

The Messenger

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

12095 Blades Road, P.O. Box 368, Cordova, MD 21625

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From Pastor White: Moving toward Lent (Ash Wednesday is the 17th of February)

As a part of our Lutheran Liturgy for Ash Wednesday, the pastor issues this invitation to the congregation:

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent--self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love--strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

It has been nearly a year since our last Lent was interrupted by a Corona Virus. For me, there has been a sense of living in one, long Lenten season of separation and reminder that we "do not enjoy the life our creator intended." I and many of my colleagues in ministry hoped, when we thought this pandemic might soon come to an end, that we would celebrate that time of waiting with a glorious celebration of Easter, even if it came in the fall of last year. We're still waiting.

It has been a year slightly interrupted by a subdued Easter, and a strange Christmas. It appears as I write this as if we will still this year not be able to have a full celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection, and can hope and pray that by Christmas this year we will have been able to return to something resembling "normal" in our church life.

At a recent meeting of St. Paul's Worship Planning Team we decided that while we will have a service on Ash Wednesday, this year we will refrain from (fast from, if you wish) the Imposition of Ashes. A few days after that meeting, in a Zoom gathering with the rostered leaders (Pastors and Deacons) of the Synod, Bp. Gohl recommended that practice for the synod.

I share a note he sent in part because I think it says things that are important for us not only as we approach Ash Wednesday, but as we continue to live through this challenging time for us as individuals, families, and the church.

ADVICE AND COUNSEL ON OBSERVING ASH WEDNESDAY

After conferring with others, I am suggesting that our customary practice of imposing ashes during the Ash Wednesday liturgy, in all forms and manners, be suspended this year.

The Imposition of Ashes requires too much intimacy of presence, and too much physical touching for us to do that safely in the midst of a pandemic surge. I pray, with hopeful confidence, that we will have returned to our normal practices well in advance of the next Ash Wednesday, but this year it seems wise that we refrain from practices which carry too high a risk.

Some have proposed creative alternatives to the normal practice, including the use of cotton balls, cotton swabs, using gloves, sprinkling ashes on heads, pre-packaged ash packets, or sending ashes home with people. The point of wearing ashes on Ash Wednesday is not the ashes themselves; it is the broken and contrite heart we present to God. “Rend your hearts and not your garments.” Besides the inherent Covid transmission risk of imposing ashes, do we wish to cause environmental harm by creating another level of waste in order to distribute ashes?

The Imposition of Ashes in the liturgy, and for some, “Ashes to Go” outside the church, are beloved traditions and practices. Our forbearance from these practices this year can be counted among all of the countless losses we have experienced during COVID. All of these things and more will be given back to us.

Until then, I suggest we keenly and consciously feel the lack; keep closer to Christ through the traditional Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving; and consider why we would seek substitutes for the real things.

Of course, this is advice and counsel. Individual congregations, pastors and deacons might discern a different approach for Ash Wednesday, but this is the best advice I was able to gather from others, across a variety of disciplines.

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



PUZZLE



A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

J Q U O U B C O 3 C E

J E A A 3 C ' U N O J Q U O U

B C O N L U O E E J E A A

N L U O ' B C O A N U C N O U

J E A A 3 U F A

N U C N O U U N O

B C O A 3 C O

F A 3 C O

”

RUTH 1:16, NIV



W	A		E	T
B	U	H	D	O
G	R	L	Y	I
N	S	P	M	

Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV

Puzzle!

Discover the identity of a biblical person. First, assign a number value to each letter, starting with M=1, N=2, O=3, ... A=15, etc. Then use the code to complete the clues.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
15												1	2	3											

FIRST CLUE: 15 7 15 13 3 9 2 21 1 15 2

22 19 25 23 26 26 19 18 7 3 1 19 3 2 19.

SECOND CLUE: 22 19 11 15 7 8 19 2 18 23 2 21

7 22 19 19 4 23 2 8 22 19 18 19 7 19 6 8

11 22 19 2 21 3 18 17 15 26 26 19 18 22 23 1.

THIRD CLUE: 15 7 15 16 15 16 13 22 19 11 15 7

20 3 9 2 18 20 26 3 15 8 23 2 21 23 2 15

16 15 7 25 19 8 23 2 8 22 19 2 23 26 19 6 23 10 19 6.

Who is this person? _____

Answer: Moses


On the first day of every month,
St. Paul's is responsible for the
evening meal at the Talbot
Interfaith Shelter.

Please consider signing up on the
chart outside the office, we need
your continued support for this
important ministry!

Bible Quiz

What was the name of Moses' wife?

A. Miriam
B. Jochebed
C. Zipporah
D. Leah



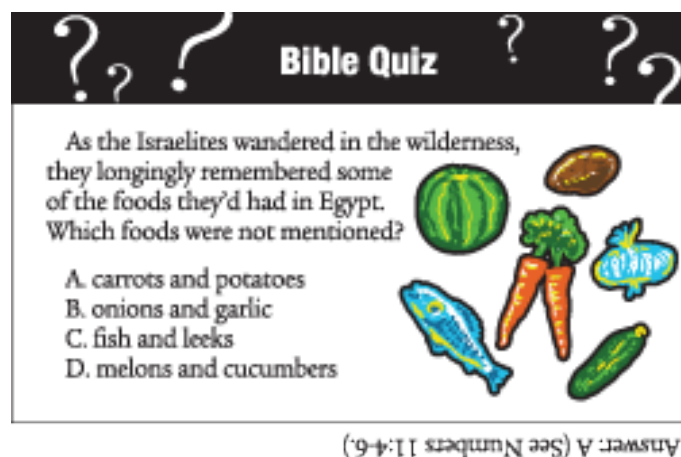
Answer: C (See Exodus 2:21.)

Why we lament

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic struck America during the middle of Lent, a season associated with deprivation. Some people made light of the shutdowns, joking, “I didn’t mean to give up *this* much for Lent!” Others asked why the suffering was occurring in the first place.

Professor N.T. Wright, in an essay for *Time*, explains that asking “why?” but receiving no answer is key to biblical lamenting. Adding to the mystery, he says, is that God also laments — grieving at the wickedness of humans, despairing over Israel’s unfaithfulness. Jesus cries at a friend’s tomb; the Holy Spirit groans in anguish.

“Part of the Christian vocation,” Wright concludes, is not being able to explain why but lamenting instead. “As the Spirit laments within us,” he says, “so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities ... new hope.”



A daily prayer

Whatever happens today, dear Lord, help us remember that you are present. If we find ourselves in the shadows of disappointment or rejection or pain, let us see your comforting light. If we’re in the radiant light of success or acceptance or wholeness, may we acknowledge your providence and grace. Wherever we are, grant us the assurance of your nearness. Amen.

We will continue to livestream the service and make a recording available for viewing at other times.

To connect in real time, 9 am Sunday morning, please visit our St Paul's Facebook link,

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscordova>.

This link can also be used if you would like to watch the service later.

The service can also be viewed using the YouTube link for St. Paul's Page:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0Wzlk_zGck0Py3kLAHeFEg



Bill Behrens went to be with his Lord and Savior on January 22, 2021. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Susan H. Behrens of Cordova; two daughters: Kelly B. Shannon and her husband Mark of Biglerville, PA and their children Brendan, Tyler, and Jack, and Kathy B. Barletta and her husband Rocco of Cordova and their children Couper and Ella; and a son, William A. Behrens, Jr. and his wife Stacey of Cordova and their children Ava and Colton; and many loving family members and friends. He is preceded in death by a sister, Margaret Behrens Bridge. On Saturday, February 6, an 11 o'clock graveside memorial service was held at St. Paul's cemetery. If friends wish to send memorial donations in Mr. Behrens' memory, the family suggests sending them to the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, PO Box 368, Cordova, MD 21625 or to the Talbot Hospice, 586 Cynwood Drive, Easton, MD 21601.

Soup and Sandwich Day



Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions and the need to ensure the safety of our members and friends, the soup and sandwich day has been postponed to next year, 2022. We look forward to 2022 and continuing ministry that many of our recipients look forward to so much.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 17

At 7 PM



**Taize Services Every
Wednesday of Lent at 7
PM**

Congregational Meeting

*After discussion with the Bishop,
it was decided to postpone the
Congregational Meeting until
March. All council members will
retain their current office in the
interim.*



Please remember our blessing box while grocery shopping. We refill it several times a week so we are always in need of supplies. Canned soups, small cereal boxes, oatmeal, and one step-dinners go fast along with personal hygiene products such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc. Please place supplies in or near the large tub in the shed. The door is unlocked. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

CHURCH COUNCIL



Council

Pastor	Robert White	330 883-9940	prrmwhite@gmail.com
Deacon	Mike Hiner	443 496-1383	mhiner24@gmail.com
President	Kathy Barletta	410 829-8860	barlettarkc@gmail.com
Vice President/ Property	Tom Roesel	703 785-8922	thomasroesel@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sam Sauca	410 829-3336	sam@asg-cpas.com
Secretary	Diana Oburgh	443 262-8868	doburgh@aol.com
Financial Secretary	Donna Stevens	410 820-7243	dstevens62@icloud.com
Worship, Music, Education	Carol Meers	410 507-6833	fcmeers@comcast.net
Evangelism, Outreach	Donna Saathoff	410 310-1331	donnasaathoff529@gmail.com



Members of St. Paul's: Jane Asche, Frances Blades, Lisa Fisher, Ursula Kadolph, Pastor Donald McClean, Edith Roe, Else Ross, Richard Sump, Delores Mullikin and Louise White.

Friends of St. Paul's: Erin Bartz, Lisa Callahan, Bonnie Chambers, Glynn Chambers, Hunter Clough, Michael Eaton (brother of Rosemary Spies), Lyn Fuller, Dorothy Hiner, Katelyn Howard, Darren Leonard, Jim and Diane Lewis, (mother and father of Jamie and Jeff Lewis and mother and father in-law of Michelle and Meredith Lewis), Michael Mumford (son of Dale & Betty Jean Mumford), John Rickwood, and Cade Wineke. We pray for those serving in the military: Tessa Heller, Hunter Priest and Victoria Spies Jacobs.

St. Paul's Prayer ministry . . . If you would like to receive prayers from our prayer ministry group, please email Betty Jean Mumford at **bettyjmumford@hotmail.com**

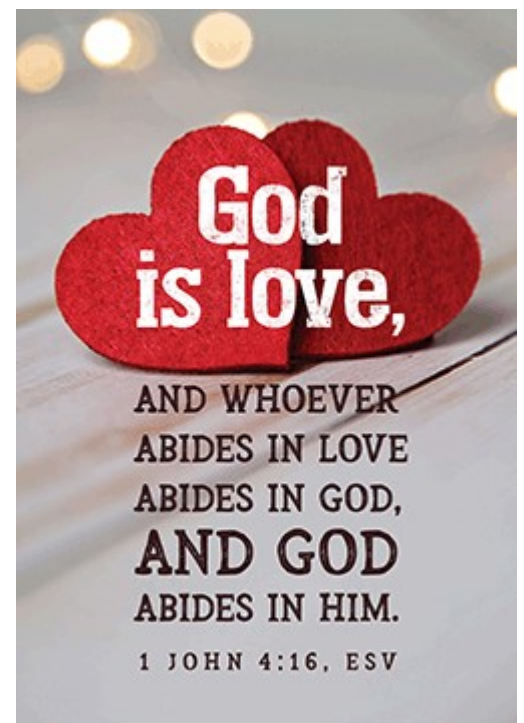
Please make sure you have permission of the person you are adding to our prayer chain, some people do not want to add their name to a public list.

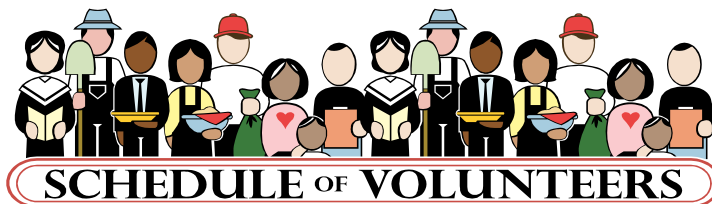




Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 9 am.

Join us!

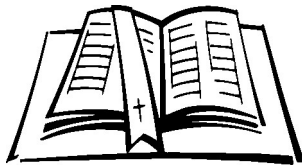




SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEERS

LECTORS

February 7 Bobbie Leaverton
 February 14 Donna Stevens
 February 21 Betty Jean Mumford
 February 28 Robert Saathoff, Sr.



February Bobbie Leaverton

USHERS

February 7 Lee Moore and Carl Sauca
 February 14 Donald Davis and Keith Davis
 February 21 Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth
 February 28 Diana Hurd and Ralph Smith



Tellers

February 7 Lee Moore and Carl Sauca
 February 14 Debbie Dudrow and Donna Stevens
 February 21 Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth
 February 28 Diana Hurd and Rosemary Spies



COMMUNION ASSISTANT

February 7 Mike Hiner
 February 21 Mike Hiner
 February 28 Mike Hiner

ALTAR FLOWERS

February 7 Available
 February 14 Available
 February 21 Available
 February 28 Available



A contribution to the Flower Fund is a meaningful way to honor someone special, remember someone or just because. The 2021 flower chart is located on the bulletin board by the church offices. The cost is \$44 and can be placed in the offering plate or through Tithe.ly. Please remember to fill out a flower sheet and leave at the office. Thank you!



FEBRUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

GUARD
YOUR *heart*
FOR EVERYTHING
YOU DO *flows*
FROM IT.
PROVERBS 4:23, NIV



02/01 Gareth Davis
02/01 Ember Stichberry
02/01 Elizabeth Roesel
02/01 Vicki Sump
02/02 Frances Blades
02/02 Douglas Bridge Sr.
02/02 Preston Rickwood
02/03 Lynn Bridge
02/04 Margaret Asche
02/05 William Asche
02/08 Alison Ward
02/09 Tyler Shannon
02/10 Diana Oburgh
02/13 Aubrie Stichberry
02/14 Ella Barletta
02/15 Chris Rice
02/16 Catherine Stichberry
02/17 Henry Spies V
02/19 Liam Brown
02/19 Bobbie Leaverton
02/21 Casey Edsall
02/21 Deneen Rickwood
02/21 Helen Skipper
02/22 Olivia Hawley
02/23 Kathryn Miller
02/24 Mackenzie Short
02/28 Sandra Cep

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2/20 Duane and Michael Ann Sard



**Winter is here! In case of Snow and Cancellation of Church Services, please
call the church office at 410-364-5147 for a message.**



Upcoming Dates

February 14-Transfiguration Sunday

February 14-Valentine's Day

February 15-Presidents' Day

February 17-Ash Wednesday



God has been generous to us in many ways. We believe that sharing these gifts in His name is a tangible way of expressing one's faith. As active Christians, we are called to give generously to assist our neighbors through our time, talents and treasures. During this time of pandemic, you may not feel comfortable attending services in-person but want to still send offerings to the church. This can be done by mailing offerings to the church or by using [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly).

The direct link to our [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) account is <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1747825>. If you are having trouble with setting up your account, please contact Sam Sauca.

If you have any questions about [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly), please contact Sam Sauca, Treasurer 410-829-3336 or sam@asg-cpas.com or Donna Stevens, Financial Secretary 410-820-7243 dstevens62@icloud.com

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
12095 Blades Road,
P.O. Box 368
Cordova MD 21625
Return Service Requested

Worship Service Begins at 9am

Please inform the church office of any changes in your personal information: Address, phone number, marriage or divorce, or new births so that we can keep our records up-to-date.

Secretary: Meredith Lewis—

Cell: 443-496-0903

Office: 410-364-5147

Office Hours: Tue. Wed. & Thurs. 8:30-3:00

Office Email: info@stpaulscordova.org

Rev. Robert White—Pastor

Phone: 330-883-9940

Email: prrmwhite@gmail.com

Deacon Michael Hiner

Minister of Word and Service

Phone: 443-496-1383

Email: mhiner24@gmail.com

Choir Director and Organist: Julie Hawley

Phone: 412-600-6326

Email: Julie.hawley1487@gmail.com