

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Dover & Trenton Roads
Upperco, Maryland 21155**

To:

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Dover & Trenton Roads
Upperco, Maryland 21155
410-239-3456
The Rev. Carl Myers**

December 2016 & January 2017



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Directory



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Carol Hunt

Vice President

Sandy Baber

Secretary

Becky Miller

Treasurer

Carol Hilgartner

Council Members

Laura Grabowski

Kelly Mountcastle

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NEWSLETTER

Mary Neuheisel

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SAINT PAUL 'S VOICE

December 2016/January 2017



The way the newsletters work out, this one is effectively the “holiday” issue because included in the coming month or so is Christmas and, of course, all the “holiday” stuff that surrounds Christmas. There is no surprise in any of that since the stores started Christmas stuff battling for display space with Halloween and multiple retailers have decided that the whole month of November is “black Friday”.

Christmas is a little different this year because we have planned on adding an evening Candlelight service (9:00 pm) to the afternoon Service on Christmas Eve (4:30 pm). But all of that is complicated because Christmas Eve (December 24) is on Saturday which means that Christmas is on Sunday. We will have an abbreviated Sunday morning (9:00 am) service with no Sunday School. I hope that your family will take some of the multiple opportunities to sing the carols celebrating Jesus’ birth.

The coincidence of Christmas on Sunday also means that the first Sunday in Advent is as early as it can possible be.. When Christmas is on Sunday Dec 25... the first Sunday in Advent will always be on the 27th of November... And we are getting there very quickly.

Of course, Christmas and Advent are always related, but Advent is not just getting ready for Christmas. The four weeks of Advent are a call to prepare ourselves for Jesus. Of course, that means meeting the God who touches us uniquely in the baby born in Bethlehem. But Advent also calls us to prepare to meet the risen Christ who meets us in communion and in worship and in our neighbor. Finally the assurance or Advent is an Easter kind of hope that no matter how hopeless today feels, Jesus promises to meet us in our tomorrows.

Wishing you a faith filled Advent and a joy filled Christmas,

Pastor Carl



THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER

WE PRAY FOR:

MEMBERS: Mark Armacost, Mary Armacost, Hazel Ashe, Bob Bare, Ruth Bare, Maidie Brown, Vivian Chenoweth, Rosalie Croft, Colton DuBois, Jamie DuBois, Bud Eichelberger, Bob Graff, Carol Hilgartner, Hannah Hilgartner, Glenys Hunt, Matthew Jones, Carrie Moore, Matthew Moore, Sherry Moore, Rachel Murphy, Pr. Carl Myers, and all homebound members.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: : Jim Howard, Joyce Rhoten, Georgia & Ed Winiecki, Bettie Panagakos, Phil Cieri, Bob & Ann Durham, Jeanne Braly, Kitty Macon, Christine Palmimor, Bruce Hilgartner, Gerri Geist, Beverly Chenoweth, Frank Ulrich, Chris Kramer, Joy Pillsbury, Joan & Rundle Kesserling, Jerry Herfurth, Michele Seibel, Carol and Carroll Parker, Erin Krantz, Heidi Gumz, Bernie & Chris Harman, Carol Gailey, Helen Thomas, Bill Lavietes, Bill Peters, Deb Effingham, Gary McNally, Sherry Grimes, Matt DeRouville, Bonnie McCubbin, Tracey Headley, Darlene Parlette, Jim Brown, Rick Schaefer, Nancy & Ray Hull, Frank Minor, Sr., John Mason, Garrett Watson, Carroll Lutheran School, those facing job loss, and those in broken relationships.

THE PRAYER: Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Grant your care to all in distress or pain and strength to the weak. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- “Faith does not come from striving; it comes from surrender.” Bill Johnson
- “No prayer too big. No prayer too small. Otherwise, we might not pray at all.” Karen Strand
- “Perhaps the most important thing we ever give each other is our attention.” Rachel Remen

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CHRISTMAS BIBLE QUIZ

1. Several Old Testament prophets are given credit by the Gospel writers for looking forward to Jesus’ birth. But one is famously cited by Matthew 1:23 (Look a virgin shall conceive and bear a son....) Which Prophet was Matthew referring to?
2. There are four Gospels... How many of them include portions of the Christmas narrative?
3. When King Herod died the Gospel story tells of an angel telling Joseph that the coast was clear for him to bring the holy family home from what country?
4. How many wise men (magi) inquired in Jerusalem about the birth of a Messiah, encountered Herod and brought gifts to the new born Jesus.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

- ✝ to those who helped or contributed in any way to our basket bingo. We especially thank Kelly Mountcastle and Mary Neuheisel for chairing the event, and Carol Hilgartner and her amazing corps of volunteers for feeding the masses!
- ✝ to Pastor Dave Bare who is our regular supply pastor.
- ✝ To all the church members who help with Fellowship Sundays, including Gerri Martin, Patti Schunk, Carolyn Eichler, Susan Fleming, and all the bakers of baked goods!
- ✝ To Laura Grabowski for heading up Trunk or Treat and to everyone who participated to make it fun for our youth.
- ✝ To Carol Hilgartner and Shirley Stratton for heading up the Christmas Sale.

Submissions to the newsletter are due as follows:

December/January	due November 15
February/March	due January 15
April/May	due March 15
June/July	due May 15
August/September	due July 15
October/November	due September 15

ANSWERS TO BIBLE TRIVIA

ANSWERS TO BIBLE TRIVIA 1) Isaiah 7.14: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. 2) Only two: Luke and Matthew 3) Matthew 2:19 Egypt 4) We don't know... the Bible makes reference to gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh... three gifts but no indication of how many gift givers. Matthew 2:11-12

NEWS

HOLIDAY SERVICES

This year we will have two Christmas Eve Services on December 24th. There will be a children's service at 4:30, and then a candlelight service at 9:00. Christmas is on a Sunday this year, and we will have our regular 9AM service on December 25th. Please plan to join us and bring a friend to worship!

COUNCIL WORKSHOP

There will be a council planning meeting on January 7th at 9:30am.

HOLIDAY SALE

Church Family- Shirley and I would like to say "THANK YOU" to everyone who came out to the Holiday Sale to support our youth going to Houston. We also want to thank the youth that came to help, Ryan Meadowcroft, Ashley Mountcastle, and Brianna Murphy and Sam Jones. I also want to thank Charles and Sandy Baber, Wade Hilgartner and Rachel Murphy for helping get everything set up. We couldn't have done it without your help!!! The event made \$300 and we sold most of the wreaths which we are VERY happy about! We would also like to THANK everyone who has helped support this event in the past, since this is our last one!

Blessing to ALL ,
Carol Hilgartner and Shirley Stratton

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

During worship on December 11th, our youth will present a special program to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Do come and enjoy this wonderful program headed up by Ms. Patti.

PASTORAL CARE

If you are in need of pastoral care or even in a case of emergency, to reach Pastor Carl Myers, please call [410-241-0814](tel:410-241-0814).




BULLETINS AND FLOWERS

Please sign up for bulletin and flower sponsorship. Contact Meg to sign up for flowers [410-790-3396](tel:410-790-3396). Make sure your check is noted for bulletin or flower sponsorship so it can be posted to correct account. We can take credit cards for payment too!

LOCK IN

Get ready to bring your favorite board game, your sleeping bag, and your slippers for a great evening at St. Paul's! There will be food, games and even a movie. SPY will provide the pizza but we ask that you will bring a food item to share for snack or for breakfast in the morning. **All** are welcomed to join us for an evening of games, then whoever wants to spend the night for the lock in is welcomed to stay. If you feel your child is too young to stay without their parent being there - please plan on staying, too. The lock in will start at 6 pm (or anytime you can arrive, but doors will be locked at 9 pm) and will end at 8 am on Saturday. Stay tuned for a date announcement!

December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Nov. 27 After Service HANGING OF THE GREENS 	28	29 7:00pm- Bible Study	30	December 1	2	3
4 900am – Worship Youth Sunday Food Collection Second offering for St. Dysmas	5 5:45pm- Confirmation Class	6 7:00pm – Council	7	8	9	10
11 900am – Worship Children’s Christmas Program Fellowship after Worship	12	13 7:00pm- Bible Study	14	15	16	17
18 900am – Worship 4:00pm – Christmas Caroling and Potluck	19 5:45pm- Confirmation Class	20	21	22	23	24 4:30pm – children’s Christmas Eve Service  <small>Family Christmas Eve Service</small> 9:00pm – Candlelight service
25 900am – Worship  Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29	30	31
						7

January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 900am – Worship Food Collection Sunday Youth Sunday	2 5:45pm- Confirmation Class	3 7:00pm- Bible Study	4	5	6	7 9:30am Council Planning Meeting
8 900am – Worship Untrim the Christmas Tree	9	10 7:00pm - Council	11	12	13	14
15 900am – Worship Second Offering for CLV Fellowship after worship	16 5:45pm- Confirmation Class	17 700pm- Bible Study	18	19	20	21
22 900am – Worship	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 900am – Worship	30	31				

Celebrations for December & January

December Birthdays

7 Ginny Harris
9 Brianna Murphy
11 Charles Baber
Luke Meadowcroft
18 Sophia Panagakos
23 John Kelly, Jr.
24 Nadine McGee
Shirley Stratton
28 Sue Benson
Becky Harris Miller

December Anniversaries

10 Calvin & Mary Armacost
12 Shannon & Rachel Murphy
29 Steve & Selena Howard



January Birthdays

5 Christian Neuheisel
7 Ashley Mountcastle
8 Laura Grabowski
21 Felicity Meadowcroft
28 Katrina Ross
30 Mary Graff

January Anniversaries

9 Rick & Meg Jones



St Paul's has actively started fundraising for the Houston Gathering. We will hold a sub sale in early 2017, Mario's will take place in February, and we will again sell Wolfgang Candy for Easter. There is also a giving line item set up for the Gathering if you would like to give a monetary gift – just note accordingly. Stay tuned for more information!

'This Changes Everything'

We are excited to share with you the theme for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering, "This Changes Everything." Our primary Scripture will be Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

Grace is a foundational and distinctive piece of the Lutheran faith. This gift, undeserved and freely given, changes lives and perspectives as people realize they are enough because of what Christ has done and are called into the world to serve their neighbor and share the good news.

Our logo is a visual representation of our theme and the 2018 Gathering experience. It incorporates the coming together of a mosaic to reflect the diverse host city of Houston, as well as the idea that we are a church where all are imperfect and incomplete, yet we each belong in – and have an important place in – God's masterpiece. The cross at the center of the logo is the focus – it is God's grace, through Christ's life, death and resurrection, that changes everything for all people.

NESAP Volunteer Visits



In just 1 and 1/4 hours, 9 kids made 15 Thanksgiving bag sets of 2 bags each, restocked shelves, sorted and bagged fresh potatoes and oranges for the sets. They restocked shelves, and processed 2 full tables of incoming donations.

In just one night they did the amount of work that would take a typical volunteer 2 weeks!
They ROCK!!

Sunday School News

Students who attended the Halloween Party held on Sunday October 30th had a great time. Car trunks were decorated and candy was given out to our students by members of our congregation. Thanks to everyone who made this a fun time especially Laura Grabowski.

The Neuheisel Family donated daffodil bulbs to be planted by the Sunday school students in front of the church along with the tulips that were planted last year. In early May we should see the daffodils and tulips blooming side by side.

What is coming up on the calendar for St. Paul's Sunday School

Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal – Saturday, December 10th – Time will be announced at a later date.

Christmas Pageant – Sunday, December 11th during the church service.

Fellowship will be held on this Sunday with the teachers providing the baked goods. Fellowship will not be on the 3rd Sunday in the month of December.

Christmas Caroling and Pot Luck Dinner - Sunday, December 18th. We will meet on the church parking lot at 2 p.m.

Sunday school classes will not be held on:
December 11th - Christmas Pageant and Fellowship
December 25th – Christmas Day
January 1st – New Years Day



A Gingerbread House was built and decorated by our students on Saturday, November 12th and will be entered into the Human Services of Carroll County Gingerbread House Contest. Our Gingerbread House along with others will be on display in the Westminster Mall from November 19th through November 25th. If you have a chance please stop by to see our creation. Monies earned from participating in this event will go to Human Services to help the homeless in the Carroll County Area.

A special thank you goes out to Elinor Wiley who has helped our students with this project. Ms. Elinor is a wonderful baker and awesome builder of Gingerbread Houses. She is also the mother of Meg Jones and grandmother to Matthew and Sam.