



**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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The Rev. Gregory W. Frey, Pastor

JANUARY, 2019

On December 2nd we initiated a survey of the congregation to determine who would be willing to begin reading the monthly newsletter in an electronic version sent by email, who would be willing to forego home delivery and pick up the newsletter at church and who needs to continue having the newsletter delivered to their home. We received 87 responses; 57 people indicated a preference to have the newsletter delivered via email, 15 people would be willing to pick up their printed newsletter at the church, 10 would like the newsletter delivered to their home and 6 were okay with electronic delivery or picking it up.

The responses indicate to me that the congregation is ready for a change in our newsletter distribution methods. Now first let me say our newsletter is a very important means of keeping you informed and involved in the ministries of this church. We have no desire to diminish its readership or availability. Rather, we would like to clarify and act on what reception method would work best for each of our members.

In addition to providing more delivery options we hope to reduce the amount of paper we use for the newsletter, reduce the number of copies we make on our copying machine and reduce the number of newsletter carried through the postal system. All of these reductions save costs and are environmentally responsible. It just seems like the right thing to do.

So here's what we want to do. We plan to mail copies of the newsletter to shut-ins who cannot pick up a copy at church. We need to know who else cannot receive the newsletter electronically and doesn't want to

pick it up at church and therefore would like a printed copy delivered. If you are fine picking up your copy at church you could indicate that. If you already know an electronic version is sufficient for you, you should check that box. **Everyone who currently receives the eBlast will automatically begin receiving an electronic version of the newsletter.** You are free to also pick up a print version at church if you like.

Please fill out the attached form below with your preference and return either in the collection plate, via mail or bring to the church office. Remember our goal is good stewardship of resources but also to make sure our members continue to have access to this important source of information.

Thanks for your help and your patience (in advance if we make mistakes) during this transition.

--Pastor Frey

- Please send the monthly newsletter to me via email (My email address is _____)
- I will pick up a copy of the newsletter at the church. No need to mail.
- I would like to continue having the newsletter mailed to my home.

Name _____

--WORSHIP IN JANUARY--

January 5	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
January 6	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
January 12	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
January 13	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
January 19	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
January 20	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Holy Communion 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School
January 26	6:00 P.M. – Holy Communion
January 27	8:00 & 10:30 A.M. – Worship 9:15 A.M. – Sunday School

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS –

Contribution to the **Renovations Fund** in memory of **Gerald Rohrbach** given by Russ & Diane Hartline and Sarah Hartline

THOUGHTS ON BAPTISM.....Joy Gerhart

On January 13 we will celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. I thought it might be interesting to share a few thoughts about baptism.



I learned three new things while at seminary and I try to share them with people (especially catechumens) since I think they are important and wonder why I never heard these things before. First is the whole idea that in baptism we die with Christ and are raised to new life. Romans 6:3-4 states this explicitly: “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” We do not visually get the impact of this aspect of baptism when we see someone sprinkled with water. Baptism by immersion gives us a more dramatic sense of drowning our old self and rising to a new life in Christ. Whether we are washed with a little or a lot of water, we symbolically die and rise again with Christ. Some have even said this is a dress rehearsal for our actual death and resurrection. Some have said now

that we have died with Christ and are raised again, we have nothing to fear in the death to come.

I love that phrase “newness of life.” Fresh and clean and pure. We only need to be baptized once, BUT we can remember our baptism daily. This was a big point Martin Luther makes. Every day we can awake and remember “I am baptized!” I had a seminary professor who said we can walk into the shower and when the water hits us, we can exclaim “I am baptized!” (Ask the 10th graders how I scared them yelling this!) At the synod office there used to be a little sign by the sink that said when you wash your face, remember that you are baptized. We could call this “walking wet” as one song says. We can daily remember that God has claimed us as God’s children, promises to forgive our sins, redeem us from death and the devil, and give us eternal salvation. Luther says, “Baptism with water signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.” (Small Catechism) (Have you ever heard this before?)

The third thing I heard in seminary was that baptism is our ordination into our life of Christian ministry. Maybe this meant more to me at the time because all the people around me were going to be ordained, and I wasn’t. But the point is that we are all ministers in God’s kingdom and in baptism we are set apart to do this work. In baptismal services we say to the newly baptized, “We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. . . giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world.” In the old LBW (green book) liturgy, a congregational representative would say, “Through Baptism, God has made *these new brothers and sisters members* of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus...” Baptism is our formal, public incorporation into God’s family, the body of Christ, and also a call to service in Christian ministry, wherever we are and whatever we do.

There is so much more to be said about baptism. I will end here with the words said when the baptized person is anointed with oil. “You are sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.” This can never be taken away.

WOMEN'S GROUP IN JANUARY.....

Please join us on the 4th Tuesday in January, which is January 22, for a planning meeting at 7:00 pm. We need your input for choosing future programs. We will plan to meet in the library and serve some hot beverages to keep us warm. Vali Heist, a certified professional organizer, owner of the Clutter Crew in Mohnton, and a skilled consultant on downsizing, was called to speak in January, but she was not available. We are penciled in her book to hear her speak on March 26.

CHRISTIAN ED. NEWS.....

Special Event—St. Paul's Baptismal Beach Party –An Event for Young and Old of all Ages



Join us on January 13 at 9:15 am for an all-Sunday School Event for children, youth and adults. We will be celebrating the Baptism of our Lord in a tropical and festive way. Wear a Hawaiian shirt if you can (even if you have to wear another shirt under it) and join in the fun activities and snacking pleasures we will be offering, including crafts and perhaps games for young and old. (You may even learn something new, but don't let that keep you away!) Let us brighten a winter day with some warm fellowship and wild decorations! Fun for all! Please plan to come!

Adult Class on Sunday mornings -- Beginning on January 6, Joy Gerhart will be offering an Adult Bible study on "The Bible and Theology: An Exploration of the Trinity (Who is God?) and Christology (Who is Christ?)." Over centuries, the early church struggled with understanding how to understand God as three in one and also how Christ could be both human and divine, as well as struggling with some pretty crazy ideas proposed by certain "heretical groups" (which are really the most fascinating), eventually forging the doctrines we embrace today. We will meet each Sunday at 9:15 am in the library, except on January 13 when there will be an all-Sunday School program. (We may skip Easter Sunday and Pentecost, too.)

Learning Ministries Day—January 26, 2019

Be Not Afraid--Being the Church in a Changing World

Last month we described this upcoming event featuring keynote speaker Elsayed Elmarsouky who will speak on his faith—Islam—and how its understanding reflects principles familiar to all people of faith. Pastor Frey will be offering two workshops on Respect for Different Religions, and Joy Gerhart will be offering two workshops on crafts fostering respect for various religious groups. Though the event will be a little distance from here, in Schuylkill Haven at Jerusalem Lutheran Church, the trip will be worth it. Early registration is due Dec. 31. Please speak to Joy Gerhart if you are interested. (Full details are on the synod website: nepsynod.org.)

YOUTH NEWS.....

SPYY—We are planning to do a service project on Sunday, January 20, making Valentines for military personnel. We will have a light lunch after church and then start working. Please sign up on the Youth Board. Friends are always welcome.

We are planning a bowling event on Feb. 24 at Jay's Lanes. Stay tuned for more details next month.

SPLAT—An ice cream social will be the focus of our gathering on January 13. Bring your favorite topping or use the ones provided. We'll have loads of ice cream, bowls and spoons. Sure, it's not the most nutritious, but it sure tastes good! We'll be sure to have some active games to follow to work off those calories! Bring a friend and sign up on the Youth Board.

EBLAST.....

Do you receive our Weekly Update each Friday by email? Our Eblast is a great way to stay connected and up-to-date with everything happening in our church. We currently send the Eblast to 354 email addresses. To add your email to the list of recipients, please email Eblast@StPaulsDouglassville.com.

VOLUNTEER FAIR.....

Exploring new opportunities? Looking for ways to make a difference?



This unique event connects good people with good causes.

Bring a friend and join us Monday, January 21, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day from 11 am – 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

This will be the event's third year, and we will welcome over 30 local non-profit organizations that need volunteers to thrive. The list of organizations attending is on our website, www.stpaulsdouglassville.com.

There will be a complimentary light lunch, giveaways and door prizes.

FACEBOOK.....

There are currently 442 people who "like" our St. Paul's facebook page. This has been an invaluable (and free!) tool in letting the community know about our Worship Services and marketing our bake sales and special events such as the Christmas Bazaar, Volunteer Fair and Apple Festival. Please help us grow our reach by "liking" our page and sharing and commenting on our posts. We appreciate your efforts!

THE GALLERY

There are now 17 "God's Work. Our Hands" photographs in the Fellowship Hall and we are beginning the process of adding photographs to the walls of our halls.

Your donations – in any amount – help offset the costs of framing the photographs and are greatly appreciated. All sponsors names will be included in a sponsor plaque when the project is completed. If you have an idea for a photograph, please contact Carole at 484-794-2652 or emilyndalesmom@aol.com.

Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner.....

Join us Saturday, January 5 from 3-6pm in the Fellowship Hall for a dinner of Pork, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, Applesauce, Beverages and Dessert.

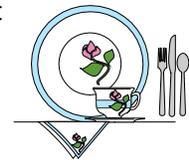
Tickets: \$10 Adults, \$5 Children; Dine in or Take Out
Bring your dinner club and enjoy some fellowship!

To help us determine the number of meals to prepare, please purchase your tickets in advance (sold after Worship Services) or sign up on the table in the Narthex.

All proceeds will benefit the February Mission Trip to Puerto Rico.

Dining Club

Make it your resolution to join the January – June Dining Clubs! We will have 10 groups and warmly welcome new members. This is a great way to get to know your fellow worshipers better. Groups are made up of 6-8 people who meet four times during the six months. Sign up by January 6 in the Narthex or contact Mary and Fred Hoffert at arhoffert@aol.com.



The new groups and members will be announced Sunday, January 20 during an all-dining-club Pot Luck Brunch during the coffee hour between Worship Services. Bring a dish – everyone is welcome whether you're a member of the Dining Club or not.

Remember to email your pictures to Eblast@StPaulsDouglassville.com.

A sincere THANK YOU to all the volunteers and patrons who came out to help make the 2018 bazaar baking event a huge success. Our 3 weeks of preparation were filled with fun and fellowship. We hope our patrons enjoyed serving the 1,120 pieces of pastry as much as we enjoyed making them. Again, THANK YOU TO ALL.

Weekly Prayer Service -- Wednesdays--9:00 AM



We pray for every member of the congregation on Wednesday mornings at 9 am. If you see your name here it is not because we think you have a specific need for prayer, but to let you know you are in our prayers whatever your need may be. On Wednesday mornings we also pray for churches around the world, leaders in the ELCA, our staff and council members, our political leaders, those in the military, special requests, and many more. If you are free a Wednesday morning, stop in and join us. We are always finished before 9:30 AM. Included this month in our prayers will be: Bill Lerch, Lisa Lerch, Darvin Levensgood, Mary Levensgood, Donald Levensgood, Gerald Levensgood, Pat Levensgood, Rob Levensgood, Sandi Levensgood, Hallie Levensgood, Ryan Levensgood, Daniel Light, Darlene Light, Carter Longstaff, Tom Longstaff, Deb Longstaff. If you have anyone to add to the prayer list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card found in the pew racks or call the church office. Please pray for those with special concerns: : Marilyn Anton, Maureen Benedict, Bill, Diane Cataldi, Patti Christman, Courtney, Charles "Skip" Davidheiser, Dawn Donachie, Terry Eberly, Carl Fetterman, Barbara Fletcher, Lynn Gibson, Fay Green, Verna Habecker, Frank Jablonski, Rich Jacobs, Jenny, Gary Leister, Ruby Lewis, Charles Marquette, Ronnie McCarragher, Helen McKeever, Charles Merkle, Jr., June Rhoads, Liz Roberts, Jeane Rohrbach, Gabriel Schulze, Kelly Stoltzfus, Gwen Sullivan, Pat Townson, Erna Vroman, Helene Wallauer, Lynwood Weil, Terry Weiler, John Willman, family and friends of Mary Joyce Longstaff, Dale Tobolski, Brian Derr, Sergio Capone and all others listed below or those we name in our hearts: Amanda, Eric Burkhart, James Cooke, Jeannie Crass, Kimmi Cremi, Barbara DePrefontaine, Maureen Dolan, Sharon Dotterer, Mary Ellen Eidell, Wendy Ericsson, Pat Frey, Ron Glaser, Bob Graeff, David Groff, Marie Hafer, Connie Hunter, Jimmy H., Margaret Kakas, Sue Key, Beverly McClung, Lisa Moore, Kate Oshinskie, Sherry Rogers, Ruth Ann & Anita, Audrey Serrian, June Shirey, Brian Spitko, Joan Sterner, Sue Strain, Tony Yanos, Tom Yetto; homebound—Geraldine Barbone, Peggy Burns, Jennie Clouser, Carol DeLong, Jan Haas, Daniel Light, Laura Schmale, Alma Shirey, Patsy Smale, Ralph Trainer, Pauline Trout, Millard Watson, Richard Wise.



1/1	Blaire Eidell	1/20	Kay Bonslaver
1/3	Michael Hasara		Jeff Duplak
	Harper McCord		Abigail Eckstein
	Sydney Moody		John McCalicher
1/4	Barry Leier		Helene Wallauer
	Laura Schmale	1/21	Kelly Mooney
1/5	Garrett Eisenhuth		Jeffrey Sowers
	Breylan Kupp		Cindy Weidner
	Christopher Michener	1/24	Sarah Bartra
1/7	Lida McManus		Kiara Ray
1/8	Larry Barr		Richard Talbott
1/11	Phyllis Harwood	1/25	Michele Hensley
1/12	Becky Kucharik		Aimee Luo
1/13	Diane Hartline	1/26	Anna Brown
	James Waring		Nathan Flamini
1/15	Kennedy Albright		Susan Murray
	Ruby Saylor		Tim Oister
	Lynne Zepp		Patsy Smale
1/16	Hayden Moyer	1/27	John Cappellano
	Brooks Yetter		Nolan Tindall
1/18	Adrianna Cozzone		Kennedy Yetter
	Ray DiSandro	1/28	Garret Reinhardt
	Susanne Leier		William Ridge, IV
	Connie Schittler	1/29	Bonnie Simmons
1/19	Ruth McVey		Jeffrey Sowers
	Jill Michener	1/31	Eleanor Davidheiser
	Jamie Trout		David Zepp

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO –

John & Ellen Buck	1/16	67 yrs.
LeRoy & Barbara DePrefontaine	1/19	62 yrs.

--YTD Giving thru November 2018--

	<u>Jan- Nov.,2017</u>	<u>Jan-Nov.,2018</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 314,479	\$ 320,401	5,922	1.9
Renovation Contr.	81,028	63,385	-17,643	-21.8
Total Giving	\$ 395,507	\$ 383,786	\$ -11,721	-2.9
Mortgage Balance		\$ 87,495.62		

SNOW EMERGENCY

In the event that we need to cancel Sunday Church School or Worship due to severe weather, it will be announced on Channel 69 as early as possible. The cancellation will also be on the church's answering machine (610-385-6616), website—www.stpaulsdouglassville.com, and Facebook.

YOGA.....

The Fellowship Committee is interested in starting a Bible Yoga class. If anyone in the congregation is a Yoga Instructor or can recommend someone, please contact Carole at 484.794.2652 or emilyndalesmom@aol.com.



PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP.....

We will have seven members of the congregation who will be traveling to Puerto Rico from February 17 – 23 doing mission work with Lutheran Disaster Relief: Pastor Frey, Lou Day, Ray DiSandro, Ann Myers, Carole Renninger, Dave Renninger, and Herb Schoenley.

Inside this newsletter is a special offering envelope. Your donations to help offset costs are greatly appreciated. No donation is too small. Thank you.

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday								
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Council persons in charge of services—Tom Longstaff, Frank Jablonski</p> </div>		<p>1 <i>New Year's Day</i></p> <p>Office closed.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Noon—Amity Fr. Circle 6 PM—T3 Committee 7 PM--Choir</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>3—6 PM—Pork & Sauerkraut dinner 6 PM—Holy Comm.</p>								
<p>6</p> <p>8 & 10:30—Holy Comm. 9:15—Sunday School 9:30—Finance</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7 PM—Christian Ed.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM—TOPS 6:15 PM--CDC</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 6:15—Executive Com 7 PM--Council</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7 PM—Choir 7 PM—Prayer Shawl</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Girl Scout first aid Training—F.H. 6 PM—Holy Comm.</p>								
<p>13</p> <p>8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School 9:15—Fellowship Committee SPLAT after 10:30</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10 AM—Labyrinth Gr 7 PM—Pastoral Care</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM--TOPS</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7 PM—Choir 7:30 PM – Crime Watch</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Comm.</p>								
<p>20</p> <p>8 & 10:30—Holy Com 9:15—Sunday School 9:15—Dining club pot luck brunch 9:15--Social Ministry</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11 AM—2 PM—Volunteer Fair 6 PM—Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM—TOPS 7 PM---Women's Gr.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study 7 PM—Worship & Music</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7 PM--Choir</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6 PM—Holy Comm.</p>								
<p>27</p> <p>8 & 10:30—Worship 9:15—Sunday School</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Quilting 9:30—Bazaar crafts 2 PM--TOPS</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9 AM—Prayer Gr. 9:30—Bible Study</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7 PM--Choir</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Money counters</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">8 AM</td> <td style="width: 50%;">10:30 AM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jeane Serrian</td> <td>Joanne Guss</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carole Renninger</td> <td>Arlene Hildebeitel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wayne Grace</td> <td>Ray DiSandro</td> </tr> </table> </div>		8 AM	10:30 AM	Jeane Serrian	Joanne Guss	Carole Renninger	Arlene Hildebeitel	Wayne Grace	Ray DiSandro
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