

# SPOTLIGHT

ON SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OVERLEA, MARYLAND



## NOVEMBER 2018

“THANKFUL FOR WHAT?!”

*“I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously...The lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him... Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? You stretched our your right hand; the earth swallowed them. You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode... Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone, till your people, O Lord, pass by, till the people pass by whom you have purchases. You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O Lord, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established. The Lord will reign forever and ever. **Exodus 15:1-18***

These words are from the Song of Moses during the Exodus of God’s people out of Egypt. This is the great redemption of God’s people from the evil place, from slavery, from death.

The thankfulness of the Israelites was great. They rejoiced in the life and freedom which they received from the Lord. The Old Testament is filled with story after story of the Lord providing and redeeming His people. Time and time again the Lord saves. Unfortunately time and time again the Israelites forget and complain against the Lord. The thankfulness shown above in our selected verses are not always shown throughout the history of God’s people.

We might see this and think to ourselves, “*wow, how selfish and ungrateful*

*the Israelites can be! For shame!”* But how often have we ourselves thought the phrase, ‘*thankful...for what?*’.

Life is always full of hills and valleys. The trials and sufferings which occur throughout our time on this earth wear us down, sometimes to unbearable valleys. It even becomes very difficult for thankfulness to flow from our hearts and minds, let alone our mouths. But just like the Israelites and their freedom from slavery and death; we too are freed from slavery and death. We are freed from the slavery of sin and the eternal death of damnation. The Lord has provided for us redemption found only in Jesus Christ.

Our eternal life is assured and given to us through His death and resurrection. *That* is something to be thankful for each and everyday. So as Thanksgiving approaches, let us not only remember the earthly blessings which we have, but always remember the Good Deeds of our Lord who triumphs gloriously over all sin and evil in this world to preserve us: His people.

Even among the trying times of life, such as the loss of a job or a loved one, we must remember that the Lord does not forsake or forget His people. He is always with us no matter how close *we might feel* He is or isn’t.... He is always with us, even to the end of the age. The Lord is our salvation and we will dwell with the Lord in His abode, for He will reign forever and ever. Amen.

In Christ,

*Pastor Bednash*

WHO IS LIKE YOU, MAJESTIC IN HOLINESS  
AWESOME IN GLORIOUS DEEDS, DOING  
WONDERS? **Exodus 15:11**

## **PREPARE YOURSELF FOR WORSHIP**

**November 4** – Revelations 7: (2-8), 9-17  
1 John 3:1-3  
Matthew 5:1-12

**November 11** – 1 Kings 17:8-16  
Hebrews 9:24-28  
Mark 12:38-44

**November 18** – Daniel 12:1-3  
Hebrews 10:11-25  
Mark 13:1-13

**November 25** – Isaiah 51:4-6  
Jude 20-25  
Mark 13:24-37

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## **ALTAR GUILD**

**November** – Mrs. Virginia Freeland,  
Mrs. Debbie Taylor

## **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

**November 4** - Mr. Bill Long, Mr. Bill Taylor

**November 11** – Dr. Charles Randow, Mr. Gary Barth

**November 18** - Mr. Steve Clough,  
Mr. Jeramiah Bowling

## **GREETERS**

**November** – Mrs. Miriam Bartram,  
Ms. Betty Pezzica

## **SHUT-IN VISITORS**

**November 4** - Mr. Gary Barth

**November 11** – Mr. & Mrs. Bill Long

**November 18** – Ms. Betty Pezzica

**November 25** – Mr. & Mrs. Charles Krach

*If for any reason, you cannot make the date assigned, please let Virginia in the church office know and other arrangements will be made. If anyone would like to visit the shut-ins, please contact Virginia in the church office at 410-668-0158, as they are in need of more volunteers and we know they would enjoy your visit. Thank you!*

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

**November 4** – In honor of Mike and Brooke Robertson on their 18<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

**November 11** – In loving memory of their daughter-in-law, Kate Weese and her mother, Catherine Williar on their Birthdays from Mike and Millie Weese.

**November 18** – In loving memory of Beau Benden from Katie Benden and in loving memory of her father, Louis Bierman from Barb Jackson.

**November 22 (Thanksgiving)** – In honor of Connor Shanks on his 14<sup>th</sup> birthday from the Shanks family.

**November 25** – In loving memory of her mother, E. Lorraine Rutz from Miss Heather Rutz.

The flowers may be taken by the donor after the worship service or they will be taken to the sick or shut-ins of our congregation by our volunteer shut-in visitors.

## LUTHERAN HOUR

WBAL (AM) – 1090 – 5:30 A.M.

### November 2018

November 4

#### **"The Problem of Heaven"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

What if we get to heaven--and we don't like it?

(Rev. 7:9-18)

November 11

#### **"What is Heaven?"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A message by Michael Zeigler for The Lutheran Hour based on John 17:1-5

(John 17:1-5)

November 18

#### **"Once And For All"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook

Rev. Dr. Tony Cook shares God's message of forgiveness--"In Jesus, our Great High Priest, we have found the perfect and permanent solution to our separation and sin."

(Hebrews 10:11-19)

November 25

#### **"Birth Pains"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A message by Michael Ziegler for The Lutheran Hour Based on Mark 13:1-37

## **SPOTLIGHT IS ON YOU!!!!**

### **"HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

November 4th  
*Debbie Taylor*

November 10th  
*Connor Shanks*

November 21st  
*Mildred Weese*

November 27th  
*Susan Argo*

November 28  
*Kenneth Schminke*  
*Terri Wynn*

*May God bless you with His good gifts. May you grow in His grace. "Birthday Blessings" from your church family.*

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### ***HAPPY ANNIVERSARY***

November 3rd  
*Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Shanks (Mandy)*

November 4th  
*Mr. & Mrs. Mike Robertson (Brooke)*

### ***CONGRATULATIONS***

*May God Bless you on this special day and always!*

## **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

### **2019 ALTAR FLOWERS CHART**

**The Altar Flowers Chart for 2019** will be posted in the narthex in late December. Please sign the chart when you know which week or weeks you may be interested in placing flowers on the Altar. The cost to place flowers is still **\$25.00**. Please also indicate on the chart why you are placing them, (whether to honor someone or something or in memory of someone. The flowers may be taken by the donor after the worship service or they will be taken to the sick or shut-ins of our congregation by our volunteer shut-in visitors.

### **NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE**

We will be alternating the Worship Services Schedule as follows:

#### **November**

First Sunday – Divine Service IV

Second Sunday – Divine Service III

Third Sunday – Divine Service IV

Fourth Sunday – Divine Service III (No Communion)

### **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Confirmation Classes are held on **Saturday, At 9 a.m.** in the Education Building.

## **ADULT BIBLE CLASS**

### **What Do We Believe? : Understanding the Faith through Our Lutheran Perspective**

The Fall Adult Bible Study is held every Sunday morning **at 9:00 am in the Education Building** (across the street from the sanctuary), before worship.

The study will cover the basics of Christianity and the Lutheran faith. Studying the Scriptures and reading God's Word is an integral part of the Christian life, but it can be intimidating at times. This study is aimed for all walks of faith; whether you grew up in a church your whole life or this is your first Sunday with us, all are invited. Do not be afraid to attend, because discussion and questions *are welcomed*.

The study will explore the basics of the faith as well as how one should read and interpret the scriptures. As One body in Christ, this Bible study will strengthen the language and understanding of things in the faith by all who attend.

### **FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED**

**If you or your family would like to provide the refreshments for our Fellowship Gathering on the 2nd or 4th Sunday of each month, please sign up for one or more Sundays listed on the sign-up sheet. A sign-up sheet for 2018 is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. The church will provide the coffee, juice, cups, napkins, etc.**

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**CONCORDIA PREPARATORY  
SCHOOL**

Concordia Prep will be hosting their annual **Saints Bingo event on Friday, November 16, beginning at 7:00 p.m.** on their campus at 1145 Concordia Drive. There will be 20 bingo games, an Early bird game, 3 Special games and raffles. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25. at the door (tables of 10 for \$180, reserved in advance only). Bingo prizes this year will be Vera Bradley, thirty-one, Coach, Kate Spade, and Dooney & Bourke. To purchase tickets visit [concordiaprepschool.org](http://concordiaprepschool.org) or contact Gloria Murphy at [gloriamurphy@concordiaprepschool.org](mailto:gloriamurphy@concordiaprepschool.org) or 410-825-2323, ext. 275.

**THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON**

**St. James' Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon will be held on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> following the Worship Service.** Roast turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, rolls/butter, and drinks will be provided. This year we are asking members of the congregation whose last names begin with **A – K to provide a dessert** and those members whose last names begin with **L – Z to bring a side dish of their choose.** **All members of St. James are invited.**

**Helpers are needed** to help set-up, to help cook and serve the meal, and to clean up following the meal. If you can volunteer to help on any of the following days, please use the sign-up sheet posted in the narthex. If you would like to roast and slice a turkey and bring to the meal, please use the sign-up sheet also.

**THANKSGIVING WORSHIP  
SERVICE**

Thanksgiving Worship Service will be held on **Wednesday night, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

The church office will be closed on **Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>** for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

**WE ARE ON FACEBOOK!!!**

If you haven't yet "Liked" us on Facebook, you can find us by searching for Saint James Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you have already, "Liked" us, please share our page on your wall and tell your family and friends about us. Let's all spread the word about our wonderful church.

**LUTHERAN CHURCH  
EXTENSION FUND**

**NOVEMBER - Giving Thanks Through Lutheran Church Extension Fund.** By investing your financial blessings from the Lord, you are actively giving thanks and giving back. While your funds earn you competitive interest, they also help churches and schools provide space and place for the preaching of the Good News. Interested in Gift Planning? **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** offers Gift Planning Services to assist you in supporting LCMS ministries close to your heart. Call the SED-LCMS office at 1-800-637-5723 for more information.

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**AUGSBURG LUTHERAN HOME  
AND VILLAGE**

Volunteers are needed at Augsburg Lutheran Home (located near Liberty Road and the Beltway) for our on-going programs. Friendly visitors, meal servers, escorts for residents to church services and activities, assistance with mailings are among the needs to be met by our volunteers. Clerical experienced volunteers are needed for filing, gathering and assembling information. We have a special need for anyone with musical talent, playing a musical instrument or piano or keyboard, especially for Sunday Church Services. Flexible hours are available for weekdays, early evenings and weekends. For more information, contact Kevin Webb in the Volunteer office (410-484-4573 x120). Find the joy of volunteering at Augsburg. Won't you consider joining our volunteer family

**THRIVENT DOLLARS PROGRAM**

**By directing Choice Dollars® through Thrivent Choice, eligible members can recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of it charitable outreach grant dollars among the thousands of participating organizations and congregations.** We would like to thank the following members for their contributions to St. James:

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|------------------------|---------------------|
| Mrs. Beverly Chryst    | Mrs. Claire Krach   |
| Mr. G. Thomas Chryst   | Mrs. Doris Peterson |
| Mrs. Debbie Foelber    | Mr. Paul Pullen     |
| Rev. J. Thomas Foelber | Mrs. Susan Pullen   |
| Mrs. Elvira Antonucci  | Mr. Walter Chrysam  |
| Mr. Ray Bitzel         | Mrs. Betty Pezzica  |
| Mrs. Miriam Bartram    | Mrs. Suzanne Elmore |
| Mrs. Mary S. Woodruff  |                     |



**LUTHERAN WOMEN'S  
MISSIONARY LEAGUE**

Remember your Mite boxes **do not** have to be filled before you bring them to church. Better that they are on their way to bolster Mission project than to be laying idly on your tabletops or pockets. **Our 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter mites donation totaled \$337.21.**

**They make a big difference to the blind, the homeless and those in darkness. They will all know that God does love them and cares for them.**

*One mite and prayer at a time.*

**LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY**

**Urgent: Non-Perishable Food Items Needed –** The Lutheran Mission Society's food pantries are running dangerously low. Even cans of green beans and other vegetables – which we seem to have even when canned meats and other proteins are in short supply – are almost depleted on many of our Compassion Care shelves. If you would, please pick up some extra groceries when you do your food shopping and drop off at your nearest Lutheran Mission Society Compassion Center or include the food items in the church's food cart on the fourth Sunday each month. God Bless You.

**The Lutheran Mission Society wants you to think about your sofas, chairs, buffets, tables – furniture of all types.** Whether you're planning a move, yard sale or home makeover, your gently-used furniture items and boxed house wares can help change lives. Please call us at least two weeks ahead of time to schedule a pickup at (410-636-0123). Because of limited resources, we cannot pick up bags of clothing alone, but we'd be glad to take them along with your furniture donations. Smaller items may be taken to any of our Compassion Center / Donation Centers. Check our website for a location near you. In-kind donations are a great way to stand with us in mission as we help folks with food, clothing, counseling and spiritual care. The **Lutheran Mission Society** is a 501© (3) charitable organization and your donations are tax deductible. **Thank you, and remember THINK BIG!**

*You've heard of "Cash for Clunkers." How about ... "Jalopies for Jesus?"*

**DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK, SUV to the Lutheran Mission Society.** Tax deductible. MVA licensed. Your vehicle donation helps provide food, clothing, shelter, hope. Call Joe Earnest at **410-636-0123.**  
[www.LutheranMissionSociety.org](http://www.LutheranMissionSociety.org)

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**COUNCIL/CONGREGATION  
MEETINGS REPORT  
October 14 & 21, 2018**

**PASTOR'S REPORT**

Visitations: 13 visits to homes, hospitals, assisted care facilities and plans to visit with each member of congregation in upcoming year.

General Notes:

The Adult Bible Study, "What Do We Believe? Understanding the Faith Through our Lutheran Perspective" has had approximately 10-15 adults in attendance each week.

Upcoming Bible Study:

- Advent Bible Study (Dec. 2 – Dec. 23; Topic TBD)
- Winter Bible Study (Jan. 6 – Mar. 3 ; Topic : Gospel of John)
- Lent Bible Study (Mar. 10 – Apr. 14 ; Topic TBD)
- Spring Bible Study (Apr. 28 – May 26 ; Topic TBD)

Confirmation began on September 29<sup>th</sup> with four students. There will be a public examination of the confirmands in front of the congregation in May.

This year we will have Wednesday night meals with accompanying fellowship/worship/bible study discussion during Advent. This will also serve as an opportunity to engage with the community, as the events will be open to members of the neighborhood. If successful, these Wednesday devotionals could be continued.

In order to build a new and improved website, Pastor Bednash purchased one year with WIX at a cost of \$17.50 per month for the first year, and a cost of \$35

per month next year. He also purchased three years of new domain (saintjamesbaltimore.com). We received one free year of usage, and the cost will be approximately \$25 per month next year.

Charles Randow is alternate lay representative for the Synodical Convention in the summer of 2019.

Pastor Bednash will get additional information on the Synod's election, as the congregation must participate in the vote.

Pastor Bednash will give a tour of St. James to Pastor Ken Stottlemyer and a group of youth/confirmands/visitors from St. Paul's Lutheran in western Maryland on October 24<sup>th</sup>. They are interested in learning about other churches, specifically city churches in Baltimore. Pastor Bednash will teach them about the liturgy and our stained glass windows.

The congregation will have the opportunity to help provide Christmas gifts for Seminarians at Fort Wayne. Pastor Bednash will share additional information in the upcoming weeks.

Important dates were shared:

Nov. 4 – All Saints Day  
Nov. 4 – Elders Meeting  
Nov. 11 – Council Meeting  
Nov. 18 – Thanksgiving Luncheon after Service  
Nov. 21 – Thanksgiving Service @ 7 p.m. (possible pie social following service)  
Nov. 25 – Pastor Bednash out of town. Vicar Bob will preach.  
Dec. 1 – Christmas Decorating @ 9:00 with snacks and hot chocolate  
Dec. 2 – Elders Meeting  
Dec. 5 – First Midweek Advent Fellowship Devotion @ 5:30/6 (food TBD)  
Dec. 9 – Council Meeting  
Dec. 12 – Second Midweek Advent Fellowship Devotion  
Dec. 16 – Congregation Meeting  
Dec. 19 – Third Midweek Advent Fellowship Devotion  
Dec. 23 – Children's Program? TBD  
Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve? TBD  
Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Service @10:00 a.m.  
Jan. 19 – Christmas Decoration Take-Down @9:00

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Recent expenses include:

- fall quarter support of \$1,500.00 from home congregation for Nate Konkel /next payment due November 26, 2018
- replacement of stolen A/C copper wire (\$1,800.00)
- two new A/C units for resident guests (\$464.00)

- Pastor Bednash celebration dinner and gratuity (\$1,824.00); misc. expenses (\$374.00)
- ladder/supplies (excluding donated paint) needed to paint fellowship hall (\$166.79)
- mats for fellowship hall (\$37.00)
- sign for outside of church (\$255.00)

Mission and Outreach obligations for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr have been paid, and all other bills have been paid. Copy of Proposed 2019 Budget was distributed to members of Congregation at meeting. Any questions can be directed to Virginia in the office. This budget will be approved by the council in November and presented to the Congregation in December.

**ELDERS REPORT**

Gary Barth reported the December Congregation Meeting will be a Voters' Meeting, as new Council and Board members will be elected. Anyone interested in filling a council position or serving on a board should contact Gary. A new president and vice-president are sought, as Mike Weese and Charles Randow have reached their term limits.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Mike Robertson reported Sunday school continues to progress well. He would like to order t-shirts for the students with a St. James "logo" of some sort and have the children participate in some outside recreational activities as a group. The Sunday school teachers will work with the students to organize the "Miracle of Christmas" project again this year.

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

Dave Wynn reported that D'Amico Construction has completed the concrete work. They are also building security cages around the A/C units to discourage future thefts.

There are currently about 600 gallons of oil in the education building's tank. 2,000 gallons will have to be ordered in the next week. The furnace in the Ed. Bldg. would not come on, so two new space heaters were purchased for the resident guests. McComas will be called to check out the furnace. .

The exterior doors of the education building are functioning properly now that they have been planed down a bit and the humidity level has dropped. The doors' edges need to be sealed to prevent warping.

Dave will get an estimate for replacing the glass in the back door of the education building.

An outside engineering firm was contracted to perform a structural assessment of the church building and the

education building to help identify any problems that might impact future planning decisions.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Pastor Bednash will review last year's children's Christmas Eve Program and make a determination about whether to include it during the sermon portion of the service on the 23<sup>rd</sup> or during the Christmas Eve Service on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The time for the Christmas Eve Service must also be determined. Mike Robertson will seek input from the parents of the children who will participate in the program and coordinate with Pastor Bednash.

Pastor Bednash will contact Baltimore County Fire Dept. to inquire about obtaining AED defibrillators for the church and education buildings.

The Thanksgiving Service (11/21 at 7 p.m.) will be followed by a Pie Social for members and guests.

Pastor Bednash reported that St. James will have the opportunity to help provide Christmas Gifts for Seminarians at Ft. Wayne by donating gift cards. Additional information will be published in the Spotlight.

Next Congregation Meeting will be **December 16<sup>th</sup>**.

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**DECEMBER SPOTLIGHT  
DEADLINE IS**

**SUNDAY, November 25<sup>th</sup>** Articles and items of interest may be given to Virginia directly or mailed to the office by the **deadline. Be sure to include dates and times for activities in DECEMBER**

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TOWSON MD 21286  
410-887-5399**



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**NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS**

***DO YOU HAVE NEWS***

***Please share any news or important events. Let us share your news with the congregation through our Church Newsletter. Articles can be submitted to Virginia in the Church office at anytime.***

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