



SAINT PAUL'S VOICE

December & January 2019

Volume 1, Number 6

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Newsletter submissions are due January, March, May, July, September, and November 15th. Please send submissions to lori@stpaulsupperco.org.

“From the Pastor”

Advent, A time for Prophets....

For years and years, I repeated a mantra that comes from my childhood, declaring that Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas. And what I meant by that is exactly what you think I meant... preparation for the narrative about a manger and shepherds and a star guiding magi to bear witness to a newborn child. And yes that is true... to a point!

But it doesn't take much of a look to realize our Advent preparation is for nothing less than the coming of God in all the fullness of Love. It reaches far beyond the familiar story of the Bethlehem birth. From the lips of the prophetic voices of the Hebrew Scriptures to the repeated voice of John the Baptizer, to the mother of Jesus, we hear encouragement and assurance that God's intent is to fill his human family with the power of grace in spite of repeated failures in the community life of the chosen people. Those promises had been said over and over again, and we will hear it applied to the child of Mary. We hear threatening words from a first century prophet named John quoting Isaiah, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." And I will tell you that I am not sure whether John is referring to Isaiah's words as promise by God to clear the roads to make them easy for the people to return from exile...for that is clearly what Isaiah meant. Or is John saying as he says elsewhere, "Straighten out your lives to prepare for God's arrival"?

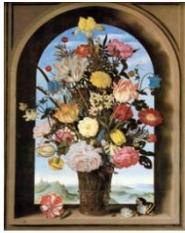
Finally, we will hear the words of Mary's gentle and deeply personal hymn of praise turn to give universal meaning to the coming birth of her son: "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

As we move closer to Christmas, we will do all the expected Christmas things right down to Bethlehem with sheep and angels, hay and mangers, Mary and Joseph. But again and again I will ask you to consider the impact of God's new approach to humanity... calling us to new life, to new and generous approaches to our neighbors, to the power of God to pick us up in our darkest hours and let the light of love and hope fill our every day. Finally I will pray over and over again that you may be blessed anew by that very love.

May you be blessed always in the light of Bethlehem's Star.

Pr Carl Myers

Church News



Flower sponsorships are currently being taken for Sundays in 2019.

The flowers will be \$45/Sunday. Please contact Meg Jones for dates you would like to sign up for. The sign-up sheet will also be available in church.



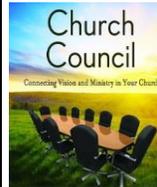
Bulletin sponsorships are currently being taken for Sundays in 2019.

The bulletins will be \$7.50/Sunday. Please contact Sandy Baber for dates you would like to sign up for. The sign-up sheet will also be available in church.



Christmas Pageant on December 9th

Our youth will present a special program to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Please join us for this entertaining celebration.



Church Council

Council will meet on December 18th – then every third Tuesday in 2019 at 7:00 pm.



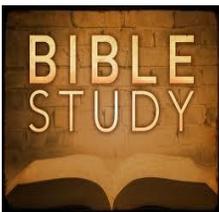
Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Classes will be held at 10:15am on the following dates: December 9th & 23rd – then continue every other Sunday thru May in 2019.



Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Eve Services will be held at 4:30pm & 9:00pm. Both services will have candle lighting. Bring your family & friends to celebrate with our church family!



Revised Bible Study Dates

Bible Study will now be held on the following days: December 11th - then every 2nd and 4th Tuesday in 2019 at 7pm.



Merry Christmas!

For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11
Wishing you the gifts of the season —Peace, Joy, Hope.



Combined Youth Group Event, Parent's Night Out

December 14th, 6:30-9:30pm @ Jerusalem. Youth will assist with watching younger kids while parents have a night out (or go Christmas shopping).



Combined Youth Group Event Snow Tubing at Ski Liberty

Sunday, January 6th (weather date 1/13), time 2-4pm. Join us for a 2-hour snow tubing adventure!



Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 16th, 2:30 pm. St. Paul's will be visiting some shut ins and maybe Carroll Lutheran Village, more details to follow.



Youth Lock-in Friday January 18th

Arrival time between 6:30 – 9:00p

SPY will provide evening snacks & morning breakfast. Or spend the evening at church but don't spend the night. Any questions or to RSVP, Madison (madpat52@gmail.com).

Outreach



Adopted Family Program

We've adopted 3 families for Christmas through the Salvation Army. These are families with children and grandparents who need our help. We've also adopted 2 Veterans for the holidays who also have families. All their Christmas wishes are on the tree in the overflow room. Please stop by and pick some up to help these folks have a better Christmas. UNwrapped gifts with the receipts attached to the OUTSIDE of the packages should be returned to the church NO LATER THAN DEC. 9th.

Shepherd's Staff



We'll be stuffing 10 Christmas stockings (5 boys/5 girls). These will be delivered to Shepherds Staff.

Call for Coats



Shepherds Staff in Westminster has sent out a need for coats. We plan to help with that effort.



2019 BLOOD DRIVE DATES: April 27th
September 28th

Those in Need of Prayer



MEMBERS: Helen Armacost, Mark Armacost, Calvin & Mary Armacost, Hazel Ashe, Ruth Bare, Maidie Brown, Vivian Chenoweth, Colton DuBois, Jamie DuBois, Bud Eichelberger, John Eichler, Carliana Folfas, Shriver Foster, Andy Geldmacher, Bob Graff, Hannah Hilgartner, Hope Hilgartner, Glenys Hunt, Matthew Jones, Moore family, Neuheisel family, Shirley Stratton, Gene Zepp, and all homebound members.

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Jerry Herfurth, Carol & Carroll Parker, Bernie & Chris Harman, Linda & Ron Nunan, Darlene Parlette, Frank Minor, Sandy Duffy, Erin Kranz, Clyde Harmon, Angie Hipsley, Brandy Bubczyk, Rocket Rathbone, Steve Austin, Rob Kaltenbacher, Kary Braun, Gloria Rutan, Jim & Barbara Peltzer, Kevin Mansfield, Art Carroll, Jack Wiley, Russell Ball, Sue & OJ Cavnor, Sonia Davis, Laura & Joseph Jagoda, Liz Neese, Marlene & Herb Mathers, Debbie Web, Heidi Gumz, Marie Davis, Donald Melvin, those facing job loss, and those in broken relationships.

PRAYER: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. Shed his healing light on those for whom we pray. Bring into the fullness of your light all who live in the darkness of doubt, fear and hopelessness. Let the fullness of day break into all of our lives but especially those who need it most. AMEN

Youth

Sunday School

The Sunday school continues to grow. We added two new students to our 6th grade and older class. **Welcome Jake and Josh Lowe.** The 5th grade and under are learning about the life of Moses and the 10 commandments during opening, along with their classes.



Our Halloween party and truck or treat was October 28, Thank you Ms. Laura for doing the planning for that. The Students had a group class reenacting the life of Moses. We had costumes for various parts and we very quickly went through his life. We did the basket on the Nile, the burning bush, the ten plagues, crossing the Red Sea, manna and quail, and Mount Sinai. As many students as possible got to participate in acting a part, and all enjoyed white chocolate “manna”.

Then came costume time with trunk or treat. This was followed by games. All had fun, and many prizes were given.



We are looking forward now to our **Christmas play on December 9th** during service. There will be fellowship following service that Sunday.

Also on December 16th we will be **Christmas caroling starting at 2:30**, followed by our potluck dinner. All our invited to board our school bus to spread the joy of Christmas. If you would rather not ride a bus, or sing, please join us for dinner and fellowship.



Youth

Joint Youth Group Activities

We are very pleased to announce that St Paul's will be one of at least three churches taking part in a new joint youth ministry group! The other two churches are Immanuel, Manchester and Jerusalem, Bachman's Valley.

We hope to have an activity planned for each month - all are welcomed to attend, whatever works best for your calendar. If there is a cost involved for the event, our St Paul's Youth (SPY) Fund will help to cover expenses.

- **December 14th** - Parent's Night Out 6:30 - 9:30 pm, held at Jerusalem, Youth will assist with watching younger kids while parents have a night out (or go Christmas shopping).
- **January 6th** - Snow tubing at Liberty Mtn Resort 2-4 pm, (rain date Jan, 13th)
- **February** - Mario's at St. Paul's and Spaghetti Dinner at Immanuel
- **March** - An overnight event is being planned
- **April 22nd** - Easter Monday trip to Mount Vernon

If you have any questions, please see Sandy, Rachel, or Pastor Carl.

Youth Lock-in Friday January 18th



Madison is planning a lock-in on Jan 18th. Arrival time is after 6:30 pm (eat dinner before you arrive). All kids are invited as long as you feel your child will sleep at the church. She is also looking for other adults to volunteer to stay overnight. SPY will provide evening snacks and morning breakfast. All those spending the night must be at the church by 9 pm. Morning pick up is 9 am. The event is also opened to kids and parents that would like to spend the evening at church but not spend the night. Any questions, concerns, or to RSVP please contact Madison (madpat52@gmail.com).



Please bring:

- sleeping bag/blankets/pillow
- any special snacks
- games to play
- Appropriate sleeping clothes



Mario's Italian Restaurant will be opened for one night,
Friday, February 22nd 5:30 - 7:30 pm

This will be our first official fundraiser for the Minneapolis Youth Gathering 2021. More details to follow. (Inclement weather date March 1st).

2018 - 19 St Paul's Church Youth Sunday

If you are not able to read on your weekend, please find a replacement and let the 'report to' person know.

Remember to bring donations for the NESAP Food Pantry

Date	Report To	Lector	1 st Reading	Lector	2 nd Reading
Dec 2 2018	Mr John	Kathryn	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Rachel	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Jan 6 2019	Ms Carol	Louisa	Isaiah 60:1-6	Jordan	Ephesians 3:1-12

Readings are subject to change. Please confirm the week prior with the Pastor.

Dear Sunday School Parents

At St. Paul's we believe Sunday School is important part of our ministry, and we thank you for your participation. We are blessed to have you and your family with us!

Part of Christian Education is preparing the youth to honor the Sabbath throughout their lives. One way we do this is with Youth Sundays. They are the 1st Sunday of the month where the children take leadership roles during the service. We hope the active participation makes them comfortable with the service and choose to continue worshipping Christ throughout their lives, wherever they may go.

On Youth Sundays, please arrive by 8:50am so the other roles (Head Usher, Offering Ushers, Communion Cups ...etc) can be assigned as the children arrive.

****This is a great time to invite friends and family to join you at St. Paul's!****

Attending services help your child's spiritual education and we request that you make it to at least two Youth Sunday services during this school year. Your attendance shows support for our Youth Program. We understand it can be difficult to make it to worship on a regular basis. We know you are busy, and your family is involved in many activities – *please come when you can, and as often as you can!* If there is something that will help (ex. giving the kids a ride to Church), then let us know. YouthSundays is just one way to enhance our Christian Education ministry, we welcome other ideas or suggestions.

Thank you for contributing to our Sunday School, and helping us prepare our youth for a lifetime with Christ.





St Paul's Lutheran Church

15801 Trenton Rd Upperco, MD 21155 / 410-239-3456

2018 - 2019 Sunday School Calendar

Sunday School Coordinator: Ms Susan Fleming Home phone: 410-239-1174 Email: susanf795@gmail.com

Perfect Attendance: To achieve this goal you must not miss more than two Sundays. (on calendar below)

Parents: If your child was sick or attended another church, please tell Ms. Susan.

Youth Sundays: The 1st Sunday of the month where the youth participate during the 9am service.

See the 'Message from Romper' for more information.

Your attendance shows support for our Youth Program! Please join us!



✓ 10:15am SS Classes

OCTOBER 2018

Oct 7	✓	9am	Youth Sunday (arrive by 8:45 and see Ms Kelly)
		10:15am	Sunday School Classes
Oct 14	✓	10:15am	Sunday School Classes
Oct 21		10:15am	Fellowship Sunday / Crafts (Ms Kelly)
Oct 28		10:15am	Sunday School Group Activity and Halloween Party (Ms Laura)

NOVEMBER 2018

Nov 4	✓	9am	Youth Sunday (arrive by 8:45 and see Ms Laura)
		10:15am	Sunday School Classes
Nov 11	✓	10:15am	Sunday School Group Activity (during Congregation meeting) Christmas Play parts distributed
Nov 18	✓	10:15am	Fellowship Sunday / Christmas Play Practice
Nov 25	✓	10:15am	Christmas Play Practice

Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to help us grow our Sunday School program!

**Calendar dates and details are subject to change. Contact church office or Ms Susan to confirm activities.

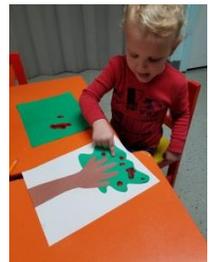
We also email info about events, so be sure that we have your email address!

Preschool



The preschool class has been having fun learning about the creation story

They can very enthusiastically tell you what things God has made for us. They also learned about Adam and Eve and that tricky little snake that got them to eat fruit from the tree. We made apple trees using their hand and fingerprints.



Thank You!



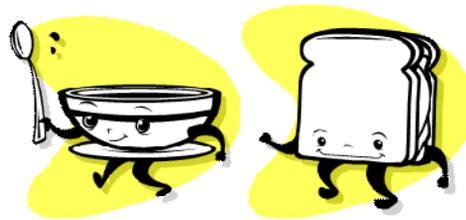
*Thank you Leon & Susan Fleming for
Setting up the new mailbox.*



*Thank you Laura Grabowski & Susan Fleming for heading up the
Trunk or Treat.*



*Thank you Sandy Baber for organizing
the Operation Shoebox.*



*Thank you to all the Youth and
Kelly Mountcastle, Rachel
Murphy, Colleen Geldmacher,
Sandy Baber for the Youth
Gathering Group hosted
Luncheon.*

*We raised \$221 for Grace
Tabernacle Church, Independence
Heights, TX*



*A BIG thank you to all who filled a shoebox
(or two) for the Operation Christmas Child
program! Our St. Paul's families will
brighten the lives of 29 children.*

*Pastor Faye Snyder, our supply pastor, had
the children lay their hands on the boxes to
bless them before they head out around the
world.*





December 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:00am – Worship 10:15am – Sunday School <i>Food Collection</i> <i>Youth Sunday</i>	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:00am – Worship 10:15am – Sunday School <i>Children's Christmas Program</i> <i>2nd Offering</i>	10	11 7:00pm - Bible Study	12	13	14	15
16 9:00am – Worship 10:15am – Sunday School <i>Fellowship after service</i> <i>Christmas Caroling</i>	17	18 7pm – Council Meeting	19	20	21	22
23 9:00am – Worship 10:15am – Sunday School	24 4:30pm & 9pm Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27	28	29
30 9:00am – Worship 10:15am – Sunday School	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE					



January 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 	2	3	4	5 9:00am - Goals, Planning and Fundraising Meeting
6 9:00am - Worship 10:15am - Sunday School <i>Food Collection</i> <i>Youth Sunday</i>	7	8 7:00pm - Bible Study	9	10	11	12
13 9:00am - Worship 10:15am - Sunday School <i>2nd Offering</i>	14	15 7pm - Council Meeting	16 7:30pm - Hanover Road Association	17	18 Newsletter Articles Due	19
20 9:00am - Worship 10:15am - Sunday School <i>Fellowship after service</i>	21	22 7:00pm - Bible Study	23	24	25	26
27 9:00am - Worship 10:15am - Sunday School	28	29	30	31		

Celebrations!

DECEMBER

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



JANUARY

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

DECEMBER

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



JANUARY

9 Rick & Meg Jones

Upcoming Community Events

December



2019 Discount Cards Are Here!

We are pleased to announce that our NEW Discount Cards are here. The deals on this card begin on Dec 1, 2018 and end on Dec 1, 2019. **The price for the card is again only \$5.00!** Cards are currently available at NESAP's Thrift Store and will be available at our Christmas Sale on Nov 10th. If you would like to sell the cards for us at your church, business, or organization, please let Lynn Sheavly At NESAP know.



Mar-Lu-Ridge Advent Gathering, Sunday, December 2nd from 1-4 pm

Bring your family and friends and start a new tradition! Enjoy the warmth of our woodstoves and campfires, create some holiday crafts for your home, make a beautiful wreath with greens from the property and fellowship over a delicious meal in Agape Hall. SPY will pay for the reservation fee and supplies. If anyone is interested in carpooling or needs a ride please contact Sandy Baber or Rachel Murphy.



Christ Lutheran Longaberger & Vera Bradley Bingo Fundraiser, Friday, Dec. 7th, 7pm

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Doors open at 5:30pm – regular bingo & specials begins at 7pm. Refreshments provided by Christ Lutheran will be for sale. Contact Connie Copenhaver at 410-374-2134 for more information or to buy tickets. Event being held at Upperco (Arcadia) Volunteer Firehouse Activity Building, 16020 Carnival Ave., Upperco.



Hot Chocolate at Santa's House, Hampstead location, Dec 1st, 8th, 14th, & 15th from 6pm-8pm

Come join us at Santa's house in Hampstead for a cup of Hot Chocolate, a visit with Santa, and enjoy the Christmas decorations in Hampstead's Memorial Park. The Park is located on Main Street between St. John's Methodist Church and Matthews Tire and Auto.



Combined Youth Group Event - Parent's Night Out, Friday, December 14th, 6:30 - 9:30 pm, held at Jerusalem

Youth can stay for food, fun crafts, games and movies while parents can enjoy a little time together for dinner, shopping, and fun date night. If you have any questions, please see Sandy, Rachel, or Pastor Carl.



Christmas Caroling with St. Paul's, Sunday, December 16th, 2:30 pm

St. Paul's will be visiting some shut ins and maybe Carroll Lutheran Village, more details to follow.

January



Combined Youth Group Event - Snow Tubing at Ski Liberty, Sunday, January 6th (weather date 1/13), time 2:00 – 4:00pm

Join us for a 2-hour snow tubing adventure!



Youth Lock-in Friday January 18th, Arrival time is after 6:30 pm (please eat before you come)

All kids are invited as long as you feel your child will sleep at the church. Madison is also looking for other adults to volunteer to stay overnight. SPY will provide evening snacks and morning breakfast. All those spending the night must be at the church by 9 pm. Morning pick up is 9 am. The event is also opened to kids and parents that would like to spend the evening at church but not spend the night. Please bring: sleeping bag/blankets/pillow, games to play any special snacks, Appropriate sleeping clothes. Any questions or to RSVP, please contact Madison (madpat52@gmail.com).

February



Mario's Italian Restaurant will be opened for 1 night, Friday, February 22nd 5:30-7:30pm

This will be our first official fundraiser for the Minneapolis Youth Gathering 2021. More details to follow. (Inclement weather date March 1st).

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

15773 Dover Road
Hanover Pike & Dover Road
Upperco, Maryland 21155

www.StPaulsUpperco.org

410-239-3456

Pastor: The Rev. Carl Myers
Office: office@stpaulsupperco.org



Worship Leader Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assisting Minister</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Communion Asst.</u>	<u>Head Usher</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
12/2/2018	Susan Fleming	Youth Sunday	Suzi Lyons	Youth Sunday	Louisa Neuheisel
12/9/2018	Jed Geldmacher	Carol Hilgartner	Sandy Baber	Leon Fleming	Chris Geldmacher
12/16/2018	Laura Grabowski	Rachel Murphy	John Kelly	Rob Holtz	Ava Grabowski
12/23/2018	Carol Hunt	Laura Grabowski	Mary Neuheisel	Bob Martin	Ashley Mountcastle
12/30/2018	Susan Fleming	Jayne Folfas	Meg Jones	John Folfas	Andy Geldmacher
1/6/2019	Jed Geldmacher	Youth Sunday	Kelly Mountcastle	Youth Sunday	Louisa Neuheisel
1/13/2019	Laura Grabowski	Maureen Litz	Carol Hilgartner	John Eichler	Chris Geldmacher
1/20/2019	Carol Hunt	Scott Litz	Suzi Lyons	Wade Hilgartner	Ava Grabowski

Council Directory

PRESIDENT	Suzi Lyons
VICE PRESIDENT	Carolyn Eichler
SECRETARY	Laura Grabowski
TREASURER	Carol Hilgartner
MEMBER	Sandy Baber
MEMBER	Susan Fleming
MEMBER	Jed Geldmacher
MEMBER	John Kelly
MEMBER	Rachel Murphy



Council Committee Representatives

CEMETERY	Maidie Brown
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	Susan Fleming
EVANGELISM	Laura Grabowski Carolyn Eichler
FINANCE	Suzi Lyons
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Charles Baber
FLEA MARKET	Carol Hilgartner Suzi Lyons
HISTORIANS	Susan Fleming Sandy Baber
HOSPITALITY	Susan Fleming
MUSIC & WORSHIP	Susan Fleming
OUTREACH	Suzi Lyons
PARK	Jed Geldmacher
PARSONAGE	Jed Geldmacher
PROPERTY	Susan Fleming
SHEPHERDS	Rachel Murphy Laura Grabowski
STEWARDSHIP	John Kelly
YOUTH	Sandy Baber John Kelly



*We Wish You And
Your Family A Very
Merry Christmas.*



*May The Lord
Bless You With
Eternal Gifts Found
In Jesus.*

*May His Star Shine In Your
Heart The Wonderful Truths
That Bring Christmas Alive
In All Who Believe.*

SN

Daisy Trail

*John 3:16
Jesus Loves You*



Bishop Gohl's Christmas Message 2018

...To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. – John 1:12-14

Christmas is my mother's holiday. Everything about Christmas – the decorating, the baking, the shopping and wrapping, the music and the movies – it feeds my mom's spirit and it give her joy to make Christmas joy for others. Her example and experience have always inspired me to “keep Christmas” in my heart – and not just in December, but throughout my days and life of faith.

As I look back over these last years, I realize that I don't remember too many of the Christmas presents I received; but I always reminded of the presence of God that I have experienced during the Christmas season. Whether it was the joy of preparing and serving a community Christmas brunch each year with my children, or the bitter tears of celebrating “last” Christmases with the people of Our Saviour (Lansdowne) or Emmanuel English (East Baltimore) last year, or feeling the charged excitement of our mission congregations who are celebrating Christmas together for the first time as a community of faith, the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us.

That's the gift of Christmas – God's gift of Godself, in the birth of Jesus; God humbled in our humanity that we might experience God's divinity. We receive power to become children of God, the gift of Christ living in us and through us, for the sake of our neighbor.

At Christmas then, fellow Children of God, we love as God first loves us. We love with our whole selves, and not just those easiest or convenient to love. Like Jesus, may our hearts bear the glad news of Christmas for the poor and the prisoner, the immigrant and the refugee, the sick and the sorrowing. In prayer and in thoughtfully sharing of ourselves, let us reflect the light of God's love born in us for the sake of this world God so loves. May our weariness be transformed into advocacy, may our seasonal generosity be sustained throughout the year, may the brittle places in our hearts be broken open by the healing love of Christ.

This Christmas, may it give you joy to “make Christmas” for others, and through the grace and truth of Christ, may you know a bit of Christmas in your heart throughout the year ahead.

With my love and prayers for you and yours,

The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl Jr., Bishop
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA