

# The Messenger

## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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### Things old and new...

*"Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old." Matthew 13:52*

### What is with all these extra pieces of communion ware?

The Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament

For the last year and a half, the two congregations which form our shared area ministry have made use of an ancient practice of the Christian church in order that our parishioners may receive Holy Communion every Sunday (at least) in each church. This practice, called the "reservation of the Blessed Sacrament," enables us to keep, or reserve, a portion of the bread and wine consecrated at a Sunday celebration of the Holy Eucharist for distribution to the faithful at another worship service where, for whatever reason, the parish pastor is unable to be present.

*First, why?* (A lot of background...)

It is important for us to understand our own situation, which is becoming more and more common through the wider church, in order to understand why we are reserving the Blessed Sacrament. In the church there are various expressions of the Office of Holy Ministry given by Christ to the church. We sometimes call these "orders," specifically the orders of bishops, pastors, and deacons. These orders come to us from the first generations of the church and their roots are visible in the New Testament.

The New Testament church is absolutely a missionary movement. That movement begins with the words of Jesus himself in three actions which we find in the events surrounding his death, resurrection, and ascension. In the Upper Room, the night before he is handed over to crucifixion, Jesus commands his disciples to continue the breaking of bread and passing the cup of wine in the church. He says, *"take, eat, do this in remembrance..."* After his resurrection, Jesus appears to the disciples and says to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven, if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (John 20:21-22). In this three-fold action of command, giving the Holy Spirit, and sending, the church finds the seed of the ministry of **apostolic ministry of bishops**.

As the Good News of Jesus Christ spread rapidly and this way of Jesus caught like fire, we see another order of ministry emerge out of deep necessity. The followers of Jesus in Acts were consumed with the proclamation of the Word and the gathering together of the body of the church, but also were deeply involved with ministries of mercy and caring for the poor, the hungry, and widows. In Acts 6, we find the Twelve grappling with the problem every pastor has to this day – not enough time to accomplish everything that needs to happen! Trouble in the church was arising because certain groups of widows were being “overlooked” due to the busy-ness of the Twelve. In order to solve this problem, the Twelve gathered the church saying, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and give our attention to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:2-4). The text then gives us a snapshot of the first ordination of **ministers who would come to be known as “deacons.”**

“This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them” (Acts 6:5-6). Amongst these, Stephen would become the first martyr of the church. The number of deacons would only increase after these events. The ELCA has only recently, after centuries of confusion amongst Lutherans in regards to the order of deacons, recovered the ministry of deacons, ordained to the ministry of Word and Service. Deacons are to be servant-leaders who connect the concerns and needs of the world to the life of the church. They lead us in serving the poor, feeding the hungry, and in other ministries of care and mercy. Within the walls of the church and during the liturgy, deacons also have a ministry of assistance. When a deacon is present, the deacon’s role is to proclaim the Gospel lesson, lead the intercessions (prayers of the people), prepare the altar for Holy Communion, and say the dismissal.

Seeing these two orders blossom in the New Testament church is rather easy. However, a third order arose as the Gospel continued its wildfire spread and those bishops still needed more help! While Peter, Paul, and other apostles traveled and gave oversight to the wider church, there developed leaders of local churches who became stationary. We see names such as Timothy, Apollos, Julius, Priscilla and Aquila, Rufus, Titus, Silas, Onesiphorus, Crescens, Philemon, and countless others peppered through the New Testament writings. To these persons, apostolic ministry is delegated. In 1 Timothy 1:3, we find Paul leaving Timothy at Ephesus and in Titus 1:5 we find Paul leaving Titus in Crete with commands to continue the ministry of apostle (bishop) and to appoint and ordain other leaders. In all of these appointments we see the **emergence of the order of “presbyter.”**

“Presbyter,” in Greek “presbyteros,” simply means “elder” or “senior.” From it is derived the word we have come to know well: priest. As the church would develop through the apostolic generation and the generation which would follow, the orders of bishop and priest would become more distinct. By the time of the deaths of the apostles, a bishop would be at the head of a “college of presbyters” in any given place. Over time, so many gatherings, or congregations, would develop that not each of them could be served by the bishop. So, the presbyter, or priest, was delegated with the bishop’s authority to preach the word, celebrate the sacraments, lead the

church, and guard the faith. The bishop would often be in a city center or metropolitan area and the presbyters would oversee congregations in the countryside (hold on to this piece of information).

It is from this **presbyteral order that we have the ordained ministry of pastors as we have come to know it.** The word “pastor” is merely the Latin word for “shepherd.” Lutherans throughout the world use these words interchangeably. In Germany and the United States, you will most usually, but certainly not always, find the word “pastor” used for the clergy who lead a parish. In Scandinavia and Africa, Lutherans usually call their clergy “priest.” **Presbyter, priest, and pastor are all the same ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament.**

By middle of the 100s, these three orders of ministry – episkopoi (bishops), presbyteroi (priests/pastors), and diakonoi (deacons) – had blossomed from their New Testament seeds and may be seen at work in our own churches today. Bishops have oversight of a geographical area, care for pastors, oversee congregations, preach the word, celebrate sacraments, and ordain pastors and deacons. Pastors primarily preach the word and celebrate the sacraments, teach and guard the faith, provide pastoral care and counseling, lead the parish, and bury the dead. Deacons lead us in community ministries, care for the poor and hungry, and assist bishops and pastors in the sacramental celebrations of the church.

#### *Now to the Sacrament of the Altar*

In our own churches in Talbot County, we find a team of ministry which is identical to these early church roots. We have a bishop who oversees us, but is in a metropolitan area and has helped you call and approved the call of a pastor/presbyter for our congregations to who lie too far out for the bishop to be present every Sunday. We are also blessed with a deacon to fulfill the ancient role of assistance in ministry and in worship. This rediscovery of the ministry of the ancient church allows us the flexibility to share ministry between two congregations in a way that makes the pastor and deacon more available to both. However, when it comes to Holy Communion, that means our eucharistic practices must be flexible as well. **Again, we rely on the practice of the ancient Christian church to guide us.**

Bishops and pastors are the ministers ordained to Word and Sacrament ministry. As such, only bishops and pastors consecrate the bread and wine administered in Holy Communion. Deacons do not consecrate, but instead distribute. (It is true that because of practices grandfathered in from the former American Lutheran Church, in some places deacons and lay persons, usually seminarians, have been licensed for very limited times for consecration, though the ELCA has committed to phase out this practice.). As such, we have to look for another alternative for our churches to receive Holy Communion on a Sunday when the pastor is not present.

That alternative is what we call a “deacon’s distribution.” In the earliest writings of the church fathers, we find St. Justin Martyr, who lived from 100-165, writing about how the eucharistic liturgy ends by sending deacons from the altar to take the Eucharist to those who could not be present. In his *First Apology*, Justin writes “to those who are absent, they [deacons] carry away a portion.” Saints Basil and Cyprian also write of this. We now rely on this practice for services where Holy

Communion is to be distributed from that which is already consecrated. This practice is also widespread amongst Roman Catholics and Episcopalians. **Deacons distribute the Sacrament that has already been consecrated by a bishop or presbyter** in a liturgy often called a “deacon’s Mass.”

*This is where all that extra communion ware comes in!*

Over the centuries, churches around the world have reserved, or stored, the Blessed Sacrament in various ways. Often, there was a room adjoining the church, near the altar, where everything needed for the liturgical celebrations of the church was kept – a room for sacred things. This is where we derive the word “sacristy.” This room was an option for reserving the Blessed Sacrament. Another option, a *pyx* (pronounced: pix), was a small, circular metal container in which the consecrated hosts, which some call “wafers,” were kept. In many medieval churches, the pyx would be suspended above the altar. In Germany, before the Reformation, many churches had a “sacrament house,” which often looked like a miniature church on a tall stand, in which the Blessed Sacrament was reserved.

However, most frequently, a box which looks like a decorated safe, called a “tabernacle” became the norm. Tabernacles are most often found in Roman churches, but are also present in Episcopal and Lutheran churches. If one visits First English Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh, for example, one would see a large tabernacle built into the wall, with an icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary as the door to the tabernacle.

Our churches do not yet have their tabernacles, which is the reverent way for us to reserve the Blessed Sacrament, which we believe to be the true Body and precious Blood of Jesus Christ. Currently, you see on the *retable*, which is the shelf behind the altar, what looks like a golden chalice with a lid. This is called a “ciborium.” *Cibum* is the Latin word for “food.” This ciborium which you see on the altar contains the consecrated hosts and deserves to be handled with the deepest of respect.

But you will also see a smaller ciborium sometimes. This is to aid our altar guilds in distinguishing what is consecrated and what is not. We cannot distribute as Holy Communion that which has not been consecrated. So, when you see a smaller ciborium, that contains bread which is about to be consecrated.

After our eucharistic elements have been consecrated, we reverently reserve them so that people may receive this Holy Sacrament later. This requires the extra care of our devoted altar guilds. So that your deacon and pastor may faithfully administer the sacrament to you, our altar guilds are tasked with the reverent reservation of that sacrament. This does seem complicated at times. For example, Lutherans inherited an un-Lutheran practice of taking consecrated bread and putting it back in containers with unconsecrated and likewise pouring wine that has been on the altar back into bottles to be consecrated again at the next eucharistic celebration. This must never be done, as it is a disrespectful handling of the Body and Blood of Christ.

*Why does any of this matter?*

This may seem like a lot of historical complication on the face of it. It may seem like rigidity and rules. These practices may also seem like an offense. There were decades upon decades where American Lutherans adopted practices from other denominations, such as pouring consecrated wine back into wine bottles, or using pre-filled communion cups. There have even been Lutheran congregations that took loaves of bread from the altar and sliced them up for jam at coffee hour. The fact that we as Lutheran Christians fell into bad habits and got used to them does not make them right. Just the opposite is true – we are always called to reflect on our practices and discern if they really convey that which we say we believe, teach, and confess.

The reason any of this sacred tradition and these communion practices, with all that “gear” required, is that Jesus Christ has given himself to us – body, blood, soul, divinity – in the Sacrament of the Altar. We serve and love a God who wants to be so close to us that he becomes the food that nourishes us. Try to think of a connection deeper than that! In our area ministry, we are making use of the richest parts of our tradition so that we may make this Holy Sacrament of Christ’s true presence available to the parishioners of these churches as much as possible.

### **Things old and new...**

*A monthly column for the parish newsletters of the Chesapeake Country Area Ministry, examining elements of our worship practices that we may be better equipped to give thanks for the inestimable gift of worship and liturgy in the Lutheran tradition.*



We thank thee, Lord, for the glory of the late days and the excellent face of thy sun. We thank thee for good news received. We thank thee for the pleasures we have enjoyed and for those we have been able to confer.

And now, when the clouds gather and the rain impends over the forest and our house, permit us not to be cast down; let us not lose the savor of past mercies and past pleasures; but, like the voice of a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memory survive in the hour of darkness. If there be in front of us any painful duty, strengthen us with the grace of courage; if any act of mercy, teach us tenderness and patience.

—Robert Louis Stevenson



11/2 Ruth McClean

11/2 Kim Marvel

11/3 Terri Hiner

11/3 Holly Sump

11/5 Harper Callahan

11/6 Hank Spies

11/7 Rachel Davis

11/10 Stacie Rice

11/18 Margaret Roe

11/19 Dottie Carroll

11/24 Curtis Short

11/27 Fred Meers

11/30 Smitty Smith

11/30 Casey Cep



**St. Paul's Email Prayer Ministry** . . . If you would like to add a name to the email prayer list or receive prayers from our prayer ministry group, please email Betty Jean Mumford at

**bettyjmumford@hotmail.com**

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

We pray for Michael Mumford, Charlie Marvel, George Schnoor, family of Pastor Donald McClean, Gerda Fisher, Lisa Fisher, Conroy Marth, Paul Bishop, Gordon Behrens, Edith Roe, and Diane Lewis.



**November 22**

**Joint Thanksgiving Eve**

**Eucharist**

**7 PM**



Community Office Hours

Dunkin Donuts

Thursday, November 16  
from 8:30-10:30 am

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. If you are not able to attend services in-person, but still want to send offerings to the church; this can be done by mailing offerings to the church or by using Tithe.ly.

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

If you have any questions about Tithe.ly, please contact Donna Stevens, Financial Secretary 410-820-7243 or [dstevens62@icloud.com](mailto:dstevens62@icloud.com)





## Out of the Mouths of Children

The 2nd - 4th grade Sunday School Class recently learned that they are messengers for God! Here are the messages they believe God wants us all to know -

Harper says: Be nice! You are so kind! You are loving! God loves you so much!

Quinn says: God loves you and always listen to God! Everyone loves you!

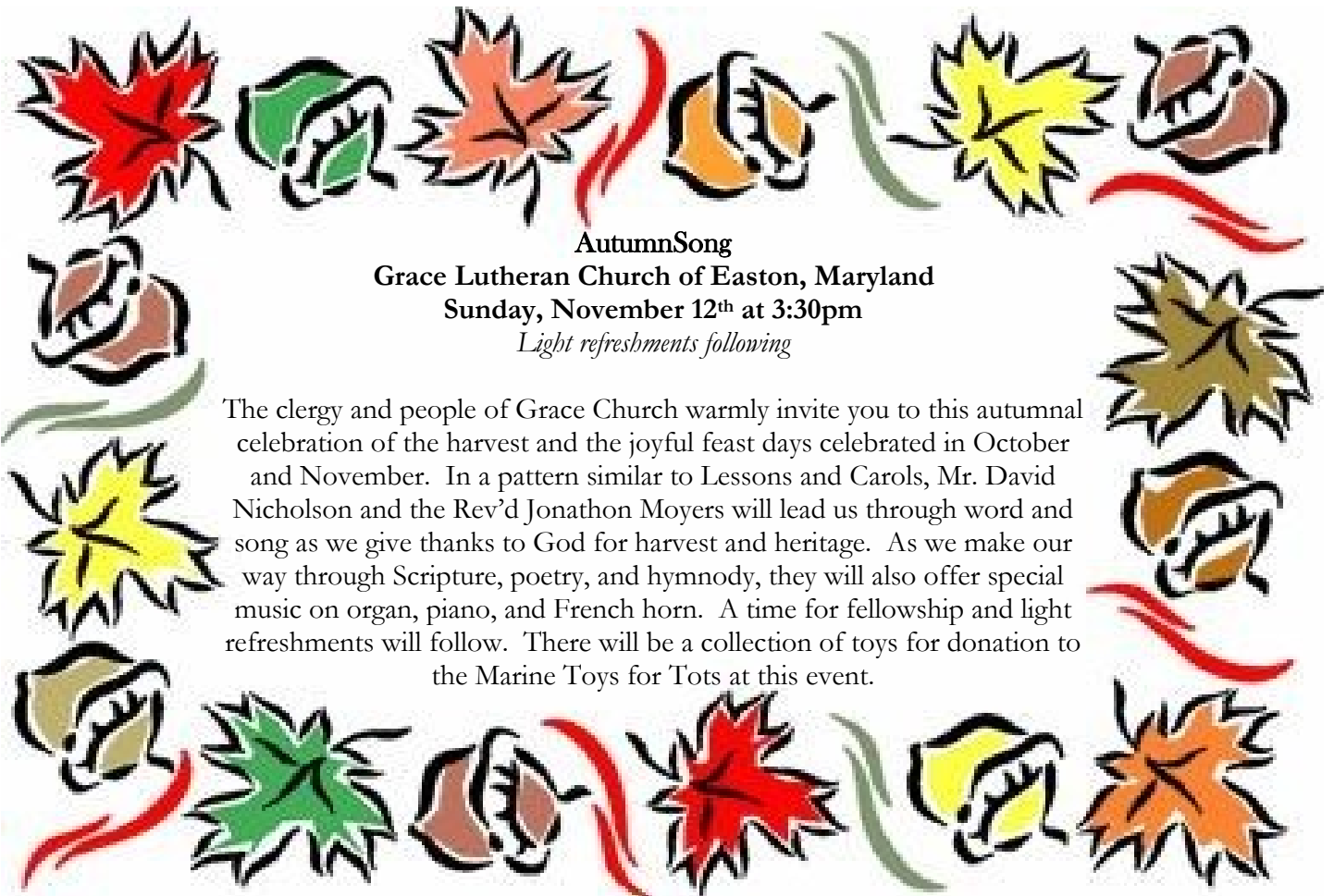
Charlie says: God loves you so much! Be thankful for everything you have!

Jack says: Be nice to God and other people and don't say any mean stuff!

Olivia says: God loves you because he loved everyone. You love everyone and think about heaven!

Collins says: Be nice to one another!

Bennett says: Be nice to God and people! God loves you!



### AutumnSong

Grace Lutheran Church of Easton, Maryland

Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm

*Light refreshments following*

The clergy and people of Grace Church warmly invite you to this autumnal celebration of the harvest and the joyful feast days celebrated in October and November. In a pattern similar to Lessons and Carols, Mr. David Nicholson and the Rev'd Jonathon Moyers will lead us through word and song as we give thanks to God for harvest and heritage. As we make our way through Scripture, poetry, and hymnody, they will also offer special music on organ, piano, and French horn. A time for fellowship and light refreshments will follow. There will be a collection of toys for donation to the Marine Toys for Tots at this event.



# THIS MONTH USHERS

## Ushers

- November 5 Alfred and Stevi Saathoff
- November 12 Keith Davis and Donnie Davis
- November 19 Kathy Barletta and Susan Behrens
- November 26 Lee Moore and Lee Heinsohn



## Tellers

- November 5 Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth
- November 12 Debbie Dudrow and Donna Stevens
- November 19 Kathy Barletta and Susan Behrens
- November 26 Lee Moore and Lee Heinsohn

## Lectors

- November 5 Bobbie Leaverton
- November 12 Confirmand
- November 19 Robert Saathoff
- November 26 Donna Stevens



## Acolytes

- November 5 Declan Corley
- November 12 Joshua Lewis
- November 19 Couper Barletta
- November 26 Corey Fisher

## Altar Flowers

- November 6 Susan Behrens
- November 13 Available
- November 20 Tom and Beth Roesel
- November 27 Fred Meers



## Altar Flowers

## Communion Assistants

- November 5 Fred Meers
- November 12 Bobbie Leaverton
- November 19 Henry Hollingsworth
- November 26 Robert Saathoff



## Communion Assistants



- November 5 Gavin Corley
- November 12
- November 19 Preston Rickwood
- November 26 Addison Rice

### Bible Quiz

**Fill in the blank:**  
 "Rejoice always, pray continually, give \_\_\_\_\_ in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

A. alms  
 B. praise  
 C. thanks  
 D. offerings

Answer: C (See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV)



**November**  
**Marian Davis**  
**and Betty Jean Mumford**



  
 CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor	Jonathon Moyers	304 400-5379	revjmoyers@gmail.com
Deacon	Mike Hiner	443 496-1383	mhiner24@gmail.com
President	Tom Roesel	703 795-8922	thomas.roesel@gmail.com
Vice President/Property	Darian Sump	410 924-7876	dsump@sumpassociates.com
Treasurer	Debbie Dudrow	410 924-8368	rdudrow@verizon.net
Secretary	Lyn Hollingsworth	410 714-3876	laph@goeaston.net
Financial Secretary	Donna Stevens	410 310-2107	dstevens62@icloud.com
Worship, Music, Education	Wendy Sauca	410 829-0411	swmmsauca@yahoo.com
Evangelism, Outreach	Donna Saathoff	410 310-1331	donnasaathoff529@gmail.com



### Toys for Tots

**We will continue to collect new, unwrapped toys this month. The last day for donations will be on Sunday, November 26.**



**In December and January, we will again be collecting coats, scarves, mittens and gloves for people in our community. If you have a gently used or even a new coat you would like to donate, boxes will be in the fellowship hall and narthex beginning next month.**



Coats for the Cold



**Our Chef**



**Pastor Moyers won the Sauerkraut trophy for the second year in a row.**



**Alte Krumpel Band**



# TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 29





# Trunk or Treat





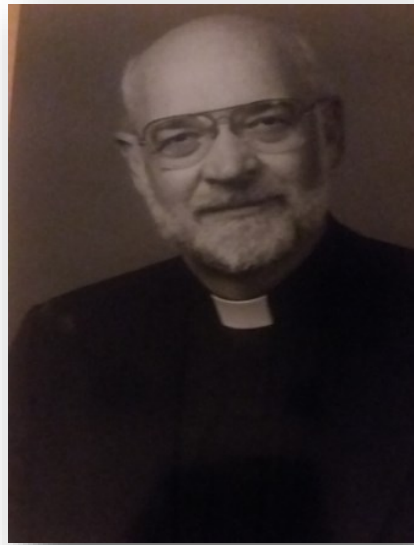
Upcoming Sunday School Events

November 19 Friendsgiving

December 17 Christmas Program

We will begin having practices for our program this month. Practices will take place during Sunday School classes.

IN LOVING  
Memory



The Rev. Donald John McClean was born March 19, 1937. After a primary education in Baltimore, he completed his secondary education at Concordia, Bronxville, New York, and achieved his Master of Divinity at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. He devoted further studies at Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary in New York.

After training at the Naganuma School of Linguistics in Tokyo, the Board for World Missions assigned him to pastor Nozomi (Hope) Lutheran Church in Niigata on the western shore of Japan. He appeared on a weekly television show, taught English to medical students, and opened “A Place to Go”, a Christian-informed gathering place for everyone at the end of the business day.

In 1972 the family returned to the U.S. and Rev. Don pastored at Trinity Lutheran Church (Vernon CT). In following years, he was pastor of Talbot Lutheran Parish (St. Paul’s in Cordova, MD and Grace Lutheran in Easton, MD). He also served as an area Chaplain for area hospitals, prisons and nursing homes as assigned by the Lutheran Mission Society.

Rev. Don and his wife spent their retirement in White Stone, VA. Having always loved the open water, he achieved a USCG Captain’s license and they took their trawler, “Columbia of Iona” down the Intercoastal Waterway. In 2015, they moved to Buckingham’s Choice.

The Rev. Donald McClean passed away September 24, 2023. In addition to his wife Ruth C. McClean, he is survived by daughters, Susan McClean (Chris Abrams), Donna Ellis (James Ellis), grandchildren, Ewan Ellis and Gwen Ellis. He was predeceased by a son, Steven McClean. A memorial service was held on October 26 at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church.

## Pumpkin Cake Roll by Lorraine M.B. Prete

3 eggs  
3/4 cup flour  
2 tsp. cinnamon  
1 cup confectioners sugar  
2/3 cup pumpkin  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 cup walnuts (optional)



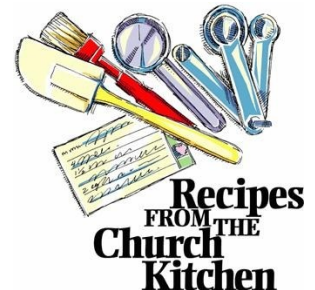
Filling-Cream  
6 oz. cream cheese  
4 T. butter  
1/2 tsp. vanilla  
1 cup confectioners sugar  
Beat until smooth and creamy

Beat eggs for 5 minutes. Mix all ingredients in order given and put on cookie sheet sprinkled with nuts. Bake at 375 degrees for 15-20 minutes. Loosen with knife and turn onto paper towels covered with confectioners sugar. Roll jelly roll fashion and cool 20—30 minutes. Unroll; spread with filling and re-roll.

## Pumpkin Squares by Carol Meers

1 pkg yellow cake mix  
1/2 cup margarine, melted  
1 egg  
Filling  
1 lb can pumpkin  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
2 1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

2 eggs  
2/3 cup milk  
Topping  
1 cup reserved cake mix  
1/4 cup sugar  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1/4 cup margarine



Grease only bottom of 9 x 13 pan. Reserve one cup cake mix for topping. Combine remaining mix, margarine and egg. Spread into pan. Prepare filling-combine all ingredients, beat until smooth, pour over crust. Combine topping ingredients and sprinkle over filling. Bake 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes, top with whipping cream.

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



## Our Staff

Worship Service Begins at 8:45 am  
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.

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### **Reverend Jonathon Moyers**

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### **Deacon Michael Hiner**

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Choir Director and Organist: Julie Hawley

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Email: [julie.hawley1487@gmail.com](mailto:julie.hawley1487@gmail.com)

