



SAINT PAUL'S VOICE

January & February 2025

Volume 8, Number 1

In This Issue:

Church News	Page 3
Worshipping Together	Page 4
Prayer List	Page 4
Celebrations!	Page 5
Church Planning Meeting	Page 5
Outreach	Page 6
Christmas Caroling	Page 7
Mar-Lu-Rige Retreat	Pages 9
Family & Youth	Page 10
Council Minutes	Pages 11-14
Church Calendar	Pages 15-16
Worship Leader Calendar	Page 17

“From the Pastor”

“We have observed his star at its rising and have come to worship him.” Matt. 2.2



HAPPY NEW YEAR! Happy Epiphany!

We have made it through the rush and wonders of Advent and the holiness of Christmas. At the start of this new year, we find ourselves once again at Epiphany, making our way along a rough and well-worn road with a caravan of camels for company, as we, and the Wise Men, are guided by the light of a star.

We, like those ancient wise ones, may not have a clue as to where this journey into the New Year will take us. We only know that we follow the light of a star that will bring us to us to the true Light. This light is the Light (as John reminds us in his gospel) that no darkness in our lives or in our world can truly overpower.

This Light is our strength to move forward even in uncertainty. This Light is Jesus Christ. And just as it was with the Magi as the star stopped and led them to Jesus and they were filled joy (Matthew 2:10), our joy and hope and our way forward into a new year rests in the One who loves us unconditionally. We are blessed no matter what shape our road is in or what lies ahead. And we are forgiven and loved always.

I share a poem with you from *Sanctified Art*. The author is Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed. I hope it brings a sense of joy and celebration as it did for me. It is called; “You are a Blessing.”

You are a blessing.
 If you hear nothing else [in this new year],
 If the wind howls,
 If your brain runs amok,
 If rebuttals and denials line up like little toy soldiers,
 then hear this—
 You are a blessing.

I knew it from the first moment I met you/heard your name/
learned that there are 7 billion of us
on this planet.

I knew it in my bones,
the way my feet knew the way home.

You are a blessing.

For our creating God
breathed life into your being.
And there is simply no way that,
along with that life,
some of God's goodness
didn't slip right in.

So tell the rebuttals to rest.

Tell the toy soldiers to find another hill,
because this one is reserved for joy and celebration.

You are a blessing.

Breathe it in.

Yes, breathe it in. This time after Epiphany and before Lent begins with Ash Wednesday is a time for us to remember that God created good and that includes us. Seek the light of Christ in the midst of the weariness. Hold on to the memory that we were created for good and the hope that can bring. Share the hope of that light with others. Because, no matter what, we are loved and blessed.

Blessings,

Pastor Dot Lundgren

Church News

 <p><u>Church Services</u> Church Services are held on Sundays at 9am. Please join us for Worship Services online on YouTube Sunday mornings.</p>	 <p><u>Sunday School For All Ages</u> Children will be attending Sunday School during the worship. Come out and join us!</p>
 <p><u>The Holy Girlfriends Dinner</u> The The Holy Girlfriends will be meeting for dinner on January 7th and February 4th. All women are invited, bring a family member or friend!</p>	 <p><u>Parish Women's Bible Study</u> Bible Study is held at Immanuel's at on January 20th. All are welcome to join us!</p>
 <p><u>Prayer Ministry Meeting</u> The prayer ministry team will meet on January 9th and February 13th at 7:00pm.</p>	 <p><u>Council Meetings</u> The upcoming council meetings are January 21st and February 18th at 7:00pm. Please give any topics for discussion to a Council member before these dates.</p>
 <p><u>Children of God (CoG) Youth Group</u> Come join us on the 2nd Friday evening each month at Immanuel Church. Come join us on January 10th and February 14th for food, fun and fellowship.</p>	 <p><u>Valentine's Day</u> Sunday, February 14th Happy Valentine's Day</p>

Thank You!



Thank you to all the Christmas Carolers from the Resurrection Parish and Pastor Amanda who gave of their time to sing for the residents at Golden Crest-St. Paul's Road, Golden Crest – Albert Rill Road, Autumn Lake in Manchester, and The Lutheran Village.

To Susie Lyons and the St. Paul's Outreach Committee who generously paid for the bus. Sandy Baber, Rachel Murphy, and St. Paul's Sunday School Students for all their work on providing small gifts that were handed out to those we visited.

Ms. Beth our guitarist and Ms. Mary our voice coach. Vivian Chenoweth, who helped make arrangements for us to sing in the Lutheran Village Chapel.

The Potluck Dinner Chairmen: Leon Fleming, Ray Lyons and their Pot Watching Committee members, Bob, Gerri, Tom, Carol and Carolyn.

To share the joy of the Christ Child's birth with music, hugs, warm smiles and laughter is no doubt the best Christmas Gift one can give or receive. Please join us in "2025".

Wishing all a happy and healthy New Year!
Blessings, Ms. Patti

Worshiping Together



Please Join Us....

In-Person Worship

9:00am in the Sanctuary

Live & Recorded Worship Videos

[St Paul's YouTube](#)

[St. Paul's webpage](#)

[St. Paul's Facebook page](#)

Sunday School

Held during the service - after the children's message

Weekly Day Off For Parish Ministerial Team

Monday

Pastor Dot off

Emergency Pastoral Care, Pastor Dot: 240-237-7775

Friday

Pastor Amanda off

Emergency Pastoral Care, Pastor Dot: 240-237-7775

Those in Need of Prayer



Members:

Maidie Brown, Vivian Chenoweth, Carolyn Eichler, Carliana Folfas, Shriver Foster, Andy Geldmacher, Hannah Hilgartner, Denise Holtz, Glenys Hunt, Nadine McGee, Bob & Gerri Martin, Jennifer Monroe, Michael Armacost, Pat Graff and Sherry Graff Zour, Gracie Grabowski, Carol Lewis, and all homebound members.

Family & Friends:

Alicia Minor, Ms. Heather, Ashlee Kopp, Andrea & Cotey Kopp, Jerry & Jan Herfurth, Linda Nunan & family, Debb Webb, Bernie and Chris Harmon, Holly Hudson, Brandi Bubczyk, Rosemary Johnson, Rick Schaefer, Nancy Rose, Ed Burnham, Teri Geppi, Steve Daugherty, Carol Kahlert, Geraldine Lewis, Todd Smith, Thad Martin, Matthew Jones, Carol Miller, Melinda Chernesky, Lisa Elway, Jim & Dana Hoyt, Bill Lundgren, Sharon Shamer, Janie Szybist, Alex Strawbridge, Tories & Robert Osborne, Linda Willey, Darcy Stem, Pat Gauthier, Romeo Gauthier, Barbara Mooney, Garrett Bubczyk, the Yodice Family, the Duren family, Jim and Dana Hoyt, Tom Manning, Linda Bassler, those facing job loss, and those in broken relationships.

PRAYER: Gracious God, the strength of the weak and comfort of all who suffer, hear pleas for help for all who reach out in need. Especially I pray on behalf of those I lift up for your life-giving strength and comforting grace. In the name of Jesus, my Lord.

Celebrations!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Christian Neuheisel
- 7 Ashley Mountcastle
- 8 Laura Grabowski
- 26 Heidi Ebler



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Suzi Lyons
- 2 Rob Holtz
- 4 Maidie Brown

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

No anniversaries



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

14 Bob & Gerri Martin

Church Planning Meeting



The Church Planning Meeting will be held on January 11 at 9:00am.

All are invited to come!

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes



Thank you to all those who donated to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection! We collected 20 shoeboxes!

Thanks to Sandy Baber for all her hard work in organizing and coordinating this event for us!

Deacon Don's Celebration

On Sunday, November 24, 2024
we celebrated Deacon Don's time with us.

Godspeed Deacon Don!



Outreach



Thank you to everyone who participated in our Adopted Families program.

Our congregation is so generous and we are very much appreciated by the families we support.

We also made a donation to the Westminster Senior Center that made its way to Veterans.

And finally, Outreach funds purchased blankets, tents, hand warmers and food for the 12 homeless people we've adopted in our community.

Christmas Caroling 2024 Memories



Christmas Eve 2024 Shared Moment

Pr Amanda's picture from the altar while we sang Silent Night.



New (updated) Sign

Here is our new (updated) sign by the road.

Thank you to everyone's hard work to make this happen!



Mar-Lu Ridge Retreat Memories



Parish Youth Events

CoG's Youth Group Night at Immanuel!

Calling all kids! Please join us every 2nd Friday evening at 6:30pm at Immanuel.

Questions? Please contact Rachel at rachel.murphy@hotmail.com



Youtherans

Contact Pastor Amanda at pastor.amanda.mccaffery@gmail.com

for more information and any upcoming schedules or if you would like to suggest an activity to do.

Youth + Family Ministry - Save the Dates!

March 15-16		Seekers (Grades 3-5) MarLu Ridge Jefferson, MD
April 4-6		Unlikely Leaders (Grades 6-8) MarLu Ridge Jefferson, MD

YOUNGFAITHMATTERS.COM

Council Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the October Council Meeting

Reports:

Pastor Dot's Report:

- Presided over 4 regular worship services, 1 Fok Service, and 1 Funeral Service. Attended 2 Church Council Meetings and 1 Staff Meeting. Coordinating Confirmation planning with Pastor Amanda.
- Co-facilitated/facilitated the last Grief Group Ministry meeting for this first Session of 8 meetings. Attended a facilitators' planning meeting for the upcoming Comfort and Hope for those Grieving through the Holidays. Continued to privately counsel with one community person who attended the grief group.
- Looking to arrange house cleaning and transportation for one of our parish members.
- Walked with one family through the death of a loved one, funeral planning, and presided at one funeral.
- Meeting with a potential new member for one of the churches and facilitating her joining us.
- Worship bulletin creating, printing and assisting others to do so.
- Attended 1 Holy Girl Friends gathering and led devotions around the theme of finding peace in these troubled times.
- Participated in the Parish Meeting for the Parish Secretary position.
- Sent out several e-blasts to the Parish through Constant Contact. Missed the deadline to publish a Parish Update for October but is now working on a November Parish Update. Working with an assistant to set-up the new Parish Web-site and SharePoint for ongoing Parish Calendar creation.
- Attended part of the Bishop's Leadership Retreat.
- Attended St. Peter's Halloween party.
- Attended Immanuel's youth group.
- Attended many emails, texts, and phone calls, 10 home visitations, 2 pastoral counseling sessions and hospital visits.
- Completing the Wedding Service for a couple from St. Abrahams (Wedding is this coming Saturday). Continued work on IT issues and phone access issues. Have resolved some but now have new ones to address.
- Continuing to support where and when I can do so. Still praying constantly for the Lord's direction and blessings for all of us.

Blessings, Pastor Dot

Pastor Amanda's Report:

Worship:

- Presided over 9 regular Sunday worship services.
- Preached and Presided at Immanuel's Saturday Worship
- Attended Jerusalem's Saturday Folk Service
- Attended Installation of Drew McCaffery at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
- Organized Blessing of the Pets

Attended:

- Three council meetings (Jerusalem, Immanuel, & St. Paul's)
- Stephen Ministers Meeting
- Fall Convocation at United Lutheran Seminary (Philadelphia Campus)
- Attended Grief Share Meeting
- Met with perspective family to join St. Paul's
- Attended Bishop's Leadership Days
- Attended Prayer Group
- Attended CoG Youth Group
- Worship Meeting with Jerusalem
- Attended Fall Fun Festival with St. Peter's
- Weekly Wednesday morning Synod Pericope study
- Multiple Ministerial Staff Meetings
- Numerous phone calls and emails
- Four Hospital Visits

Looking ahead:

- Compiling College Students in Parish for two purposes:
 - Westminster Area College Student ministry that is being started up through the synod our of Grace Westminster
 - This ministry had its first meeting but wasn't well attended. Deacon Nicole is interested in helping us get a college ministry going.
 - To have our parish send care packages to our students during finals time.
- Coordinating an Apple Dumpling Fundraiser from Pennsylvania Dutch Market in Hagerstown to help get some seed money to fund our care packages.
- Coordinating a Parish Book Club – Info in newsletters

- Coordinating a Parish Women's Bible Study – Info in newsletters
- Meeting with family at St. Paul's with a scheduled baptism of 2 people for October 20th.
- Coordinating Confirmation to begin October 20th.

I know our parish is in a time of transition but I am still thankful to be here and a part of the ministry of five very unique congregations. I look forward to seeing where the spirit leads us.

Blessings, Pastor Amanda

President's Report, Mr. Fleming Reported

- Contact CSXrailroad about the tree (update) \$900
- Sign co. Stricker mailed contract and (update)
- Old sign placement
- Pavilion curtain taken down and placed in overflow room
- Trimmed roses
- CPR and Aed training

Committee Reports

Flea Market, Ms. Lyons Reported:

- All 89 spaces are filled for this Saturday; some a 2nd time! I sent out a special vendor message and asked everyone to let me know if they can't make it on the 19th. 4 vendors cancelled, so 4 "new" vendors were assigned their spaces. Total profit so far for 2024 is \$ 15,570.00!

Outreach, Ms. Lyons Reported:

- Food Grill -- (Sole fundraiser for all our projects)
September sales and expenses:
Net Income: \$ 868.00
Expenses: 242.03 (BJ's gave me a \$50.00 gift card)
Total Profit: \$ 625.97
Help for October: Leon/Ray, Susan, Bob, Patti and me

Property, Mr. Knight Reported:

- Contract with Tevis on boiler,water heater, and 4 AC units. Renew service agreement for boiler/HVAC/water heater/parts for \$1,800

MOTION: to renew the service agreement for \$1,800 by Mr. Knight. Seconded by Ms. Lyons. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Electric stove discussion- will look into options that are under \$3,000

MOTION: allot \$3,000 to purchase a new electric stove for the basement by Ms. Lyons. Seconded by Mr. Hilgartner. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business

- Charles Baber (financial secretary) presented a proposed balance budget for next year to council

MOTION: move to approve the budget presented to bring to the congregation during the Congregational Meeting by Ms. Geldmacher. Seconded by Ms. Lewis. All in favor. Motion carried.

Highlights from the November Council Meeting

Highlights from the November Council Meeting

Reports:

Pastor Amanda's Report:

Worship:

- Presided over 5 regular Sunday worship services
 - Vacation from October 23rd-27th
- Attended Jerusalem's Saturday Folk Service
- Organized Blessing of the Pets – October 5th
- 2 baptisms & 1 new member brought into St. Paul's

Attended:

- Three council meetings (Jerusalem, Immanuel, & St. Paul's)
- Met with perspective family to join St. Paul's
- Attended Bishop's Leadership Days
- Attended Prayer Group
- Attended CoG Youth Group (I carved my first ever pumpkin! 😊)
- Worship Meeting with Jerusalem
- Attended Fall Fun Festival with St. Peter's
- St. Paul's Worship and Music Meeting
- Joint Council Meeting with DE/MD Synod Staff
- Confirmation Class
- Parish Women's Bible Study
- Weekly Wednesday morning Synod Pericope study
- Weekly Ministerial Staff Meetings
- Numerous phone calls, emails, and hospital visits

Looking ahead:

- College Age Ministry
 - Sending Care Packages out beginning of December
 - Apple Dumpling Fundraiser ends mid November
- Coordinating a Parish Book Club – Info in newsletters – Will start in New Year
- Working with Pastor Dot to have parish newsletter out for Advent & Christmas

To condense the workload, I'm transitioning to one monthly report to all councils rather than a separate one for each council. Some of the items in this report may be a repeat of the previous month's report depending on where the council meeting fell in the month.

As we enter into this period of transition, I know the anxiety of the unknowns is concerning. We are here to walk with you in this journey of being the Church in the 21st century. Nothing is ever guaranteed, but we know that God remains with us on our pilgrimage and has great plans for the Church. Let's honor the past and then look forward to where God may be leading us together in ministry.

Blessings, Pastor Amanda

President's Report, Mr. Fleming Reported

- Old sign- added the church email address and lights to the sign
- LP Tank- company notified and it will cost \$135 to remove and the church will be credited with the value of the amount of oil in the tank
- Electric stove- Purchased stove at Lowes for \$2,436. A credit card was opened to save a percentage on future purchases. Lowes will deliver, install, and remove the old stove (for \$50). Tax referred for the stove purchase
- CDs rollover at 4.15% for one more year

Treasurer's Report, Ms. Mountcastle Reported:

- 50% of the following accounts Abiding Memorial, Capital Improvement, Good Sam, Park Improvement, Building Fund were removed and placed into a CD for 6 months at 4.25%
- Off budget for giving- about \$5,000 off
- Mission Support discussion next month- Christmas envelopes go towards mission support

Committee Reports

Parish Council, Ms. Caine Reported:

- St. Peter's voted to stay open and reevaluate at the end of the year. Many people attended the congregation meeting and agreed to join council and attend church on a regular basis
- Next parish council meeting is in December

Flea Market, Ms. Lyons Reported:

- Very successful season!! Almost every month was sold out of vendor spaces; some a second time! 2025 application will be posted in February.

- Old sign along Rt. 30 can be removed as long as it's agreeable to have advertising on the new sign at least "1" week prior to each flea market.

Outreach, Ms. Lyons Reported:

- Christmas wishes for our adopted families and Vets are due back Dec. 8th for delivery to the Salvation Army Dec. 9th.
- We purchased sleeping bags, blankets, food, etc. for our homeless.
- We gave \$300.00 of DoorDash funds to the Carmichael family while Chloe is hospitalized.
- Food Grill -- (Sole fundraiser for all our projects)
 - October sales and expenses:
 - Net Income: \$ 785.00
 - Expenses: 255.19 (includes BJ's \$25.00 gift card)
 - Total Profit: \$ 529.81

Property, Mr. Knight Reported:

- Electric will be added to the park shed in the spring
- Pavilion will be stained in the spring



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9am – Worship & Sunday School Healing Service Food Collection & Invite a Friend		The Holy Girlfriends Dinner - Immanuel Lutheran Church		 Prayer Ministry Meeting – 7:00pm	 Children of God (CoG) Youth Group - 6:30pm	Church Planning Meeting – 9:00am Jerusalem Folk Service – 5pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9am – Worship & Sunday School Fellowship 2nd Offering		1pm - Immanuel Blood Drive				Community Country Breakfast @ Immanuel – 7:00am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9am – Worship & Sunday School	Parish Women's Bible Study at Immanuel	 Council Meeting – 7:00pm				Short Traditional Service at Immanuel 5:00pm
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9am – Worship & Sunday School						

February



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9am – Worship & Sunday School Healing Service Food Collection & Invite a Friend		The Holy Girlfriends Dinner - Taphouse, Hanover, PA				Jerusalem Folk Service – 5:00pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9am – Worship & Sunday School Fellowship 2nd Offering				 Prayer Ministry Meeting – 7:00pm	 Children of God (CoG) Youth Group - 6:30pm	Community Country Breakfast @ Immanuel – 7:00am
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9am – Worship & Sunday School		 Church Council – 7:00pm				Short Traditional Service at Immanuel 5:00pm
23	24	25	26	27	28	
9am – Worship & Sunday School						

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

www.StPaulsUpperco.org

410-239-3456

Pastors: The Rev. Dot Lundgren
Pr. Amanda McCaffery (Interim)

Office: office@stpaulsupperco.org



Council Directory

PRESIDENT	Leon Fleming
VICE PRESIDENT	Mary Caine
SECRETARY	Madison Baber
TREASURER	Kelly Mountcastle
MEMBER	Wade Hilgartner
MEMBER	Carol Lewis
MEMBER	Suzi Lyons
MEMBER	Bob Knight
MEMBER	Colleen Geldmacher



Council Committee Representatives

CEMETERY	Maddie Brown
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	Madison Baber
EVANGELISM/ FELLOWSHIP	Colleen Geldmacher
FINANCE	Kelly Mountcastle
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Charles Baber
FLEA MARKET	Suzi Lyons
HISTORIANS	Carol Lewis
HOSPITALITY	Leon Fleming
MUSIC & WORSHIP	Mary Caine
OUTREACH	Suzi Lyons
PARK	Bob Knight Wade Hilgartner
PARISH COUNCIL	Mary Caine Sandy Baber
PROPERTY	Bob Knight Wade Hilgartner
SHEPHERDS	Laura Grabowski Mary Caine
STEWARDSHIP	Carol Lewis Pastor Dot
YOUTH/CHRISTIAN ED	Madison Baber