

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH PARISH MESSENGER

December 2018

In the name of Jesus Christ,
Saint Paul Lutheran Church
is committed to praising,
praying, and sharing the Word of God.

*He will be great and
will be called the
Son of the Most High.*

Luke 1:32



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The Parish Messenger is sponsored
To the Glory of God, In memory of Elwood Bahn and in
honor of our children and grandchildren by Geraldine Bahn

In honor of Todd & Lorie Krebs' wedding anniversary by the
Krebs Family

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Pastors' Letter for the December Newsletter

**Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace
among those whom he favors! -Luke 2: 14**

As cold December comes our way we are warmed by the message of the Savior's birth among us. He it is who gives us an imperishable, everlasting peace. His, who though born a child in a manger, is the everlasting Son of God and Savior of the world. Christ was born into an often violent and chaotic world and was the target of a jealous king who wished to destroy him, but who could not. This Christ was destined to fulfill his mission all the way to the cross, into Resurrection glory, and he now lives again and will come again in all His majesty.

This month the Church celebrates the coming of our Lord as two beautiful seasons in our church calendar flow together from Advent into Christmas. Many people today do not experience this richness. In our rapidly changing world the great traditions are often lost amidst the buying frenzy of our overly commercialized world. Here at Saint Paul though we emphasize the gift of the Christ child; that great imperishable gift, the sharing of which is a great gift of love to another.

As you read our newsletter and see how richly we celebrate the love of God, think about who you know who would find peace and hope in our worship, in our many studies, in our many social events. If you have never come Christmas caroling with us then think about doing so this year, it is very rewarding to see the joy on the faces of the many people who love the old carols we serenade them with. Why not consider coming to our game night after Christmas? When was the last time you played a fun game with others? Well you can here! We are after all a big family here at Saint Paul, what a gift it is to be brothers and sisters in Christ, sharing the common link of our baptisms into his life and death, blessed by Him who is the tie that binds.

So Happy Advent and Merry Christmas, may the love of God envelope you, surrounding you with His joy and peace.

Pastor Paul

**SPECIAL APPEAL FOR December:
Emergency Outreach Fund**

The Emergency Outreach Fund is designed to help members and friends of Saint Paul who are having a temporary set-back financially due to unemployment or illness. These funds are managed by the pastors as needs are made known to them. The gifts we are able to share are small monetarily, but they bring a ray of hope in distressing times. Thank you for sharing generously during the month of December.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



**7:00 pm Family Candlelight
Service**

**10:00 pm Traditional Candlelight
Service
with Holy Communion**

Prelude 30 minutes before each service

BLANKET WORKSHOP: The quilters will not be meeting in December.



QUILTING DONATIONS - The Quilting Committee is looking for cloth tablecloths and/or curtains that can be used for the backings for our quilts and material for our quilt squares. Donations can be dropped off in the conference room.



Friends in Christ is a group for widows, widowers and anyone who wants to join us for a time of fellowship

December 9 Lunch at Hoss's 12:30pm

Book Club

We will not be meeting in December. Please join us again on January 9th at Noon, we will be reading Hearing God.



OUR DAILY BREAD

Our dessert for December is **ice cream dixies**. If you would like to contribute toward their cost, please use an envelope from the pew and mark it "Dec. Our Daily Bread." Thank you!



Please call the church office if you or a loved one is in the hospital, we do not usually get informed of your stay by any of the hospitals even if you are registered under our congregation's name, and we want to make sure you get pastoral care. Thank you!

WORSHIP IN December

Dec. 2

First Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

Dec. 9

Second Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-7b

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:2-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)

Dec. 16

Third Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)

Dec. 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45(46-56)

Dec. 24

Christmas Eve

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

Dec. 30

First Sunday in Christmas

First Lesson: Exodus 13:1-3a-11-15

Second Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Men of Faith

Join us on Saturday December 8th at 8 AM for Breakfast, Fellowship and study at the December Men's Group as we take a special look at the Real Saint Nick via an engaging video and discussion. See who this very real godly man was and how he inspired the image we have of Santa Claus today. It should be a fun and inspirational meeting, bring a friend or relative along if you wish and watch for some special goodies that morning.

HARVEST OF HOPE NEEDS

Canned pasta, Beef stew, Pork and beans, Canned soups, Spaghetti sauce, Canned fruit, Vegetarian beans, Canned vegetables, canned chicken breast, boxed mac & cheese, pasta sauce, egg noodles, elbow macaroni, dry spaghetti, boxed rice, hamburger helper, chicken helper, boxed cereal, kidney beans, gluten free products, lower sugar products for diabetics



Holiday Season Needs: 12-16lb turkeys, turkey breasts, 3-6lb hams, boxed mashed potatoes, canned yams or sweet potatoes, boxed sweet potatoes, boxed stuffing, canned turkey gravy, canned cranberry sauce, boxed cake mix, frosting, boxed fruit gelatin. **Deadline for Turkeys and hams is December 16th.** *Monetary donations are always gratefully appreciated.*



In order to receive credit for your contributions they must be received **no later than December 30th.**
Thank you!

LCMC

There are two good things brewing in our local LCMC community right now. First is that in February Chuck Mann, Kate Frye, Joyce Hall and Pastor Sally will be presenting the themes: Finding Them, Training Them and Sending Them that we learned about at the Annual Gathering in Des Moines to the Church Council at our annual Church Council retreat. Other congregational members who are interested in this important information are invited to attend. ALSO, our new Mid-Atlantic District that formed last year will be holding a District Gathering right here at Saint Paul on March 30. Pastor Mark Vander Tuig will be leading an engaging workshop as part of that meeting! This will be a great opportunity to connect with other congregations and learn what strategies are working as we seek to grow and serve in Jesus' name.

Thursday Bible Study will be held December 13, 20 and we will continue our study on the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Come share in this encouraging study of the Word of God. No previous attendance is required, each lesson is self-contained. The study is offered at 9:00 am and 6:00pm.

Since we began meeting in September, **Girl Scout Daisy Troop 20398** has learned the Girl Scout Promise and flag ceremony, celebrated Halloween by having a costume party, took a field trip to Smyser's Fall Fest, participated in an area-wide recruitment dance, and sold Fall Product (the council-run sale of nuts and chocolate). We also held our Investiture/Rededication ceremony. Our upcoming events and activities include our service project of making holiday cards and ornaments for the residents at SpiriTrust, selling cookies, badge work, collecting tabs to donate to Tabs for Labs, and making Easter cards for the church's shut-ins. Daisy Troop 20398 would like to thank St. Paul for allowing us to use its facility and for its support of the Girl Scout program.

If you have a daughter interested in Girl Scouts, we currently have openings in the Daisy troop for girls in Kindergarten through first grade.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

"If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given to you."

James 1:5

Sunday School for all ages! (Faith Learning 9:45am on Sunday Morning)

For Adults:

Parents of Faith – prayer and Bible study of relevant topics for parents as they raise their children in the faith – this class meets on the stage

Lutheran Theology class – meeting temporarily in conference room. Studying Luther's Large Catechism.

Concordia study works through various books of the Bible-this class meets in the parlor.

Faith Forum meets in Pastor Sally's Office-great discussion of the Word, Prayer and Mutual Support.

Faith building for youth and children:

Senior High (grades 10-12 in the youth room) They are combining with young adults for a class called: Money, Money, Money. Come learn about earning, saving and giving to the glory of God!

Crib Nursery – Toddler in the nursery room.

Pre-K through 5th grade - will be doing a unit of God Creates a World and a People. Lessons include creation, Adam & Eve, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & Noah.

Confirmation classes for **grades 6 and 7 is in the room next to the youth room.** Grades 8 and 9 is in room one.

All of our Christian Education classes deal with exciting materials about the word of God! Learn and grow with us



Women of the Word will meet on December 17. We invite all ladies to join us in our monthly Bible study, "As Good as His Word", led by Nadine Worley. We hope the change in time will make it easier for you to join with us for study and fellowship. Hope to see you there!



ADDITIONAL SINGERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE!



The Adult Choir will be singing at the 7 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, and we welcome additional singers to join with us on that occasion. Rehearsals will be held at 7:15pm on Thursday evenings. We could particularly use more men, but all voice parts are welcome. If you like to sing, please consider joining us for this festive occasion! For more information, contact Carol Moscony.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM WILL BE HELD ON DEC. 23RD

at the late (10:55) worship service. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the performance!



Upcoming Church Family Events! These activities are for EVERYONE!



Two fun events are planned by the Youth and Family Committee for December:

Our annual Christmas Caroling will be held on **December 16**. New this year: we will go to MOD pizza after 2nd service. For those who can't do the pizza, we will meet at 1:30 at the Lutheran Home on Sprengle Drive (the Care Center.) Please sign up in the narthex so that we will know how many to expect. We will car pool and try to get to as many of our shut-ins as possible.

On December 27 we are having a **GAME NIGHT** from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Bring your favorite board game or other game and we will serve Walking Tacos and have a relaxing evening together. This is for all ages – JOIN THE FUN!!



We pray you have a joyous, blessed Christmas
and a happy, holy New Year!

Pastor Paul
Kate Frye
Carol Moscony
Carol Frey

Pastor Sally
Jack Hall
Roxanne Donnan
Amy Austin

In Advent, there is a small Christmas tree in the narthex. We are asking if anyone would like to make a monetary donation to the **Margaret Moul Home** by placing your money or check (made out to Saint Paul Lutheran with a note 'Margaret Moul Home' in the memo line) in the Christmas stocking & hang the stocking on the tree.



Thank you for your support of this worthwhile cause.

Phase II Building Renovation Update:

We are so thankful to all who have been able to respond to the Capital Appeal for our Phase II Building Renovations. The plan is for the construction to start shortly after Easter and be done before Christmas. If you have made a commitment, those contributions are welcome to begin even in 2018. If you have not made a commitment you can jump on board at any time by using your offering envelopes since the Capital Appeal line is on the envelopes already. As the monies come in we will announce the running totals about once a month. The more funds that come in toward the beginning of the project the less we will have to borrow. How blessed we are to be able to make these improvements in our facility as we look forward to future generations enjoying life together in Christ here on the hill!

Intern's Message: Gospel

This article is a continuation of last month's newsletter article that discussed the Law. This year my first course was about a very important teaching in Lutheran theology, Law & Gospel. This teaching is very helpful to us as we listen and study Scripture. When the Lord speaks to us in Scripture, He reveals that He works with people in two basic ways or teachings. These teachings appear throughout Scripture and understanding this can help us focus on His purpose for Scripture. This month I will discuss the Gospel.

What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is the "good news" of Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the promise that tells us what God in Christ has already done for us. The Gospel message is found in any passage of Scripture that proclaims God's forgiveness, life and salvation in Christ. This is a word of comfort once a person's failure has been exposed (law). In this announcement one hears that Jesus died for their sins (Gospel). Law often reveals our shortcomings. The Gospel says, "Jesus loves us anyway." The Gospel declares something about what Jesus has done yet does not command for one to do anything. The gospel motivates us for Christian living; we want to thank God for his forgiving love. Specifically, in the Gospel of Mark, "Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,¹⁵ and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'" (Mark 1:14-15 ESV).

The messages of law and gospel work together in the lives of God's people so that we remain and live as his people.

Many prayers and blessings to you in your Bible study, devotions and sermon listening to distinguish Law & Gospel!

Intern Chuck

We recently shipped to Lutheran World Relief the following: 98 Quilts, 50 School Kits, 13 Baby Care kits and 8 Personal Care Kits. Thank you to all those that helped to make and assemble the quilts. Also, thanks to the children in Sunday School who assembled the School Kits. Thank you to everyone who contributed items to complete the school, baby care and personal care kits. Thanks also to the Women of the Word group who assembled the Baby Care and Personal Care Kits. And lastly, thank you to Dave & Jack Smyser for delivering the quilts and kits to St. Matthew's church for delivery to New Windsor. We are blessed to have so many wonderful people who help to make these projects possible.



The children are once again asked to bring to the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service a wrapped gift for the Baby Jesus. We are requesting items to complete the Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Here are the items we are requesting: PLEASE DO NOT SUBSTITUTE ANY OTHER ITEM THAN WHAT IS LISTED BECAUSE WE CANNOT USE IT. Cloth diapers, gowns or sleepers without feet (shirt & pant sets can be used), dark-colored hand towels, t-shirts or undershirts, diaper pins. Clothing should be sizes between 6 months and 24 months. Please do not donate any items decorated with any religious symbols, messages, U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage. Any questions please see Barb Sloat. Thank you!

THE PARISH MESSENGER
SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CURCH
250 Trinity Road
York, PA 17408
www.saintpaul-trinity.org
Worship Services: 8:15 am & 10:55 am
Education Hour: 9:45am

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December 2018



Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Was Born