

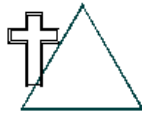
The Lutheran Light

“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.”

No Newsletter published in July/August 2014.

Vol. 36, No. 07, September 2014

The Pastor’s Prism



When Little is Much

When I was weeding in our front yard with my Jamaican machete I used the back point of the blade to tap the stump of the birch tree I had cut down some years ago. I was surprised that it sounded hollow, so I tapped it a bit harder. This time a portion of the stump gave away and almost immediately hundreds of tiny brown ants emerged from the cavity I had made and were scurrying in an agitated manner in every direction. Upon closer examination I discovered that I had damaged the ants’ brood chamber. This was not a good thing for the ants, and it left me with a sense of guilt about what I had done in interfering with their lives. There was little I could do but leave them alone, and that’s what I did. My little tapping had made a big difference to a whole colony of creatures.

I checked the ants situation about an hour later and found that they were now highly organized and busy removing the debris in a very deliberate manner. A day later, the debris had been used to plug the hole that I had made and I didn’t see any ants but I expect they were busy inside the stump.

Of course, we humans are constantly interfering with the nature in a multitude of ways that we are hardly ever made aware of to investigate or “make progress” for ourselves as we do things like built roads, clear forests, and use weed-killer on our lawns, bushes, flowers, and trees. While we all recognize animals and birds that get killed on our roads, we’re probably not aware of the slaughter of earthworms that

happens after rains. In fact, on the mornings I jog after a rain, there is the unmistakable smell of dead earthworms that got squashed crossing the road by the traffic.

We just seem to have little awareness of how our “normal” lives are affecting the creatures and the creation about us by some of those little things we do in life. Since God has created everything, including the littlest creatures, we need to be more sensitive about our relationship to them, and that includes not only ants and earthworms but flies, mosquitoes, cockroaches, and stink bugs as well! We don’t always have to destroy them when they interfere with our lives but we can remove them and eliminate conditions that foster their seeking to attack or live with us.

There is another way in which a little means much, and that is in our relationship with God and one another. Jesus said that if we had the faith the size of mustard seeds we could move mountains (Matthew 17:20; Luke 17:6). That was the faith of Abraham had in God when left Haran with his family to relocate to Canaan and beyond. It was the faith David showed when he felt David with a single stone. It was the little faith in the resurrected Jesus that led Stephen and all His disciples throughout the ages to stand fast in adversity, even death.

Our little faith in Jesus Christ, which has come to us, has the potential of leading to much more than we realize: as we offer our prayers for others; as we affirm and build up others, rather than focusing

on the negatives; in random acts of kindness towards others; in expressing appreciation for the good effort of others; when we show heartfelt concern for others who are experiencing difficulties and need someone to listen and not judge them; etc. Living with the little faith that we have makes it possible for much to happen and that will happen by God’s grace and on His time schedule not our own.

Perhaps much we do in life seem little and insignificant but we can be sure there is a bigger purpose going on of which we are part. Greater sensitivity to our surroundings and to one another in small ways may lead us to more fully grasping our role as God’s people through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit for this is the little time He has given us in this world in the eternal scheme of things.

+ “Pr. Lee”

Almighty God, as You have called us out of eternity to be a part of this age, stir up in us that faith You have given us, which seems small to us, so



that we may deal wisely with all that is Your world and Your people. Help us to see, respect, honor, and care for Your creation and one another in ways that will glorify You and give hope to others. This we ask through the One Who is the Hope of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

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

Yoga

A regular Yoga/Relaxation Practice can:

- Teach integration of the mind and body through physical activity
- Help focus and discipline the mind
- Bring a sense of balance to your life
- Teach relaxation tools that you can take off the mat and into the rest of your life
- Show you how to relax into life's difficulties, keep breathing and better cope
- Can be done by everybody – including those who practice in a chair

On most Saturday mornings from 10 – 11 a.m. at St. Mary's U.C.C. locate at 1441 East Mayberry Road in Silver Run, MD. Please call 410-346-7977 to confirm dates. Free if able, bring an item to donate to the food bank.

As Luther Says...*

“Lord, Strengthen our Faith” We, together with our gifts, however great they may be, are nothing if God is not at our side. If He withdraws His hand, our wisdom, knowledge, etc., amount to nothing. If He Himself does not constantly sustain us, the very height of knowledge, even the highest attainment in theology itself, will do us no good. For in the hour of temptation it can suddenly happen that by the cunning of the devil all comforting passages of Scripture are snatched from our view and only the threatening ones occur to us and overwhelm us. Let us, then, learn that, when God withdraws His hand, we can very easily fall and be overcome. Let no one, therefore, be proud and boast of his righteousness, wisdom, and gifts; but let everyone humble himself and pray with the apostles: “Lord, strengthen our faith” (Luke 17:5)

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

Satan's Beatitudes

Blessed are they who are too tired and busy to go to church on Sunday, for they are my best workers.

Blessed are they who are bored with the minister's mannerism and mistakes, for they get nothing out of his sermon.

Blessed are they who gossip, for they cause strife and divisions that please me.

Blessed are they who are easily offended, for they soon get angry and quit.

Blessed are the complainers, for I am all ears to them .

Blessed are they who do not give their offerings to carry on God's work, for they are my best helpers.

Blessed are they who profess to love God, but hate their own brother or sister, for they will be with me forever.

Blessed are the troublemakers, for they shall be called the children of the devil.

Blessed is he or she who has not time to pray, for that person shall be easy prey.

Notes & Thank Yous



The Community of St. Dysmas

Thank you [St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church] for your faithful support of The Community of St. Dysmas. Your gifts [\$70.00] are vital in continuing to bring the Gospel to these very special people.

We give thanks for your faithfulness, we hold you in our prayers, and we ask that you continue to remember our brothers and sisters of The Community of St. Dysmas in yours.

Yours in Christ,
THE COMMUNITY OF ST DYSMAS LUTHERAN
CHURCH, INC.
Gerry F. Rickel, Pastor

Dear St. Mary's Members,

Thank you for all you did for Mabel's 100th birthday party. Everything ran so smoothly and flawlessly because of the great organization. The ladies did a super job serving the food and the men moved the tables after church so quickly. We would like to especially thank Pastor Lee, his wife, Jim and Fran Crist for all of their hard work and suggestions to make this a wonderful birthday for Mabel.

Thank You,
The Leese Family

Dear St. Mary's Members,

Thank you for making my 100th birthday celebration so special. It was so nice to spend the day with my family and friends. I appreciate all the hard work you put into making it such a memorable day. God Bless!

Love,
Mabel Leese



Habitat for Humanity – Carroll County

We would like to thank the congregation and leadership of St. Marys Evangelical Lutheran Church for your recent donation of \$60.00 in support of our Mission here in Carroll County. Our Mission Vision is simple: A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

With your help, we are excited about our growing organization and making a difference in the lives of families living in substandard housing. We are happy to have you as a partner and look forward to a long-term relationship that benefits the community that we both serve.

With your support, we recently started construction of 5 new homes in Westminster and look forward to working with you on this wonderful project.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Bryan Lyburn
Executive Director

Jesse Eyler wishes to thank all who sent cards for his 90th birthday. He had received close to 40 cards. He really was pleased everyone remembered his birthday. Again many thanks!

WELCA Yard/Bake Sale

Friday and Saturday

October 3 & 4

7 a.m. – 1 p.m.

RAIN OR SHINE

Something for everyone!

St. Benjamin's Lutheran Church
700 Kriders' Cemetery Road
Off Krider's Church Road
Rt. 97, North of Westminster

For more information, call 410-848-3311



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

How do Lutherans regard organ donation and cremation?

The worship staff receives a number of similar inquires on worship-related topics from across the church. These responses should not be considered the final word on the topic, but useful guides that are to be considered in respect to local context with pastoral sensitivity. The response herein may be reproduced for congregational use as long as the web address is cited on each copy.

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/How_do_Lutherans_regard_organ_donation_and_cremation.pdf

Organ Donation

- People are becoming increasingly aware that internal organs donated from a person who has recently died can sustain the precious gift of life in others.
- Judeo-Christian tradition affirms that God chose to breathe the gift of life into human flesh. The bodily incarnation of God in the person of Jesus is the ultimate witness to God's love for humankind.
- The decision to donate organs is personal, yet can be informed by faith. There is no church law or theological reason preventing Lutheran Christians from choosing to be organ donors.
- Lutheran theology and confessions affirm the resurrection of the body. God's promise to resurrect the dead is not compromised by organ donation. Almighty God, who created our bodies, has the capacity to resurrect them with or without the presence of specific organs.

Cremation

- For a number of reasons, cremation (burning the body and reducing it to ashes) is becoming more prevalent. Lutheran theology and tradition do not favor any particular form of burial. God's ability to give resurrected bodies to those who bear the name of Christ cannot be stymied by any human action, including organ donation or cremation.
- Bodies may be buried in the traditional manner or cremated, according to the preferences of the deceased and the deceased's family. The concern of the church is that after death, baptized Christians be commended to God in hope of the resurrection.
- Cremated remains, often called "cremains" or ashes, should be accorded the same dignity given to a body. When cremated remains instead of the body are present for the Funeral service, they should be treated in the same manner as a body.
- Cremated remains are usually placed in an urn made of metal or pottery or another small receptacle. Just as a white pall is placed over a coffin as a baptismal symbol in the hope of the resurrection, a smaller white pall can be made to cover
- Worship Formation & Liturgical Resources: Frequently Asked Questions the urn or receptacle. As would a coffin, the urn may be carried in procession. It may be placed on a small stand and surrounded by flowers and the paschal candle, as would a body.
- In the absence of the body, some families choose to provide a photograph of the deceased that may be placed beside the urn during the burial rite. This may provide comfort for those who may want some symbol of presence in addition to the cremation urn.
- At times, cremated remains are buried in a cemetery or in the ground, in the same manner as a body. In other instances families may request that the cremated ashes be scattered over a field or water or housed in a columbarium a small niche in the wall of the church or churchyard dedicated for this purpose.

All matters surrounding burial are sensitive and require pastoral guidance, care and wisdom. The important constant in the presence of diverse and shifting societal burial practices is that proper dignity be accorded to all the baptized who have died, regardless of the manner of burial.

Kid's Corner

Scriptures: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9

As you all know, school has begun. You may have needed to get some new school clothes or some new shoes. One thing that everyone had to get was school supplies. We buy notebooks, paper, folders, markers, crayons, pens and pencils.

Below are some pencils that remind us of the four different kinds of people we see each day.



First, there is a pencil that is not sharpened on either end. It reminds us of people we see that never do anything. They just sit around and let others do all the work. A pencil that isn't sharpened on either end isn't much good for anything. Neither is a person who never does anything.

Second, there is a pencil that has an eraser on both ends. This pencil reminds us of people who never do anything right. Or maybe they are so afraid that they won't do it right, they are like the first pencil and just don't do anything at all.

Next, there is a pencil that is sharpened on both ends. It doesn't have an eraser! This pencil reminds us of people who think they never make a mistake! Do you know people like that? Even if they do make a mistake, which we all do, they will never admit it. Who do they think they are fooling? They are only fooling themselves!

Finally, there is a pencil that is sharpened on one end and has an eraser on the other. It reminds us of people who know they make mistakes, and when they see their mistakes, they correct them. That is the kind of person God wants us to be. The Bible tells us that if we claim that we never make mistakes, we are just fooling ourselves. But if we will admit to our mistakes and ask God to forgive us, He will. He will erase our mistakes and we can start all over again.

Jesus, help us to remember that we all make mistakes and that if we will ask you to forgive us, you will erase those mistakes and make us clean again. Amen

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

September 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: Garry & Sheree Miller – 9/2/06 Mark & Crystal Ruby – 9/15/94 Mark & Roxanne Wood – 9/25/10 Jesse & Carrie Eyley – 9/25/45 William & Sonja Main – 9/29/12	1 Labor Day	2	3 Silver Run Food Pantry 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	4	5	6
7 Sunday School Begins 13 th Sunday after Pentecost – Green Ezekiel 33: 7 – 11 Psalm: 119: 33 – 40 Romans 13: 8 – 14 Matthew 18: 15 – 20 Basket Offering – Luth. Seminary, Gettysburg “God’s Work, Our Hands” Projects Grandparent’s Day	8 Brandon Myers Church Council Meeting – 7 p.m.	9 Susan Bowersox	10	11 Brian Wisner Patriot Day	12	13 Cindy Sparacino 9:00 a.m. Thrivent Program./Brunch Parish Hall
14 Holy Cross Day – Scarlet Numbers 21: 4b - 9 Psalm: 98: 1 - 4 1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 24 John 3: 13 – 17	15 Brenda Foglesong	16	17 Silver Run Food Pantry 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	18	18	20
21 Paul Bollinger 15 th Sunday after Pentecost – Green Jonah 3: 10 – 4:11 Psalm: 145: 1 - 8 Philippians 1: 21 - 30 Matthew 20: 1 - 16	22 <i>Matthen, Apostle and Evangelist</i>	23	24	25	26 Emily Middleton Sarah Middleton	27 Victoria Sparacino
28 Dwyn Fleischer, Jason Utz 16 th Sunday after Pentecost – Green Ezekiel 18: 1 – 4, 25 - 32 Psalm: 25: 1 - 9 Philippians 2: 1 - 13 Matthew 21: 23 – 32 Social Time – Christian Education Congregational/Sunday School Picnic (Tentative)	29 Nancy Sell <i>Michael and All Angels</i>	30		Worship Helpers Acolyte: Zachary Scott, Brooke Bennett Usher: () Communion Asst.: Ann Brumback Altar Guild: Marion Matthias		

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

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Newsletter Editor: newsletter@stmaryselc.org

www.stmaryselc.org

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