



St. Paul's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worship Times

Sundays
10:15 am
With
Holy Communion

Sunday School
9 am



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St. Paul's LUTHERAN CHURCH of Sassamansville

December 2017
Volume 58, Issue 12

The Epistle

Join us for this amazing concert!

The Norristown Chorale
Ross Boerner, Artistic Director & Laurie Mueller, Accompanist

The Work of Christmas
Celebrating our 40th Season

Sunday, December 10, 2017
7:00pm
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
1809 Hoffmansville Road
Sassamansville, PA

Free Admission.
A Good-will Offering Accepted

Bring your friends!
Light refreshments will be served!
Free Admission / Goodwill Offering

Reminder:
Don't forget to
check out our new
website!!
stpaulssassamansville.co



All submissions to be included in the January issue of The Epistle are due by
10 am on Wednesday, December 13
Please email things to Andrea at office@stpaulssassamansville.com

Hanging of the Greens



Join us in preparing our church for the Christmas season! On Saturday, December 9 we will begin decorating at 10 am. Lunch will be provided for all the helpers! Come out, decorate, have some fellowship and lunch!



Reminder that
all
Shares of Faith
are due to
Doris Moyer by
Sunday,
December 10
for Christmas.
You can give
them to her or
put them in her
mailbox.



**The Staff
of
St. Paul's
wishes all of you
and your
families a
wonderful
Christmas full of
memories and
may the wonder
of the
Christ Child
bring peace,
hope and
compassion unto
you.**



**Blessings,
Pastor Matt
Lili
Andrea
and Becky**

The Epistle

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Note from Pastor Matt

We encounter the story of the nativity over and over again through many different methods, nativity sets in the yard, or under the tree, the children's books telling the story, and even at church on Christmas Eve, hearing the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke year after year. The repetition makes the story part of us, we can't help but carry it with us, even if we only think of it for a few weeks in late December every year. This is a good thing, to be formed and shaped by the story of God breaking into the world in the Christ Child. I worry, however, that our familiarity with the story can reduce its' impact on us. It is difficult to be surprised by the Christmas story, yet it is one of the most surprising, unexpected tales ever known.

In the Christmas story we know what to expect, but that familiarity can cause us to miss the unexpected turns in the story. The Nativity story should remind us of the common and lowly circumstances of Christ's birth. It's all so ordinary so earthly, complete with all manner of dirt and stink. But that is precisely the point. Those unpleasantries of an animal stall are signs of life. God is the creator of it all. In an act of love, God created the world and saw that it was good.

Our faith is not about escaping life in this world, but about God's creative and redeeming work for us and for the whole world. God created us to live in the world, and in love, God came to live with us in that same world, a world that is messy, complicated, and full of life. God in Christ Jesus lived among us, suffered with us, and for us, to redeem all of His creation.

God has compassion for us because in Christ he experienced the ups and downs, joys and sorrows of life. Christ shared in the range of human experience, joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain, birth and death. The sadness we experience, the trials and temptations we face, in Jesus the Christ God has been through that as well, and in his life, in his death he has redeemed it. Nothing we face in this messy world is outside of God's reach, even death itself.

None of it, from lowly birth, to humble life, to humiliating death is what we would expect of a great King, and it is certainly not what we would expect from the all-powerful God of the universe. It is an unexpected way of working in the world. Jesus' life is not what human beings would naturally consider worthy of glory, honor, and praise, but in spite of God's unexpected way of doing things, or because of God's unexpected ways we do give that child born in a barn glory, honor, praise, and our lives.

In the texts of Advent and Christmas we hear stories of God using ordinary people to accomplish his extraordinary purposes for this world. God works through them in ways that are unexpected and surprising for us and for them. God continues to use everyday people to do his work in this messy, confusing, and life-filled world. You are those people, be ready for the unexpected, be ready for God's surprises. This Child's unexpected, surprising Kingdom is at hand.

Pr. Matt

Sponsorships for December

Date	Flowers \$22 for one vase \$44 for two vases \$7 delivery charge	Bulletins \$12 per week
December 3	OPEN	OPEN
December 10	Allen and Ruthy Heydt	Allen and Ruthy Heydt
December 17	OPEN	OPEN
December 24	OPEN	OPEN
December 25	OPEN	OPEN
December 31	Allen and Ruthy Heydt	Allen and Ruthy Heydt



December Ministries

Date	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24 10:15 am	December 24 3 pm	December 24 7 pm
Acolyte	Susan Prutzman	Donna Long	Ruthy Heydt	Donna Long	Doris Moyer	Geoff Littlefield
Reader	Confirmation Class	Donna Long	Kim Ibach		Marilyn McLaughlin	TBA
Ushers	Allen Heydt Ruthy Heydt	M. Duchak G. Yerger	Doris Moyer Alexis Moyer	TBA	TBA	TBA
Counters	D. Hydock D. Spencer	Kim Ibach Doris Moyer	Donna Long Margie Dawson	TBA	TBA	TBA
	December 25	December 31		Council Members for Month	Altar Guild for Month	
Acolyte	Susan Prutzman	Doris Moyer		Ken Dittman Ashley Dittman	Susan Prutzman Geoff Littlefield Barbara Littlefield	
Reader	Susan Prutzman	Margie Dawson				
Ushers	TBA	TBA				
Counters	Susan Prutzman	Allen Heydt Ruthy Heydt				

Memorials

*In memory of
Helen Mercer*

15 shares

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wolf

Organ Fund

Keystone Rehab
Ray and Sharon Miller

*In memory of
Harold Renninger*

5 shares

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cook
Mr. and Mrs. Stonerook

6 shares

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Mensch

10 shares

Mary M. Frielle

Giving to St. Paul's through October 31, 2017

	Envelope Giving	Other Giving
2017 Ministry Plan*	\$70,213	\$4,246
2017 Actual	\$53,982	\$2,858
Difference	(\$16,231)	(\$1,388)

*The approved 2017 Ministry Plan anticipates a nearly \$16,000 deficit at the end of the year. To make up the deficit envelope giving should be at \$83,353 by October 31.

We are presenting this information so that the congregation can be informed about our financial situation as it stands, and can continue to practice prayerful stewardship. The degree to which the congregation is behind the approved ministry plan may seem large, but taken together we can easily make up the difference. In 2016, St Paul's had 96 active envelope giving units. That is 96 different individuals or households gave a recorded monetary gift to St. Paul's. The average weekly contribution for 2016 was \$16.50 per week per giving unit (envelope). To fulfill our 2017 Mission Plan and make up the projected \$16,000 year end deficit, a weekly average of \$20 per giving unit is needed. An average increase of \$3.50 per week from each giver would mean St. Paul's would be on track to finish the year without a deficit. Together we can do this.



Dear Members of St. Paul's,

We would like to thank everyone for making this year's fall bazaar a huge success. By early accounting, with some money still to be collected, we have made over \$4,000. This result would never have been possible without all of you. Once again our church family has come together and accomplished much. It was a work-intensive week, but all of the work yielded positive results for St. Paul's. Once again, thank you to everyone.



Be sure to keep the church office updated with address changes, phone numbers and email addresses. It helps us to stay in touch with our church family!



Remember in your prayers

Our Church members, family and friends.....

*Betty Gilbert
Mary Moyer
John Hilbert
Esther Renninger
John and Thelma Simmons
Cleora Shellaway
Helen Johnson
Marie Stauffer
Arlene Hess
Kim Frain
Robin Koch
Christopher and Elizabeth
Rosemary Hojecki
Paul Mathias
Pam Spohn and father, Carl
Danielle, Kayla
Pastor Ann Baly
Mary Ann Levan
Family and Friends of Steve
Stricker
Barbara Mutter
Margie Dawson*

The young men and women serving in our armed forces....

*Noah Ziegler
Peter Duchak
Matthew McHugh
Eric Littlefield*

For the families who mourn loss of their loved ones...

*Helen Mercer
Harold Renninger*



On Saturday, September 30 a number of LIONS got together at one of the Alvernia University facilities to take delivery of supplies and clothing delivered by many of Lions clubs. We also accepted items from local residents and friends as well as our local Police/Borough and EMS Departments. We were witness to an outpouring of love and generosity you couldn't fail to be moved by. With volunteers from the Shillington, Boyertown, Elverson Morgantown, Frystown and Shartlesville Clubs plus a great group of Wilson High School Leos and sponsoring Club Spring Township's Advisor we unloaded cars, box trucks and even an ambulance stacked with a variety of items which we then sorted, boxed and loaded into a semi-truck trailer and at the end of the day we had loaded approx. 23,000 pounds worth of donations. THANK YOU ALL for your kindness and willingness to help! AND WE ARE NOT DONE YET - another 10' x 30' donated space is already filled to the roofline with Medical Supplies and Clothing that will be added to what we loaded yesterday PLUS we are set to work on another shipment on the weekend of October 14th and 15th.

To date we send 2 Full tractor trailers of supplies and 1 full tractor of medical equipment.

Thank you to all the donations collected from the members of St Paul's Lutheran Church, Sassamansville for their joint outreach with the Boyertown Lions Club.

Thank you
L/L Susan Prutzman
Boyertown Lions Club

Happy Birthday to You! It's Your Special Day!

December

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Ruth Miller |
| 2 | Kenneth Mathias |
| 3 | Esther Renninger |
| 6 | Ross Boerner, James Hoffman Sr. |
| 10 | Elmer Wentzel |
| 14 | Cindy Moyer, Jennifer Crouch |
| 20 | Alita Adams |
| 24 | Lillian Sweinhart |
| 25 | Peter Duchak, II |
| 28 | Jason Moyer |



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1809 Hoffmansville Road
Sassamansville, PA 19472

PHONE:
(610) 754-6024

E-MAIL:
pastormatt@
stpaulssassamansville.com

office@
stpaulssassamansville.com

STAFF
Pastor Matthew Finney
Lili Sanderlin, Music Director
Andrea Kershaw, Secretary
Becky Higham, Sexton



December 9	10 am	Hanging of the Greens / Christmas Decorating and Lunch
December 10	7:00 pm	Norristown Chorale Christmas Concert (Light refreshments will be served) Director Mr. Ross Boerner
December 17	10:15 am	Children's Christmas Program / Worship Service
December 24	10:15 am 3:00 pm 7:00 pm	Lessons and Carols Worship Service / No Communion Impromptu Pageant Family Christmas Service with Holy Communion Christmas Candlelight Communion Service
December 25	10:15 am	Christmas Day Holy Communion Service
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

Stpaulssassamansville.com

Mission Statement

"To know Christ and make Christ known
Spread the Gospel by word and action"

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

1809 Hoffmansville Road
P. O. Box 370
Sassamansville, PA 19472-0370

Change Service Requested
Dated Material---Please Deliver Promptly

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