



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE TRUMPET
October 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

About six years ago I decided to skip out on our Reformation service here at St. Paul's. Of all places, I found myself in Las Vegas where I was to officiate at a wedding for one of our church members. My wife and I stayed at the Mandalay Bay Hotel where the wedding would also take place. While there we kept joking that "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas." Last Sunday a man staying at the Mandalay Bay Hotel opened fire on a crowd listening to a concert killing 59 and wounding hundreds more. What happened in Vegas that night has not stayed in Vegas. The horror and subsequent shock and sorrow of that tragedy has swept across the land.

As we approach the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation I wonder if Martin Luther might not have had "what happens in Wittenberg, stays in Wittenberg." on his mind when he nailed his 95 Theses to the castle door. On that October day in 1517 when he posted his 95 Theses, it was his way of inviting the academic and church communities to come and discuss the issue of indulgences. He had no idea that it would start a spiritual revolution that would transform the church and the world. What happened that day in Wittenberg, certainly did not stay in Wittenberg. The Reformation spread from town to town, and city to city.

Of course, what inspired Luther, and what gave life and breath to the Reformation, was what happened on that hill outside of Jerusalem in 33 C.E. God's only son allowed himself to be crucified for the sins of the world, and almost everyone thought that what happened that day in Judea would stay in Judea. Almost everyone thought that Jesus' ministry, good while it lasted, had come to a tragic end. But then came Easter and Pentecost, and a relatively small group of followers who were committed to sharing the Good News of the Gospel with the world.

What happens on this Reformation Sunday when we gather as a people of faith is something that should not stay confined within the walls of a sanctuary. The Gospel that is proclaimed and the love of Christ that is expressed needs to be shared with the world! What happens at St. Paul's should not stay at St. Paul's. The bread and the wine, God's food of forgiveness, is more than enough to sustain us for the mission that lies ahead. It is what is needed not only to endure the tragedy of Las Vegas, but to work together so that it does not happen again.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Thomas A. Omholt

Saved by God's grace, and nourished through Word and Sacrament, we, the community of believers at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, are Sent by the Holy Spirit to Share the Good News and Serve our neighbors following the example of Jesus Christ. (St. Paul's Lutheran Church Mission Statement)

**Welcome to the St. Paul's Trumpet,
A publication of St. Paul's
Lutheran Church.**

Additional information is available on the church website at www.stpaulslutherandc.com. St. Paul's also publishes a weekly email update – E-news. If you would like to receive the weekly E-news, please contact Joy Belew (joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com)

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Prayer List



Please Keep In Your Prayers ...

Lois Leland
Chuck Maata
Bill Jackson
Grace Yin
Ellyn Martin
Barb Pitts
Carol Pihlstrom
Family and friends of Hal McNitt
upon his death
Gloria Stuart
Engelhardt Unaeb
John Hughes and his family
Jean Fetzer
David Cox
Ralph Benson
Dallas Dean

The family and friends of those killed last
Sunday in Las Vegas

All those affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma
and Maria and especially for those suffering in
Puerto Rico.

The people of Mexico following the recent
earthquakes

Christians and all people of faith who are
persecuted throughout the World.

Capital Campaign Update



**Our Time
Our Turn**

As the summer heat lingers in our area, we are more thankful now than ever before for the new HVAC system here at St. Paul's!

On the surface, we may only think of the most tangible benefit the new system provides, which is the cool comfort in which we can enjoy worship and fellowship with each other. But there are other benefits as well.

Controlling the climate in the church—which includes not only the air-conditioning that we are presently enjoying, but the heat in the cooler months as well—provides comfort to people of all ages who visit St. Paul's, from the newest newborn to the oldest parishioner. And this extends to the myriad of people who visit the church all the other days of the week, too—guests who come in for concerts or book talks in the nave, school children in the Lower Auditorium for Murch Extended Day, even our choirs as they prepare for Sunday services.

Currently, we have received 49 pledges totaling \$323,000 with \$83,000 cash on hand. While this is great news, we have a long way to go and **we need to hear from EVERYONE!** We are looking forward to your support!

THANK YOU for all you have done so far to help make this a reality for St. Paul's. ***There's still time to support the project, and we'd love to hear from you!***

If you have questions about the project, please contact Mike Charlton, Campaign Chair, at charlton46@aol.com.



Weekly Quotes From Martin Luther

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree."

"The sin underneath all our sins is to trust the lie of the serpent that we cannot trust the love and grace of Christ and must take matters into our own hands."

"Be thou comforted, little dog, Thou too in Resurrection shall have a little golden tail."



St. Paul's Reformation Day Lunch

Please join us immediately after the 11 O'clock Service on Sunday, October 29th for a German-inspired luncheon and the opportunity to continue our celebration of the **500th Reformation Day!** We will gather outside, weather-permitting (and inside in the Fellowship Hall, if not). This is not a potluck, so you don't need to sign up to bring anything—just come and enjoy each other's company!

And if you want to continue your celebrations, please plan to join us at the **Washington National Cathedral at 4:00 p.m. for the Reformation Day Worship Service hosted by the ELCA Metro D.C. Synod.** (If you would like to go, and need a ride from the church, please contact Lisa Wackler at lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com).

**WEAR RED for REFORMATION
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29th!**

You've probably worn red on Pentecost Sundays, as many Christians do, to mark the fiery, festive birthday of the Church on Earth. A growing number of Lutherans also wear red for Reformation Sundays, to remember the start of a new denomination & its winds of change to the Church. How about we brighten the St. Paul's sanctuary extra for Lutheranism's 500th birthday by wearing red to church on October 29th? Neckties, scarves, dresses, shirts, blouses, shoes, socks, jackets, & more will all work! The chancel will be decked in celebratory red, & we can be, too! **Please note that on October 29th, there is only one service at 11 am.**



"Luther at Erfurt", which depicts Martin Luther discovering the doctrine of sola fide. Painting by Joseph Noel Paton, 1861.

Reformation 500 Bookstore
The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is fast approaching!

Learn about Martin Luther, his writings, and the impact of the Reformation for the church today.

Discover a variety of resources on the Reformation for readers of all ages.

Stop by the Portico on Sunday, October 8th-- Sunday, October 29th after the 11:00 am service (and by appointment) to see what's offered, and to receive up to 50% off plus **FREE SHIPPING!**



**Reformation at 500:
Hosted by American University.**

You are invited to join American University for a nine-week reflection on the ways in which the Protestant Reformation has - for good or ill - shaped our world. The series continues with the Film Screening "Luther" on September 11, 6:00 p.m., Bender Library Screening Rm, B51 The Office of the University Librarian. Posters with the full schedule are located in the portico and the narthex. For more information, contact kslc@american.edu or visit www.american.edu/oci/kay/Reformation-at-500.cfm.



WE NEED YOU
to make our new family directory complete

**Mark Your Calendars
A New Church Directory is Coming!**

It's been **ten years** since we produced our last photo directory, and we are long overdue! Lifetouch Photography Studios will be at the church November 11th—November 18th taking pictures for the new directory, so mark your calendars **NOW!**

Please schedule your appointment time for Lifetouch by going to this link: <https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/y74xd83c/>

You can also schedule your appointment by visiting our website at www.stpaulslutherandc.com, and clicking on the "Sign Up Now" link on our home page. Or contact Lisa Wackler (lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com) for assistance.

Deaconess Meditation

"For I know the plans I have for you." Declares the LORD, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD." Jeremiah 29:14

When I was consecrated eleven years ago at St. Paul's and called to Service and the Word I received a plaque with the above Scripture inscribed on it. The words meant a great deal to me at the time and continue to provide a powerful source of reassurance in my daily life.

As many of you know I returned to work in June following a serious accident. At the time I realized that many questions were looming large in my life. What was God calling me to in service to Him? How would I know that I was hearing Him correctly as I moved forward? What was His plan? And, this was the problem: Was I focusing on creating a plan of my own making? Prayer has been a constant companion throughout my recovery, but over time I have come to realize that my praying has left little room to hear God's plan for my life. I am beginning to realize that I had not allowed God the room to come to me in so many ways – as He always does for each of us. The challenge for me and for all of us is to go to the place where He waits for us – to seek Him – to find that place of faith and trust through prayer.

There are days when I spend a lot of time going to Him – seeking Him – and trusting Him as I grow in the understanding that He loves me and has plans for me; plans that are good and filled with the joy that comes with trusting Him. When I seek out God I find Him patiently waiting to love and guide me on my journey.

I am a big "keeper of things" in my Bible (you wouldn't believe it)! One evening I came across a copy of "Love's Response – A Story of Lutheran Deaconesses in America" written by Frederick S. Weiser in 1962. It is a small booklet written about the history and theology of the diaconate. It reminds the reader, specifically Deaconesses, of their ministerial duties that dates to a 1919 General Convention that was appointed to define the Office.

As I struggle at times to re-discover my diaconal calling I find great strength in reading and reflecting on the church's earliest resolutions of the Office of Deaconess. The following words beautifully summarize and express an early canon of the church and yet, today it continues to stand as the Office of all deaconesses: *"The duty of a Deaconess is: to teach the unlearned, to instruct youth, to care for the sick, to comfort the afflicted, to supply the wants of the poor and needy, to assist in the administration of worship, and to labor in all ways for the extension of the Church of Christ."*

These words remind me of my calling as a Deaconess in service to Christ and St. Paul's. It is through daily prayer that I continue to seek Christ and discover the plans that He has for my life – today and always.

I pray that you will find time each day to seek the Savior who loves you deeply and is waiting for you to come to Him in prayer. It is there that you will find Him and discover the plans that He has for you - wonderful, blessed plans! *"For I know the plans I have for you....."*

In Christ's service,
Deaconess Cassie

Deaconess Notes



Prayer Shawl Ministry

October 22, 2017

10:00 am

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will gather on Sunday, October 22nd at 10:00 am in the dining room. The group will continue to discuss new areas of service and share their latest prayer shawl projects. If you are interested in learning more about the ministry please join the group on October 22nd. You are always welcome. If you are aware of individuals or groups that are in need of prayer shawl gifts please fill out one of the forms in the narthex or portico. Please feel free to contact one of the members or Deaconess Cassie.



All Saints Sunday November 5, 2017

On All Saints Sunday St. Paul's will remember the faithful earthly saints who have entered into eternal life. **Blank labels will be available in the narthex and portico beginning on October 22nd.** If there is someone you

would like to honor on All Saints Sunday please put their name on a label and place it into the adjacent basket. The labels will be available through Sunday, November 5th. The labels/names will be attached on the banner and placed in the baptismal area for the worship services on November 5th. questions.



ADVANCE NOTICE: CPR and AED CLASS November 12, 2017

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Mark your calendars for CPR and AED training to be held on November 12th in the lower auditorium following the 11:00 am worship service. **A sign-up sheet will be located in the Portico on October 22nd.** If you are due for re-certification or want to be certified in CPR/AED make sure you sign-up. You just may save a life! Watch for additional information in the weeks to come. Contact Deaconess Cassie with questions.

Thanksgiving Baskets

October 22, 2017 - Portico:

Display and Sign-up Sheet

November 19, 2017 –

Blessing of Baskets



St. Paul's members are again partnering with Friendship Place to provide Thanksgiving baskets for individuals and families in need of a holiday meal. **The Thanksgiving basket display will be located in the Portico with a sign-up sheet beginning on October 22nd.** Look for the information sheets listing suggested food items and small additional basket stuffers available at the display. As we enter the holiday season and all of its demands please prayerfully consider providing a Thanksgiving basket for families who face the possibility of hunger during the holiday season. Use the project to involve the children – shopping, making food selections, decorating the basket, drawing a picture – while at the same time helping them to understand God's message to help feed the hungry. Contact Deaconess Cassie with questions.



Prime Time Center
 The Prime Time Center gathers every Wednesday between 11:00 am - 2:00 pm for fun and fellowship. The programming begins with an **entertainment, lecture, or information session from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm** followed by a **delicious lunch from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**. Immediately after lunch the group **participates in an active hour of exercise** that is led by an excellent instructor who has become an important part of the PTC community.

Upcoming Schedule of Entertainment

October 11

Peter Burroughs, Tenor
 Carlos Cesar Rodriguez, Pianist

October 18

Activities-to-Go
 "Oktoberfest: History – Travelogue – Trivia - Snacks"

October 25

Dr. Robert Jenner
 "Progressive, Practical Amsterdam"



Donors Needed for Altar Flowers

There are several dates available to donate altar flowers. The cost of the flowers is \$65. Flowers can be donated in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone's special event, or in thanksgiving for something special to you.

Next Date available: October 15th

Please contact Joy Belew
 (joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com) to reserve a date. Thank you.



**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
 Blessing of Animals
 And
 Commemoration of St.
 Francis of Assisi
 October 1, 2017**





First Communion Class is underway.

A class for young people seeking to receive Holy Communion for the first time began on October 1st. There will be classes this Sunday and October 15th as well. Children will receive their first communion on Sunday, October 22 during the 11:00am worship service.

The Service of HEALING



The next Service of Healing will be held on **Sunday, November 5th (All Saints Sunday)** after the 11:00 am worship service. The service will take place in the chancel.

Mission Trip to Texas

We are ready to go to Texas to help with the hurricane Harvey relief efforts. We will be working with All Hands Volunteers, an organization we worked with two years ago in Missouri after severe flooding there. Their base of operation for hurricane Harvey relief is Parkway United Methodist Church in Sugarland, Texas, just outside of Houston.



We will leave from DC on **Thursday, November 9**. We will start work first thing Friday morning, **November 10** which is the observance of the Veterans Day Holiday. We will then work Saturday, and Sunday (after church, of course). All Hands has a policy of taking Monday off so we will resume work on Tuesday and Wednesday, and then fly back home Thursday morning. Some of our team members will be returning from Texas on Monday. More than likely we will be mucking out and removing debris from a water damaged home. Please contact Pastor Tom (tomholt@stpaulslutherandc.com) for more information (costs etc.) or to let him know of your interest in going.

New Member Sunday: October 15th



New members will be received into St. Paul's on October 15th during the 11:00 am worship service. There will be a class for the prospective members on Tuesday, October 10th at 7 pm in room 207 of the educational building.



Quilts for Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) promotes a variety of projects for people in need. One of their projects is to provide homemade quilts to people who have lost everything due to disasters--natural and manmade--that happen around the world.

Our own Carol Wake is making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and is looking for materials from the congregation. Specifically, Carol is looking for used, washable items that can be made into quilts such as:

- Fabric remnants,
- Mismatched sheets / pillow cases / dust ruffles – **(SHEETS--FLAT OR FITTED--ARE ESPECIALLY DESIRED AT THIS TIME!)**
- Men's dress shirts / "Dockers-type" slacks
- Etc.

If you have any of these items that are too worn out, stained, or damaged to be used in their original form, please consider donating them to Carol so they can have new life in one of these wonderful quilts for LWR!

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Carol Wake at wakes231@yahoo.com or Lisa Wackler at lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com.

RALLY DAY 9/10/17



Volunteers Needed to Assist Thrive DC During the Holidays



Thrive DC is a local organization that works to prevent and end homelessness in Washington, DC by providing vulnerable people with a wide range of services to help stabilize their lives.

Thrive DC is already looking ahead to the holidays, and looking for people who might be able to help out during that time. Specifically, they are looking for people high school age and older who would be willing to come to their location one morning either the time period of 12/26-12/29 or 1/2-1/5 (7:30 am--11:30 am), and greet the clients as they arrive and take their names, help prepare and serve breakfast, coordinate the shower schedule, serve coffee, and hand out toiletries.

If you are going to be in Washington during the holidays, please consider giving some of your time to help out others who need us. We are looking to find a day that 4-10 people from St. Paul's might be able to do this together. Following is a Doodle Poll that will help us determine which day is best for those who want to participate:

<https://doodle.com/poll/m37ri8ttm9t5mdvs>

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Wackler at lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com.



Food Pantry Donations Needed

St. Paul's Food Pantry needs your help! Please consider contributing soups, pasta sauce, peanut butter, canned tuna and canned chicken. Items can be left in the basket in the narthex or the basket in the pantry. Thank You!

Life Passages

Funeral: September 24, 2017

Harold "Hal" Austin McNitt

December 6, 1924 – September 21, 2017

***From the Pastor's Desk
In response to the Las Vegas Shooting on October 1st.***

Remembering the 59

In a month's time we will celebrate the Festival of All Saints. As is our custom here at St. Paul's we will place the names of those who have died on a banner on display near the baptismal font. This time there will be the names of the 59 who were killed on Sunday in Las Vegas while attending a concert.

Those 59 do not belong on that banner because those 59 people did not need to die. They needed to go back to being police officers, teachers, nurses, moms, dads, sons and daughters. We lift up in prayer today the family and friends of the 59 who died on Sunday, and we pray for the many who are recovering from their emotional and physical wounds.

I also pray that something so horrible does not happen again. Less than two years ago 49 people were killed in the Orlando shooting, now 59 in Las Vegas. I pray that this type of violence will never happen again. I pray that God will grant us the wisdom and the courage to do something about it. I think you have some thoughts on the subject as do I.

For now let us mourn the 59 who died on Sunday, and pray for their loved ones.

God bless,

Pastor Tom Omholt

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## Church Council

Council members welcome your phone calls and emails.

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St. Paul's Podcasts are available online at <https://soundcloud.com/stpaulsdc>

St. Paul's Monthly Newsletter, *The Trumpet*
Managing Editor, Joy Belew

If you have information you wish to have included in an issue, please send your submission to Joy by the 20th of the month.

joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com



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