

St. Mark's Lutheran Church News Notes

July-August 2024

Whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Philippians 4:8

WOLFSVILLE COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Host Church: St. Mark's
July 15-19

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Ages 4 through 12

Sponsor: Wolfsville Ruritan Club

Theme:

**Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp
Adventure with God**

Children will learn ways they can connect with and put their trust in God whenever they are afraid or challenged.

Each evening will include:

Singing/Skit

Bible Story

Snacks

Crafts

Recreation

**Please help spread the word and
bring your young learners to
summer VBS.**



July Birthdays

(Please let Lois know of any additions or corrections.)

- 2 – Vaughn Smith
- 4 – Melissa Cristler
- 5 – Harold Stover
- 6 – Raegan Herr
Cody Ward
- 7 – Wesley Itell
- 9 – Robert Wisner
Christopher Elliott
- 10 – Bradley Coblentz
- 14 – Mike Cline
- 16 – Bonnie Cline
- 17 – Wade Feaga
- 19 – Rick Hessong
- 21 – Stephen Wolf
- 23 – Barbara Kemp
- 27 – Hilary Young
Jonathan Wolf
- 28 – Jonathan Young
Leah Feaga
- 29 – Dawn Reed
- 30 – Whalen Baldwin
Granger Cameron
- 31 – Larry Moser

July Anniversaries

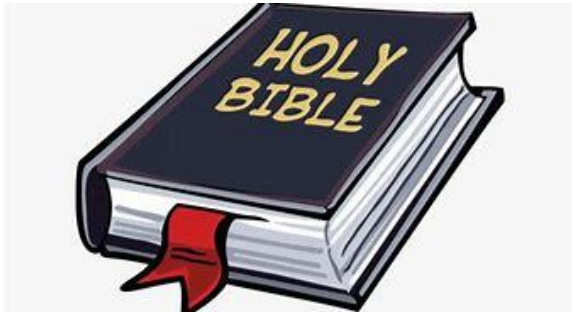
- 9 – Greg and Heather Green
- 29 – Gerald and Karen Kunde

CONFIRMATION

A new confirmation class will be starting in September. If you are in seventh grade or older and have not been confirmed in the Lutheran Christian faith, please see Pastor Eric about a future class.

Moser Family Vacation

Pastor Eric and family will be on vacation **July 1-10**. Pastor Mary Ricketts will be leading worship on July 7. Pastor Marlene Phillips from St. John's, Church Hill will be available for pastoral care. She can be reached at 202-262-8512.



BIBLE STUDY

(on summer break)

Sessions will resume

Thurs., Sept. 12
10:00-11:30 a.m.

Studying the Gospel according to
St. Matthew

All are welcome. Please join us.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR BLESSING

All students, teachers, and staff are welcome to receive a blessing during the worship service on **Sun., Aug. 18**. Students are encouraged to bring their backpacks to church that day.

August Birthdays

- 1 – Cinda Morgan
- 2 – Paul Spangler
- 3 – David Buhrman
Steve Palmer
- 4 – Audrey Routzahn
Amy Speck
- 9 – Vera Morgan (#100!)
Judith Horst
- 11 – Abby Dillon
Carter Mills
- 15 – Janice Saul
Steve Struharik
- 18 – Billy Ditchey
Susie Ward
- 19 – Angie Kessler
- 22 – Tricia (Buhrman) McGoldrick
- 23 – Christina Fromm
- 25 – Douglas Spade
- 29 – Lonnie Spade
- 31 – Sydney Neel
Mike Frushour

August Anniversaries

- 2 – Merle and Doris Gaver
- 6 – Richard and Anita Harshman
- 12 – Larry and Amy Speck
- 13 – Calvin and Kay Goad
- 22 – Steve and Jean Struharik
- 26 – Michael and Tina Morgan

SCHOOL SUPPLIES by July 28

Middletown Valley People Helping People is asking for donations of school supplies for Middletown High School feeder schools.

Suggested items include:

markers, earbuds with microphone, composition notebooks, wide-rule notebooks, pencil boxes, and crayons. (See the Wolfsville School website for additional ideas.)

Items may be placed in the yellow box in the Sunday School area.

Annual Wolfsville Picnic

Sat., Aug. 24, 2024

11:00 a.m. – (4:00 p.m.)

at the **Wolfsville Ruritan Park**

**PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE
WORD ABOUT THE NEW DATE
AND LOCATION.**

*Food, fun, fellowship
White Elephant stand
Musical Entertainment*

WE NEED YOU

This is St. Mark's biggest fundraiser of the year and lots of help is needed to set up, work in the stands and clean up afterwards. Please volunteer your time and resources to help make this a profitable day for St. Mark's and a special day for all in our community.

Watch the bulletin for more details.

Delaware-Maryland Synod Recap

(Note: Pastor Eric, Steve and Jean Struharik represented our congregation at the assembly).

The 37th Annual Synod Assembly of the Delaware-Maryland Synod convened June 7 and 8 at Grace (Westminster), hosted by the people of Grace and the Westminster Conference. Gathered under the theme, "Blessed, Broken, and Sent," the Assembly opened and closed with Word and Sacrament, and spent

considerable time considering that theme in preaching, song, prayer, and Bible Study. Bishop Bill Gohl and Synod Vice President Jada Wright co- presided over the assembly. Ms. Jennifer DeLeon, Senior Director for Racial Justice for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, was our Churchwide Representative; and Pastor Dan Beirne, one of our Synod Mission Developers in partnership with Global Refuge, was our Bible Study Leader.

The Assembly was invited to, and turned out in strong numbers for, a live-recording of our synod's Ten Foot Pole Podcast, featuring Pastor AJ Houseman interviewing Pastor Colby Martin, author of Unclobber and Shift.

The Assembly received reports from each of the Synod Council Officers, the four Synod Mission Teams (Leadership, Discipleship, Communication, and Connectedness), and the Assistants to the Bishop. We heard from ministry partners: Global Refuge/Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Lutheran World Relief, Mosaic, and Lutheran Social Ministries of Maryland. Our Hunger Ministry Team led us in observing the 50th Anniversary of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal with our annual Noisy Offering; our Creation Care Ministry Team helped us to give thanks for the ministry of our beloved late Deacon Laura Heller; and many ministries invited greater participation through their exhibits in the interactive center.

The Assembly elected members to

serve on our Synod Council, the Consultation and Discipline Committees, and voting members for the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. In a poignant moment, Bishop Gohl led us in the annual necrology, remembering faithful ministerial leaders who have died in Christ since our last assembly; and the assembly celebrated with ministerial leaders and congregations observing milestone anniversaries.

In its business, the Assembly acted to: Approved a FY2025 Faith Spending Plan that was 5% less than the approved budget for FY2023. Those reductions will largely be in the areas of grant making and modest staff reductions. That same budget provides for 5% increases for Mar-Lu-Ridge, our Campus Ministries, and St. Dysmas.

Approved a 4% increase in the Synod Compensation Guidelines base salary; Approved a Memorial to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly: [Bishop Oversight & Accountability](#)
Approved Resolutions: [Calling for Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions by the Synod, Congregations, Associated Ministries and their Members; World Hunger at Fifty Years; Global Church Sunday; and For Justice for Palestinians and Israelis.](#)

Many thanks to our Synod Assembly Planning Team, our Synod Worship Team, the Staff and People of Grace (Westminster), and the Westminster Conference for their hard work and holy welcome!

Bible Riddle

(from Leah's files)

A religious man of great wealth once offered a prize of \$1000 to anyone who could compound a riddle on a Biblical subject that he could not solve. An old lady in Colorado won the prize with the following:

Adam, God made out of dust, but thought it best to make me first.
So I was made before the man to answer God's most holy plan.
My body God did make complete, but without arms or legs or feet.
My ways and acts He did control, but to my body gave no soul.
A living being I became and Adam gave to me a name.
I from his presence then withdrew and more of Adam never knew.
I did my Maker's law obey, nor ever went from it astray.
Thousands of miles I go in fear, but seldom do on earth appear.
For purpose wise, which God did see, He put a living soul in me.
A soul from me my God did claim, and took from me the soul again.
So when from me the soul had fled, I was the same as when first made.
And without hands or feet or soul, I travel on from pole to pole.
I labor on by day and night. To fallen men I give great light.
Thousands of people young and old, will by my death great light behold.
No right or wrong can I conceive. The Scriptures I cannot believe.
Although therein my name is found, they are to me an empty sound.
No fear of death doth trouble me, real happiness I'll never see.
To heaven I shall never go, nor find a place in hell below.
Now, when these lines you slowly read, go search your Bible with all speed.
For that my name is written there, I honestly do declare.
(Answer: a whale)

Did You Know?

Vera Morgan, lifelong member of St. Mark's, will turn 100 years young on Aug. 9. Born in 1924, Vera was the eleventh of twelve children (four boys and eight girls) born to Paul and Etta Kline. One of her earliest memories of St. Mark's is beloved Sunday School teacher and namesake Vera Sensenbaugh. The Kline children were expected to be in church each Sunday, often times walking to church, but in later years being driven by older sister Gladys or brother June. The Klines loved to sing, especially hymns. Vera still remembers all the words of a song she sang as part of the Christmas program one year. Jack Morgan played the organ while Harry Leatherman helped to "pump" the instrument. (Note: With her fantastic memory, Vera can still sing the entire "Chiquita Banana" song. Let her entertain you sometime!)

Vera attended Wolfsville School and has fond memories of teachers Madelynne Smith, Carlotta Hays, (sister) Gladys Toms, and Marshall Leatherman. She graduated from Middletown High School in 1942. Her favorite subject was English, taught by Miss Sarah Leiter, which would bode well for her future as a secretary.

Vera enrolled in Columbia Business College and upon graduation, she began working at the Hagerstown Leather Co. where she was responsible for the payroll. She would regularly go to the bank for cash payments for each worker.

Vera's father assisted with butchering for many families in the area, including Ralph Morgan. Although she dated several young men, Ralph and Flora's son Paul Morgan became Vera's steady beau. They were married in 1943 and eventually welcomed three children into

their family – Dwight, Judy, and Cinda. Today seven grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren have joined the closeknit family.

Paul and Vera both took jobs at Fairchild in Hagerstown, with Vera working as secretary. Marshall Leatherman, principal of Wolfsville School, approached Vera about coming to work in the front office and she began a 32-year career with Frederick County Public Schools. Not only performing secretary duties, Vera was often the nurse, sometimes assistant to the custodian, and even transported students to school who had missed the bus. "Dignitaries" from the central office soon learned that nothing could beat Mrs. Morgan's fried chicken or red velvet cake, which she brought to school on days she knew they would be visiting. Needless to say, they made frequent visits to Wolfsville. Vera loved the community and they loved her, too. After her lengthy tenure, daughter Judy would be hired to take over her mother's secretarial duties at Wolfsville School for many more years.

Paul and Vera were active members of St. Mark's, involved in many church activities. Vera headed up the food stand at the Wolfsville Picnic for many years. Pete and Elizabeth Barkdoll and Paul and Vera also teamed up many times to select Christmas treats and candy for the Sunday School.

Paul's passing in 2009 left a huge hole in the Morgan family, but Vera's faith remains strong. She is devoted to her family, friends, and church. She still lives in the home built by Paul's grandparents, Irving and Ida Morgan. She gets frequent visits from doting grandkids and their families. Her high school class motto remains her motto for life:

“Don’t be what you isn’t,
Just be what you is,
‘Cause if you is what you isn’t,
Then you isn’t what you is.”

Amen. We are grateful for all that Vera “is”
and wish her much happiness on this very
special occasion. Happy 100th birthday!

Above: Church directory photo 2005

Below: Family photo Apr. 20, 2024



Paul & Vera Morgan

