



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE TRUMPET
April 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

Henri Nouwen tells the story of an old man who used to meditate every morning on the banks of the Ganges River. One morning, after his meditation, he saw a scorpion floating helplessly on the water. As the scorpion washed closer to the bank, the old man reached out to rescue the drowning creature. As soon as he reached it, however, the scorpion stung him. Instinctively the man withdrew his hand. A minute later, though, he tried again. This time the scorpion stung him so badly with its poisonous tail that the hand became swollen and his face contorted with pain.

At that moment, a young man passed by and saw what had happened. He shouted: "Hey, stupid old man, what's wrong with you? Only a fool would risk his life for an ugly, evil creature. Don't you know you could kill yourself trying to save that ungrateful scorpion?"

Looking into the stranger's eyes the old man said calmly, "My friend, just because it is the scorpion's nature to sting, that does not change my nature to save."

This is such a wonderful story about the love of God. Just because it is our nature to sin, that does not change God's nature to save. It seems to me that ever since the fall of humankind recorded in Genesis 3, God has been on a rescue mission to save the world. God has been on a rescue mission to save you and me! The tragedy seems to be that every time God reaches out God's hand to help us, we sting God with our disobedience and rebelliousness. We continue to sting one another with the poison of our hatred, prejudice and indifference.

The good news is that we have a God who doesn't give up on us. We have a God whose very nature it is to save. *For God did not send his Son to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.* (John 3:17). The love of God in Jesus Christ is the vaccine that saves us from the sin that continues to poison our lives and our relationships. It is, as the spiritual says, "the balm that heals the sin-sick soul."

During the course of Holy Week let us remember and rejoice in this life saving love from above. Let us reflect upon all that our Lord endured for you and me through his sufferings and death on the cross. By humbly confessing before the Crucified One our "scorpion" like ways to sting and poison the world God has given us, we will come to praise the Risen One who gives us hope and life eternal.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Thomas A. Omholt

Saved by God's grace, and nourished through Word and Sacrament, we, the community of believers at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, are Sent by the Holy Spirit to Share the Good News and Serve our neighbors following the example of Jesus Christ. (St. Paul's Lutheran Church Mission Statement)

**Welcome to the St. Paul's Trumpet,
A publication of St. Paul's
Lutheran Church.**

Additional information is available on the church website at www.stpaulslutherandc.com. St. Paul's also publishes a weekly email update – E-news. If you would like to receive the weekly E-news, please contact Joy Belew (joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com)

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Prayer List



Please Keep In Your Prayers ...

Lois Leland
Donald Althouse
Chuck Maata
Johanne Jackson
Grace Yin
Ron Rademacher
Barb Pitts
Ginger Lirardi
Miriam Burt
Carol Pihlstrom
Hal McNitt
Gloria Stuart
Engelhardt Unaeb
Karen Thoms
Helen Carabasi
John Hughes and his family
Deaconess Cassie Brown
Christians and all people of faith who are
persecuted throughout the World.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Passion Sunday, April 9

Worship at 8:30 am and 11:00 am
Dramatic reading of the

Passion with Holy Communion (**11 am gathers across the street at the Muhlenberg Statue**)

Wednesday, April 12

6:00 pm Lenten Mid-week Worship and Fellowship
7:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer

Maundy Thursday, April 13

7:30pm Worship service with Holy Communion and Foot Washing

Good Friday, April 14

7:30pm Tenebrae Service

Saturday, April 15th--Holy Saturday

Vigil in Epiphany Chapel starting at 7:30 pm



Sunday, April 16th - Easter Sunday

Services at 8:00 am and 11:00 am

9:15 am--10:45 am--Easter Breakfast and
Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt

10:40 am-- Pre-service music from Coolspring
Brass Ensemble

11:00 am--Festival Service



Adult Sunday School: The life of Martin Luther

Please join the "**Coffee and Conversation**" group as they continue the journey with Martin Luther that ends at the church doors at Wittenberg and the beginning of the Reformation. **Reformation 500: A Journey to Wittenberg** will continue to explore the events leading up to the Reformation as we get ready to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in October 2017. We'll take a look at Luther's life, the world as it was in the early 16th century, the power of the Catholic church, and the aftermath of Luther's revolutionary theories. The class will meet in the lower Fellowship Hall during Sunday School, 10:00-10:45 am. We hope you'll join us



Weekly Quotes from Martin Luther during March...

"The Christian shoemaker does his duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship." — *Martin Luther*

"As long as we live there is never enough singing." — *Martin Luther*

"All the cunning of the devil is exercised in trying to tear us away from the word." — *Martin Luther*

"I've got so much work to do today, I'd better spend two hours in prayer instead of one." — *Martin Luther*

"The heart overflows with gladness, and leaps and dances for the joy it has found in God. In this experience the Holy Spirit is active, and has taught us in the flash of a moment the deep secret of joy. You will have as much joy and laughter in life as you have faith in God." — *Martin Luther*



New Member Sunday, April 30th

New members will be received into St. Paul's on April 30th during the 11:00 am worship service. There will be a class for the prospective members on Tuesday, April 25th at 7 pm in room 207 of the educational building. If you would like to become a member or if you have questions about membership, please contact Pastor Tom (202-966-5489) or tomholt@stpaulslutherandc.com.

Prime Time Center



The Prime Time Center gathers every Wednesday between 11:00 am - 2:00 pm for fun and fellowship. St. Paul's Center continues to be blessed with a faithful ministry team who welcome the participants, spend time with them in conversation, and serves a wonderful hot luncheon to everyone. We welcome you to come and see this vibrant community and participate in any program that seems interesting to you. The programming begins with an entertainment, lecture, or information session from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm followed by a delicious hot lunch from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. Immediately after lunch the group participates in an active hour of exercise that is led by an excellent instructor who has become an important part of the PTC community.

April 5, 2017
11 am - Noon
Paula and Tom
"Two-for-the-Show" - Favorite Musical Selections

From Mar-Lu-Ridge

Come and join us this upcoming summer for a wonderful week of camp! The summer camp brochure with the full schedule and camp descriptions is available at St. Paul's as well as online at www.Mar-Lu-Ridge.org

Mar-Lu-Ridge offers:

- a fun, small group, Christ-centered week in the woods
- affordable pricing starting at \$405 per week for overnight and \$210 for day camp
- friendships and memories that stay with your child
- camperships to ensure that all children can attend camp
- a wide variety of unique specialty programs for all ages!
- ACA certification means MLR meets the highest safety standards

Interested families may consider joining us at one of our **open houses from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. on April 30 and May 21**

If you have any questions, please contact MLR by email at MLR@Mar-Lu-Ridge.org or by phone at 301-874-5544



"Pocket Prayer Squares" Available in portico

Due to requests from the congregation "Pocket Prayers" are again available and located in the portico. Please take one for yourself or to share with a friend in need of encouragement, healing, joy or peace. We thank Kay Cartwright who worked with faithful hands to craft these new pocket prayers.



Easter Breakfast Sunday, April 16th

Come and celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord *and* enjoy a delicious Easter Breakfast! The Breakfast will be served at 9:30am. For those worshipping at the 11 o'clock service please feel free to come early enough to enjoy the fine food and fellowship. **We need volunteers in the kitchen, as well as volunteers to help set-up, serve, and clean up.** Many hands make light work!

Contact: Lisa Wackler
(lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com) to volunteer or with questions.

_____ Yes, I/we will help.

_____ Yes, I/we will be at the Easter Breakfast.

No. of persons _____

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Easter Lilies

Help beautify St. Paul's this Easter. Single stem plants containing 5-7 blooms are \$12.50 each. To order, please complete the form below and return it to Joy Belew in the Church office.



Please order _____ Lilies at \$12.50 each.

Name: _____

In honor of:

In memory of:

() will pick up after the 11 am Easter service.

() will leave for shut-ins.

Attached please find the amount of _____

Env. # _____

Church Council

Council members welcome your calls at their home phone numbers.

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Bill Heffley – 301-942-0892
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VACANT

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St. Paul's Podcasts are available online at
<https://soundcloud.com/stpaulsdc>

St. Paul's Monthly Newsletter, *The Trumpet*
Managing Editor, Joy Belew

If you have information you wish to have included
in an issue, please send your submission to Joy by
the 20th of the month.

joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com



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