

St. Paul's LUTHERAN CHURCH of Sassamansville

January 2018
Volume 59 Issue 1

The Epistle



Worship Times

Sundays
10:15 am
With
Holy Communion

Sunday School
9 am



Individual Highlights:

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Calendar	insert
Survey	insert
Campaign	insert
Poinsettia	insert



THANK YOU!

To everyone who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season, buying gifts for the angel tree, beautifying our sanctuary with poinsettias, and for all the volunteers who have helped in any way this past year with our events, ministries and monetary donations.

You all make St. Paul's a wonderful place for worship and fellowship!

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 21 to approve the budget and council members. The actual Annual reports will be available in the narthex by Sunday, January 7. Financials will be handed out at meeting.



All submissions to be included in the February issue of The Epistle are due by

**10 am on Wednesday,
January 17**

Please email things to
Andrea at [office@
stpaulssassamansville.com](mailto:office@stpaulssassamansville.com)

Do Something New.....in 2018

**PRAY ABOUT IT, THINK ABOUT IT, AND
HOPEFULLY YOU FIND SOMETHING TO HELP
WITH:**

**CONSIDER BEING A READER, GREETER,
COUNTER, ACOLYTE, JOINING A COMMITTEE,
HELPING WITH OUR GROUNDS.....TOGETHER
WE MAKE ST. PAUL'S GROW!**

We're on the Web!
See us at:
Stpaulssassamansville.com

Note from Pastor Matt



The New Year is the time when it is common to reflect upon one's life, and frequently use that opportunity to identify ways to improve upon it. Often this takes the form of New Year's resolutions. Now I have a question, how likely is it that a New Year's resolution leads to a lasting change? Generally, New Year's resolutions have gone by the wayside by Valentine's Day.

I think that is because New Year's resolutions are more likely to be generalized wishes instead of real goals. Wanting to "eat better" or "exercise more" does not tell us when these wishes have been fulfilled. Better than what? More than before? It is nearly impossible to know what that really means. Since it is so hard to know if the resolution is being achieved, then it is easier to abandon it.

To set real goals the experts recommend that they be "SMART": specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound. Instead of resolving to "exercise more" a goal following this framework would be to "run a 10k race in under an hour by the end of the year."

Often our goals for the church are more like the typical New Year's resolution. We want to see the church "grow", "gain new members", or "increase giving". But these goals do not tell us much. How should the church grow? How many members? Increase giving by how much?

In the church we need to be better about setting good goals and then working to meet them. The process for determining these goals needs the input of all the people of St. Paul's. It will take some time and prayerful discernment to even know what our goals should be. I would like, however, to get us started with a first goal for 2018. Looking at our statistics that we report to the synod office in 2016 and 2017 our attendance has been flat. The average weekly attendance was 53 in 2016 and is on track to be the same or very close in 2017. I believe that gathering for worship is the single most significant thing we do as a people of God. As we seek to renew our life together at St. Paul's, I would like us to focus on that single most important thing we do as a church, worship God. Therefore I propose that we work to having an average weekly attendance of 70 for 2018. This goal is specific, and easily measurable. I believe it is attainable. I know it is relevant, and it is most certainly time-bound.

The best part about this goal is that everyone can contribute, and it is easy to do. All you have to do is show up! Even those among us who are homebound or unable to regularly attend worship can contribute to this goal. It is important that the people in those circumstances pray for the church, and pray specifically that those who are able to gather for worship are inspired to do so. Everyone who is part of St. Paul's (and perhaps even those not yet part of St. Paul's) has an important role to play in meeting this goal for 2018.

This year let's not let our hopes for the future of St. Paul's be mere wishes that are easily forgotten. This year let's set a goal, and let God form us and change us as we pursue it.

In Christ,
Pastor Matt



Beginning in 2018, you can help defray cost of our monthly Epistle mailing. If you would like to sponsor a certain month, you can give any amount and your name will be listed in the Epistle for doing so! There can be multiple sponsors each month. It would help cover the cost of

paper, postage, labels, mailing stickers, and copier supplies.

Forms are located where the sponsorship papers are for bulletins and flowers.

Date	Flowers \$22 for one vase \$44 for two vases \$7 delivery charge	Bulletins \$12 per week
January 7	OPEN	OPEN
January 14	OPEN	OPEN
January 21	OPEN	OPEN
January 28	OPEN	OPEN

January Ministries

Date	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Acolyte	Donna Long	Ruthy Heydt	Doris Moyer	Sue Prutzman
Reader	Geoff Littlefield	Marlene Duchak	Merilyn McLaughlin	Ruthy Heydt
Ushers	Barbara Littlefield Geoff Littlefield	Barb Marlow Jodie Moyer	Debbie Spencer Dawn Hydock	Donna Long Joan Davis
Counters	Willard Koch Gerald Koch	Doris Moyer Kim Ibach	Dawn Hydock Debbie Spencer	Allen Heydt Ruthy Heydt
Council Members	Carol Adams Kim Ibach			
Altar Guild	TBA			

Remember in your prayer time.....

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

Betty Gilbert, Mary Moyer, John Hilbert, Arlene Hess, Esther Renninger, John and Thelma Simmons, Cleora Shellaway, Helen Johnson, Marie Stauffer, Robin Koch, Christopher and Elizabeth, Barbara Mutter, Margie Dawson, Chris and Ellie, Fran Doaty, Gretchen Enkema, Marion Eshbach, Beatrice Lukens, Mary Ann Levan, Rebecca Stempelwitz, Sigrid Trassert-Ermold, John and Miki Mroz, Gloria Strickler

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, Rosemary Hojecki

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

January

6	Gina Ruttman	22	Ashley Dittman, Alice Lucarelli
7	Corey Hoffman, Stacey Meitzler	23	Andrew Mathias
12	Bob Renninger, Sr.	24	Wilda Mathias
13	Doris Moyer	25	Michelle Hess
15	Alyssa Dittman	28	Alex Stauffer
16	Jennifer Levensgood	29	Brianna Renninger
18	Jean Wentzel		
19	Barbara Littlefield, Kellen Mathias		
21	Steven Meitzler, Melody Mathias		



Mission Statement

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dated Material---Please Deliver Promptly

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

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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 Lessons and Carols Worship Service / No Communion
3:00 pm Impromptu Pageant Family Christmas Service with
Holy Communion
7:00 pm Christmas Candlelight Communion Service

December 25 10:15 am Christmas Day Holy Communion Service

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