The Messenger

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



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

Email: info@stpaulscordova.org Website: www.stpaulscordova.org

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

Crosses and Crucifixes

Crux Sola Est Nostra Theologia

The Cross alone is our theology

The theology of the Cross, the eternal truth that grace is freely bestowed upon us through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ is at the heart of Lutheran theology. Early in the years of the Lutheran Reformation, Luther would use this phrase "the Cross alone is our theology" rather as a filter for what the Church ought be preaching and teaching in regards to the "alien work of righteousness" (meaning righteousness imparted from God to us).

With the Holy Cross at the center of our understanding of how righteousness (salvation, being made right with God) is given to us, it is no wonder that the Cross has indeed become *the* symbol to identify Christians and the places where Christians worship. It is unlikely that one would find a Lutheran parish church anywhere in the world without a Cross displayed – and usually very prominently. As much as we in our own time identify the Cross with worldwide Christianity and with the Lutheran Communion, this widespread use of the Cross as a seal and symbol amongst Christians does not date to the first generations of Christians.

Alister McGrath writes that the earliest Christians were reluctant to use the Cross as frequent symbol of faith because of the gruesome and humiliating nature of crucifixion. In fact, it is not easy to discern even what shape a Cross symbol would have been for the early Christians as we really do not know the shape of the instrument upon which Jesus was crucified. The Greek word we translate as "Cross," that is, "stauros, otaugóç," can indicate a stake, pike, pole, or something of a T or X shape. There was no one uniform shape for the *stauros* of Roman crucifixion. Thus, in the first and second centuries, there are very few instances of the use of the Cross which may be found. However by the early 200s, Christians had begun taking on "the Lord's sign," as it was called by St. Cyprian, and were tracing the form of a Cross on their foreheads as a physical sign of connection to our Lord.

This would all change rapidly in the 300s as the situation of Christianity changed under the Roman emperor Constantine. We have plenty of legendary material about that time, such as the notion that Constantine had a vision, relayed by Eusebius of Caeseria, in which he looked up to the sun and saw a Cross with the Greek words "ἐν τοὐτῷ νἰϰα," translated to Latin as "in hoc signo vinces," or "in this sign, conquer." In fact, when you see a Cross or altar hanging which has "IHS," we should stop and ponder for a moment. We have often portrayed that IHS as being the first three letters of the name of Jesus in Greek (Ιησούς, which the first three Greek capitals would appear IHS), but many believe it to be <u>In Hoc Signo</u>. Regardless, this legend has been conflated with another legend of



The Chi-Rho Symbol

Constantine seeing the Chi and Rho, the Greek symbol for the word "Christ," on the night before the Battle of the Milvian Bridge in 312.

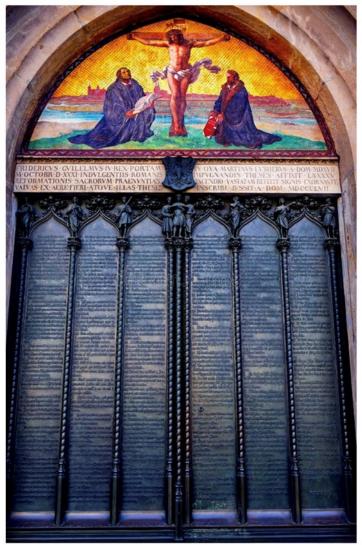
While it is more likely that Constantine legalized Christianity the next year in 313 for political reasons, the effect would be that the Cross would come out onto the world stage as a symbol used on buildings for public worship and would be worn by baptized Christians, from laity to bishops. As Christianity would make its way from legal toleration to the official religion of the empire, the mother of Constantine, St. Helena, would herself contribute to the popularity of the symbol of the Cross. In the middle and late 320s, having been sent on a tour of the Holy Land to find sacred places and relics, Helena claimed to have found the place of the crucifixion of Jesus and the Holy Cross itself, amongst a list of other items. The celebration of this "discovery" would lead to widespread use of the Cross.

For the next several hundred years, the Cross would be affixed to nearly everything related to Christianity and Christian worship. Crosses would adorn altars and would be carried at the front of processions of clergy monastics. Around the year 1000, altar and processional Crosses would become Crucifixes, representing the Christ crucified, hearkening back to 1 Corinthians 1:23, "But we preach Christ crucified." The

word "Crucifix" comes from the two Latin words *cruci* and *fixus*, meaning "one fixed to a cross." By the time of the Lutheran Reformation, the Crucifix was more widespread than a plain cross.

This leads us to a regular misconception which should be dispelled. It is often heard that a plain Cross is "Protestant" and a Crucifix is "Roman Catholic." That is a complete fabrication that is usually based on some form of anti-Catholic bias. In fact, in the town of Wittenberg, the iconoclastic Andreas Karlstadt went to work tearing out Crucifixes, vestments, altar appointments, and other things around the church, much to Luther's anger. Lutheran churches, as a standard, kept the Crucifix, resorting to plain Crosses once influenced by Calvinists and other more protestant-leaning groups. One trope often heard is that the "Catholics keep Jesus on the Cross but Protestants have an empty Cross because Jesus rose from the dead and is no longer on the Cross." Such a trope really has no meaning, as the Cross would have been emptied after the death of Jesus and would have remained empty, regardless of the resurrection.

In addition to the use of the Crucifix, there are other representations and adaptations of the Cross which may go unseen to many people. In Lutheran churches one will see many people make the sign of the Cross and such times as the invocation of the Holy Trinity and when receiving a blessing or when receiving Holy Communion. We do well to remind ourselves of the Holy Cross at these times. This gesture of making the sign of the Cross is a physical recognition that we are receiving that



Crucifix above the 95 Theses on the Castle Church in Wittenberg Martin Luther and Philip Melanchthon, kneeling

blessing or absolution. Again, this is one of those things that somehow is erroneously attributed as Roman Catholic practice. However, if we go back and look at the morning and evening prayers in the Small Catechism, the official teaching of the Lutheran Church, we will find Luther writing that we are to make the

sign of the Cross when we wake up and when we lie down to sleep.

Also, one will commonly find in Lutheran churches, as well as other churches such as the Episcopal Church, that for the season of Lent our Crosses, Crucifixes, and other images other than the Stations of the Cross, are veiled. This centuries-old practice finds its roots in the Gospel of John. In John 8, Jesus calls those who oppose him and his message "liars and children of the devil" (John 8:44). At this point, they pick up stones in order to begin stoning Jesus as a blasphemer. In verse 59, Jesus "hides himself" in order to escape untouched. He does not reveal himself until it is time to go back for the festival of Passover, at which point he will be arrested, tried, and crucified. In Lent, we veil Crosses, Crucifixes, and other images as a physical reminder that we are preparing to follow Jesus to his crucifixion, death, and resurrection.

For Lutherans today, we note that there is no law about the display of Crosses and Crucifixes in our churches. We are free to do that which we believe rightly conveys the Gospel message that Jesus has died for the sake of the world – and that grace is freely given to all through the sacrifice of the Resurrected One. However, when we enter a church and see either a Cross or a Crucifix, we would do well to stop for a moment and remember what that Cross or Crucifix means for us, remembering that it is the power of the Cross that God has chosen to offer salvation and new life to humanity.

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.



The community/church garden is beginning to produce fruit and vegetables.... and weeds.



If you are able to give some time each month to care for a garden box please sign the sheet on the bulletin board at church.

As you spruce up the garden make sure to fill a basket for your family and friends.

This garden has been blessed in so many ways. Lets keep it looking well care for.



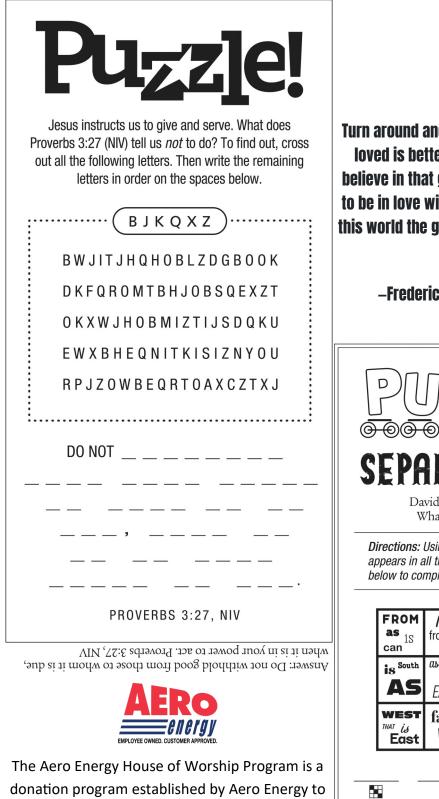
The Cordova Historical Society is looking for recipes from the Chapel Community.

The recipe, a picture of the cook and a family story is needed for a recipe book that the

Historical Society is compiling for publication.

This is a way to preserve a family memory of a beloved dish and the person who prepared it.

Please submit the recipes to Susan Behrens.



provide Aero Energy customers an opportunity to give to their churches. Aero Energy donates

4 cents for every gallon of fuel used by the

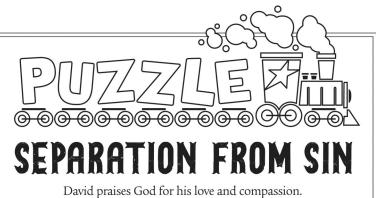
customer. To sign-up for the Aero Energy House of Worship Program online at Aero

Energy.com/HOW or call 888-827-1713.



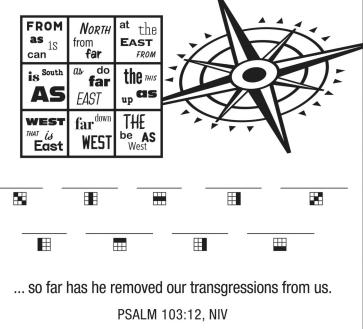
Turn around and believe that the good news that we are loved is better than we ever dared hope, and that to believe in that good news, to live out of it and toward it, to be in love with that good news, is of all glad things in this world the gladdest thing of all. Amen, and come Lord Jesus.

-Frederick Buechner, *The Clown in the Bellry*



David praises God for his love and compassion. What does God do for people who fear him?

Directions: Using each grid pattern marked below, find the word that appears in all three of those squares. Write the words in the spaces below to complete Psalm 103:12, NIV.



Answer: As far as the east is from the west

In 2022, people set some amazing Guinness World Records. A Nebraska man paddled more than 37 miles in a hollowed-out pumpkin boat. A Vermont teen wearing 4-inch heels walked more than 600 feet across a tightrope. And an Oregon man found and alphabetized all 26 letters in a can of alphabet soup in 2 minutes and 8.6 seconds. (The toughest part, he says, is distinguishing subtle differences between letters such as M and W.)

Your talents might not earn you any world records, but they certainly can grow faith and change lives. Whether you're good at teaching, singing, writing, cooking or accounting, the church can put those skills to productive use. Romans 12 lists many more qualities you may not realize are spiritual gifts: graciousness, serving, generosity, acts of mercy, loving and honoring others, extending hospitality, rejoicing and weeping with people, making peace.

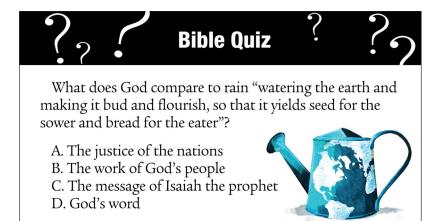
You might not be able to outperform the alphabet soup record. But God abundantly blesses each of us to "outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10, ESV) and in sharing his love.

-Stephanie Martin

Blessing Box Please remember our blessing box while grocery shopping. Supplies can be brought to the church and placed in the shed. The door is kept unlocked. Thank you for supporting this important ministry!

Recommended Items include

- small cereal boxes
 - oatmeal
 - granola bars
 - canned soups
- other one-step dinners such as Compleats meals, Chef Boyardee, etc
 - canned meat such as chicken or tuna
 - personal hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste,



Answer: D (See Isaiah 55:10-11, NIV.)



Produce from our Community Garden has been placed by the Blessing Box for our community to enjoy!







Baked Chicken Reuben By Donna Stevens

8 Chicken breast halves, skinless & boneless

1/4 tsp salt

1/8 tsp pepper

4 slices Swiss cheese

- 1 1/4 cup Thousand Island Dressing
- 1 can sauerkraut (16 oz), well drained

Stand firm in the faith:

be courageous be strong.

Preheat oven to 375. Place chicken in a single layer in greased baking pan. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Press liquid from sauerkraut, spoon over chicken. Arrange cheese slices over sauerkraut. Pour dressing over the top. Cover the pan with aluminum foil. Bake about 1 1/2 hours or until chicken is tender.







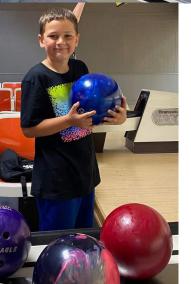
Apple Dumplings

In memory of Mom Mom (Lillian Behrens Burr)

2 cups sugar 2 cups water 1/4 tsp cinnamon 1/4 tsp nutmeg 1/4 cup butter 2 cups flour 1 tsp salt 2 tsp baking powder 3/4 cup shortening 1/2 cup milk

6 apples

Make syrup of sugar, water, cinnamon, and nutmeg; add butter. Pare and core apples; cut in fourths. Sift flour, salt, and baking powder; cut in shortening. Add milk all at once and stir until moistened. Roll 1/4 inch thick; cut in 5 inch squares. Arrange 4 pieces of apple in each square; sprinkle generously with additional sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg; dot with butter; fold corners to center; pinch edges together. Place 1 inch apart in greased baking pan. Pour syrup over. Bake at 375 degrees for 35 minutes. Serve hot with cream.



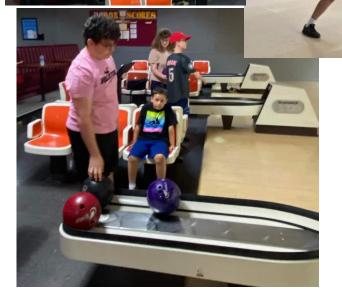


Youth and "Young-at-Heart" Bowling Day!

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Mary 13, 2023







June 4 Tuckahoe State Park

- June 11 Debbie Dudrow
- June 18 Betty Jean Mumford
- June 25 Donna Stevens





Carol Meers



Tellers

June 4 Tuckahoe State Park June 11 Kathy Barletta and Susan Behrens June 18 Lee Heinsohn and Lee Moore June 25 Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth



June 4 Tuckahoe State Park June 11 Beth and Tom Roesel June 18 Gordon Behrens June 25 Debbie Dudrow



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June 4	Tuckahoe State Park		
June 11	Joshua Lewis		
June 18	Corey Fisher	Preston Rickwood	
June 25	Couper Barletta		





Ushers

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- June 18 Lee Heinsohn and Lee Moore
- June 25 Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth





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Evangelism, Outreach	Donna Saathoff	410 310-1331	donnasaathoff529@gmail.com

June 6 Hosea 5:15–6:6 Psalm 50: 7-15 Romans 4:13-25 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 20 Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39



Join us Tuesdays at 9 am June 13 Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35—10:8

June 27 Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42



And for Father's Day, some dad jokes:

- My dream job is to clean mirrors because I can really see myself doing that.
- We're renovating the house. The first floor is going great, but the second floor is another story.



6/1 RENEE PEARSON 6/3 SAMUEL PEARSON 6/4 DUANE SARD 6/6 ERICA ROESEL 6/7 JONATHON MOYERS 6/8 SAMUEL SAUCA 6/19 MICHAEL ANNE SARD 6/21 DAN FISHER 6/23 MARK SUMP 6/24 BRANDON DUDROW 6/24 GRETCHEN ROESEL 6/29 SUE ANN SCHMIDT



June 4 at 11 AM Tuckahoe State Park Joint Service with Grace First Communion

October 7, 2023 Talbot Ag Center

Genealogy research turns up some intriguing relations; for example, Barack Obama and Sarah Palin are 10th cousins, and Britney Spears and Prince Albert of Monaco are 17th halfcousins. In the Bible, Jesus is linked to Rahab and Ruth, members of nations that were enemies of Israel.

Searches for family connections quickly reveal not only roots but also a web. Only a few generations up in the branches of each family tree are so many people that trees intersect. Scientists speculate that most people living

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IN THE PARK



today are related through a recent common ancestor. So there's a "web-like tapestry" rather than a "tree that fans out exponentially," according to writer Carl Zimmer.

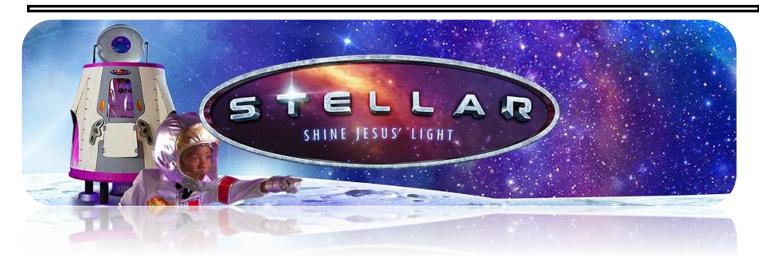
Realizing we're all connected should affect how we treat others. After all, we're related to people with diverse backgrounds and opinions. In terms of genealogy, as well as living as Jesus' disciples, we belong to one another. God has been generous to us in many ways. We believe that sharing these gifts 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.

The direct link to our Tithe.ly account is https://tithe.ly/give?c=1747825

If you have any questions about Tithe.ly, please contact Donna Stevens, Financial Secretary, dstevens62@icloud.com



Launch kids on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Stellar rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun. Join us Monday, June 26 through Friday, June 30 from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Registration links are available on Facebook, weekly newsletter, and on our website, www.stpaulscordova.org/VBS.



On Saturday July 1, we are responsible for providing dinner. The sign-up is on the bulletin board outside the offices. Thank you for supporting this wonderful ministry. If you have any questions, you can contact Mike Hiner, 443-496-1383. St. Paul's Lutheran Church 12095 Blades Road, P.O. Box 368 Cordova MD 21625 Return Service Requested

> 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. Secretary: Meredith Lewis— Cell: 443-496-0903 Office: 410-364-5147 Office Hours: Tue. Wed. & Thurs. 9:00-3:00 Office Email: info@stpaulscordova.org

Reverend Jonathon Moyers Phone: 304-400-5379 Email: revjmoyers@gmail.com Deacon Michael Hiner Phone: 443-496-1383 Email: mhiner24@gmail.com Choir Director and Organist: Julie Hawley Phone: 412-600-6326 Email: julie.hawley1487@gmail.com