

Epistle

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2023

NEW YEAR, SAME GOD!

Here we are again at the beginning of another year here at Saint Paul's. This may be a simple thought, but it's a powerful truth; "New Year, Same God"! That brief statement reminds us of the beautiful scripture in Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

With changes still coming at us so quickly, it's wonderful to know God never changes!

God doesn't "adapt" to the times. The Word doesn't change according to pandemics or cultural pressures.

There are many positive things that happened in 2022 which kept the St. Paul's family centered and focused on our mission. It was another year where gratitude and hope were imperative and together, our faith endured

A Brief Look Back at 2022



January Birthdays

Daniel Carroll	January 2
Delanie Burris Harold Lutz	January 4
Dorothy Fogle	January 8
Katie Walker	January 13
Drew McLane	January 16
Bennett Chesnik Kayla Plowman	January 17
Helen Lynch Ed Chaney	January 20
Lillian Foucart Ella Ramacciotti	January 21
Donna Warner	January 25
Thelma Powell	January 26
Robb Port Audrey McDougall	January 29

Reports for the Annual Congregational Meeting

Hard copies of the 2023 Proposed Expense budget report will be available at in-person worship two weeks before the annual congregation meeting.

Hard Copies of the Committee Reports and Treasurer's Report will be available at the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, Jan 29th.

Church Council

We have candidates for Council nominations for 2023!

Keith Horton and Jackie Waas will be re-running and our new nominee will be Roxanne Smith!

Voting will take place at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 29, 2023. Please look for details in upcoming weekly emails!!



*"May God's grace be on
all who love our Lord
Jesus Christ."*

—Ephesians 6:24

*"You are remembered
with love this Blessed
Season from your
Saint Paul's Family,
Enjoy!"*

2022 was definitely another year of uncertainty, people battling fears about the pandemic while juggling home and work, all in close proximity. Taking the time to remember those who haven't been able to visit with friends or loved ones is significant in encouraging survival and good health during these trying times. A big thank you to the Congregational Life Ministry and all those who so generously offered their time and help in donating or purchasing items, assembling and delivering the comfort bags to members of our church family who really needed some Christmas cheer. We all need acts of kindness, givers and receivers, to remind us that we are all in this together. 2022 Comfort Bags was a wonderful way to enjoy the Season of giving.



Pastor's Peace

As we begin a new year together I am excited about the plans this church has to move forward in our discipleship of Christ. Writing this the week of Christmas, I can share with you that we have been blessed in many ways this past year including new members, gifts from saints departed and saints among us, and especially with several gifts that have allowed for us to move forward with the repair of the altar stained glass window. Yet as we enter this new year with hope and expectation, there are still many in our community, our military, EMS personnel, and many more who struggle with the effects of loss and mental health challenges. Many times we are oblivious to those who may be struggling and I have often seen the meme which roughly goes "you don't know what issues I am having, so be kind and share a kind word." The challenges of mental health awareness are near and dear to me as I have had several close friends succumb to whatever their issue and choose not to participate in life anymore. I would say, a lot of the time, we do not see the signs and we are caught off guard when something tragic occurs. "I never saw that coming or that person seemed so happy and had so much going for them."

As we start anew at the beginning of the year, we often make resolutions to lose weight, get in a fitness program, or something similar. This year maybe we commit to a resolution in which we seek to be kinder to one another, to take a concerted interest in the welfare of others, and truly make our community a better place. I suggest that we find ways to put others ahead of us and truly lead a Christ-like life. A life of love and caring, a life of outreach and committal, a life of service and giving. Our church is exploring new opportunities in which we can truly be the church in the world and be the force making a difference to those who may not be as fortunate as us. As we navigate the world in which we live, now it is more critical that we seek new ways to be in our church and our community. We are certainly thankful for all of the folks who continually give of their time and talents to support the many activities we accomplish at St. Paul's. At this time in our life



Pastor's Peace Cont'd

together, it is important for you to share your ideas and dreams for our church so we can discern ways in which to make our dreams a reality. Is there room in your heart to seek out different ways in which you can be involved physically, mentally, and financially? We can do all things through Christ and joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all.

Susan and I send out our best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year and are thankful for the warm presence we have experienced since our arrival. There are great things happening at St. Paul's, I invite you to be a part of sharing the Good News. Should you have any questions or concerns, I am glad to speak with you at any time.

Peace Pastor Phil

Email: pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Cell phone: 202-497-0584

Christmas 2022 at Victoria Park

On Sunday, December 18th St. Paul's members and friends headed to Victoria Park on Sandstone Drive in Walkersville for an afternoon of holiday fun. It started with caroling, then a yummy feast of refreshments, while our traditional Christmas Bingo games with door prizes took place! We all had a fantastic time and look forward to more events there in 2023. Thank you to all the volunteers for their time and effort, your caring and compassion brought smiles to so many faces and warmed so many hearts!



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 15th

Town Hall Meeting

January 29th

Annual Congregational Meeting 10:45am

Hat and Mitten Tree

Will Continue through January, 2023. The Tree is located in the library.

Super Bowl Can Drive

Now through February 5th, bring in soup cans for the food bank. Can we beat our score from last year? YOU ARE HEREBY CHALLENGED!!

Family Game Night!

Mark your calendar, February 18th from 5:00pm-9:00pm. Keep an eye out for details!

