

**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 2017 & January 2018



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Directory



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Carol Hunt

Vice President

Sandy Baber

Secretary

Kelly Mountcastle

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Carol Hilgartner

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NEWSLETTER

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SAINT PAUL 'S VOICE

December 2017/January 2018

Advent is.... Well, several obvious bits that are hard to miss...

A time in the church calendar that begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends with Christmas.

A time when we light a new candle on each of those four Sundays before Christmas.

If you are paying attention, you will know that we use blue “paraments” on the church furniture during Advent and only during Advent. If you are old enough, you might remember that we didn’t always use blue paraments... extra credit if you know what we did use.

Advent is... Well, often misunderstood...

Advent means “coming”, and of course Christmas is “coming” soon. So it is easy to assume that since Advent is about the coming of Christmas, we should sing lots of Christmas music. But Christmas is not only about the coming of the baby Jesus at Christmas, but also about the coming of Jesus into our lives every day, and also about the less understood promise of Jesus to come again into our lives at the “close of the age”. If we fall into the temptation to sing very familiar Christmas carols every Sunday, then we will certainly miss the call to open our lives to all the ways in which Jesus is waiting to come in.

Since Advent is about Jesus coming to us, we have sometimes thought that Advent should emphasize the joy of that promise, while at other times some have thought that we should emphasize penitent preparation for Jesus’ coming. If the latter is true, then we should sing serious contemplative music. But if joy is the intent of our time together, we should sing joyful songs.

We seem to have settled some where in the middle and decided that “hope” is the appropriate sense of the season. That is why we left the purple paraments behind forty years ago and introduced the color blue for the season. (Oops, that answers the quiz doesn’t it?)

That doesn’t answer the the music question completely, but it should help us understand why the issue is complicated. Advent marks the joy inherent in beginning anew.... It also calls us to the serious business of new beginnings. Advent points to the joy not just of a baby’s birth but of true serious need to open our hearts to Jesus’ promised coming again and again into our lives.

I hope that when you see the blue paraments on December 3, you will see in them the joy in the time of expectation and the call to begin our journey with Jesus. I hope that you will find genuine happiness in the music of Advent. At the same time please recognize the serious challenge of Jesus coming into our world and our lives.

Finally know that it will be easier this year than ever to lose Advent in the hoopla of Christmas because fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve.... That Sunday it will be Advent in the morning and by afternoon it will time for the first Christmas Eve celebration at 3:30. Advent will be effectively shorter than ever.

Carl Myers - Interim Pastor



THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER

WE PRAY FOR:

MEMBERS: Mark Armacost, Mary Armacost, Hazel Ashe, Ruth Bare, Maidie Brown, Vivian Chenoweth, Rosalie Croft, Colton DuBois, Jamie DuBois, Anne Durham, Bud Eichelberger, Leon Fleming, Bob Graff, Mary Graff, Carol Hilgartner, Hannah Hilgartner, Glenys Hunt, Matthew Jones, Carrie Moore, Matthew Moore, Sherry Moore, Jack Schunk, and all homebound members.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Gerri Geist, Jerry Herfurth, Carol and Carroll Parker, Bernie & Chris Harman, Bill Lavietes, Laura and Joseph Jagoda, Rick Schaefer, Linda and Ron Nunan, Darlene Parlette, Rick Schaefer, Jeanne Braly, Minor family, Ruth Baumgardner, Jackie Schweigman, Sandy Duffy, Erin Kranz, Nancy Walker, Annie Sensabaugh, Jim & Dana Hoyt, Clyde Harmon, Steve Austin, Billy Parr, Brandon, Angie Hipsley, Audrey, Janet O’Meara, Sarah Wisner, Beth Friedman, Brandy Bubczyk, Rocket Rathbone, Waneta Sackman, Art Carroll, those facing job loss, and those in broken relationships.

THE PRAYER: Merciful God, we pray for the lonely, the disheartened, those who suffer from debilitating illness, those who cannot speak for themselves, and those in any need, especially (names). In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

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✝ To those who have helped with fundraising for the Gathering Trip. Thank you to our church family for their generous donations at the Soup and Sandwich Luncheon

✝ to Pastor Dave Bare who is our regular supply pastor.

✝ to Laura Grabowski for heading up our Halloween festivities and making them fun for our youth.

NEWS

PARISH REPORT

The Parish Committee of St. Paul's and Christ Church has spent the last year formulating a parish agreement and by-laws. Our goal has been to create a shared pastoral ministry. We are currently on hold with our plans as Pastor Mike Adams has not yet retired and we can't move forward with calling a new pastor until he does so.

Small congregations of the Westminster Conference got together on November 18 to learn about each other's needs and strengths. St. Paul's parish committee will meet again in January to discuss our options. We are very thankful that Pastor Carl has extended his interim stay with us for now two and one half years.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Our Family Christmas Eve Service will be held at 4:30. This service is centered around the children who will help build the manger scene. We will also have a second service at 9pm. Please bring family and friends to celebrate with our church family!

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

During worship on December 10, our youth will present a special program to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Do come and enjoy this wonderful program.

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).

OUTREACH

- * Our Fall Blood Drive resulted in 30 good units of blood, which helps 90 individuals. Thank you to everyone who helped make this drive a success!
- * Our teenage youth helped us put together "10" five-gallon buckets filled with various cleaning supplies. These "Clean-up Buckets" were shipped to Texas to aid in the hurricane disaster. Thank you to the 5 workers from John's class!
- * We shipped \$90.00 worth of chew toys to the K9 Unit for Wounded Warriors stationed in Florida.
- * We're in touch with the Salvation Army and will again adopt 3 families for the holidays. We've specifically requested families with 2 children or more. Stay tuned as we will be putting wishes on our tree very soon!
- * This year we're also stuffing Christmas stockings for 10-15 children. These will be distributed through Shepherd's Staff.

NEWSLETTER

The pages of this newsletter will become sparse in the news department without your help. If you aren't in the birthday/anniversary list, please email me the info. Unless you tell me what's happening, who is involved, etc. it's likely I won't remember. Email works best. If you verbally tell me some news, make sure you see me write it down please. Thanks for your help! - Mary

December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
3 900am – Worship Youth Sunday Food Collection	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 900am – Worship Children’s Christmas Program Fellowship after Worship	11	12 7:00pm – Council Meeting	13	14	15	16
17 900am – Worship Second Offering – St. Dymus 5:30pm – Christmas Caroling and Potluck	18	19 7:00- Bible Study	20	21	22	23
24 900am – Worship – 4:30pm – Christmas Eve Service 9pm- Christmas Eve Service	25  Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29	30
31 900am- Worship						6

January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2 7:00 – Bible Study	3	4	5	6
7 900am – Worship Food Collection Sunday Youth Sunday	8	9 7:00pm- Council Meeting	10	11	12	13 9:30am – Council and Fund Raising Workshop
14 900am – Worship	15	16 7:00pm -Bible Study	17	18	19	20
21 900am – Worship Fellowship after worship Second offering: Carroll Lutheran Village	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 900am – Worship	29	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
30 Mary Graff

January Anniversaries

9 Rick & Meg Jones

THE LORD'S LAUGHTER

Joyful Noiseletter Nov. – Dec. Issue

A pastor asked a child, “Do you say your prayers every night, Johnny?”
“No”, the boy replied, “Some nights I don’t want anything.”

A Sunday school teacher was describing how Lot’s wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt.

Little Jimmy raised his hand and said, “My mother looked back once when she was driving and turned into a telephone pole.”

It was the day of the big football game, and in church the time for the collection of tithes and offerings was approaching.

The pastor, a sports enthusiast, reached into his pocket, took out a quarter, flipped it into the air, watched it land, and like a referee joyfully announced, “The ushers have elected to receive.”

Sunday School News:

The Family Picnic and Rally Day was a fun time. Everyone enjoyed the delicious fried chicken, assorted side dishes, and the great desserts. Lois Szymanski was our guest author. She shared with us her stories, books, and pictures of the ponies on Chincoteague Island. Our students had a chance to pet and have their pictures taken with “Star” one of the ponies.

Teachers and Helpers for this coming year are: Colleen Geldmacher, Laura Grabowski, Rachel Murphy, Carol Hilgartner, Susan Fleming Kelly Mountcastle, Carol Hunt, John Kelly, Mary Neuheisel, Ben Baber, Ray Grabowski, Josh Neuheisel, and Patti Schunk. This year we are leaning the Books of the New Testament along with loving and serving God.

Our older students, with help from their teachers, designed and made a banner to use at the Reformation 500 Celebration held at Baker’s chapel on October 29th. Please take time to see the banner in the sanctuary of the church. What an awesome job! We thank the older students and their teachers Kelly Mountcastle, John Kelly, and Rachel Murphy.

It’s hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner. Our students are busy getting ready to tell the Christmas Story on Sunday, December 10th. We cordially invite our church family, relatives, and friends to attend. Don’t forget to join the students and their teachers after the program for refreshments and fellowship.

Let’s support our students and fill the church on December 10 at 9 a.m.

Mark your calendars with these important dates:

November 19th through December 3rd – Practice for Christmas

Pageant during Sunday school.

December 10th – Christmas Pageant 9 a.m. During the church service

December 17th – Sunday School (Regular Time)

2:30 p.m. Meet on parking lot to go Christmas Caroling

5:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner at church

December 24th: No Sunday School

January 31st : Sunday School (Regular Time)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Brief summary of the banner made by St Paul's Lutheran Church, Upperco, MD

The Sunday School Youth used this *Reformation Window* stained glass window as an inspiration for the banner.



skywayoflove.blogspot.com/2010/06/thrivent-stained-glass-for-lutherans.html

Quotes are Church member responses to 'What does St Paul's Church mean to you?'

Community picture from our Vacation Bible School this summer.

Music was important to Martin Luther. He wanted a 'singing church'.

Martin Luther explained that the Bible is the only source of divinely revealed knowledge from God.

With the printing press invention, getting the word out ... spread like fire!



A very well known symbol is one that Martin Luther designed to represent his theology.

"A Mighty Fortress" is a popular hymn that he wrote. Up until recently, we were using *The Lutheran Book of Worship* hymnal.

People of his time, were now able to read the Word of the Lord in their own language.

To get an important message publicized today, we would use social media.

Thank you to Sebastian Litz, Ashley Mountcastle and Louisa Neuheisel for carrying the banner at the Worship Service at Big Baker Chapel in Westminster to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation!

Youth Sundays

	Dec 3, 2017	Jan 7, 2018
Report To:	Ms Mary	Ms Susan
Lector 1st Reading	Ryan	Louisa
Lector 2nd Reading	Gaige	Christopher
Greeter and Head Usher	Felicity	Christian
Greeter	Gracie	Carrie
Gifts	Matthew Me	Kathryn
Gifts	Lucas	Gracie
Offering and Communion Rail	Gaige	Andy
Offering	Jordan	Ashley
Offering	Ava	Clara
Offering	Christopher	Sara
Cups	Paige	Rachel
NESAP Donations	Any of our friends, especially the PreSchool Class	Any of our friends, especially the PreSchool Class