

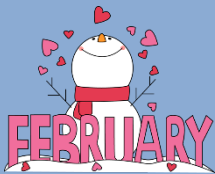


Worship Times

10:15 am

FaithWorks

9 am



Invite a
friend
to
church!



St. Paul's LUTHERAN CHURCH of Sassamansville

February 2020

Volume 62 Issue 1

The Epistle



NOTE TIME CHANGE OF WORSHIP

Our worship service will begin at 7 pm.
(**not** at 7:30 as previously)

Join us as we take communion and
prepare for the Lenten season leading to
Easter Sunday.

The Lenten suppers will begin in March
at 6 pm. Signup sheets will be on the
bulletin board to make soups for the
meals. Come join us for a time of
fellowship and worship.



Bring your loose change on
Sunday, February 2 to help the
FaithWorks kids form a cross in
the Fellowship Hall with all the
monies. It will be fun to see
how much we collect.

Also, soup pots will be out to
vote for your favorite team for
the Super Bowl!

All monies will go to the
Boyertown Area Multi-Service.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 2
Cross of Change / Souper Bowl
Blood Drive

Wednesday, February 26
Ash Wednesday
Holy Communion at 7 pm

hello february

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 month I wanted to recap somethings discussed at the congregational meeting in January so that everyone can hear it.

There is that old saying, “the only constant is change.” Yes, as we move through life things do change. We grow older; people move away; major events arrive in our lives that force us to change. Just because change comes does not mean that it is easy or welcomed. In large part the Church (the whole Church not just this congregation) is slow to change. That is for good reason. We are disciples of a teacher who walked this earth 2000 years ago. We have over the centuries developed beliefs and traditions that we believe come to us from God. The God we worship is the same “yesterday, today, and tomorrow.” We have good reason for embracing change slowly or resisting certain changes entirely.

Yet we do not live in the world of Jesus or the apostles. The world around has changed and therefore the people God calls on us to minister to have also changed. Even though we do not live in the world of the Bible, the Bible still speaks to our world with the timeless message of the good news of Jesus Christ. The question for the church is how do we best minister to a changing world and communicate that message in a way that people can hear it?



This is not a new challenge for the church; this has been the continual task of the church from day one. Different people and groups within the church have always had different approaches to this challenge. Peter and Paul had different approaches to this challenge; it is not new. All of this is to say that change is here, and we as the congregation of St. Paul's must respond.

I don't need to rehash the situation of the Church in North America. We know it; we live it. Across the board but especially for the older, established churches, the Church is experiencing decline. Attendance, giving, and engagement are down. The average age within congregations is up. Funerals far outnumber baptisms. I have now been Pastor at St. Paul's for three full years. Those trends were felt here before my arrival, and they have continued after my arrival. As much as I would like to believe that my presence as Pastor would reverse those trends, I know that I don't have the power to do that.

For 2020 we have presented and approved a budget where our expenses outnumber our expected income by about \$35,000. This is in line with the budgets of the previous few years. We have the money in savings to cover the deficit, but in the long term this is not a sustainable arrangement. I also write this knowing that I as Pastor represent the single biggest line item in our budget every year. The leadership of the Synod has approached the congregation with an opportunity that we need to consider.



As you may be aware Christ Lutheran Church in Niantic is in a call process for a new pastor. The congregation, however has voted to call a pastor on a half time basis only. This move is largely about what the congregation sees as their needs and what they can sustainably afford in the future. We, the congregation of St. Paul's, have been asked to consider a shared ministry arrangement where I would serve both St. Paul's and Christ Lutheran. Essentially, my call here would move to a half time type arrangement and I would be contracted to serve Christ Lutheran half time as well. My call will remain with St. Paul's and if things do not work out with Christ Lutheran I would be able to remain pastor at St. Paul's. Such an arrangement would mean some changes for the life and ministry here at St. Paul's, but it would also mean a significant cost savings for the congregation.

These type of “multi-point” arrangements are not unusual, especially in other parts of the church, but they have not been the norm in this area for many years. All of the Lutheran congregations in this area, however, began with clergy serving multiple congregations and these arrangements continued in various forms for generations. My previous call was to a two point parish, so I do have experience in navigating the issues that come along with such an arrangement. Exploring this change to the life and ministry at St. Paul’s could mean a more stable and sustainable financial footing for many years to come.

Any change to the terms of my call here at St. Paul’s will require a congregational vote. If we move forward in this process we will call a special congregational meeting sometime in the next year to approve any changes. As we explore this possibility please voice any questions or concerns that you may have. You can contact me directly or any member of the congregation council.

In the meantime I ask you to pray. Pray for the Church (the whole Church not just St. Paul’s). Pray for each other. Pray for the community around us. Pray for those not yet part of the Church. Pray for your Pastor. Pray that we would be guided by God’s vision and mission. Pray that we see what God calls us to do and that God gives us the strength and the courage to pursue it.

In Christ,
Pastor Matt

Remember in your prayers:

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

<i>Linda Miller</i>	<i>Arlene Hess</i>	<i>Esther Renninger</i>	<i>Cleora Shellaway</i>	<i>Marie Stauffer</i>
<i>Mary Ann Levan</i>	<i>John and Miki Mroz</i>	<i>Lillian Sweinhart</i>	<i>Jana LePage</i>	<i>Kathy Hoffman</i>
<i>Marion Eshbach</i>	<i>Fay Trayler</i>	<i>Arthur Yerger</i>	<i>Willard Koch</i>	<i>Walter Dittman</i>
<i>Shirley Heydt</i>	<i>Gerald Higham</i>	<i>Scott Levengood</i>	<i>Linda Soles</i>	<i>Edie Christensen</i>
<i>Marlene Duchak</i>	<i>Barbara Cook</i>			

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

Noah Ziegler, Peter Duchak, Matthew McHugh, Eric Littlefield

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

Arthur Smith Jr., Frank Fulmer, Dale Schrupp, Emma Heydt, Karen Moser, Charlotte Bletz, Dennis Cleaver, Mark Mutter, Joy Strunk, Pamela Snyder and her children Preston and Evelyn, Debbie Gaugler Spencer, Richard McKinney, Mary Moyer, Helen Johnson, Chuck Yerger, Gloria Stricker



Keep this paper with your devotional items to reference daily.

Date	Flowers	Bulletins
Monies MUST be attached to form to have that date sponsored or paid online through tithe.ly Forms on bulletin board in narthex.	\$25 for one vase \$50 for two vases \$7 delivery charge	\$12 per week
February	ALL OPEN	ALL OPEN (except Feb. 16))
March	ALL OPEN	ALL OPEN (except March 8)
April	ALL OPEN	ALL OPEN

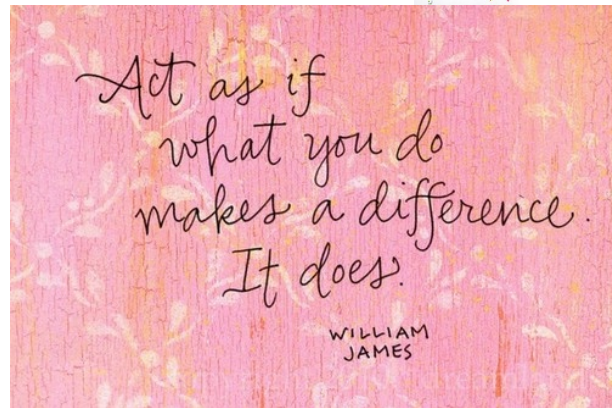
February Birthdays

1-Cleora Shellaway
 3-Alisha Losinno
 5-Mary Lou Renninger
 6-Clarence Moyer
 7-Tina Losinno, Robin Prutzman
 8-Matt Renninger, Susan Smoll
 13-Dolly Renninger
 15-Ruthy Heydt
 17-Leah Smith
 21-Frances Doaty
 22-Eric Van Horn, Ella Moyer
 23-Linda Detweiler, Aimee Campbell
 25-Dale Engle
 26-Matthew Renninger



February Anniversaries

18-Steve and Lili Sanderlin
 26-Samuel and Nancy Christy



Ministry Volunteers

	February 2 10:15 am	February 9 10:15 am	February 16 10:15 am	February 23 10:15 am
Acolyte	Susan Prutzman	Ruthy Heydt	Doris Moyer	Geoff Littlefield
Reader	Susan Prutzman	Allen Heydt	Doris Moyer	Carol Adams
Ushers	Allen and Ruthy Heydt	Doris Moyer Ella Moyer	Barbara Littlefield Geoff Littlefield	Gene Yerger
Counters	Allen and Ruthy Heydt	Donna Long Susan Prutzman	Eugene and Shirley Heydt	Jodie Moyer
Altar Guild				
Council				

~~Acolyte for Wednesday, Feb. 26 (Ash Wednesday) Donna Long~~



The Women of the Church are having a yard sale. We would like to give the congregation first chance at the spots. The Yard Sale will be Saturday, April 4 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Tables in the Fellowship Hall will be \$15.00 per table, outside space is \$10.00 per spot (you must bring your own table or something to put your items on.) We will be doing the advertising by fliers and some newspapers. It will be rain or

shine. After Feb. 20 we will be opening the spots to the public. For more information see any member of Women of the Church.

If interested in a table or a spot see or call Arlene Kulp at 484-941-2516.



DATES FOR 2020---MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Email to Andrea at office@stpaulssassamansville.com

MARCH ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
APRIL ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, MARCH 17
MAY ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, APRIL 21
JUNE/JULY/AUGUST ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, MAY 19
SEPTEMBER ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, AUGUST 18
OCTOBER ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
NOVEMBER ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20
DECEMBER / JANUARY ISSUE-----DUE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

February 2020																																																																																										
<div> <div>February 2020</div> <table> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> </table> </div> <div> <div>March 2020</div> <table> <tr><th>Su</th><th>Mo</th><th>Tu</th><th>We</th><th>Th</th><th>Fr</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>							Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
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2 Cross of Change SouperBowl Sunday 9:00am FaithWorks 10:15am Worship with Communion	3	4 6:30pm Women of the Church	5	6	7	8 10:00am Men of the Church (Country Chef's Kitchen, Perkiomenville)																																																																																				
9 9:00am FaithWorks 10:15am Worship with Communion	10	11 7:30pm Worship and Music	12	13	14	15																																																																																				
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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.”

