

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

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June 2020

To the Saints of Saint Paul Church,
Over the past week I have had running through my mind the old hymn, "Have no fear, little flock," as well as a number of scriptural passages about, not being afraid. So, in researching these passages, I found a blog on the internet that I found thought-provoking and interesting. So I thought I'd share the lyrics of, "Have no fear, little flock", and the blog I found by Millie Jones of Vancouver, British Columbia with you. Many of us are still (and have been) living in fear of many unknowns. So I pray that these readings will bring you comfort and hope that we through the encouragement through lyrics of music and inspirational people may bring us hope to know, God is with us.

Enjoy! Pax, Pr. Ryan +

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship-ELW # 764)

- 1 Have no fear, little flock; have no fear, little flock, for the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom; have no fear, little flock!
- 2 Have good cheer, little flock; have good cheer, little flock, for the Father will keep you in his love forever; have good cheer, little flock!
- 3 Praise the Lord high above; praise the Lord high above, for he stoops down to heal you, uplift and restore you; praise the Lord high above!
- 4 Thankful hearts raise to God; thankful hearts raise to God, for he stays close beside you, in all things works with you; thankful hearts raise to God!

Inspirational blog by: Millie Jones of Vancouver, British Columbia.

"I recently saw a post on Pinterest which declared that 'Do not fear' is written in the Bible 365 times – 'one for each day of the year'.

This sounded very encouraging. Having done some Bible searching in the past I was doubtful the actual phrase 'do not fear' would be found written in exactly that format 365 times, but thought maybe verses which communicated that sentiment in various forms – such as fear not, don't be afraid etc... would make up this excellent number.

Continued.....

THE REVEREND
RYAN K. VIANDS
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

So I re-posted this 'fact' on Facebook, so that others could also be encouraged.

Then a few days later, I wanted to see if I could find a list of these amazing 365 verses, so that I could be encouraged by the Bible's exhortation not to be afraid. So I started researching. And sadly, what I found, is that this wonderful number of 365 seems to be a myth. At least, if some person somewhere once counted a number of verses which gave the message 'do not fear' in different formats, they don't seem to have published that list of verses. And everyone who has since tried to search the Bible has failed to find as many as 365...

There are two things to point out here:

* The Bible does tell us – lots of times – not be afraid. This message is not in doubt. God tells us to fear nothing and no one except for him. We are not to live in fear.

* Is it important how many times? No – it is not important to salvation; God has not declared that he has said it X amount of times, so therefore we are not finding an inaccuracy in the Bible. However – as Christians we are exhorted to 'test everything'; what good is it for me to blithely advertise facts about the Bible which are, when simply tested, not true? We should not simply accept as fact every nice thing we are told about the Bible because it sounds good – but should verify the accuracy before we pass on information.

So, embarrassed that I had continued to perpetuate the myth of the 365 fear not verses, I decided to do a little Bible study myself. I have searched the Bible using an online tool for verses that tell us not to fear, not to be afraid etc. I have added in verses that encourage us to have peace in God, not to worry and not to be anxious (both general types of fear). And I have come up with a list of 145 verse! A pretty impressive number all the same.

I am not claiming this an exhaustive list of fear not/be at peace verses (I was pretty picky on the peace verses, some might add quite a few more in); I have after all only spent one afternoon looking into this – I am sure there are Bible scholars out there who might be able to add further verses to the list.

Anyway, I thought I publish the list here, so you can see for yourself. (<https://millyjonesblog.wordpress.com/2013/01/17/365-do-not-be-afraid-verses/>) **Towards the middle of the page, you will find Millie's scriptural list.**

And if anyone knows the origin of the 365 verses, and even better has a list of what they are – please do let me know!"

Our Prayer for the Month of June:

Let us pray,...
Ever faithful Lord,
Ever giving Son,
Ever-present Spirit,
For the many gifts you grant us
and the opportunity to enjoy these things;
for your daily provision
and for the constant signs of your healing love;
For the hope amidst despair
and the light which always shines;
For all these things, 'thank you' is just so inadequate
But it's all we have:
...to show our gratitude in word, in thought and in action.

So thank you, O Lord
And may our thanks move beyond words
To transform us into thankful Children,
Faithful Children,
Seeing Children,
Children who see need and see the need to act,
Children who love to live and live to love,
Children who serve you by serving others.

Help us to be amongst those
Who include the excluded
And bring in those who are marginalized,
That when the opportunities come our way
To be healers of division and hurt,
To be peacemakers
And restorers,
We won't be found wanting.

Loving, personal Father,
We bring before you those children of yours with
concerns and issues that are closest to us and that
occupy our minds at this time...

Pat Gore	Adela Baker
Brooks Kneiriem	Laura Doyle
Dick Douglas	Frank Morgan
Dot Rhoads	Charlie Clark
Dennis Crowe	Faith Bible
Ben Starr	Jeff Combs
Darlene Read	Jim Krug
Brian Weaver	Roby Dawe
Doris Giornesto	Megan Vestal
Joy Zembower	Eileen Hintz
Kaden Sharpless	Pauline Lee
Mary Margaret Dormio	Harry Beal
Wanda Hunt	Dana Bible McGregor
Gary Cook	Barbara Alvarado
Eddie Babst	Shirley Reith
Laverne Sparr	Brei Clifford
Shirley Hostetler	Gregg Mazzone
Belinda Sullivan	Irma Thrasher
Lenee Laco	Roxanne Peck
Noah Mazaika	Ed Ayers
John Ayers Sr	Kay Parker
Joy Martin	Harold Hershberger
Molly Offstein	Roy Lee
John Ayers Jr.	Joe Graham

We pray for all those fighting other illnesses and
especially lift up to you those children of yours who
have passed into your greater glory, we pray for the
family and friends of Albert Viands (Pr. Ryan's Uncle),
Earl Fultz (Dellann's Husband) and Fran Davis as well
as, all those whom we name in our hearts (*either
silently or aloud at this time*).

Mighty, and most merciful Father,
We bring before you people and issues from
around the world,
Including those we may never know personally but
who remain our sisters and brothers in you...
We pray for the needs and intentions of our parish
families. For local businesses that we as a parish
church have supported that help us continue our
ministries in your name. For these and many other
businesses that are facing such hard decisions in
moving forward during this pandemic, for the
leaders of nations and states-that they may seek
the well-being of those under their care, for
doctors, nurses, chaplains, service workers and all
those facing the virus each and everyday in order
to meet the needs and injuries of life.

Transforming, healing Father,
help us to make the light shine in the darkest
places of our lives,
to make peace known in violent places,
and to bring hope to despondent places.
Our prayers, spoken and silent
are brought to you now....
In the name of your only beloved Son, Jesus,
the healer, gracious host, and redeemer,
forever who teaches us to pray...

Our Father who art in heaven
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.
The Lord bless you and direct your days and your
deeds in His peace. Amen

Return to Worship Guidelines

A Word from the President

The church council met in a special council meeting via conference call on Thursday, 28 May. The Worship and Music committee requested the special meeting to review their proposal for resuming St. Paul's worship services. The council approved renewing in-building worship services on Sunday, 7 June at our normal 10:00am time.

In order to comply with current restrictions for public gatherings there will be many different aspects to our service. Face masks will be required for attendance and six foot spacing between families will be enforced. There will be no communion and the offering plate will be placed on a stand by the entrance door. There will be other changes as well to best ensure the safety and health of our members. While the desire to come together again to worship as a group is strong, we still need to take precautions to protect our members. Please bear with us as we work to find the best solutions during this difficult period.

We will continue to review the changing state guidance and progress of the Covid-19 pandemic to determine how long this format will be continued. I hope you and your family and friends were able to find times of joy in this time when travel has been limited and we have been staying at home. With the warmer weather and sunshine, spirits should be rising as we continue on with this unusual situation. Be safe and healthy.

Prayers and Blessings in this Pentecost season,

(Burt Streicher, Council President)

Please do not attend if you are experiencing any symptoms of illness.

Church doors will be open to the outside for hands-free entrance and exit.

No socializing will be permitted in the church building.

To minimize direct contact there will be no bulletins, we will use only the screens.

Bibles and hymnals have been removed from the pews. Weekly announcements, the prayer list and Taking Faith Home inserts will be emailed/mailed to each member.

- Masks are mandatory.
- Hand sanitizer and gloves will be available.
- Pews will be marked off for seating in order to maintain social distancing.
- There will be no eucharist, sharing of the peace or singing of hymns. There will be music from the organ, piano and guitar.
- There will be no fellowship following worship.
- LOFT will be held via Zoom on Sunday afternoons at 4:00.

Offering will not be collected during worship; offering plates will be available at both entrances.

The Worship and Music Committee and Church Council have made every effort to safely resume worship; these guidelines will be reviewed each month for updates or changes.

LOFT Living Our Faith Together Sunday Gatherings Online

MAY 24, 2020
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Eternal life begins now.

John 17:1-11 *(Jesus prays for his disciples)*

Setting: Jesus is with the disciples in a room having the last supper.



TFH BIBLE STUDY

(Large Group Opening)

INTRODUCTION:

This is part of Jesus' farewell address at his last supper with his disciples. After having prepared the disciples with some lengthy teachings, Jesus now prays for himself and them.

(Small Group Breakout)

WEEKLY MILESTONES:

Take a moment to have each Bible Study member share a recent mountain high and/or valley low in their lives.

LOFT Bible Study

The LOFT Bible study has been meeting online on Sunday mornings using Zoom. It has been wonderful to connect face to face virtually and hear one another's highs and lows for the week and delve into reading the scriptures that would normally be read during worship. As we begin to meet face to face for worship beginning on June 7th, the time LOFT meets will change from 11:00 am on Sundays to 4:00 pm Sunday afternoon. We will meet June 7th and 14th before taking a summer break with the hope that when we get started again in September, we will be able to meet face to face.

Questions? Contact Debbie Streicher
at 703-303-7255

Kudos this past month to Diane Rhoads for helping her mother, Dot, to join us!



Vacation Bible School 2020



Vacation Bible School will have a different look and feel this summer. Plans are being made for "take-home packets" that can be picked up at St. Paul's over a two-day period in the end of June. Dates and times will be found on the website and Facebook page.

Packets will include resources for five lessons to be experienced over a five-week time period to be done in homes with the help of adults. There will be a weekly online gathering for those able to do so that will include music, puppets, and a story. Our hope is to have a gathering near the end of August of all who participated and enjoy the songs, see a puppet skit, and see one another face to face.

Tell friends and neighbors!

The registration form can be found on our website with a link on the homepage. Volunteers are needed to help assemble packets and help with registration and pick-up. Please let us know if you are able to help. Some volunteer work can be done at home.

The deadline for registrations will be Friday, June 19.

Questions? Call or email Debbie Streicher :
703-303-7255 or dstreicher52@gmail.com.

The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team News



The Luther League puppet ministry team and puppets will be part of a weekly online gathering for those joining us for Vacation Bible School from their homes this year. Each week over a period of five weeks, a skit will be done for children and their families to hear a story about the lessons we will learn this year. The theme this year is Rocky Railway and the scripture lessons teach about the power of Jesus to help get us through hard times, give us hope, help us to be strong, and to learn how to be a good friend. There will be a special presentation (restrictions allowing) for the closing during week 5. We are hoping this might take place outside so all can join us!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARY -----



CELEBRATE!!!

JUNE

- 2 – Pastor Ryan**
- 10 – Joyce Eror**
- 14 – Jay & Kay Cochrane,
married in 2018**
- 18 - Glenn Kline**
- 28 – Travis Medcalf**

As a family at St. Paul's, we'd like to recognize your birthday or wedding anniversary. Please call Linda Zeller, 301-724-9064, or send an email to lzeller45@gmail.com with your special date so that we can include you on our list.

June

Monday June 1
7:00 PM VBS Meeting via Zoom

Sunday June 7
10:00 AM Worship
4:00 PM LOFT via Zoom

Tuesday June 9
5:30 PM Council Meeting via Zoom

Thursday June 11
4:00-6:00 Drive-thru Bountiful Blessings

Sunday June 14
10:00 AM Worship
4:00 PM LOFT via Zoom

Monday June 15
Deadline for Schaidt scholarship applications

Friday June 19
11:00 AM NAACP-parking lot use
Deadline for VBS registration

Saturday June 20
12:00 PM Ed Ayers & Nancy Lohr wedding

Sunday June 21
10:00 AM Worship

Thursday June 25
4:00-6:00 Drive-thru Bountiful Blessings

Friday June 26
Deadline for Bowersox scholarship applications

Sunday June 28
10:00 AM Worship

Spring Visitor



DEMD Synod COVID-19 Response

On April 13th, Bishop Gohl wrote,

"Beloved, all:

The effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic will not be short-term. When thinking about an image that captures these affects, I am reminded of dropping a pebble into a pond. The ripples in the water continue to extend out further and further. Except, in this case, it is not ripples on peaceful water, but waves that have changed the lives of all of us together. Some physically, others emotionally, all of us habitually in some manner.

As siblings in Christ we are even more attuned to our interconnectedness during this challenging time. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians, "For just as the body is one and has many members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. If one member suffers, all suffer together. If one member is honored, all suffer together. If one member is honored all rejoice together."

It is in this spirit that our synod wishes to "run this long race" alongside each of our churches, our rostered ministers, and those who we reach in the name of Christ through our ministries together.

It is in this spirit that I write to challenge each of us to make a gift to support the wider body of Christ in our synod. Every gift, large and small, makes a positive ripple in the pond. Each gift becomes something larger for those most in need."

Our goal was to raise \$100,000 by June 30 in an initial effort.

Since that time, **we have met this first goal.**

Now, a second challenge has been made to continue our efforts!

For every \$1 gifted by individuals *and churches*, \$2 will be added to each gift up to \$50,000 from now until June 30, 2020.

For example, a gift of **\$100 becomes \$300**, a gift of **\$250 becomes \$750. This allows generosity to abound!**

If you have already made a gift towards this effort, we sincerely thank you. If not, we ask that you join us by making a gift towards our effort.

We also ask that you would please consider sharing this appeal with your church council and your congregation.

We thank you once more for your support.

Donations can be mailed to:
Delaware-Maryland Synod
575 S CHARLES ST
SUITE 202
BALTIMORE, MD 21201