



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE TRUMPET
January, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

Remember singing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" as a child? Then there came the classic doo wop version of the song by the Elegants which began with the question, "where are you little star"? We love singing about the stars. We love looking at the stars. We love studying them. Some folks love the stars because they feel that the stars have a power over them. Having a good day or a bad day depends on how the stars are aligned.

Then there are the other stars we like to look at and admire. They are the human stars, the stars of stage and screen. We enjoy watching these stars rise to fame and fortune, whether on the football field or in the halls of congress, and then quickly lose interest as their stardom begins to fade.

Nearly 2,000 years ago a star rose in the eastern sky and caught the attention of the world. It caught the attention of three individuals who were passionate star gazers. When these three astrologers, three wise men, saw this particular star, they immediately jumped on their camels and followed the star to a little town called Bethlehem. Upon arrival they saw a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, a feeding trough for barnyard animals. They bowed down and worshipped him, and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Was this child the king to be born king of the Jews as it had been told them? Well, yes and no. The child Jesus was a king, but no ordinary king, no rising political star, but rather God's heaven sent King of Kings, the one "destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel." The star, the child, were all part of God's epiphany, God's manifestation of love for the world.

We love the stars. They are beautiful. There is one star, however, that outshines them all. This is the star that leads us again to Bethlehem and the One who shines his love in our hearts and lives now and forever. "Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid. Star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant redeemer is laid."

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 . . .

Myron Nordquist

Shirley Butler

Lois Leland

Chuck Maata

Bill Jackson

Grace Yin

Elly Martin

Barb Pitts

Carol Pihlstrom

Gloria Stuart

Ralph Benson

Richard Mattick

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



**Annual Congregational
Meeting
January 28th**

The annual congregational meeting will take place on January 28th following the one worship service at 11 am. Please mark your calendars and join us as we elect Council members and vote on St. Paul's budget for 2018.

St. Paul's Is Celebrating With a High-five for 175!

2018 marks St. Paul's 175th anniversary! Our stewardship theme for this special year is "High - Five for 175!" **God's Work. Our Hands. Giving in Gratitude.** We are celebrating St. Paul's past and our ministry for the future. Please complete a time and talent form and pledge card. They are located in the narthex and portico and everyone should have received the material in the mail as well. Please remember that your commitment for 2018 is in addition to your generous commitment to the Capital Campaign.



Update on Stewardship Campaign

We have received **33 pledge cards**. Of these, 4 are new pledges, 17 reflect an increase in giving, 6 were at a decreased level of giving and 6 chose to stay at the same level of giving.



Annual Reports - DUE!

The annual reports of ministries, organizations and classes are due by **Friday,**

January 12, 2018. Please e-mail them to Joy Belew at joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com or fax them to the office at 202.362.9165. Thank You!

Gifts of Hope Thank

You! Special thanks to all at St. Paul's who assisted to make 2017 Gifts of Hope such a huge success. Gifts of Hope purchases help to bring hope to others by supporting the mission and programs of area Lutheran social ministry organizations, camps, colleges, seminaries, and our synod's companion synods abroad. St. Paul's members were very generous in their gift giving for **2017 with a total of \$4355** contributed. Thank you for your continued support of this outstanding social services ministry program.



Quotes From Martin Luther

"And Yet this is the one whom God chose. He might have gone to Jerusalem and picked out Caiaphas' daughter, who was fair, rich, clad in gold-embroidered raiment, and attended by a retinue of maids-in-waiting. But God preferred a lowly maid from a mean town."

"If Christ had arrived with trumpets and lain in a cradle of gold, his birth would have been a splendid affair. But it would not be a comfort to me. He was rather to lie in the lap of a poor maiden and be thought of little significance in the eyes of the world. Now I can come to him. Now he reveals himself to the miserable in order not to give any impression that he arrives with great power, splendor, wisdom, and aristocratic manners. But upon his return on that Day, when he will oppose the high and the mighty, it will be different. Now he comes to the poor, who need a Savior, but then he will come as a Judge against those who are persecuting him now."

"Therefore this is the chief article, which separates us from all the heathen, that you, O man, may not only learn that Christ, born of the virgin, is the Lord and Savior, but also accept the fact that he is your Lord and Savior, that you may be able to boast in your heart: I hear the Word that sounds from heaven and says: This child who is born of the virgin is not only his mother's son. I have more than the mother's estate; he is more mine than Mary's, for he was born for me, for the angel said, "to you" is born the Savior. Then ought you to say, Amen, I thank thee, dear Lord."

"If you try to deal with sin in your conscience, let it remain there, and continue to look at it in your heart, your sins will become too strong for you. They will seem to live forever. But when you think of your sins as being on Christ and boldly believe that he conquered them through his resurrection, then they are dead and gone. Sin can't remain on Christ. His resurrection swallowed up sin."



Spaghetti Dinner & Fundraiser
Saturday, January 13th at 6:00 pm
 Help Our StLuthRefA Youth Group Get to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas Next Summer!

When: Saturday, January 13, 2017 -- 6:00 pm
Where: Here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church!
Suggested Donation: \$15/Person OR \$50/Family

This dinner & auction is a fundraiser for the 25 youth and 5 adult leaders going from St. Paul's, Luther Place, Reformation & Augustana to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston this summer! For tickets, please contact Lisa Wackler at lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com



New Member Sunday
February 11, 2018

New members will be received into St. Paul's on February 11th during the 11:00 am worship service. There will be a class for the prospective members on Tuesday, February 6th at 7 pm in room 207 of the educational building. If you know someone who would like to become a member or has questions about membership, please have them contact Pastor Tom (202-966-5489) or tomholt@stpaulslutherandc.com.



Get Involved in Worship

(setup/cleanup of the altar), communion assistant, and usher. Let's give our very loyal regular helpers some relief. If you can serve in any of these positions, please contact Pam Wannan at 202-454-6703 or pam@wannan.com.

Volunteers needed for worship services!

We need volunteers in all areas of the worship service, especially altar guild



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



OFFERING COUNTERS

Tellers Needed

We are looking for people interested in volunteering for this very important church function. It consists of a two member team that works on Sundays after church or

Monday for about 1 or 2 hours collecting, counting and recording the offering. The teams are assigned a month at a time, usually 3 or 4 months a year (depending on how many teams we have). Sundays can be switched with other teams. Training and written instructions are provided. Please contact Paula Stewart 410-956-7117 or the church office to volunteer.

Life Passages

Baptism:

December 10: Henry John Williams. Henry John was born on May 24, 2017 and is the son of Heather and Nick Williams.



Please welcome the newest member of St. Paul's!

St. Paul's Youth Choir



The youth choir continues to invite young people to come and sing with them on Sundays for a 45 minute rehearsal following the 11:00 am worship service. Singing in this group is a wonderful opportunity to learn

basic vocal technique and explore some great music. Come and be a part of discovering a very special way of making a joyful noise!

For information contact: Marcia Perez at 301 580 8021.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will not meet during December due to the holidays. I am planning our first gathering for **January 21, 2018**. Oh, my goodness! I thank the members of this ministry who continue to answer Jesus' call to serve those in need of our compassion and prayers. Contact Deaconess Cassie with any questions.

Prime Time Center (PTC)

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 am – 12 pm followed by a delicious lunch from 12 pm – 1 pm. Immediately after lunch the group participates in an active hour of exercise** that is led by an excellent instructor, Ann, who has become an important part of the PTC community.



St. Paul's Celebrates 175 Years!

The year 2018, marks the 175th Birthday for the Congregation of St. Paul's!



We are currently looking for people who might be interested in serving on a committee to help plan the celebration. Interested? Please let Lisa Wackler know at lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com.

And as you come across pictures from your own time at St. Paul's, please share those with us, so we can include them on our website, Facebook page, Twitter feed, and in displays around the church. If your pictures are hard copies, we will scan them and return them to you.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa or Joy in the Church Office.

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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