

# South Mountain Shared Ministry

## BETHANY LUTHERAN AND ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN



### CHARLIE'S CORNER: THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE...

Matt 13: 31-34, 44-46

One of the greatest parts of life is dreaming. Not what happens when we sleep, but when we let our imagination run wild and dream of what could be. I remember being a kid and dreaming about playing on Monday Night Football or becoming a basketball coach at the University of North Carolina. Did I have a plan? Not at all! I am pretty happy with a later dream of going into ministry and journeying with other's on their faith journey coming true. Dreaming gives us hope in a world that often tries to keep us from imagining.

What does it mean to dream today? As the world continues to change, as our lives continue to change, dreaming is becoming more and more important. The dreams we hold dear, that sustain us, can be part of our faith, especially when we dream for our communities and all of creation.

(Cont. on next page)

### MAJOR UPCOMING EVENTS

South Mountain Shared  
Ministry Spaghetti Dinner  
Fundraiser for Mar-Lu-Ridge  
August 10 at St. Paul's  
Parish hall 5-7pm

Wednesday Night Dinners  
at Bethany  
August 14 and August 28  
at 5:30pm

SMSM Shared Pinic at  
Burkittsville Rurtian  
September 29th at 10:30am

Railroad Days in Brunswick  
October 5-6 10am-5pm  
(Bethany will have a booth  
to raise money for SHIP)



## The Kingdom of God is like... (Cont'd)

As I have been dreaming, I kept coming back to this:  
*The kingdom of God is like...*

In Matthew we hear that it is like a mustard that becomes a great shrub, a treasure buried in a field, and a precious pearl. How would we describe it today? What do we dream the kingdom of God to be?

I do not have a short and sweet parable like Jesus has, but as I dream, the kingdom of God is full of love and grace upon grace. It is full of people who work towards justice and mercy. It is a place where the lost can find refuge and the hungry are fed. The kingdom of God comforts the afflicted while challenging the comfortable.

Glimpses of this can be found at the Table in communion. Glimpse can be found in bible study, book studies, place where we gather around scripture or in prayer. The kingdom of God draws near as we gather in love. **Amen.**

## Breaking Bread Together

From the beginning, followers of Christ have gathered together and broke bread. Jesus shared a meal with his friends and followers again and again. They gathered around the table in the homes of early church. Faith was and is nurtured as stories are shared, songs are sung, and food is shared. South Mountain Shared Ministry's events are focused on bringing one another together to break bread. Bethany's Wednesday dinners and coming ice cream social and St. Paul's apple dumplings and Country Kitchen are some of the ways our communities focus on sharing food and preparing meals with one another.



## SEPTEMBER BIBLE STUDY: PSALMS

Beginning September 3&4, we start a five week look into the Psalms that will conclude on October 2&3. We will look at Psalms that cover many different emotions and experiences we may have in our journey of faith.

Tuesdays 7pm at Bethany Lutheran in the fellowship hall

Wednesdays 9:30am at St. Paul's in the Chapel (underneath the sanctuary)





## Ice Cream Social at Bethany Lutheran August 21st

Join us at Bethany Lutheran for an Ice Cream Social! On Wednesday August 21st, Bethany will be hosting a Ice Cream social for the community! All are welcomed to come take a break from the heat to enjoy ice cream and fellowship!

## RailRoad Days in Brunswick Coming Soon!

RailRoad days are right around the corner! Bethany will hosting a table and will be raising money for SHIP (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership)!

As we focus on our community, SHIP is a great organization to support. Be on the look out on ways to help, especially in volunteering our time!

## Brunswick Community Days at Burkittsville Ruritan

One of the joys of summer is the Brunswick Community Days held at the Burkittsville Ruritan! There are so many great things going on there like a petting zoo, cake auction, and great food to support the Brunswick FFA Alumni Scholarship . If that isn't enough, St. Paul's will be there selling delicious apple dumpings and running the dime pitch. Come support St. Paul's ministry! This year it will be held on August 23 & 24.



## WORSHIP TIMES

Bethany Lutheran

9:45am on Sunday Mornings

St. Paul's Lutheran:

11:15am on Sunday Mornings

Both are services of Word and Sacrament,  
with Holy Communion

## Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Mar-Lu-Ridge's Capital Campaign, With Open Arms

On August 10, South Mountain Shared Ministry will be having a spaghetti dinner benefiting Mar-Lu-Ridge Summer Camp and Retreat Center in Jefferson, MD from 5-7pm. It will be a free-will donation and will include salad, garlic bread, and spaghetti. There will also be a bake table.

Mar-Lu-Ridge has meant so much to many in this South Mountain area and beyond. Many have memories of joy at Mar-Lu-Ridge while on a retreats or spending a week at camp. This is an opportunity to support a ministry so close to us. The capital campaign is to make sure that Mar-Lu-Ridge will be accessible for generations to come!

RSVP for this event is recommended but not required. It will be held in the parish hall at St. Paul's in Burkittsville. You can email or call either congregation to let us know you plan on joining us!

Bethany: bethanylc1892@gmail.com; 301-834-8003

St. Paul's: stpaulsburkittsville@gmail.com; 301-834-9866



### Contact Information for Pastor Charlie:

Email: [charlie.frekot21@gmail.com](mailto:charlie.frekot21@gmail.com)

Office Hours\*:  
Monday: 10 am-1 pm  
at St. Paul's  
Thursday: 9 am-12 pm  
at Bethany

\*Subject to change because of  
presence needed at synod meetings  
or events and potential pastoral care  
needs within congregations

## 5th Sunday Joint Worship

September 29th will be the next Shared Service! We will worship at the Burkittsville Ruritan at 10:30 and then have our South Mountain Shared Ministry Picnic! Join us for a time of praise and fellowship!



## SOUTH MOUNTAIN CONTACT INFO:

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