us, it is not so much the first day of the week as it is the “Eighth Day,” to use an ancient name. It is the day of new beginning – not so much the beginning of a new week but the beginning of God’s new age.

God has brought us into this new age in Baptism, and we are nourished in it in the Eucharist. This new age, sometimes called the reign of God, is the age of life after death, light after darkness, peace after conflict, wholeness after brokenness, freedom after bondage, grace after guilt. No amount of Saturdays can bring such a new age; it is not the result of rest or relaxation. Sunday is not a day for recreation but for creation. This new creation, this new age, is the work of God, and God brings us into it in Sunday worship. The Sunday liturgy gives us a foretaste of the feast to come, a glimpse of God’s future in the present.

Written by S. Anita Stauffer. Reprinted by permission from Liturgy vol.8, no.1 (Summer 1989).

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October 2014

** Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday.

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Class 11:00 a.m.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Anniversaries: Jason and Laura Bennett – 10/21/2000 Craig and Dwyann Fleischer – 10/02/1982 Clifford and Mary Krebs – 10/11/1992	Worship Helpers Acolyte: Suzy Spriggs, Gillian Scott Usher: Helen Wolf, Mark Ruby Communion Asst.: Franc Crist Altar Guild: Ruth Warfield		1 Silver Run Food Pantry 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	2	3 Judith Bollinger Melissa Wisner	4
5 Marion Matthias 17 th Sunday after Pentecost – Green Creature Blessing Service Isaiah 5: 1 - 7 Psalm: 80: 7 - 15 Philippians 3: 4b - 14 Matthew 21: 33 - 46 Basket Offering –Littlestown Alpha Fire Co.	6 Church Council Meeting – 7 p.m.	7	8	9	10	11
12 Curtis Meadows 18 th Sunday after Pentecost –Green Isaiah 25: 1 - 9 Psalm: 23 Philippians 4: 1 - 9 Matthew 22: 1 - 14	13	14	15 Silver Run Food Pantry 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	16	17	18 Joye Kaufman
19 19 th Sunday after Pentecost – Green 8:30 a.m. – Eucharist 9:30 a.m. – Healing Service Isaiah 45: 1 - 7 Psalm: 96: 1 -13 1 Thessalonians 1: 1 - 10 Matthew 22: 15 - 22	20 John Haifley	21 Leslie Philips	22	23	24 Pat Armstrong James Crist	25
26 Ruth Warfield Reformation Sunday – Red Luther’s Choral Mass Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34 Psalm: 46 Romans 3: 19 - 28 John 8: 31 - 36 Social Time – Worship & Music	27	28 Devin Carrington	29 Luther Colloquy, Gettysburg Seminary	30	31 Stephanie Sparacino 7:30 p.m. Music Gettysburg Windsbocher Knebercher (Bavarian Lutherans)	

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

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In this issue...

Pastor's Prism/Prayer	1
Newsletter Information	2
Council Highlights	2
News Around the Parish	2
As Luther Says...	2
5K Run Benefit	2
Prayer Ventures	3
Why We Worship	4
Contact Information	4
October Calendar	5