



Worship Time

10:15 am



Stay
safe
and
healthy



St. Paul's LUTHERAN CHURCH of Sassamansville

December 2020

Volume 62 Issue 6

The Epistle

Hanging of the Greens December 5 @ 10:00AM

Join us to help decorate our church for the coming of Birth of Jesus.

We will be separating the Christmas cards for disbursement to the members of the congregation prior to the service on December 20.

No lunch will be provided this year.



We are calling a congregational meeting for Sunday, December 6 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.

Orders and money due Sunday,
December 6.



St Paul's Cookie Exchange



December 20

If you would like to participate in the cookie exchange please use safe procedures while making your cookies.

Please pack 6 cookies per bag or container. You can bring as many dozen cookies as you like. All cookies will be displayed together on tables. You can then pick an assortment of as many cookies as you originally brought to take home.

If you have any questions, please see Susan Prutzman.



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 Christmas will be different just as most of the year has been different from any other year in our lifetimes. As I write this, I do not know exactly what will happen. All of the dates and plans that we announce in this issue of the newsletter are subject to the circumstances surrounding the pandemic in our community. We are making plans to meet in person, but we will only do so if we can do so safely. Even with all of the precautions that we have been taking over the past few months when the level of transmission in the community reaches high levels and local hospitals can no longer accommodate patients then we will need to shift to on-line only worship. I pray that we do not reach this point, but I also know that communities in other portions of the country are now in just that situation. In a few more weeks we could be there as well.

Even with all of this in mind we will plan for the Christmas season. In the past we have had two Christmas Eve services 4:30 PM and 7 PM. For now we will plan on having services at these times, but In order to plan for a safe celebration **I would like you to contact the church and let us know if you plan on attending on Christmas Eve and if so which service. With the social distancing set up in the nave we can only accommodate a limited number of people, so we may ask that some folks who would prefer the 7PM service instead attend at 4:30PM or vice versa.** In the past these have been different services, but this year they will be identical. We will also post an online Christmas Eve Service that will be available at your convenience so that you also may participate in celebrating our Savior's birth from your home. Please call the church at 610-754-6024 or e-mail me at pastormatt@stpaulssassamansville.com to let us know your plans for Christmas Eve.



There are other important dates to remember for December. First the congregational meeting originally scheduled for November 22 has been moved to Sunday December 6 so that a representative of the SEPA Synod office can attend and oversee the meeting. Last month's newsletter detailed the information for the meeting. The meeting is for the purpose of voting to move me to a part time call from a full time call so that I am able to also accept a part time contract at Christ Lutheran, Niantic. If you would like a mail-in ballot, please request one as soon as possible. You can request it by calling the church and leaving a message or sending me an e-mail. We will drop off or mail a paper ballot to you that you can then return **before** the December 6 meeting.

We are also trying some new things this year to celebrate since so many of our traditions have been put on hold. On Sunday December 20th we will have a Cookie Exchange. The details are found in this issue of the newsletter. On that same day after the cookie exchange time we are going to go caroling through Sassamansville. We will have song booklets with some old favorites. This will give us a chance to sing since we will be outside and spread good news and hope in our community.

We do not know what the next months will hold for us, but no matter the circumstances we will celebrate the birth of our Lord who came to live among us and give his life for us. He is Emmanuel, God-with-us. That is especially important to remember this year. We may have to celebrate differently. We may not get to spend our days with all of the friends and family we would like to be with, but God is always with us.

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.

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."



December 2020

December 2020							January 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 29	30	Dec 1 6:30pm Women of the Church	2	3	4	5 10:00am HANGING OF THE GREENS
6 LAST DAY TO ORDER POINSETTIAS 10:15am Worship with CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WITH	7	8 7:30pm Worship and Music	9	10	11	12
13 PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE HERE BY DECEMBER 20 FOR 10:15am Worship	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 CAROLING IN NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTMAS CARD COOKIE EXCHANGE 10:15am Worship	21 6:30pm Congregation Council	22 REMINDER TO CALL WHICH CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE YOU WILL BE ATTENDING AND HOW MANY	23	24 POINSETTIAS MAY BE TAKEN HOME AFTER 4:30pm CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:00pm CHRISTMAS	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26
27 PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL OF YOUR 2020 GIVING IS IN THE OFFICE BY 10:15am Worship	28 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED ALL WEEK	29	30	31 HAVE A SAFE AND HEALTHY NEW YEARS EVE!	Jan 1, 21	2