



**St. Paul's Lutheran Church, January - 2021, Volume 6, Issue 01**



## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE - JANUARY 2021**

My Beloved,

Ok exhale ... The worst year that I can remember is now over. We have a fresh start with this new year. Although Covid-19 is not completely gone, I do believe people are managing life a bit better around the circumstances that it brings to us and the way that we live our lives. We have had pretty steady numbers in worship since re-opening in June. It will and does fluctuate based on our comfort levels surrounding our worship practices and our efforts to mitigate (to the best of our abilities) the virus's ability to spread in our church.

As we exit advent and enter Epiphany, we are still reminded of the journey that we are taking with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Epiphany is a day that we commemorate God's outward, tangible expression of love toward us. The journey of the magi, who were led to Bethlehem by a miraculous star, revealed Jesus came to draw *all people* to Himself. Epiphany is traditionally celebrated on the Sunday closest to Jan. 6, where many refer to the day the magi — or the "Three Wise Men" — visited Mary, Joseph, and the newborn baby Jesus. This is why some traditionalists never place the wise men in the nativity because they were Not there the night Jesus came into this world.

So, the wise men have arrived and have worshipped the newborn king. So, we should do the same. We worship this tiny baby because we know that this baby was ultimately born to die ... for us and for our sins. As we contemplate this new year, we cannot predict what it will bring. But we surely can approach it with "gospel goggles." Meaning the more time, we spend in the word, the more we act in the word. All our efforts should spring from the words that our Savior speaks to us in the Bible. So, if we can approach this year with "gospel goggles," then we can make it a better year and we can make a difference in those lives that God has placed around us ... no matter what the virus brings! Amen? A Blessed New Year for you all!

Pastor G. Pomrenke

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the President,

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year! I'm definitely looking forward to 2021! I want to thank everyone for their help with the furnace expenses. As I write this article, we have collected approx. \$4000 so far. God has certainly blessed St. Paul's with all of you. I also want to thank everyone who has helped in so many different ways to keep our church open for those who are attending church in person and for those who are worshipping from home through our church service streaming link. I pray that God blesses all of you in 2021 and I pray that 2021 brings us all together once again to enjoy the fellowship of being together as brothers and sisters in Christ!

**In His Service, John Bowling, President**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### **Sunday School News**



I want to thank Melissa Chew and our Sunday School teachers and families for helping to create our first virtual Christmas program: "Oh, What a Glorious Night". It was great to watch our kids have so much fun dressing up to portray parts of the Christmas story. For weeks, I could hear my grandson, Ryan, coming up my driveway on his bike loudly singing the theme song with a big smile and with great joy! Watching the video brought tears to my eyes as I saw our youth growing up over the years. From little angels, kings and shepherds from the ages of 3 and 4 to young adults. Some of these kids are now in confirmation class, some are now attending our Sr. High Sunday School classes, some helping to teach Sunday School and others are serving our Lord through many different activities with the Venture Crew or attending college or in the work force living a life with values learned during their years in Sunday School. I pray that 2021 allows us to once again come together for many fellowship activities here at St. Paul's to help keep us all connected as brothers and sisters in Christ. Sunday School classes will resume on **January 17th at 9:15 AM.** **Note: This is a change from what was posted in the December Newsletter.** We are beginning our opening of Sunday School an extra Sunday later so we can start classes again with the utmost safety after everyone's Christmas and New Year's activities. Again masks for everyone, hand sanitizer when entering, open windows and social distancing will be the rule for the safety of everyone. If anyone has any questions or concerns please contact me. I am always happy to hear from our families and willing to change something that you may not feel comfortable with. I also want to say thank you to Thrivent Financial for giving us another Thrivent Action Team grant to help with our Christmas activities this year. Thrivent have been a great supporter of our Christian Education program here at St. Paul's over the years!

**"With God, all things are possible." Matthew 19:26 Brenda Bowling**

# BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Brad Clements

I would like to thank the congregation for their financial support of the church building and grounds projects this past year. We started out 2020 with the renovation and modernization of the restrooms. We then moved on to purchasing new chairs for the sanctuary and modernization of the altar area and painting of the doors and trim throughout the building. As fall rolled around we experienced two major problems with our heating and air-conditioning systems.

The air conditioning system which cools the kitchen, restrooms, Nursery and hallway needs to be replaced by spring 2021. This will cost \$4,400. These funds were included in our 2021 Operating Budget.

As we started the heating system last fall it was discovered that there was water in our underground fuel tank which was causing problems with keeping the boiler for heat operating. To address this problem a new fuel tank was placed above ground. This was done in late November and the existing underground fuel oil tank was removed in December.

## Status of Heating and Air Conditioning Problems:

- Heating air-conditioning in the office area was repaired on November 17, 2020 with funds from the operating budget.
- We have received proposals to replace the Air conditioning system for the kitchen and restroom areas. The lowest proposal that has been received is in the amount of \$4,400. This project was included in our 2021 Operating Budget. Work will be completed before spring 2021.
- The new above ground oil tank was installed on November 19, 2020. The installer filled the new above ground oil tank with oil, serviced the boiler, and started the boilers for the winter season.
- The old underground oil tank was removed on December 17th. The holes in the tank were small so there was no contaminated soil that had to be removed, which would have been additional expense.



The total cost for the new oil tank, serving the boiler and removal of the old tank is \$7,050.

**If you can contribute to help cover the cost of the oil tank project, it would be greatly appreciated. Please mark your contribution as "Oil Tank project". To date we have received approximately \$3,000.**

**I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. We welcome 2021!**

## **MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES**

**What's Going On??**

**January 2021**

Let me extend my happiest wishes for you all in the New Year!! It has been such a joy to distribute to those in our communities of Charles and St Mary's Counties the generous donations that flowed from St Paul's in 2020. Unfortunately, we are not starting the new year with no one in need. To continue our mission of helping to feed our neighbors we will continue to take non-perishable food donations to food pantries. As other needs are found we will strive to be part of the support. Please feel free to let me or other members of the council know if you become aware of persons facing a challenge.



**Mission and Ministry Chairperson**

**Lois Beverage**

**Cell: 301-653-0771, Home: 301-769-3499 [loisbeverage@aol.com](mailto:loisbeverage@aol.com)**

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S**

Rogers, Judy - 1/3

Maxey, Eric - 1/9

Maxey, Jennifer - 1/9

Gray, Joshua - 1/12

Ethan Johnson - 1/20

Davis, Richard - 1/20

Morris, Andrea - 1/20

Gray, Jacob - 1/26

Stowers, Stephanie - 1/27

Shewbridge, Jim- 1/30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31					01	02
						
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Services 8 & 10:30 at Church & 10:30 Live Stream	Venturing Crew Outdoors (or CEB) 7 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Contact: mehrkam@ yahoo.com				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Services 8 & 10:30 at Church & 10:30 Live Stream	Venturing Crew Outdoors (or CEB) 7 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Contact: mehrkam@ yahoo.com		Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. Church		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Services 8 & 10:30 at Church & 10:30 Live Stream  Sunday School 9:15 in Edu. Bldg. High School in Nursery	Venturing Crew Outdoors (or CEB) 7 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Contact: mehrkam@ yahoo.com				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Services 8 & 10:30 at Church & 10:30 Live Stream  Sunday School 9:15 in Edu. Bldg. High School in Nursery	Venturing Crew Outdoors (o CEB) 7 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Contact: mehrkam@ yahoo.com		Elder's Meeting 6:30 p.m. Online		

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
**37707 New Market Turner Road**  
**Mechanicsville, MD 20659-3075**

**Sunday School: 9:15 am**

**Adult Bible Study: 9:15 am**

**Teen Bible Study: 9:15 am**

**Office Hours Mon.-Fri. 10:00am to 2:00pm**

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