

## *President's Note for January 2020*

Happy New Year! My oh my how did it get to be 2020? Weren't we just concerned about the Y2K tech crash a couple of years ago? We seem to have survived that scare of now twenty years past. 2019 passed very quickly, at least for me. I've just returned home from our little New Year's Eve soiree here at St. Paul's. As always it was great to gather with friends and fellow believers to celebrate the end of 2019 and the coming of 2020 and still be home by seven thirty! Oh yes, we are a wild group. As we enter the 2020's perhaps St. Paul's members fall in line with the lyrics to that old 1920's Fats Waller tune 'Ain't Misbehavin''. By nature I think we Lutherans tend to gravitate towards the conservative end of the revelry spectrum, if there is such a scale. Thanks to all who came and made the evening special. We missed those of you unable to attend.

The calendar year has just begun, but as we move through the new church year, now weeks old, we've transitioned from Advent to Christmas towards Epiphany and beyond. Our sanctuary was beautiful as always over this holy season and I for one found great pleasure and comfort as the Christmas tree became more resplendent week by week and as we lit an additional candle each week in anticipation of the coming of our Lord. The culmination with the candle lit Christmas Eve service, music and readings with friends and members from the past and present with us both physically and in spirit brought together great memories tinged with an aura of love and hope. I found it particularly appropriate and fitting that our very active Pastor Emeritus James Townsend presented a Christmas Eve sermon that he introduced fifty years ago at the beginning of his ministry. The Christmas message and message of Pastor Townsend on that message transcend time, "hope springs eternal...". (Alexander Pope)

So, what's ahead for 2020? Mark your calendars for Sunday January 26th as we will hold our annual congregational meeting that day after worship. Bring your questions, concerns, ideas and appetite as we typically have a light lunch that day. On Friday February 14th we will hold a memorial service for our departed sister in Christ LaVonne Strutz. As many of you know LaVonne and her husband Joe were an integral part of our worship community for many years. LaVonne headed our children's Sunday School program for decades. She was an institution, a treasure and a good friend. We thank her for her dedicated service to our Lord and we miss her. Thanks to those who have made a contribution to the church Memorial Fund in LaVonne's name.

I'm sure some of you, like me, have been greeted already with various notices concerning the approaching tax season. If you need a statement from the church detailing your monetary contributions for 2019 please speak with our Financial Secretary Punky Dias. If you'd prefer, you may leave a message with our church office or with me. We thank each of you so much for your giving in terms of, as the old but still true saying goes, time, talent and treasure. Truly, our small, but growing, community would not exist without you. Thanks be to God for you and that we do exist to serve Him and His people.

We continue to pray for those who struggle with their health, safety and faith. We have a good number of friends and family on our printed prayer list and numerous others we hold in our hearts. We pray for them, for those we know personally and for those unknown to us not on our list who are in need.

On the ride home from church this New Year's Eve I was scanning through various radio stations, not finding much I liked, and then stumbled upon a song by Dierks Bently titled Some Days You're Livin' the message of which is essentially many days we struggle, some days we go through the motions and then sometimes we are able to actually be present and aware of the beauty of the world and the many blessings we receive. Good song, good message. In the New Year may your burdens and worries be light and may 2020 be filled with blessings for each of you and for our community of faith. May we find ways to give thanks and share in our blessings with each other and in the community that surrounds us.

**"The Bible is one of the greatest blessings bestowed by God on the children of men. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture for its matter. It is all pure." John Locke**

Fruitful reading!

Your friend in Christ,

Chuck Prewett

Council President