



The Epistle

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2020

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | 14 & 19 W. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE | WALKERSVILLE, MD 21793

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NEW MEMBER MONTH

Saint Paul's is excited to welcome new members this January. There are several exciting events coming up, some of which we invite all to attend and help us in sharing fellowship!

January 18, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. New Member Orientation

We will have a brief orientation for new members joining St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The orientation will briefly look at Lutheran beliefs, church organization, and an introduction to our church council. At 4:15 p.m. our council will introduce themselves and their role in our church.

January 18, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Dinner Church

We will enjoy fellowship over a meal with worship and a presentation on discipleship by Tori Valcarcel. We will also be welcoming our new members as they continue their faith journey with us as their family and neighbor. The dinner is being sponsored by our Stephen Ministry and the Worship and Arts Committee.

January 19, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. New Member Sunday

We will welcome our new members into our church family as we share in the glory of God in our lives.

Church Calendar

- Jan. 5th: LAUNCH
Sharing the Bread
- Jan. 7th:
Congregational Life
- Jan. 13th: Finance
- Jan. 14th: Council
- Jan. 18th: New Member
Orientation @ 3 pm
- Jan. 18th: Dinner
Church @ 5 pm
- Jan. 19th: New Member
Sunday
- Jan. 26th: Annual
Congregational
Meeting @ 11 am
- Jan. 27th: Worship &
Arts
- Jan. 28th Executive
Council

What's in store for the Transition Team in 2020?

The Transition Team continues to meet with the goal of keeping the lines of communication open with the leadership and the congregation.

We are currently focusing on assisting the Vicar get to know members outside of the church by hosting small luncheons on Sundays after church. We are looking forward to 2020 and the completion of our original task as we call a permanent pastor. Please continue to come to the team with any questions or concerns, we keep in contact regularly to address them. Transition Team: Belinda Burriss, Betsy Galliher, Amy Mildenstein, Florence Schell and Gary Wachter.

Right: October's
LAUNCH Event:
Painting
"Believe" mugs
at I Made This!



READY TO LAUNCH INTO 2020

Start off the year by "Sharing the Bread" on Sunday, January 5th. We will be gathering in the Parish Hall to bake bread to be distributed to area residents in need.

All supplies will be provided, just add some volunteers and stir in some fun. We will be remembering the Three Kings and their gifts as we prepare our own.



Sunday Chat

Sign Ups

In 2020, we would like to keep St. Paul's "chat" going after church... for time to welcome visitors and friends. We encourage a simple food gift for the table; nothing fancy to make clean up easier! (Ex: cheese & crackers, fruit, veggies, cookies, donut holes, simple cake, etc.)

There is a sign-up sheet on the side bulletin board for your gift- Whatever you share will be welcome!

If no one signs up that week, we will have coffee and drinks available. Questions, please call Marie Purswell at 240-446-1641 or email @workaholic521@gmail.com

Thank you!

CARE PACKAGES

If you have a student away at college or a soldier and would like a Valentine Care Package sent to them please get names and full addresses to Belinda through email

youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org or on the RCR cards throughout the month of January. Packages will be prepared the first Sunday in February for delivery. If you'd like to contribute to the packages, donations of individually wrapped items can be placed in the box near the benevolence tree.



Vicar's Valley

Greetings and Happy New Year!

First I would like to express to you the joy that Sue and I have felt being a part of St. Paul's and we are looking forward to our future together. We have been welcomed here warmly and we feel that Holy Spirit has provided us with a path to be in communion with you.

Over the last few months we have made some changes to worship and I would like to explain the rationale behind some of those changes. First, we have included a larger part of the worship service in the bulletin in an effort to allow you and more importantly, our guests the ability to navigate the service experience more fluidly and with little distraction. I believe that this enhances our worship experience.

Second, we are in the process of ensuring that the worship service follows the order of worship in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal. Currently, we are utilizing a morphed version of several settings within the ELW which seems to work well within our congregation. The different settings are intended to be utilized with different seasons of the church year as are many of the liturgical components within the worship outline. One of these liturgical components is the verbiage we find within the Preface and Words of Institution leading up to us sharing the Lord's Supper. Throughout the year these words change to meet the Church Season and I have been trying to keep with that practice.

For this reason, you will see different prayers for the offering, prayer of the day, and post communion prayers as they will change with the season, some even weekly. We have also changed the position of the Hymn of the Day to come after the sermon as this falls in line with the order of worship found in the ELW. I believe one of the most significant changes that has been made is that we no longer distribute the gold fish to the children at the communion rail. I have been researching this since I arrived at St. Paul's, conferred with several pastors, as well as Bishop Gohl and have determined that this practice is not supported as proper. I will continue to work with the Worship and Arts Committee to find a way to utilize this tradition in some other fashion.

Many of you may have noticed that I have asked the Eucharistic Ministers to bring their communion kits to worship when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. The kits are placed on the altar to be consecrated with the Meal being shared that day with the community of faith. After communion, the kits are returned to the Eucharistic Ministers so that they can go out in the world to share the meal with those who are unable to be with us. A prayer of sending is typically shared with that person.

I invite any of you who may have questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions to feel free to speak with me at any time. I am typically in the office from 9 a.m. – 1p.m. (Mon-Thurs) and can be found before and after worship. I welcome the chance to have conversation and to continue to grow in relationship with you.

Peace, Vicar Phil

Email: pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Cell: 202-497-0584



2019 IN REVIEW



CHRISTKINDL MARKET THANK YOU

I read an article recently that a way to attract and maintain visitors to church is to always be your best. Saturday at the Christkindl Mart, I believe we showed the community our best! Those of you who made items or baked those wonderful goodies did such a great job. Your talents and skills were well noted by our shoppers. Our members who worked so tirelessly on Saturday are to be commended. Your spirit of the Holiday was well noted. You could have been doing so many other things on your list but you chose to spend the day helping your church and your congregation. It was wonderful to witness and share in your enthusiasm. Those of you who came after church on Sunday to shop and to help put things away for next year, your efforts were much appreciated. This year was the first without Margaret and my Dad. I felt their presence all day. It was hard not to imagine them being there with their quiet demeanor of just doing what needed to be done. We had a good steady business from noon until about 5pm. We made over \$1900.00 in 5 hours! I think every year we get more and more loyal visitors to our Mart. Thank you to everyone who helped, shopped and attended the Christkindl Mart. We are at our best when we are united in our efforts. This was a wonderful day and an amazing way to kick off the Holiday Season.

Wendy Brundage

LOVE BOX THANK YOU

A big thank you to Sheila Kahler, Deb Loso, Linda Yopp, Wendy Brundage, Connie Chesnik, Betty Schubert, Troy Keeney, Tori Valcarcel, Kate Stottlemeyer and Ed Chaney for their help in making cookies, donating snacks and other items, purchasing and assembling the boxes, getting addresses, and delivering the love boxes to 30 members of our church family who needed some Christmas cheer. You are wonderful people and I thank you all for helping me continue this project that my mother, Shirley Rieland, started more than 60 years at our church in Laurel Gardens, Pittsburgh. God's blessings on you!

Candy Swet