

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BREINIGSVILLE, PA

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**JANUARY 2017**



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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Dear Friends,

Have you thought about taking down your Christmas tree and decorations? Have you put away the Christmas music? I hope not, for the season of Christmas is *now* upon us. This is one time of the year, that we in the church are not in sync with others. Prior to Christmas Eve, we were in the season of Advent. During this time, we focused on preparing our hearts for the coming of our Lord. From *now* until January 6<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate Christmas, the birth of Christ, the Saviour of the world! Our songs of joy and the festivities of the holidays continue. God in the flesh has come! Emmanuel is with us!

As you journey through the Christmas season, take some time to think about what it means to you that God loved you enough to send his Son, Jesus into this broken world. In the long list of possible Christmas gifts, where does Jesus rank?

Speaking of gifts, January 6<sup>th</sup> is the day of the Epiphany. After seeing a bright star in the heavens, the wise men followed the star which guided them to the place of the Christ Child. Upon seeing him, they offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. What gifts can you offer to Jesus? How might you show him just how much you love and adore him?

We are blessed to know just how much God loves us. We are blessed to be called 'children of God'. May these gifts of grace fill your heart and your life, today and forever.

Growing with you in faith,  
Pastor Laura

I want to thank you for the wonderful Christmas cards and greetings sent to me in this Christmas season. I am so blessed by your thoughtfulness and friendship. Thank you so much. Pastor Laura

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

Our thanks to all who added joy to our Christmas season as they shared special music with us. We are blessed to have many talented people, vocalist and those who play instruments and we are always grateful for their sharing. As we move into the month of January we have two festival Sunday's. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, we will focus on the Name of Jesus. While the angels, even before his birth told Mary and Joseph to name their child 'Jesus', they formally did so as they presented him in the temple to be circumcised. Now, the question to us is: What power do we experience in the name of Jesus.

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. As we recall Jesus' baptism, we cannot help but think about our own as well, and the joint mission we share as brothers and sisters in Christ.

As we begin a new year, we pray that we might be ever faithful to God, and remember to worship him and praise him always.

## **NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Our annual winter meeting will be held on February 12<sup>th</sup>. We will gather in fellowship hall for a pot-luck meal and then have a meeting to review the year past, and plan for the future.

## **SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION**



Winter advisory...Please be sure to check St. Paul's website, [www.stpaulsbbv.org](http://www.stpaulsbbv.org) or WFMZ storm center to see if any church service or event is cancelled due to snow or ice.

## **ENDOWMENT NEWS**

In the past couple months; our church has been blessed to receive a number of financial gifts to the endowment fund. Two gifts were made through estate planning which included naming the church as a part beneficiary to the estate. With grateful hearts and thankfulness for their stewardship, we accept gifts from the estate of Kathrine Plarr and Leroy Bortz. These two individuals were faithful stewards all their lives, and wanted their gifts to the work of Christ's mission to continue long after their death. Their gift to the endowment fund ensures this will happen as only interest on the money invested is used, and the principle remains in tack. If you have not done so, please consider naming the church in your will as a sign of your love and support of the work and mission of Jesus Christ.

## **SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY**

Notice: There will not be any small group bible study during January. We will resume on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 A.M.

## **JANUARY 15, 2017**

LET'S GATHER TOGETHER....for a comfort food pot-luck on January 15<sup>th</sup>. In the midst of the winter it is time for good food and good friends to meet. So, bring your favorite winter time food, and share in the fellowship of your friends at church.

## **COAT DRIVE**



Thank you to all who donated coats to our coat drive. As you know, this winter is shaping up to be a very cold one. The coats were delivered to a community shelter in center city Allentown. You can be sure the coats will help those in need. Thank you again.

# **ALTAR FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR 2017**

Your sponsorship of the flowers and the bulletins is a great way to pay tribute to someone special in your life and also to help offset the cost of these weekly items for the church.

The prices will stay the same. Altar flowers – for one vase is \$22 or both vases at \$44. The cost for the bulletin sponsors will remain at \$20 per week.

The new flower chart and bulletin chart are posted on the bulletin board. If you would like to call the church and reserve a spot for a date, please feel free to do so.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 8<sup>th</sup> W-ELCA Soup & Sandwich Lunch, the speaker will be Jim Byrnes, Chief Executive Officer, Allentown Rescue Mission.

January 15<sup>th</sup> Comfort food pot luck.

February 12<sup>th</sup> Pot luck and Congregational meeting.

## **BIBLE QUIZ**

In Matthew 13, to what does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven?

- A. A farmer sowing seed
- B. A mustard seed
- C. Yeast
- D. Hidden treasure
- E. A merchant who finds a pearl
- F. A fishing net
- G. All of the above



(Answer on page 8)

## Women of the ELCA

Their monthly meeting was on December 14 at which time they discussed the Thankoffering total for 2016 and the Ingathering at St. John's on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

- January 8, 2017, Soup and Sandwich. Jim Byrnes, Chief Executive Officer of the Allentown Rescue mission will give a presentation on what their organization does for people in our area.
- March 25, 2017, Spring Justice Retreat will be at St. John's, Kutztown. Keynote speaker, Barb Connolly, Guidance Counselor at Hillside School, will address Words Have and MaryAnn Hamm will lead a meditation segment.
- April or May 2017, Spring Cluster Meeting. Topic: vaccinations
- May 20, 2017, Convention – place TBD.
- July 13-16 2017, Tenth Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, MN.
- September 23, 2017 – Fall fun Event, Hope Lutheran, Tatamy.

Bible Study was *What wants to be born in you?*.

Join us after service on Sunday, January 8, 2017 for Soup and Sandwich followed by presentation on Allentown Rescue Mission and then on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. for our next meeting.

Submitted by Sharon Bortz

## PRAYER CHAIN



A note to let you know that if anyone is in need of additional prayers for someone in your family or someone you know, please call Judy Walker at [610 351-6040](tel:6103516040) or cell # [610 573 7117](tel:6105737117). She will start the prayer chain by calling the people who serve on that committee. They in turn will keep extra prayers going for that person. All we need is a name of someone in need of prayer, a reason does not have to be given as to why you want the extra prayers.

## THANK YOU



I want to say thank you to the congregation of St. Paul's for another wonderful year. Also, thank you to all my volunteers who help me in one way or another in the office and the church to make my job easier. You make it enjoyable to come to work.

Have a wonderful year.  
Cindy

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“Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will.”

—Jonathan Edwards

## **JANAURY FOOD BANK ITEM OF THE MONTH**

The congregation has donated to the Food Bank throughout the year but the needs of those less fortunate continue. So please continue to bring nonperishable food items along to worship.

Each month we plan to feature a food item, but any non-perishable food will be acceptable.

**THANK YOU** to all who brought in canned meat for our monthly collection for the food bank.

During January our “food of the month” will be canned fruit.

### **HOSPITALIZED?**



If you are in the hospital, please let the church office know. The hospitals have updated their computers, and unfortunately, we are not getting accurate reporting of members in the hospital. Our code # is 321.

### **BIBLE QUIZ ANSWER**

Answer: G (See Matthew 13:24-51.)

### **TAKING A STAND**

Cowardice asks the question: Is it safe? Expediency asks the question: Is it politic? Vanity asks the question: Is it popular? But conscience asks the question: Is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular — but one must take it simply because it is right.

—Martin Luther King Jr.



# TREXLERTOWN SENIOR ASSOCIATION

The Trexlertown Seniors are looking for new members. We meet every Tuesday at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Our meetings start at 1:00 p.m. Some come a little early to socialize. Light refreshments are served.

From time to time we have a speaker come in. We play bingo, have trivia, play cards, pinochle and more. Once in a while we have entertainment with a piano player and a sing-a-long.

If you have any questions, stop in and attend one of our meetings.

## A NEW VIEW

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.

—C. Neil Strait



## LESSONS FROM A SNOWMAN

- It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive.
- We're all made mostly of water.
- You know you've "arrived" when a song is written about you.
- So what if you're a little bottom-heavy?
- Don't get too much sun.
- Sweating too much can be disastrous!



## GREAT EXPLOITS

Colorado pastor Mike Paulison, who's made many mission trips to Haiti to build and maintain an orphanage, shares about prayer's power:

“On one trip, we were bringing large items that could've been problematic, because in Haiti customs officials often make up their own rules. We urged our prayer-support team back home to be praying as we went through customs. But when a storm delayed our flight from Miami for two hours, the [schedule](#) was off. We encouraged one another, saying at least prayers had been lifted. Later, on the plane to Haiti, I noticed I'd made a mistake on the schedule. It was off by exactly two hours. The supporters were actually praying the very moment we landed in Port-au-Prince!

“In line at customs, we watched officials opening luggage. But by the time we got to the front, the inspectors were gone, and we were allowed to walk into the country. We experienced firsthand the promise in Daniel 11:32b (NKJV): ‘The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.’”

## WASHED CLEAN

Your morning shower can do more than cleanse your body. Retired pastor Norman Neaves takes time to remember his baptism daily.

“As the water is pouring down on me, I reach up and get water all over my hand. Then I close my eyes and make the sign of the cross on my forehead. ‘I have been baptized in Christ,’ I say to myself quietly. ‘This day belongs to him. I am called to be Jesus’ representative whatever I am doing and wherever I might go. Give me the grace, Lord, to represent you well and with integrity.’”

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“Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face.”

—Victor Hugo

## FREE REFILLS

God’s kingdom is like free refills at a restaurant. Wait — *what?!*

Jesus used common, everyday items to explain the [kingdom of God](#); we can too! The kingdom is like free refills. Still thirsty after one soda or coffee? Get another — no charge. In fact, the kingdom of God is better than free refills because you don’t even have to pay for the first glass.

It’s like having a parent buy you a favorite meal when you’re young. You sit back and savor it without the price crossing your mind. That’s okay, because the generous giver loves you and wants to be with you.

Sure, that’s simplistic, but so are Jesus’ parables. Overanalyze them and they may fall apart. But ponder the single point each makes, maybe get a chuckle and an *a-ha!* out of it, and that parable has done its job. So grab another free refill — of your beverage and of God’s love!

—Heidi Mann



### THREE CHESTS

Sometimes called “three arks,” this image represents the gifts the Magi brought to the child Jesus: gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11). Because Scripture lists three gifts, the legend arose that there were three wise men. But the biblical [account](#) doesn’t say how many travelers visited the Holy Family.

## ABOUT THE LUTHERANS

# Luther's Small Catechism

Of all the things Martin Luther wrote, he is probably best known for two things: the hymn “A mighty fortress is our God” and the Small Catechism. Interestingly, Luther himself was ambivalent about the lasting value of most of his writings, with two exceptions—and one of them was this little pamphlet, the Small Catechism. And this from someone whose writings changed the whole landscape of the Western religious world.

Most of us know the Small Catechism well. Many spent hours memorizing it as teens. But how did it come to be, and what is it that makes it so helpful?

In 2017 we are observing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation's start, when Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses. If that was the act of a passionate young man, a decade later he was facing the needs of the church he was reforming. If it was no longer enough just to go through the motions, following the lead of a Latin-rite priest, then what was at the heart of what people needed to know—and how were they to learn that? To meet that need, Luther the pastor and teacher created two catechisms—the Large (primarily intended for pastors) and the Small (for use in the home).

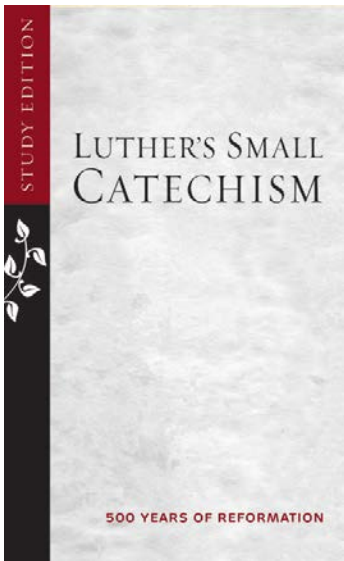
A catechism is a document that lays out the basic ideas of religion in a simple question-and-answer format. For the Small Catechism, Luther chose to open up some of the basics of Christian faith: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, and the Office of the Keys and Confession. It's worth noticing that he based this teaching document on what already existed rather than starting from scratch and inventing a whole new system. Luther was committed to the church catholic.

His genius is shown in the way he opened up these statements of faith. The famous question in each case was, in German, “*Was ist das?*” In English, most of us know this as “What does this mean?” but a literal translation would be “What is *that?*” And then he proceeded to tell, in beautifully simple language, what each commandment, each part of the

creed, each petition of the Lord's Prayer, tells us about God and about us as God's children. These explanations set out a God who is not the stern judge of Luther's own childhood, but a loving parent who offers us unconditional grace and only then invites us to live accordingly.

How profound was Luther's achievement in writing the Small Catechism? A mark of it can be seen in the simple fact that nearly five hundred years after its first publication in 1529, and after being translated into hundreds of languages, it is still one of the most effective tools for learning and teaching what the Christian faith is all about.

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## PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Helen Kessler, Rosemary Lehman, Katherine Plarr, Kathy Shryock, Frank Szukics, Cathy Waltemyer, Larry Wingard



2 Krista Reichwein	15 David Pisauro
3 Ina Knoll	15 Laura Stoneback
3 Ken Ritter	17 Harrison Kim
8 Florence Metzel	17 Tonya Wagner
9 John Caricari	19 Gianna Caricari
10 Rosemary Lehman	19 Sarina Montgomery
12 Joe Mutis	19 Wells Rampen
12 Robert Pearson	22 Westley Mironov
14 Jeremy Schmoyer	27 Mark Grammes
14 Irene Wenz	31 Mary Gade



3 Joe & Allison Thompson
7 Larry & Ginny Wingard

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Bill Moyer:

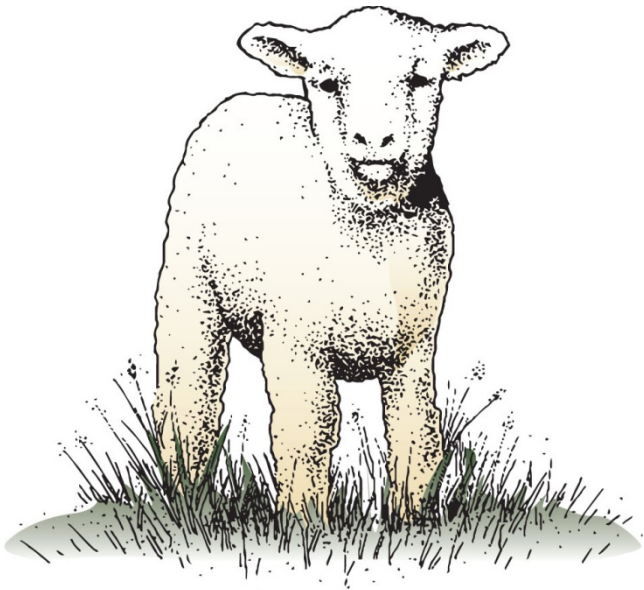
Steven Bolef  
Rosemary Lehman  
Donald & Evelyn Walp

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Leroy Bortz:

Linford & Joyce Bastian  
Rosemary Lehman

## PASTORIAL ACT

Pastor Laura officiated at the funeral of Greg Greenawalt on November 30<sup>th</sup>.



*Behold,*

THE LAMB OF GOD,

*who takes away*

THE SIN  
OF THE WORLD!"

**JOHN 1:29, ESV**

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**JANUARY 15, 2017**

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR  
ARTICLES SUBMITTED TO  
THE CHURCH OFFICE  
BY THIS DATE.**



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**CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000**

**HOSPITAL CODE: #321**

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

**EMAIL: [office@stpaulsville.org](mailto:office@stpaulsville.org)**

**Website: [www.stpaulsville.org](http://www.stpaulsville.org)**

**STAFF**

Pastor..... The Reverend Laura L. Stoneback  
Organist/Choir Director ..... Mrs. Judy Noll  
Handbell Director..... Mr. Richard Steltz  
Parish Secretary ..... Mrs. Cindy Krasnansky  
Sexton ..... Mr. Charlie Meitzler