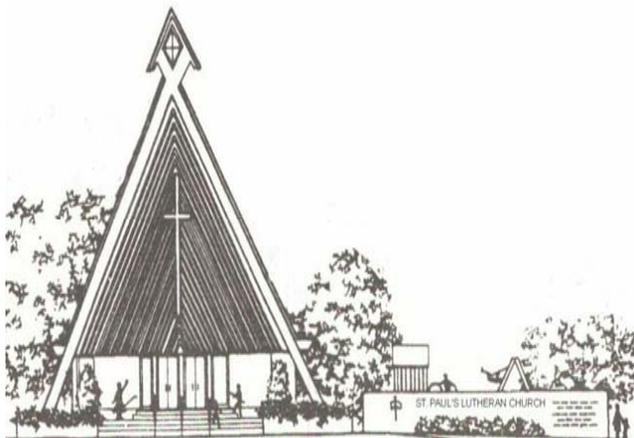


ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

APRIL ~ MAY 2014



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Office Phone: 703/573-0295 Pastor's Direct Line: 703/573-6008

Sunday services are held at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Worship in Mandarin is held at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School and adult classes are held at 9:30 a.m.

Pastor — The Rev. Mark Shaltanis

Assistant/Chinese Pastor — The Rev. Xinhong (Chris) Yang

Pastoral Assistant — The Rev. Wayne Lehrer

Director of Music — Laurel Benson Brown

Preschool Director — LuAnn Carrig

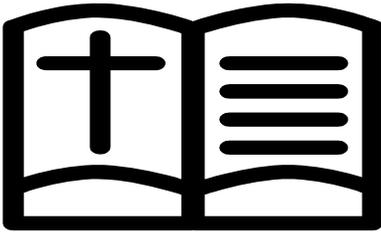
Director of Youth — Tawni Harrell

Parish Secretary — Linda Fekete

Business Manager — Ellen Heup

Newsletter Editors — Linda Orvedahl and Kim Williams

Church is located at the intersection of
Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) and Idylwood Road.



Pastor's Corner

Dear friends,

Well, we were hoping that the new building addition would be finished by Easter. At least I was. With such a late Easter this year, I thought the chances were good. Then again, many of us were hoping the building would have been done years ago. It would have been so nice for _____ to see it (fill in the blank of many a sainted member who worked with us to make the project happen).

God's timing is not always our timing. And yet God's work will be accomplished. We have his promise. Church buildings are certainly a part of this work – providing, as they do, a place for God's people to gather. And yet they are only a small part of God's work.

While work has continued on the building (which we hope will be done in May), our congregation has been busy using the season of Lent to work on our faith. This year's theme has been the seven "I am" statements of Jesus in John's Gospel. Each of these statements sheds light on Jesus' essence and purpose.

This past week we reflected on the statement "I am the light of the world." When Luther preached on this text, shortly after the signing of the Augsburg Confession, he noted that many of Jesus' hearers were offended by his statement. They rightly perceived that Jesus was making a very big claim, and they resented it.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

Luther then compares this to a certain claim we make. When we claim our stations in life – as employee, boss, spouse, parent, child, neighbor, and so on – to be vocations given by God, we will encounter some resistance. Some will be offended that we see our roles as God given. Some will challenge us on the basis of our performance or talent. Sometimes we ourselves will question our ability or right to fill the role.

We are certainly not the light of the world in the same way Jesus is, but when we work for God's purposes in our vocations, we carry Christ's light with us. Jesus in fact told his disciples that they were "the light of the world" (Matt. 5). As such, says Luther, we should carry out our vocations with confidence and joy, knowing that we have God's backing in our work. "That is my title and that is my glory," he would have us say. "Such glorying proceeds from God's command, by which everyone is assured that he owes his office to God's commission. He who boasts of this does right."

Jesus is the light of the world. When we reflect that light in our person and work, we are the light of the world too. Our everyday tasks are not done in vain, but for the sake of Christ's mission in the world. The tasks that God gives us are many and varied. Whether we are constructing a building or feeding a family, God-directed service through our vocations furthers his kingdom and brings light to the world.

May God lead us in our work.

– Pastor Mark Shaltanis



In Our Prayers

*Dorothy Stringer
Family & friends of Aldo Becci
Tor Eide
Henry Meyer
Jack Bornmann
Carolyn Cowherd
Anita Moorehead
June Frazier
Dee Sitnik
Maureen Forcier
Nancy Smoot
Peter Frenze*

S.P.Y. News

This spring we continue to be busy as St. Paul's Youth Group (S.P.Y). In addition to meeting Sunday mornings, we've been sharing time together in other ways. We've recently gone to see *Son of God* and had a dinner with discussions afterward. We've had our second Youth Evening, hosted by the Sebring-McCants family, and we gathered for a time of fellowship, food, devotion, and games. We worked on a service project for the Board of Evangelism, assembling and decorating kaleidoscopes to be passed out to children at Viva Vienna. We're looking forward to some more fun things this spring, including going to see the *Noah* movie together. Your continued prayers over our Youth Ministry are much appreciated. Our community is growing stronger, and I thought you might like to hear what the teens have to say. May you be blessed by their enthusiasm, faith, and genuine comments as God knits them together for his kingdom's purposes. To God be the glory!

Blessings in our Christ,
Tawni Harrell

My favorite thing about Youth Group is ...

"... how we have such amazing interactions, fun, and times studying the Bible."

"... coming together with Christians my age and having fun with them."

"... being with friends."

"... how it isn't all work, and you get to play some games and be with friends."

"... getting to hang out with friends I have at church."

"... going on trips."

"... the people."

"... being able to meet and connect with other Christian youth, the missions we do, the games we play, the fun we have with each other."

"... the fellowship."

"... the classes on sexuality."

"... how we have so many events where we can help others."

"... learning God's will and Word."

"... helping others."

"... how we get together and spend fun times and fellowship."

"... the closely knit fellowship and the valuable words of God we get to study."

"... the strong Christ-loving community."

The Youth Group event I liked best was...

"... our Christmas party."

"... the party at the Johanns."

"... when we packed shoe boxes for people who needed them."



Making kaleidoscopes (supplied by the Board of Evangelism) to be passed out to children at Viva Vienna





Hanging out at our Youth Evening

"... our first party."

"...the packing party."

"... Operation Christmas Child."

"... Sunday meetings."

"... the Christmas tree decorating."

"... the day-to-day lessons."

"... the Christmas youth party."

"...the first Youth Group gathering."

"... the classes on sexuality."

Youth Group has helped me grow in my faith by ...

"... serving others, creating a Christian network of friends, and studying the Bible."

"... giving me a deeper understanding of Christianity."

"... connecting me with other people."

"... being with others and learning their opinions."

"... being with other Christians my age."

"... learning Scripture."

"... making me question others' theology."

"... connecting with others."

"... meeting and having fun with other Christians."

"... giving me opportunities to serve others."

"... teaching me God's wonderful intentions."

"...letting me help others."

"... teaching me many morals and lessons in the Bible that I didn't know."

"... educating me about many of the verses of which I did not know the meaning."

"... teaching me so many insights about the Bible."

The service project I've enjoyed the most was ...

"... Operation Christmas Child."

"... the Christmas Cards." (made for a Nursing Home.)

"... the packing party."

"... the Chili cook-off."



Sharing a meal at our latest Youth Evening

Leisure Group Events

APRIL

Join St. Paul's Leisure Group as we visit the place where the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and China created the framework for the United Nations (August-October 1943), **Dumbarton Oaks**, in Georgetown. Dumbarton Oaks, which is now an outpost of Harvard University, houses a splendid Byzantine collection of art, as well as a pre-Columbian collection, both the work of the diplomatic family who lived there in the period before World War II.



Dumbarton Oaks

Our docent will guide us, beginning at **10:30 a.m. on April 10**. The fee for the first 13 people (already reserved) is \$8 each. We will carpool from church and will lunch at McDonald's on the way back to church. See Pastor Lehrer, Trudy Booth, or Trudy Walker to make your reservation.

MAY

On **May 8**, we will be visiting the **Carlyle House** and lunch at **Gadsby's Tavern** in Alexandria. Carlyle House, completed in 1753 by English merchant John Carlyle for



Carlyle House

his bride, Sarah Fairfax, was a center of social and political life in that town.

General Braddock made his headquarters there to plan the early campaign of the French and Indian War. There are stairs to the second

floor, but the main part of the tour is on the first floor. The cost is \$4.

After the tour, we will walk a short distance to Gadsby's Tavern for lunch. Lunch sandwiches run from \$10 to \$13, soups from \$3 to \$6, and salads are \$8. We plan to carpool from church. Details will follow in the worship folder inserts, or call Trudy Booth at 703/256-7151.



Gadsby's Tavern





Preschool News

April-May 2014

Often I find myself saying, "There are no coincidences with God." Would you agree? As Christians, should we not believe and trust that God has a perfect and divine plan for each of us? I often also say that our past will be reflected in our future. I can tell you that this is so very true in my life at this very moment.

As many of you know, the Preschool has a large percentage of Asian Indian children. I believe the number is about 45 percent this school year. St. Paul's has become well known in this community as a place that welcomes their families, provides care and education for their children, and loves them. It is amazing to me when I receive a phone call from a father who is looking to enroll his child in our program and wants to be sure there is an opening before he moves his family to this area. What a compliment about the ministry we provide here at St. Paul's! So where am I going with this? God has clearly been preparing me for this season in my life.

My daughter Martha left for India at the end of February to serve a one-year mission in Vijayawada, India. This city is located in the southeastern part of the country and has a population of approximately 1,048,240 people. The city also has more than 30 slums. My family's church (Columbia Baptist) supports child development centers in two of the slums within the city and is prayerfully considering opening a third. While Martha prepared for this journey, it was a comfort and blessing for me to

know that so many of the families in the Preschool come from that part of India. What wonderful people! One of the families that attended the Preschool and is now back in India has offered to be Martha's Indian family. Their home is open to her any time. So you see, there are *definitely* no coincidences with God. He is faithful in preparing the way! Praise God!

As I write this month's article, God is also preparing the Preschool for the next school year. The Preschool is pleased to announce new programming for the coming year. The Preschool will be open Tuesday–Friday, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., for children ages 2½ years to PreK. We are excited about a longer day in which the children will have more time to practice what they do best – *play!* We are also introducing a program titled Purely Play Mondays for children 18 months to 2½ years of age. If you know of anyone who is looking for a wonderful preschool, we would appreciate the referral. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.splpreschool.org> or call the Preschool Office at 703/573-0494.

As we enter the month of April, the children will be hearing about the Easter story and how Jesus died on the cross for our sins but was resurrected and lives again! They will also be learning about spring and the beautiful world that God created for us to enjoy.

In May, as we finalize our year together, the children will be learning about insects and other bugs and celebrating Mother's Day with a special event called Muffins for Moms. Our 4- and 5-year-old classes will prepare for their graduation to kindergarten. As you can see, there are exciting times ahead.

The children continue to enjoy their time in chapel and will hear the stories of how Jesus told the disciples to

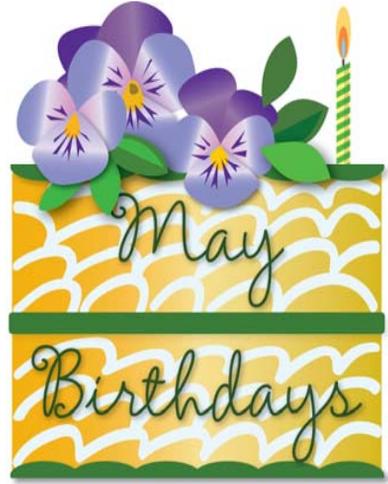
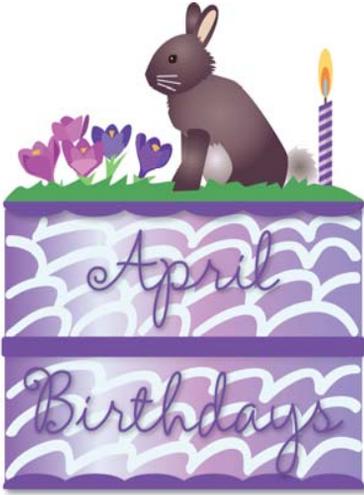
allow the little children to come to him, Palm Sunday, Jesus rises from the dead, Jesus on the road to Emmaus, Jesus ascends into heaven, and the conversion of Paul. They are also delighted when it is Family Chapel and their parents can join them.

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” —Jeremiah 29:22. This is one of my favorite Bible verses. I ask that you pray for my daughter Martha, and please pray for the Preschool as we prepare for the new children and families God will be entrusting in our care.

God's Instrument,
LuAnn Carrig

**June-July 2014
Newsletter Deadline:
May 20**

**Send submissions to
stringer.orvedahl@verizon.net
*kimberwilliams@aim.com***



- 1 Norman Armstrong
- 2 Mason Amdahl
- 3 Bill Jacobsen
- 6 Susan Irwin
- 9 Tawni Harrell
- 11 Derek Hann
- 14 Ian Lynch
- 18 Melissa Amdahl
- 20 Milly Becci
- 20 Jennifer Zambone
- 22 Eric Brinkmann
- 25 Walter Smith
- 26 Billie Dagley
- 26 Ann Gratz
- 27 William Yuan
- 29 Joe Mills
- 29 An Nan
- 29 Sydney Perlowski

- 5 Theresa Du
- 12 Norman Armstrong Jr.
- 14 Sammy Hecht
- 14 Halle Stetter
- 15 Trey Armstrong III
- 15 Jeff Bothen
- 15 Jonathan Yang
- 19 James Ma
- 19 Brek Mehalic
- 19 Dorothy Stringer
- 20 Luther Smith
- 21 Andrew Harkins
- 21 Anna Spear
- 22 Tara Harkins
- 22 Lee James Irwin
- 25 Neale Ainsfield
- 25 Linda Lay
- 27 William Muller
- 28 Linda Orvedahl
- 29 Andrew Orvedahl
- 30 Steve Janssen

Easter Cake

Celebrate our risen Lord with this uniquely decorated cake.

What you need:

- Adult help
- Box of cake mix (any flavor)
- Tub of brown frosting
- Shredded coconut
- Green food coloring
- Chocolate Hostess Ding Dong cupcake
- Donut hole
- Pretzel sticks
- M&M's candies

What you do:

1. Bake cake in rectangular pan. When cool, frost it.
2. Pour coconut into bowl. Add drops of green food coloring. Mix until coconut resembles grass.
3. In one corner of cake, set Ding Dong upright to resemble a tomb. Place donut hole in front of it, to one side.
4. Make three crosses with six pretzel sticks and some frosting. Arrange on opposite corner from tomb.
5. Use brown M&M's to make a path from the crosses to the tomb.
6. Use other colors of M&M's to spell out "Jesus lives!"



Blooming Button Flowers

For Mother's Day, add a special touch to any houseplant with this easy craft.



What you need:

- A small houseplant with leaves
- Colorful buttons of various sizes
- Green 26-gauge floral wire
- Wire cutters

What you do:

1. Stack three buttons from largest to smallest, with the smallest on top. Align the button holes.
2. Cut 8 inches of wire. Thread it up through one hole of the stacked buttons and back down through another hole.
3. Twist the wire just below the bottom side of the button stack to secure it.
4. Insert the "flower" in the plant's soil and repeat the process.
5. Present this to Mom and wish her a happy Mother's Day!

