

The Epistle

St Paul Lutheran Church
Volume 17 Issue 12 December 2018



"You shall not make wrongful use of the Name of the Lord, your God." What does this mean? We are to fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, practice magic, lie, or deceive using God's name, but instead we are to call upon God in every time of need, pray to him, praise him, and give him thanks." (Martin Luther, The Second Commandment, The Small Catechism.)

At the (calendar) start of the year, I began writing a series of articles on Prayer. I began by encouraging you not to regard Prayer as fruitless or empty. Indeed, one of the unique things a Christian can do in response to human need or tragedy is to **PRAY**. There are numerous charities that can provide for the bodily needs and comfort, but only the Church can pray for those who are in need. But even beyond this special Christian privilege, prayer is commanded of us. In the Second Commandment, we are commanded to not make "wrongful use of the Name of the Lord, your God," which begs the question, "How then might we make RIGHT use of God's Holy Name?" We are not forbidden from using God's Name at all, as if it were some sort of forbidden word, but instead we are forbidden from using that Name *wrongly*. How do we use that Name rightly? Luther (along with the whole of the Church) reminds us that we use God's Name properly when we "**Call upon God's Name in every time of need**," "**Pray** (using God's Name)," "**Praise God**," and "**Give Thanks to God**."

Often we hear the word "command," in a negative light. We see it as an imposition, a limit to our freedom, an obligation that we didn't ask for. We might be tempted to approach Prayer sulkily and unwillingly. But it is important to remember the context in which the Commandments were given to God's people. God had just delivered his people from bondage and slavery to the Egyptians and gives the Commandments to the Israelites as how they now will live as his people. The Commandments are the sign of the People's fidelity. And how will God's people live out their faithfulness? They will have no other gods (the First Commandment) and they will Pray to God (the Second Commandment). And why does Prayer rank just below the great sin of Idolatry but before all the other Commandments? Going out on a limb, I would say it's because God **WANTS** us to know him and likewise God **WANTS** to know us.

Think about that for just a moment. God is not content to sit "in his heaven and all's right with the world." Our God—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—is not "unknowable," unapproachable, and immovable. Our God, who bids us to Pray as a mark of our Faithfulness, **WANTS** us to know him. He tells Moses his own Name. God the Son takes on human flesh and dwells among us. All of Christian Scripture discloses God's Truth, Wisdom, and Will. God's Commandment to Pray then fits into this context. Prayer becomes yet another avenue for God to know us, and we to know God. When we pray, we open ourselves to God and, much to our surprise and delight find that God has opened himself to us!

Our discussion of Prayer, then, brings us full circle. We began with establishing the need for Prayer and the efficacy of Prayer. We moved into a discussion of some techniques and methods of Prayer. But we can NEVER approach Prayer just as a matter of mechanics. There is no

"simple method" I can impart to you; there is no simple formula, or incantation that I can teach you by which we are to pray. (Such an incantation would run afoul of the Second Commandment's prohibition of "practicing magic" using God's Name...) Even "The Lord's Prayer" should not be used in such a fashion! Treating Prayer as a "method" or as a mechanical process defeats the purpose of Prayer, because the goal of Prayer is not the "method" but relationship with God.

The fact that God "Commands" Prayer of us does not "limit our freedom," but rather frees us from any fear that we might not be "doing it right." Perfection of "how" we Pray is not the goal, but rather our simple desire to know God and to be known by God. God delights in knowing us and that should lead us to delight in knowing God. Far from being a deity that "sits on high," unapproachable and immovable, our God delights in us calling upon his name in every time of need and in prayer. God rejoices in our Prayer and when we keep the Commandment. Far from being an unwanted and unwelcome imposition, Prayer then is to enter God's joy.

Pax Christi;

Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS



Advent Vespers, Wednesdays, 7 pm

Wednesday, December 5th — Debby Borrelli assisting

Wednesday, December 12th — Sylvia McEwuen assisting

Wednesday, December 19th — Mary Haas assisting

Choir practice following the service

Printed devotional resources for Advent are available
at the church

Christmas Eve

COMMUNION SERVICE 6:00 PM

COMMUNION SERVICE 11:00 PM



Christmas Eve



2018 Walk to End Alzheimer's Morgantown, WV

Take the first step to a world without Alzheimer's.

St. Paul 2018 donations = \$1745



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for **Sunday, January 27th**, immediately following worship.

ANNUAL MEETING

Snow date is February 3rd.

Committee chairs: please submit your reports to the office by January 6th





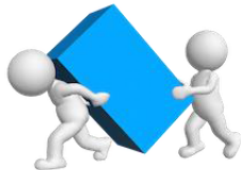
Women of the ELCA – St. Paul Unit

FRIDAY Dec. 14, 2018

NOON IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

All women of the church (and friends!!) are welcome!!!!

The **Women of the ELCA – St. Paul Unit** join with the  **Piecemakers**  during their lunch break for the months of November through April. Meetings in May through October will be held at 7 pm in the Church Lounge. Keep watching your bulletins and newsletters!



Yes, the WELCA meetings are returning to the second Friday at NOON, meeting with the Piecemakers!! Please Join US!!

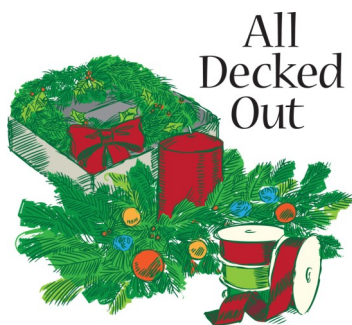


Dec. 2018 Lesson: Fear Not: God is at work beyond our ability to imagine.

Fear appears in nearly every book of the Bible. According to some translations, the phrase “fear not” occurs 365 times – once for every day of the year. Even the best news of all – Jesus’ resurrection – is received at first with fear. It should come as no surprise that Jesus’ story begins in the same way!

Saint Lucia Fund

At St. Paul, we have established a discretionary fund named the Santa Lucia fund that is used to provide assistance to people in need of help with utility bills, gasoline, etc. A special collection will be taken during the December 9th worship service.



“HANGING OF THE GREENS”

December 9th — Following worship

Come and join the fun and fellowship as we decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.

Soup and bread will be served.

Bake some cookies!

The Fellowship Committee is working to make our Advent time together more enjoyable by providing refreshments after church. Please help us by providing 2 dozen cookies on a Sunday.

There is a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex.



Make plans to stay after worship on **December 16th** for the children's Christmas program, "The Friendly Beasts."



News from Council

Council met Thursday, November 15th. Here is a summary of recent Council and Church activities and actions:

- Council discussed the recent annual Planning/Budget meeting. The Congregation was informed that our 2018 offering would be about \$15,000 less than the year before. This, in large part, is because we lost, thru death or moving out of the area, 11 families from the Congregation. To compensate for this, the 2019 budget will have frozen salaries and we will give less to our Synod and the WVU Lutheran Student Center.
- Our Treasurer, Debby Borrelli, reported that our offerings for 2018 are at present more than \$26,000 less than our actual expenses.
- The Property Committee announced that the new Sexton is in place and seems to be working out well. Pastor mentioned that the chairlift going up to the Choir loft is not working and that it will be a couple of weeks before we can get someone to repair it.
- We have received a thank you note from Lutheran World Relief for our recent gifts of quilts (made by our Piecemakers) and kits. Council would like to thank the Piecemakers and all of you who helped to put the kits together.
- We will start in January to charge for daily parking in the Church lot, and Council discussed activities needed to do that. This does not apply to Congregational members parking for Church-related activities.
- Our Congregation's annual Audit was accepted by Council, with thanks to members of the Audit Committee. There were no great issues from the Audit, but the Committee made suggestions for possible changes in the future. Council discussed these and will do so again in future meetings.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after the Sunday Service on January 27, 2018. If any of you have issues you'd like to bring to that meeting, please see any Council member by early January.

Poinsettias can be ordered by calling the church office at 304-599-0620 or by emailing office@stpaulmorgantown.org. Cost is \$7.00 each. You may place payment in the offering plate. Please mark your check or your envelope "Poinsettias", and note the dedication.

Please order by December 16th.





Finances:

During and after the November 11th Spending Plan Meeting, there were discussions about the 2018 shortfall of income over expenses. As of Oct. 31st, expenses have out-paced offerings by over \$26,000 for the year to date.

Comparing the giving for 2017 and 2018, there are 11 fewer giving units (individuals or families) in 2018. The reduction in the number of giving units is due to deaths, moves to other towns and moves to other churches. These 11 giving units accounted for about \$23,200 in offerings in 2017.

PLEASE prayer-fully consider if you have matured in your giving to the church. Are you giving out of what remains after everything else is paid? Do you only make an offering on the Sundays when you are in church? How faithful is your attendance? Can you make your offering a “first fruit”, not a “leftover”?

Part of maturing is being responsible. Are you a mature, responsible member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Morgantown?

Sunday School

December 9th

9 AM—*Elementary and Middle School will be rehearsing for the Christmas program*

We have classes for elementary through 12th grade on the “Second Sunday” of the month. Mark your calendars!

January 13th; February 10th; March 10th

High School in the downstairs youth room, taught by Aaron Metzger

Middle School in the middle upstairs room, taught by Mary Boroff

Elementary School in the Fellowship Hall, taught by Tamara Riegel

Adult class in the lounge

Discussion group for all ages in the library, 9:15 and 11:20





From the Piece Makers

December begins the church year. Our goal for the year 2019 is making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and our hope is to exceed the number made and sent in 2018. We have completed the 25 lap robes for the nursing home where Helen Goryance is presently receiving care. When Helen came to Morgantown and St. Paul she indicated that she would like to join the quilters. Her request began the establishment of the Piece Makers. Over the years many ladies joined in this effort. Some of the ladies did not know how to sew when they began attending while others perfected their quilting skills. The success of our recent fund raiser was witness to this fact! We especially acknowledge the extra efforts of Sherry Fox, Linda Ross, and Diann Craig for making pillows and tables runners at home to add to the quilts, lap robes. and wall hangings our group constructed. We are sure that people will enjoy these items if you give them as gifts or keep them for your own uses.

We thank Francis and Julia for their donations of fabric and sheets this past month, and Al Stiller for making us a delicious soup for lunch.

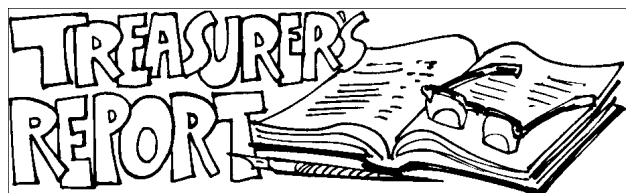
Because of the unpredictable weather and road conditions in the winter we will have WELCA joining us at noon on the second Fridays during the winter, unless the schools are cancelled that day.

Come and join us in our work. If you do not sew perhaps you might consider coming and ironing pieces, tops and backs. Ironed pieces are much easier to work with and greatly help the appearance of quilts. No need to feel you need to commit for every week as we know that for many that is not possible. All efforts are appreciated between 10 and 2 on Fridays.



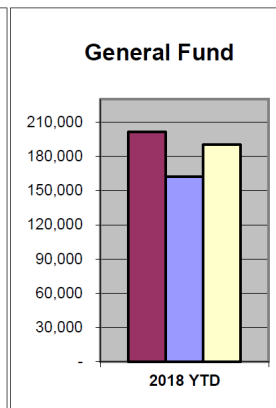
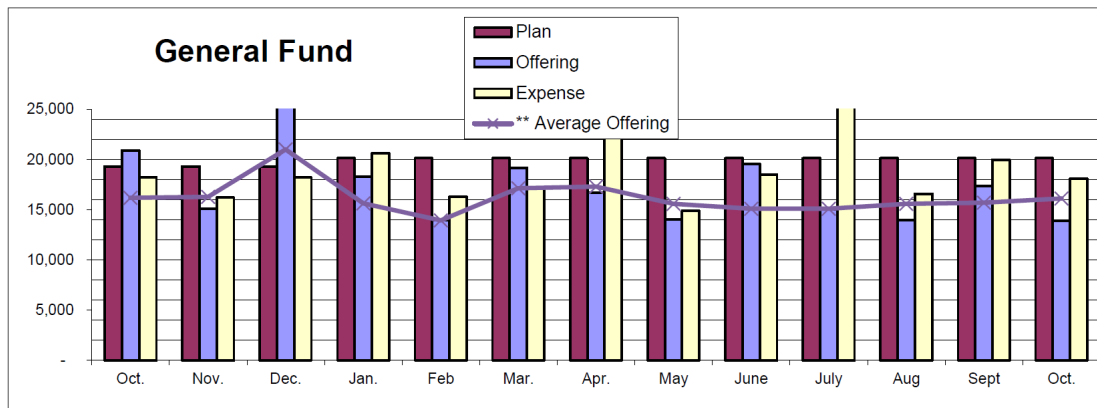
The new **FLOWER CHART** for 2019 is posted.

Please choose a Sunday when you would like to place flowers on the altar. We will order the flowers for you, and you will be sent a bill from the florist. Please let the office know if you would like a particular type or color of flower. This is a wonderful way to remember someone special, celebrate a special occasion, or just to the Glory of God. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

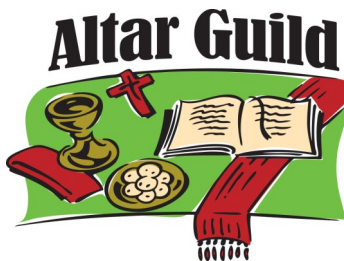


October 2018

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct.
General	22,403	24,899	33,896	30,959	34,597	34,856	31,135	20,807	19,597	3,757	7,131	7,212	1,237
Plan	19,318	19,318	19,318	20,120	20,120	20,120	20,120	20,120	20,120	20,120	20,120	20,120	20,120
Offering	20,863	15,095	27,226	18,317	13,941	19,146	16,704	14,055	19,545	15,029	13,920	17,339	13,893
Expense	18,236	16,192	18,200	20,608	16,282	17,104	22,736	14,870	18,506	25,286	16,581	19,948	18,077
Restricted	39,826	46,839	44,402	44,515	47,734	47,450	51,101	46,771	41,891	38,852	39,579	29,680	35,187
Bank Balance	62,229	71,738	78,298	75,474	82,331	82,306	82,236	67,578	61,488	42,609	46,710	36,892	36,424
Average attendance	71	84	70	76	78	82	88	76	70	65	68	67	74
# of Services	5	4	5	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	5	4



Average Sunday Offering (13 months)	4,020	Average Sunday Offering (13 months)	4,020	
Projected Sunday Offering (13 months)	4,628	Average Weekly Expense (13 months)	4,333	
	-608		-313	General Fund Balance 1,237
Offering in excess of Expense (13 months)	-17,502	** Average Offering 2004 - 2018	3,867	Thrivent Investment \$200,726
Offering in excess of Expense Month	-4,184			Certificate of Deposit \$16,825 (Matures 5/8/2019)
Offering in excess of Expense YTD	26,053			



Date	Set up	Clean up
December 2	Jeanne	Tiffany
December 9	Tamara	Gretchen
December 16	MaryLee	Mary
December 23 10:00 am	Jeanne	Tiffany
December 24 6:00 pm	Tamara	Mary
December 24 11:00 pm	Mary	Mary
December 30	Jeanne	Mary



We continue to collect food for Christmas baskets.

Our goal is to provide complete holiday meals for **35** or more families through the Rock Forge Food Pantry. Rock Forge appreciates your continued support of this outreach to families in our community. Your help will make a family's holiday season much brighter!!! **We will collect food through Dec 16th** to stock the general pantry and fill baskets for Christmas. How can you help?

Donate **food**:

Here are the items we need for each basket:

Item:	Amount:	We Have	We Need
Potatoes	2 boxes of instant	8	62
Dressing	2 boxes or 1 large bag	70	0
Dinner Rolls	1 dozen	0	35
Noodles	1 large bag	0	35
Green beans	2 cans	36	34
Carrots	2 cans	0	70
Corn	2 cans	24	46
Applesauce	1 small jar	0	35
Gravy	1 or 2 jars	0	35
Cranberry Sauce	1 small can	0	35
Dessert (cake mix and frosting, or cookie mix)		4	31
Box of candy canes	1	0	35
Hot cocoa mix	1	0	35
Peanut butter	1 jar	0	35
Jelly	1 jar	0	35
Rice side dish packets	1	0	35

Extra items that any family would appreciate are boxed mac and cheese, extra canned vegetables, and any ready-to-eat foods.

Donate **time:** The baskets will be assembled on **Sunday, December 16th** and delivered on Monday. We would love a donation of your time to help with assembly or delivery.

Donate **money:** If you would like to donate money, please note "Food Baskets" on your check or offering envelope and place it in the offering basket.

Questions? Contact the church office (office@stpaulmorgantown.org), or [304-599-0620](tel:304-599-0620)) or Dave Stiles (dave.stiles@gmail.com)

“Second Sunday” Sunday School – Summary of November 11, 2018 Session

We say it every Sunday but what does it really
mean?

Discussion Group Notes – Topic – “Of God”



When we say the mission statement, we say “We are children of God”.

1. What does it mean to you to be “of God”?

Belonging, cared for, never alone, never forsaken, gave self to God, difference between “with” and “of” God. Part of God; can we replace the word God with family? God’s children, possession—care for or have vested interest. Faith is an action.

2. What are some qualities of God that should be reassuring to us as children?

Constant love, unconditional, forgiving, always present, never ending. Consistent vs. constant

3. Are there any qualities or conditions of being “of God” that are troubling to you?

Reminded of our humanness when we don’t do what we feel we should for others. May not always be comfortable with what others may do in the name “of God”. Not always easy to carry the name “Christian.”

4. What does God expect from us in our relationships with each other as His children?

Make best attempt to emulate those qualities noted above. Love your neighbor, the 10 commandments, forgiveness, the fruits of the Spirit. God doesn’t expect us to do as much as God expects us to “be” of love. We want to please the parent. “Be” results in action. Being leads to action, not just to check off the “works”.

5. How can we help others experience the relationship “of God”?

Example of a co-worker who showed consistent kindness, took time and reached out to a new employee. Demonstrated God’s love to this person. Chaplain in conditions of war does this by helping people understand the conditions they are in. If we behave in the manner of #1 above, with consistency, this shapes our behavior. We are a conduit. We receive from God and we can let it overflow or convey to others.

Next discussion group – Sunday December 9, 2018 - ALL ages welcome!

9:15am and 11:20 am. Topic: the words “Called and Sent”



The church office will be closed December 25—January 1.
Pastor Jerry is always available via his cell phone, 304-926-4752.



Serving in December

SERVING ST PAUL December 2018	LAY ASSIS- TANT	LECTOR	ACOLYTES	USHERS	NURSERY	COUNTERS
2nd 10:00 AM	S. Woodruff	E. Melby	V. Sandolini B. Martin	C. & E. Melby	Metzger	S. Price S. Gabbert
9th 10:00 AM	D. Borrelli	T. Potter	K. Smith R. Shockley	P. Smith K. Powell	A. Peters	D. Stiles B. Shockley
16th 10:00 AM	M. Sampson	G. Grosso	R. Sampson A. Peters	F. & T. Potter	Ohlinger	C. Toffle E. Stiles
23rd 10:00 AM	S. McEwuen	S. Price	G. Riegel S. Gabbert	W. Graham L. Springer	Gillen	S. Kirkpatrick J. Sandolini
24th 6:00 PM Christmas Eve	M. Haas	S. Kirkpatrick	H. & C. Gillen S. Gabbert V. Sandolini	L. Springer S. & D. Lynch	*****	S. Gabbert L. Springer
24th 11:00 PM Christmas Eve	S. Woodruff	E. Stiles	J. & M. Kliner	W. Graham	*****	W. Graham J. Bouquot E. Stiles
30th 10:00 AM	E. Stiles	A. Metzger	V. Sandolini B. Martin	S. McEwuen K. Powell	Naumann	K. Powell A. Metzger



The Prayer List for St. Paul

In The Small Catechism, Martin Luther writes: *The Second Commandment: You are not to misuse the name of your God. What is this? Answer: We are to fear and love God, so that we do not curse, swear, practice magic, lie, or deceive using God's name, but instead use that very name in every time of need to call on, pray to, praise, and give thanks to God.* Following this command to call on God's name in every situation, we list here intercessions to be lifted up in the midst of our congregation's worship.

Person for whom we intercede:

Linda Kleeb
 Barbara Ambrose
 Greg Baniak
 Michael Frownfelter
 Steve Game
 Chris Lotspeich
 Jason Campbell
 Sandra Moherman
 Brent Berardi
 Sandra Perrine
 Rennay Worden
 Katie Nerenz
 Laura Cummingham
 Amy Cartwright
 Madeline Trickett
 Jan Baniak
 Gianna Torres
 Stephanie Torres
 Allan Daugherty
 Cora Yoder
 Robert Meyer
 Robin Scott
 Barbara VanMeter
 Dax Brecht
 Roger Toffle
 Dorothy Mattox

Justin Kirkpatrick
 Brian Fox
 Grant Speer

Wilma Chisler
 Victoria Sickles
 Lee Paulson
 Clara Hunt
 Kay Vandenbosche
 Jim Tucker
 Jeannine Daley
 Helen Goryance

For what we are praying:

Cancer
 Cancer
 Cancer
 Illness
 Cancer
 Illness
 Cancer
 Falls
 Illness
 Serious injury
 Illness
 Illness
 Illness
 Surgery
 Cancer
 Illness
 Illness
 Illness
 Heart transplant
 Awaiting test results
 Illness
 Open heart surgery
 Cancer
 Personal difficulties
 Recovery from surgery
 Illness

Stationed in VA
 Stationed in VA
 Deployed in Kuwait



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																				
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16 10:00 AM Worship service 11:30 AM Children's Program Pack Christmas baskets	17	18 10:00 AM Bible Study	19 7:00 PM Advent Vespers 7:45 PM Choir	20 7:00 PM Council	21 10:00 AM Piecemakers	22																																																																																				
23 10:00 AM Worship service 3:30 PM Circle of Friends	24 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25	26	27	28 10:00 AM Piecemakers	29																																																																																				
30 10:00 AM Worship service	31 8:00 AM Lutheran Men in Mission (Eat'n Park)																																																																																									



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
CHURCH

309 Baldwin St
Morgantown WV 26505



The **Epistle** is a publication from:
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The Rev. Gerald R. Kliner, Jr., pastor
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Telephone: (304) 599-0620
Pastor's Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 9 am—1
pm; Saturday 10 am—noon

Officers Of The Congregation

President: Steve Gabbert
Vice President: Aaron Metzger
Secretary: Jerry Bouquot
Treasurer: Debby Borrelli
Financial Secretary: Jeanne Lemasters

Council Members

Gretchen Endres	Mary Ferer	Ethan Stiles
Nancy Atwell	Brian Shockley	Jerry Bouquot
Julie Sandolfini	Steve Gabbert	Aaron Metzger