



**ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
THE TRUMPET
Epiphany Newsletter
February 2019

In God's Time: Journeys Begin!

*Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶ gather the people.*

*Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.*

*Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy. -- Joel 2:15-16*

In This Issue...

- In our prayers p. 2
- Transition Team Plans p. 3
- Recap of Annual Meeting p. 4
- Chuck Maatta
Memorial Service p. 5
- Did You Know... p. 5-8
- Pancake Dinner & Mid-Week
Lenten Explorations p. 9

And More!

Journeys are beginning. Signals are being sent. Horns are blowing. Every page of this St. Paul's Trumpet touts important information about events, opportunities, and requests for you to activate your faith.

In God's time, we signal the coming of Lent, beginning Ash Wednesday, March 6th. And St. Paul's is preparing for this spiritual journey, and you are invited. We will be blowing this "trumpet" with a full experience each Wednesday of the Lenten time. Thank you for joining us in this time of learning and faith formation.

But this year, the journey also includes the discernment process that St. Paul's needs in order to craft its ministry site profile, an essential step in the process of preparing to call a new permanent pastor. First is an understanding of the shape of St. Paul's mission and ministry, and a vision of what St. Paul's will become in the future. This is the kind of thoughtful, forward looking visioning that marks our time together now. See page three for the first of a series of Table Talks. *Thank you for lending your voice and your thoughts.*

Finally, our collective stewardship calls upon us to thoughtfully consider our giving intentions for the current year and fill them out and return to the church (offering plate or mailed to Joy in the church office). If you need a card, just send us a note office@stpaulslutherandc.com or call us at 202.966.5489 and we will be more than happy to send a copy. Thank you for your generosity of faith and sharing of your intentions to give.

A privilege to be on the road with you,
John R. Spangler, Interim Pastor

**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)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
4900 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20008
202-966-5489
Fax: 202-362-9165
office@stpaulslutherandc.com
www.stpaulslutherandc.com

Rev. John R. Spangler
Interim Pastor
jspangler@stpaulslutherandc.com

Cassie S. Brown, Deaconess
cbrown@stpaulslutherandc.com

**Lisa B. Wackler, Director of
Congregational Life**
lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com

Sonja Kahler & Matt Larson,
Directors of Music
skahler@stpaulslutherandc.com
mlarson@stpaulslutherandc.com

Joy C. Belew, Office Administrator
joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com

Anya M. Burt, Sexton
Anyaburt14@gmail.com

Rod Larson, Treasurer
treasurer@stpaulslutherandc.com

Tim Boldt, Accountant
Tim.Boldt@boldtfinancial.com



**We pray for those who are sick or
suffering in any way, especially;**

- Family and friends of Alois Byers upon her death.
- Family and friends of Chuck Maatta upon his death.
- Family and friends of Donita Moorhus upon her death.
- Our Transition Team as they gather input and vision from the congregation.
- Doris Hardy
- Dan Isley
- The Rademacher family
- Donna Hershey
- Susan Russo
- Howard Mattick
- Ellen Cohen
- Lois Leland
- Bill Jackson
- Grace Yin
- Ellyn Martin
- Carol Pihlstrom
- Gloria Stuart
- Ralph Benson

Table Talks Begin



Transition Team Announces Plans.

It seems like just yesterday we said goodbye to Pastor Tom and Barbara, and the Transition Team started its journey to help our congregation find its new pastor. However, in the few short months since they left we have done a lot of work! We started meeting in December and have met approximately six times, including one meeting with the Synod, and once during the Congregational Meeting, where we provided a summary of the Transition Team's activities.

At each of these meetings, we have worked hard to determine the most effective way to solicit high quality data from the congregation to complete the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). As you may recall, Church Council created the Transition Team in November to collect data from the congregation and create a St Paul's "Want Ad" through the creation of the MSP. The Call Committee will use this data and the MSP to select candidates to interview and eventually hire. The Transition Team's goal from the outset has been to hear from all members of St. Paul's, so that we can memorialize what is important to them as we enter this new chapter.

Collecting input from the congregation in three different ways!

In order to meet that goal, the Transition Team is planning to provide and collect information through three different activities between now and Easter. We are hopeful that by participating in these activities, we will prepare ourselves to carefully consider the successes of our congregation, the challenges ahead, and what we need from a new pastor going forward.

Table Talks

First, we are planning to hold several "table talks" during the months of February and March, with the first one scheduled to be on February 17th after the 11 am service. At these meetings, we will lead discussions focused on (1) the core ministries of St. Paul's, (2) the congregation's vision for the future of our church, (3) important qualities our next pastor should have, and (4) what important information pastoral candidates and the call committee should know during the selection process. Other table talks will be held at various times and dates, listed below, in order to reach as large a group of people as possible. You can sign up to attend in several ways: (1) online here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a4eada922a7f58-transition> (2) via the Sunday insert, or (3) by calling the church office (202.966.5489)!

- **Sunday, February 17th** after the 11 am service (babysitting and lunch provided)
- **Sunday, March 3rd** between the 8:30 am service and 11 am service (babysitting and light breakfast provided)
- **Wednesday, February 27th** at 7 pm
- **Sunday, March 17th** at 9:45 (during the Sunday School hour) (babysitting and light breakfast provided)

We hope to see you at an upcoming table talk! However, if you can't join us at one of them, the team is also available to chat with members individually. Just let us know!

Information Exchange via the Portico Bulletin Board

Second, to support these discussions, the Transition Team is planning to reflect on ideas heard during the table talks, as well as exchange thoughts about the future of St. Paul's, via a bulletin board in the Portico. We are hopeful that this will be positive place for people to discuss what makes St. Paul's important to them, and how a new pastor can support those values going forward.

Survey

Third, around Easter, we will be asking the congregation to survey itself again. Like the Congregational Assessment we did a few years ago, this survey is designed to help identify and measure what is important to the St. Paul's community. However, different from the previous survey, this tool will also have some targeted questions to determine the congregation's preferences regarding a new pastor. We will also be able to compare this assessment against the one we did several years ago to see any longitudinal changes. We are hopeful that all the pre-work we have done through the table talks and information exchange will allow us to better survey ourselves.

Thank you!

In closing, the Transition Team is very excited and thankful for the opportunity to do this important work. We ask that you continue to keep us and our mission in your prayers as we continue to work through this exciting time at St. Paul's!

Signed,
The St. Paul's Transition Team: Christi Barnhart,
Gail Ferris, Rebecca Highsmith, Sarah Hines,
and Paul Reichert

~~~~~

### **Recap of Annual Meeting**

The congregation of St. Paul's English Lutheran Church met in its 176<sup>th</sup> year for its annual meeting Sunday January 27<sup>th</sup>, engaged in a lengthy discussion about finances and conducted elections of leaders for the new year.

Treasurer Rod Larson provided an overview of the 2018 year, responding to numerous questions about the capital campaign for the HVAC system, other capital improvements, and regular giving. One key observation was that actual giving for 2018 (\$463,423) fell approximately \$200,000 short of planned giving. Giving to the ELCA wider ministries (benevolence) was \$31,497 short of the congregation's commitment of \$69,500. Several capital expenditures, including payments to reduce the principal on the HVAC loan (\$364,712), a new sanctuary sound system (\$80,259), roof repairs to the education wing (\$43,000), and 2018 investment losses (\$40,254), resulted in significant reductions in the value of St. Paul's dedicated funds.

Several commenters indicated that this pattern and scope of deficits needed to be better understood by St. Paul's members. "Members spoke to the issues in healthy ways," said Pastor Spangler, Interim Pastor. "This was the kind of conversation that is important after a major focus on big projects, the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary and farewell to Pastor Tom." Mike Charlton, Stewardship chair, noted that only 38 of 210 giving units in the congregation made pledges in 2018, although many more members gave generously. Mike expressed hope that many more will fill out giving "intention" cards for the new year. Those cards and statements of giving were placed in the mail January 30<sup>th</sup>. In an Epiphany temple talk, Mike asked members and friends to consider increasing their giving this year by at least \$300. He asked members to indicate their giving targets by returning their intention card to the Church. This information will greatly help the Council plan appropriately.



The congregation adopted a 2019 budget of \$887,309, 6.5% lower than 2018, but still roughly \$150,000 more than the total income received in 2018.

There was a general consensus that the congregation accomplishes a lot of great work, reaches out in support of the world's needs, and should celebrate its excellent ministries. And, at the same time, St. Paul's needs more transparency and more interpretation of its finances. "We are working on a better format for reporting on our finances" said Larson, "so that it is easier to understand the sources of income, the use of dedicated funds, the cost of maintaining the Church and the costs of the Church's ministries."

Re-elected to the Congregation Council for second terms were Beth Van Hanswyk, Jane Cramer and Tina Schendt. In addition, Laura Denardis was elected to serve her first term on the Council. Lynn Adkins was returned to the role of Secretary and Rod Larson as Treasurer. Jay Guerber was elected as a Trustee.

In other actions, the congregation:

- received and reviewed reports of staff and ministry chairs;
- heard an update on the sale of the Maryland parsonage; and
- heard a preview of upcoming Transition Team activities to gather member input.

Reminder! Please Return Your Intention Card!



Year- end statements of giving were mailed to households on January 30th. In that same envelope was a letter from stewardship chair Mike Charlton along with an intention card to be returned to the Treasurer indicating your intentions for giving to the church in 2019. **Please take the time to return this card!**

Memorial Service for Chuck Maatta

Charles "Chuck" Maatta died peacefully at home Wednesday, January 30th. A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's on February 23rd at 11 am with a luncheon to follow in the lower auditorium.



February  
17th at  
10 am

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will gather on February 17th at 10:00 am in the dining room adjacent to the lower auditorium. This will be the first meeting since the holidays and it will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up and begin a new year of service. If anyone is interested in joining the group please take a few minutes to sit in and see the various areas that the ministry serves. Contact Deaconess Cassie with questions at [cbrown@stpaulslutherandc.com](mailto:cbrown@stpaulslutherandc.com).



Did You Know is a weekly feature in observance of St. Paul's 175th Anniversary.

**Did you know** that for fifty years, the Education Building has served the educational needs of St. Paul's congregation?

In April 1964, the church council authorized a study of current and future requirements for expanded educational facilities. This report underlined the overcrowded conditions of the Sunday School areas and resulted in January 1966 of congregational approval to proceed with construction of an educational building and air-conditioning of the existing building.

Designed by Allard & Jouris to express continuity with the existing Gothic structure and constructed by the E.A. Baker Company, the new building costed \$350,000. It contained 16 classrooms, a nursery, a crib room, pantry, a teachers' lounge, a renovated Schafer Hall, toilets, and service rooms.

In culmination of St. Paul's 125th anniversary celebration, the Education Building was dedicated on Sunday, January 12, 1969. The Service of Dedication was officiated by pastor emeritus, Dr. Henry Snyder, and Dr. Henry Luffberry. Dr. George F. Haskins, secretary of the Lutheran Church in America, was the main speaker.



Sources:

St. Paul's News and Notes, January/February 1966; The Evening Star, December 28, 1968; Service of Dedication Bulletin, January 12, 1969

**Did you know** that with the dedication of the new church building on January 12, 1958, St. Paul's English Lutheran Church congregation realized a dream that was more than three decades in the making?

Preliminary perspectives for St. Paul's English Lutheran Church and Sunday School Building were featured in the June 1927 edition of "American Lutheran" dedicated to church

architecture. Describing the new church building: "During the preparation of working drawings the principles of structural logic have been applied constantly with the result that the buildings when built will have greater beauty than the designed illustrated. This church will be as monumental and logical in design and construction as were the English Parish Church of the 14th century."

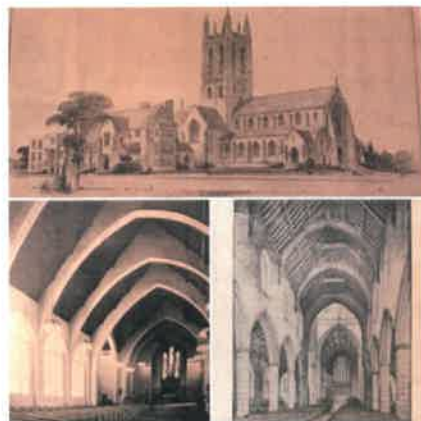
Because of economic challenges, the entire superstructure complex would take from 1927 to 1958 to be completed and the design, while still monumental, was modified.

Reverend Henry B. Luffberry, pastor of St. Paul's, wrote to the congregation:

"The dedication of our new church edifice on January 12, 1958, was the crowning climax of the patient, faithful, mighty ministry of Dr. Henry W Snyder. His sermon on that occasion rings the peal of victory won by our congregation's unfaltering faith through discouraging days. It rings the peal of venture as we pursue our widening opportunities and larger challenges in the service of Christ."

From the "Living Temples" sermon delivered by Dr. Snyder at the service of dedication:

"May God make all of us living temples for His Holy Spirit . . . Just as these glorious windows reflect the transcendent beauty of the light that shines through them, so will our lives reflect the transcendent beauty of that God 'Whose we are and Whom we serve.' Amen"



Sources:

St. Paul's English Lutheran Church, Holy Week and Easter Pamphlet, April 10 - 17, 1927  
American Lutheran, June 1927  
Washington Post and Times Herald, January 11, 1958  
Letter to St. Paul's Congregation, Henry B. Luffberry, June 30, 1958  
Service of Dedication Sermon Pamphlet, June 1958  
Documents and drawings pertaining to the Dedication Service from St. Paul's archives are on display.

**DID YOU KNOW** that there were plans beginning in 1902 to build a 23.5 mile scenic parkway around Washington, DC which would have transversed what is now the southeast lawn of St. Paul's Lutheran Church?

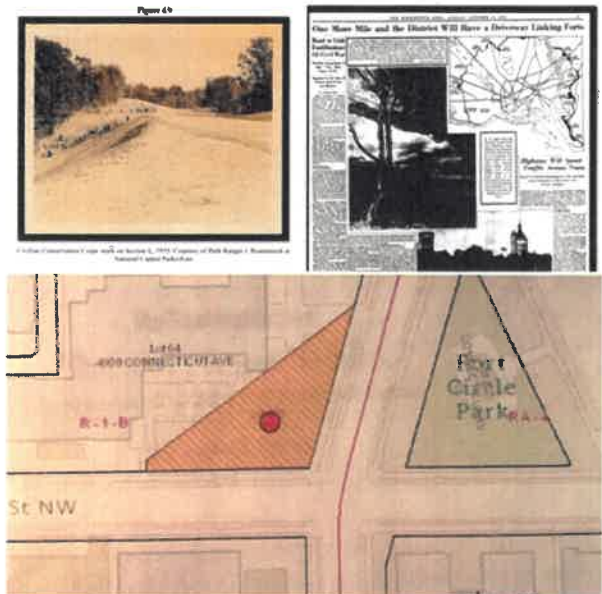
During the Civil War, 68 forts and 93 batteries formed a defensive ring around Washington. One of these batteries, Battery Roselle, occupied an important position on the right of Fort Reno and was located at what would become the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Fessenden Street, just north of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

In 1902, it was proposed to connect the principal remaining forts into a scenic, wooded parkway, Fort Drive. It would have been similar in concept to the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Congress approved funding in 1930 and by 1937 the National Capital Park and Planning Commission had acquired all but one of the 23.5 miles planned for the parkway. Before the plan was abandoned for various reasons in 1965, some segments of Fort Drive were built including the street in front of Alice Deal Middle School in the Fort Reno area.

It is interesting to consider what would have been the impact on St. Paul's if the construction of Fort Drive had proceeded. One of the parkway segments would have gone from 36th Street, across the front lawn of the Forest Hills of DC

(formerly the Methodist Home), across Connecticut Avenue, through Muhlenberg Park, across the southeast lawn of St. Paul's, across Murch School playground and up Davenport Street.

If you would like to know more about Fort Drive and to discuss what-ifs as they pertain to St. Paul's, you will want to talk with Frank Buchholz who suggested, researched and contributed this week's Did You Know? featured story.



Sources:

HistoryQuest DC; PropertyQuest DC; "Fort Drive: Reestablishing Its Significance within Washington, D.C.'s Park System" by Kathryn Kelly Finnigan; "Mr. Lincoln's Forts" by Benjamin Franklin Cooling III and Walton H. Owen II

**DID YOU KNOW** that young people have contributed immensely to the ministry of St. Paul's from its very beginning?

Sunday School, Catechetical classes, youth choir, and youth ministry groups have been an integral part of St. Paul's from 1843 to today. Young People's Christian Endeavor Society began in 1890 and evolved into the Luther League, and evolved again into today's dynamic youth group comprised of the young people of



several DC metro churches. This Sunday is Youth Sunday, a long time tradition at St. Paul's, and in the spirit of "Priesthood of All Believers", the young people will lead the worship. It is always a special Sunday at St. Paul's.

Reverend Samuel Domer, pastor of St. Paul's from 1874 - 1900, wrote for the 50th Anniversary celebration:

*"We have a glorious membership of young people who, by the blessing of God, will presently be the forceful power in carrying on the work when the older ones among us shall have gone to rest."* So true for St. Paul's English Lutheran Church today and in the future.



Sources:  
Confirmation Class of 1907 photograph, The Uplook, 65th Anniversary issue, May 1908  
History of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1843 - 1893, Reverend Samuel Domer, Pastor

~~~~~  
Interested in Joining St. Paul's?

A New Member Orientation Session

We invite all those visitors and friends who would like to know more about becoming a member of St. Paul's to meet with the Pastor Wed. March 13th, at 5:30pm. The one hour session will explore the Lutheran tradition and St. Paul's ministries - concluding in time for the simple soup and bread supper at 6:30pm.

If you are interested in joining St. Paul's or if you have any questions, please email Pastor Spangler at jspangler@stpaulslutherandc.com or call the office at 202.966.5489.

~~~~~

"Empty Soup Bowl" Luncheon  
February 24 - Volunteers Still  
Needed; All Are Welcome!!



The Empty Soup Bowl luncheon to benefit St. Paul's Food Pantry will take place on February 24, 2019 in the lower auditorium following the 11:00 am worship.

- We are in need of soups, salads and breads to be served at the luncheon. There is a sign-up sheet in the Portico.
- We are also looking for St. Paul's youth to help that day by serving the food and clearing the dishes. Again, there is a volunteer sign-up sheet located in the portico.
- The suggested donation for members joining the group for the luncheon who did not participate in the painting on February 10th is \$10.00.

If you have questions please contact Deaconess Cassie ([cbrown@stpaulslutherandc.com](mailto:cbrown@stpaulslutherandc.com))



~~~~~  
Get Ready to
ROAR-

Vacation Bible School at St. Paul's is coming! June 24th-28th, 2019
Registration is opening soon!

Questions? Contact Lisa Wackler at lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com

~~~~~



## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

March 5<sup>th</sup>

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 5th for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Dining Room and lower Fellowship Hall.

What is Shrove Tuesday, you ask? Generally speaking, it's a preparation day for Lent, but you'll have to come to the dinner to find out the whole story! We'll have pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, and plenty of Lutheran coffee to wash it all down. There will also be some surprises and fun trivia for the kids!

Suggested donation is \$5 per person. Please RSVP at <http://evite.me/C9KtW3GBJa> or let Lisa Wackler ([lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com](mailto:lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com)) know if you can attend.

**We are also looking for 4-5 adults to help with preparing the food for the dinner.** If you can help, please let Lisa know. Hope to see you there!

---

## Mid-Week Lenten Explorations

***God was made visible in Christ***, and so Jesus occupies a critical center of our faith. But who was Jesus? Mirror, model, Metaphor, mystery? Jesus has become known to us from many angles of vision: as rabbi, as king, liberator, lamb of God, prince of peace, and more. ***On Wednesday evenings this Lent, we will explore these and other angles of vision through a simple supper, a little learning time in the context of evening prayer, and the sacrament.*** Join us for seeing Jesus through the lens of words and images.

Beginning Wednesday, March 13th, we will meet in the Dining Room at St. Paul's at 6:30 pm for fellowship time and a meal, followed by Holden Evening Prayer in the Chancel at 7:30 pm. Volunteers are needed to provide part of the meal--to sign up, please go to the link below: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D44A4AB28A3FF2-soup2>



## **Prime Time Center @ St. Paul's**

The Prime Time Center gathers every Wednesday between 11:00 am - 2:00 pm for fun and fellowship. St. Paul's Center

continues to be blessed with a faithful ministry team who welcome the participants, spend time with them in conversation, and serves a wonderful hot luncheon to everyone. We welcome you to come and visit this vibrant community and participate in any program that seems interesting to you. The programming begins with an entertainment, lecture, or information session from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm followed by a delicious hot lunch from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. Immediately after lunch the group participates in an active hour of seated exercise.

### Upcoming Schedule

#### February 20, 2019

Activities-to-Go

#### February 27, 2019

Dr. Robert Jenner  
"The Gold Rush"



## Attention Married Couples!

Learn how to create more joy and intimacy in your marriage by attending a Lutheran

Marriage Encounter Weekend! The 2019 Northeast US spring Weekends are: April 5-7, 2019 at the lovely Country Inn & Suites just off of Hwy 99 in State College, PA and April 26-28, 2019 at the newly-remodeled Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster, PA. For more information, please go to their website at [www.godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org)

---

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Council members welcome your phone calls and emails.

**President, Beth Van Hanswyk**  
202-669-1652  
bvanhanswyk@yahoo.com

**Kate Belinski** – 202-244-0005  
Kate.belinski@gmail.com

**James Carstensen** – 202-802-0479  
jamescarstensen@yahoo.com

**Jane Cramer** – 301-946-2996  
Jlcramer52@gmail.com

**Laura Denardis** – 703-401-9934  
msdsmith@gmail.com

**Mark Dueholm** – 240-938-9187  
dueholmmark@hotmail.com

**Bill Heffley** – 301-942-0892  
bheffley@verizon.net

**Tina Schendt** – 301-718-7887  
Tina.schendt@gmail.com

**Nancy Shearer** – 301-770-3834  
nancykshearer@aol.com

**Mihkel Smit** -309-310-9021  
Smit.mi03@luther.edu

**Richard Wake** – 605-691-2244  
Wakes231@yahoo.com

**Pam Wannan** – 202-454-6700  
Pam@wannan.com

## MINISTRY CHAIRS

### Education Ministry

Liz Rihani – 202-667-9110  
lizrihani@gmail.com

### Evangelism Ministry

Blake & Holly Wittmann – 804.852.6824  
Blake - blakewittmann@aol.com  
Holly - hpokress@yahoo.com

### Social Ministry

Emily Foley – 717-756-9896  
emilywfoley@gmail.com

### Stewardship Ministry

Mike Charlton – 202-415-4347  
charlton46@aol.com

### Support Ministry/Personnel

Joan Janshego – 202-966-4721  
joanjanshego@verizon.net

### Support Ministry/Property

Vacant

### Worship Ministry

Carol Beebe – 301-571-5303  
Carol.bb@verizon.net



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  
at [joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com](mailto:joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com)



Follow us on Twitter: [twitter @StPaulsLuthDC](https://twitter.com/StPaulsLuthDC)



Like us on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsELCADC>