



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE TRUMPET
December 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

Volunteers from St. Paul's have just returned from Lumberton, NC where we were involved in mucking or gutting a house that was severely damaged by Hurricane Matthew a few months ago. If you have never been involved in mucking a house, I will tell you it is not a pleasant experience. The job involves removing dry wall, flooring, ceilings; anything that came in contact with the flood waters. You wear a mask so you don't breathe in the mold in the air, and to reduce the horrible smell that is all around you. The task is to strip everything away so that only the bare wooden studs of the house remain. The wood is then treated with chemicals to remove the infestation of mold, and this needs to be done sooner rather than later so that the house can be saved.

Advent is a lot like mucking a house. It is stripping away that which has been infected by the flood waters of sin. It is removing everything in our lives that might cause others to gag as a result of the not too pleasant odor emanating from our wrong doings and selfish desires. It is ridding our hearts and lives of the sin damaged stuff that gets in the way of a right relationship with God and with others. Mucking our hearts and lives is done to rightfully prepare for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Advent is only four weeks long so we should get going. As with the mucking of a house, time is of the essence.

For many of us this will not be a pleasant experience because it will involve getting rid of time honored grudges, resentments, and hatreds. It will mean discarding those things in life that we know are not good for us; that eat away like a slow growing mold, but tough to do, because they give us so much "enjoyment." It might mean throwing out some of those treasured mementos that keep us glued to the past, so that the Spirit might do for us something that is new and exciting.

So, are we ready to get to work this Advent? Jesus is coming! Does he expect a completely mucked out life? No. Do we engage in this spiritual mucking in order for Jesus to save our "house"? No. Jesus has already taken all of the debris of our lives upon himself the first time he came to earth and into our lives. Now, in gratitude, we await his second coming to us. Time to put on the masks, get the crowbars, and get to work ... Jesus is coming!

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
Donald Althouse
Chuck Maata
Johanne Jackson
Grace Yin
Ron & Nancy Rademacher
Barb Pitts
Ginger Lirardi
Miriam Burt
Carol Pihlstrom
Ann Bauer
Caelan Doherty
Hal McNitt

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



**Weekly Bible Study:
Wednesdays @ 7 pm**

Studying the scriptures is an excellent way to learn more about what the risen Christ is up to in the world and in our lives. St. Paul's weekly Bible study group meets every Wednesday at 7 pm in room 207 (See following page for special Advent Dinner and Bible Study). Come and join us! If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Tom or Vicar Chris (tomholt@stpaulslutherandc.com or cschaefer@stpaulslutherandc.com)

What's Happening....

Advent and Christmas at St. Paul's



Sunday, Dec. 11: Third Sunday of Advent
Come and worship as we light the third candle on our advent wreath at the 8:30 am and 11 am worship services. New members will be received at the 11 o'clock worship service.

Sunday, Dec. 18: Fourth Sunday of Advent
We will gather for worship at one service at 11 am for our traditional **Service of Lessons and Carols**. This beautiful service is a wonderful way to prepare for the coming of Christ our Lord as we recount the foretelling of the prophets and the story of Christ's birth. The conclusion of the service will feature the Sunday School Christmas Pageant.

Saturday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
4 pm Worship with a special focus on children and families.
8 pm Festival Candlelight Service. Both services with Holy Communion. Special Music Prelude at 7:40 pm

Sunday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day
We will gather for worship at one service at 11 am.



Adult Sunday School: The life of Martin Luther

Please join the "**Coffee and Conversation**" group as they continue the journey with Martin Luther that ends at the church doors at Wittenberg and the beginning of the Reformation.

Reformation 500: A Journey to Wittenberg will explore the events leading up to the Reformation as we get ready to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in October 2017. We'll take a look at Luther's life, the world as it was in the early 16th century, the power of the Catholic church, and the aftermath of Luther's revolutionary theories.

We hope you'll join us! The class will meet in the lower Fellowship Hall during Sunday School, 10:00-10:45 am.



Advent Dinner & Bible Study

Wednesday, December 14th
Dinner: 6:15 pm Bible Study: 7 pm

Please join us **Wednesday, December 14th**, for **another Special Advent Edition of Bible Study**.

- **Last Wednesday we explored Angels: God's Messengers.** What are angels? What do they look like? What do they do?
- On December 14th, we will discuss **Joseph, Guardian of Jesus**. Who was Joseph, and what was his role in the life of Jesus? What can we learn from Joseph?

Please Join us!

Reminder from Stewardship Chair

Reformation



Give Boldly

BOLDY PROMOTE & SUPPORT WHAT YOU LOVE

The holiday season is a special time of the year where we take pause from life's routines to celebrate with friends and family. It is also a time where we continue to recognize our many blessings through the power of God's Grace.

I can't remember a time in my life when I have more eagerly welcomed a pause and a break from the fear, anger, confusion, anxiety, pain and divisiveness that burdens so many hearts in our world.

As Christians - we are told - **FEAR NOT**. The bible reminds us God is our refuge and strength in times of trouble. In other words no matter what burdens weigh on our hearts or minds - we should be bold because God's got our backs.

Because of God's ultimate love for us we are freed in Christ to love, give and serve - to be stewards of God's creation, his love, his good news and his church and its' ministries.

And isn't it amazing the amount of good news St. Paul's Lutheran Church provides to so many people in this world.

As a community of faithful stewards at St. Paul's we are working to break apart the fear, anger, confusion, anxiety, pain and divisiveness that engulf our world and replace it with hope, caring, faith, compassion and open arms saying to all in the world - come as you are - whoever you are - because you are welcome - you are accepted - you are loved here.

We join together at St. Paul's to do our part to make this world a better place full of God's Grace, gifts and love.

During this year's annual stewardship drive I noted how powerful it would be if we were able to unburden our hearts of all our fears, pain, anger, confusion, anxiety, and divisiveness by redirecting all those burdens into a renewed commitment to the care of God's Church.

By redirecting those feelings into an additional dedication of stewardship of time, talents and treasure towards St. Paul's and our ministries we would increase our outreach - touching and enriching a greater number of others who will be able to witness the presence of the God who lives in us and in them.

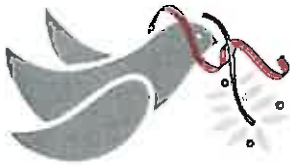
By doing so we would expand our ministries of evangelism, education, music, fellowship and worship that all tell the good news of a God who will hold us up during our greatest trials. And, we would grow the reach of our social ministries that already feed thousands of our neighbors in need through the food pantry - provide loving care to seniors in our community - help our friends get back on their feet and rebuild their lives through the men's shelter - and continue the mission and relief trips that bring hope to parts of our country and world for people who are rebuilding from disasters.

If you have not yet completed and turned in your time and talent survey and financial commitment card - it is not too late!

Please prayerfully contemplate and complete the time and talent survey and financial commitment card and return it to the church before the end of the year to give our church leaders the information they need to plan for 2017.

God is doing amazing and bold things in our world and in our church and God is doing these amazing things through each of you as you continue along in your own individual journeys of stewardship.

James Carstensen, Stewardship Chair



Gifts of Hope Continues Sunday!

Gifts of Hope is our Synod's alternative gift giving program which enables people to give gifts that reflect the gift God gave us, God's Son Jesus Christ. Please consider substituting a Gift of Hope for a more traditional gift on your list for friends and family.

You will have the opportunity to choose from a group of Lutheran social ministry organizations, camps, and our synod's companion synods abroad to directly support their mission and programs. Many children in the Washington area and throughout the world have benefited from Gifts of Hope by receiving books, camp scholarships, free lunches, educational trips. Social ministry organizations, Lutheran camps, and Lutheran Churches in El Salvador, Namibia and Slovakia have also benefited from Gifts of Hope.

You can make a monetary contribution in honor of those on your gift list. Your contribution goes to the beneficiary organization to purchase the gifts you have selected. View all the participating organizations on the back of the catalog or on the web at www.GiftsofHopeMetroDC.org.

Gifts of Hope catalogs are available in our congregation. Watch for the display after each service beginning November 27 and ending December 18 in St. Paul's narthex. You can review the gifts, fill out an order form, and purchase your gifts. You will receive a beautiful card and insert to use as the gift. For more information about Gifts of Hope see the web site, www.GiftsofHopeMetroDC or contact Rebecca Highsmith at 202.309.2812 or highsmithr@starpower.net.

Request for Gifts for our Men's Shelter



Help make the holidays merry and bright for the men of our Homeless Shelter. If you're interested in purchasing a Christmas gift for one of our Shelter residents, please call Lisa Wackler at the church office or email her at lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com. She will let you know when the gift requests from the men are ready!



Ending homelessness
Rebuilding lives

Update on Friendship Place's Neighbors First Program

Neighbors First currently serves 241 children ranging in age from newborn to 18 years old. All of the children in the program are living in apartments with their parent(s), and are assigned to the program due to their history of homelessness, low income status, and other challenges such as mental and physical health disabilities or addiction. The children's families receive some benefits, but they are limited, which makes the holidays difficult. **Neighbors First assists families by helping them provide small gifts for their children and St. Paul's has committed to collect gifts.**

At this time all gifts have been spoken for but please remember:

- The gift should NOT be wrapped.
- **The deadline for returning the gifts to the church is Sunday, December 18th.** Friendship Place will pick up the gifts that afternoon. Please put gifts in the basket marked "Neighbors First."

If you run into any problems with the purchase of your gift, please let Lisa know as soon as possible (lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com or call the church at 202-966-5489), so she can notify Friendship Place's program contact.

Thank you so much for sharing God's love this Advent Season!

**Reminder:
Nursery Care Available on
Sunday Mornings**



Just a friendly reminder to parents with young children that St. Paul's does offer nursery care during the 11:00 am worship service. The nursery is located in room 111 on the first floor of the educational building.



**New Member Sunday,
December 11th**

New members will be received into St. Paul's Church the Third Sunday of Advent, December 11th during the 11 am worship service.



**St. Paul's Nursery
School has 2
immediate openings!**

It is a part time morning program, Monday through Friday, 9 am-12. It is a caring and loving environment for young children, and is a great introduction to school. Please check out the website below or call the Director of the school, Katie Johnson at 202 966-0214 for more information
<http://www.stpaulsnurseryschool-dc.org>.



**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 see 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 exercise** that is led by an excellent instructor who has become an important part of the PTC community.

December 14

11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Wilson High School Concert Choir -
Christmas Program

December 21

11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Activities-to-Go

December 28

11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Dr. Robert Jenner
"Origins of Christmas"

Stop by and join in the fellowship! Contact Deaconess Cassie with any questions.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Help beautify St. Paul's Chancel and Altar this Christmas Season.

Plants are \$14.50 each .

To order, please complete the form below and return it to Joy Belew in the Church office (joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com).

Please order _____ poinsettias at \$14.50 each.

Name: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

() will pick up after later service.

() will leave for shut-ins.

Attached please find the amount

of _____

Env. # _____

Attention High School Seniors!

Thinking about applying to Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio? The university has extended its application deadline to **January 15th, 2017**, so there's still time to apply with time to be considered for the Martin Luther Scholar Award. The Martin Luther Scholar Award is an \$80,000 scholarship (\$20,000 per year for 4 years).

To be eligible for this award, students must have membership in the Lutheran Church, have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, and be nominated by a pastor or other congregational leader. But to do that we need to know if you're interested in attending...because the deadline for nominating a student is **December 15, 2016**.

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

Living Lutheran" Magazine

Please help defray the cost of the Living Lutheran Magazine that is provided to each household monthly. The cost is \$8.95 annually. Just mark your contribution for Living Lutheran Magazine.

Reminder!

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



Church Council

Council members welcome your calls at their home phone numbers.

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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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