



Worship Time

10:15 am



Invite a friend to church!



# St. Paul's LUTHERAN CHURCH of Sassamansville

November 2020  
Volume 62 Issue 5

## The Epistle



Saturday, November 7 from 3 to 5 pm!  
Enjoy a Spaghetti Dinner from St. Paul's,  
no charge. Drive thru or pick up only.  
Donations accepted. Invite neighbors and  
friends!



We are calling a congregational meeting for Sunday, November 22 to vote on Pastor Matt's revised job description serving both St. Paul's and Christ, Niantic. You will find his letter and revised job description in this issue. Any questions, you can contact Pastor Matt.

We will be taking orders for Poinsettia Flowers for our Christmas Season.

The forms will be in upcoming bulletins.



All Saints Day  
Shares of Faith



*In loving memory of  
Eric and Christopher Weller  
and Chantal C. Cook*

8 shares given by Barbara Cook

*In loving memory of Gloria Stricker*

20 shares given

by Ruthy and Allen Heydt

*In loving memory of Tyler Moyer*

10 shares given

by Jodie and Terry Moyer

*In loving memory of John E.  
Stauffer*

10 shares given

by Marie L. Stauffer

*In loving memory of my parents*

15 shares given

by Barbara Littlefield

*In loving memory of Debbie  
Gaugler Spencer*

4 shares given

by Diane and Joe McGlinchey

*In loving memory of Debbie  
Gaugler Spencer*

2 shares given

PLEASE SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE NARTHEX  
FOR FORMS THAT YOU NEED TO SPONSOR:  
BULLETINS / FLOWERS / SHARES OF FAITH

Remit them to the church office.

## Note from Pastor Matt

This has been an unusual time for St. Paul's and congregations all over the world. As we begin to think about our congregational life post-pandemic, we have the opportunity to make some significant changes to the life and ministry here at St. Paul's. As was discussed at the last annual congregational meeting, we have been exploring the possibility of entering into a shared ministry arrangement with Christ Lutheran, Niantic. After much prayer, discussion, and hard work the call committee and council at Christ Lutheran Church has recommended that I be put forth as a candidate to be their pastor under contract on a half time basis. This obviously means that some things will need to change with my call at St. Paul's. I will remain under call at St. Paul's and I would be under a contract at Christ Lutheran. The terms of my call at St. Paul's will need to change. The St. Paul's council approved a revised job description for a half time call a few months ago. To move forward in the process with Christ Lutheran we will need to hold a congregational vote to approve this revised job description. **On Sunday, November 22, after worship we will hold a congregational meeting for the purpose of voting on the adoption of this job description.**



Before you vote though, you will need to know what this will mean for the life of the congregation. First, each congregation will continue to hold worship services every Sunday and I will lead worship at each congregation. Christ Lutheran currently meets at 9 AM on Sunday mornings while we meet at 10:15 AM. We will need to shift our worship time slightly to 10:30 AM so that I will have adequate time to get to St. Paul's before the service begins. The other major change means that I will no longer be able to be present at our FaithWorks/Sunday School at 9 AM on Sundays. I will still provide leadership in coordinating the material and planning for each week, but I will not be able to be physically present to lead the session. Before the disruption of the pandemic we had a solid core group who will be able to take on leadership roles in the program.

I will be at each building throughout the week and have established office hours at each (post-pandemic). We will look for opportunities for combined efforts in outreach, fellowship, and faith formation. We will have combined services for some of the smaller attendance services throughout the church year like Holy Week and midweek Lenten services. Even though I will be under contract at Christ Lutheran and under call at St. Paul's, I will be pastor to both congregations. I view my overall call as a call to the whole church and both congregations. I will be "half-time" at each which means a full-time call to the community of faith at both congregations. My salary and benefits will be shared equally between the congregations which will mean a significant budget reduction for St. Paul's.

I pray that these changes can be an opportunity for a renewal in both congregations. We will be two congregations sharing one pastoral ministry, guided by the Holy Spirit and discerning God's mission for each congregation. This arrangement can be an opportunity for both congregations to share resources for maintaining ministry locally and church wide. Together we can proclaim the Gospel and love of God to all, combine congregational strengths, open opportunities for renewed energy for ministry, and to enhance existing ministries.

This is an opportunity to strengthen both congregations. By calling one pastor together each congregation frees up resources that can be directed to ministry and outreach to the community. By combining each congregation's strengths, the whole church in this community is better equipped to fulfill God's mission. By working together each congregation bears witness to the unity we share in Christ Jesus. This unity is not something "new" with this arrangement. Our unity is already present in Christ, for there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all." (Ephesians 4:5-6) In Christ we are called to live in "humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:2-3) This ministry structure only makes the unity we already share visible in a new way.

As we live out this new arrangement there are also expectations of all people in the congregations. All of us will need to follow God's will through scripture and listen to the Holy Spirit; be flexible and open to change; be respectful, supportive, and pray for one another. There will be some growing pains as we live out this new structure, but if we remain focused on the purpose and our unity in Christ, with God's blessing and help, we can work through the challenges.



Working together, we have a chance to form a new identity and sense of unity. Coming together and sharing our talents will give greater support to our congregations and extend the outreach efforts in our community. The revised job description is included in this newsletter. Due to the pandemic we have special permission from the synod for "mail in" voting for those who are unable to attend the congregational meeting in person. If you would like a "mail in" ballot please contact me so that we can send one out to you before the meeting.

In Christ,  
Pastor Matt

### Remember in your prayers:



*Walter Dittman, Arlene Hess, John and Miki Mroz, Cleora Shellaway, Marie Stauffer, Grace Stauffer, Lillian Sweinhart, Kathy Hoffman, Arthur Yerger, Willard Koch, Marlene Duchak, Mary Ann Levan, Jana LePage, Michael Billetta, Darrel Cross, Marion Eshbach, Ruth Miller, Eleanor Ruth, Joan Roth, Thomas Weiss, Sylvia, Glenn Moyer*

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

*Noah Ziegler, Matthew McHugh, Eric Littlefield, Adam Wolford*

### **For the families and friends who mourn the loss of their loved ones.....**

*Richard McKinney, Mary Moyer, Helen Johnson, Chuck Yerger, Gloria Stricker, Esther Renninger*

*Keep this paper with your devotional items to reference daily.*

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Congratulations to Lauren Campbell as she was confirmed on Sunday, October 25 and joined our St. Paul's congregation! She is the daughter of Jim and Aimee Campbell and the granddaughter of Robert and Dolly Renninger.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Trunk or Treat event! It was a fun night! We had around 100 children participate!



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
1809 Hoffmansville Rd + P.O. Box 370  
Sassamansville PA 19472

## Pastor Position Description

**General Description:** The Pastor will be an ordained minister of the ELCA (or approved for ordination by a synod of the ELCA) and will serve and lead this congregation in its entire ministry. The mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church is “to know Christ and make Christ known, spreading the Gospel by word and action.” The Pastor, as a member of the Congregation Council, will serve God working to carry out the mission as stated. The Pastor is accountable first to God and then to the Congregation Council.

**Work Schedule:** The Pastor will work **half-time, generally at least 25 hours per week.** Flexibility is necessary and required due to the nature of ministry. Some weeks may require more than 25 hours, some a bit less. Sunday worship and evening meetings are part of the schedule. The Pastor will be available on-call for emergencies including death of a member, emergent hospitalization, or a significant problem at church. The Pastor will preach and preside at all regular and special worship services of the congregation. The Pastor will receive four full weeks, including four Sundays, of vacation each year, and two weeks, including two Sundays of Continuing Education Leave per year.

### Specific Responsibilities:

1. Preach and preside at the sacraments every Sunday and all festivals celebrated by St. Paul. Provide a “Children’s Time” every Sunday following the Prayer of the Day. Conduct special services of weddings and funerals in accordance with St. Paul policies. Approve all guest preachers or pastors for any worship service at which she or he is not present, and any request for shared leadership at weddings or funerals.
2. Visit the sick and dying regularly. Visit homebound members at least four times per calendar year including near the festivals of Christmas and Easter.
3. Work with the Worship and Music Team and the Director of Music to plan Christ centered and meaningful worship services for members and visitors.
4. Administer and supervise the church including the Director of Music, office, all paid and volunteer staff as approved by the Congregation Council.
5. Oversee the faith formation programs of the congregation including children’s education and affirmation of Baptism curriculum.
6. Provide theological and spiritual guidance for the annual stewardship campaign.
7. Meet in person or by phone monthly with the council president to review council agenda and congregation activities.
8. Serve as clergy representative to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly every year. Participate in the Bishop’s Convocation. Participate in the Upper Montgomery Conference.
9. **Provide guidance** to all committees and teams of the congregation.
10. Provide short-term pastoral and/or spiritual counseling to members as the need arises. Be available for crisis situations. The Pastor will not engage in psychotherapy or long-term

psychological counseling unless specifically educated and/or trained and approved by the council to do so.

11. Review congregational priorities yearly with the congregation council. Conduct or provide for a council retreat at least every two years.

**Position Requirements:**

Ordination (or approval for) in the ELCA

Education: Master of Divinity from an accredited seminary or divinity school

Clinical Pastoral Education: at least one unit

Skills: Ability to work with a team and to work independently.

Approved by Congregation Council, May 2020

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**STAFF**

Pastor Matthew Finney

Lili Sanderlin, Music Director

Andrea Kershaw, Secretary

Becky Higham, Sexton

“To know Christ and make Christ known  
Spread the Gospel by word and action.”



