

President's Note for January 2019

Happy New Year! My, 2018 seemed to set a new record for time passing quickly. This past year, like all years I suppose, has been filled with blessings and heartache. We've seen the tragedy and ravages of fire to our north and south, seen famine, oppression and war in parts of the world and here at St. Paul's we lost our good friend and brother in Christ Tom Keim. But, we've been blessed too and know that our Lord can bring blessings from apparent misfortune. We've seen people of good will step up to assist those in need, as with our own Lutheran Disaster Response and Lutheran Social Services. While division remains, we've seen local, national and world leaders make efforts to bring peace, feed the hungry and help make the world a better place for future generations.

Our sanctuary was beautiful as always for Advent and of course Christmas. Our Christmas Eve service with the candlelight and special music was filled with a spirit of awe, anticipation and joy. Our joint service with our friends, neighbors and brothers and sisters in Christ from Grace Presbyterian, with a packed sanctuary, special music and a great homily from Pastor Brad Carpenter, exuded goodwill, unity, thankfulness and joy. As our organist and friend Jerry told me, echoing the words of a well known hymn, "My Lord what a morning!" We'll work towards having other joint services in the future. We're blessed to have Grace Church on our campus and pleased we reached a five year agreement with them early in 2018. With God's help we'll have, this time echoing scripture and Pastor Brad's homily, more "astonishing" mornings.

For those who couldn't make it we missed you, but had a splendid New Year's Eve celebration in the Fireside Room with delicious food, singing and great company. It was a festive way to end the year and look to the new. Thanks to all who made this evening possible.

I'm confident by now you've seen some of the tall feather signs by the church entry on 59th Street. We have a couple more of those signs that we'll be utilizing

both on 59th Street and on Broadway. We're working on other signage as well to let our neighbors know we're still here and make them aware of what's happening at St. Paul's as we invite them to join us. Thanks to Sandy Wolpert for making the much talked about signs a reality. With Punky Dias stepping in to assume the Financial Secretary role, Lori Long has graciously accepted coming onboard as Recording Secretary. Thanks Lori, Punky and all council members. Your service to our Lord and St. Paul's is much appreciated. We'll have more review, updates and an opportunity for input and voting at our annual congregational meeting which will take place after worship on Sunday January 27th. As always if you have questions or concerns speak to one of our council members or pop in to one of our meetings which take place in the Reformation Room on the second Sunday of each month following worship and coffee.

As we enter 2019 we look back and give thanks for our church, community and ability to gather in the Lord's house on the Lord's day. We give thanks to God. We look forward to sharing the good news and the blessings we receive together as a community of faith. Let's continue to move forward with faith, hope and love as we strive to make ourselves and the compassion of our Lord known to those in need in Tahoe Park and beyond.

"In a word, there are three things that last for ever: faith, hope and love; but the greatest of them all is love." St. Paul 1Cor. 13:13 The New English Bible

Peace and blessings,

Chuck Prewett

Council President