

# ST. PAUL'S TROY LUTHERAN

## JANUARY, 2020

### Thoughts from Pastor

As one year ends and another begins, it's a good opportunity to both review what happened in the year now past, and anticipate what the new year will hold for us. By God's grace we will have perfect vision to do just that in the new year.

As we look back, we think of the many changes that have occurred in the past year. We especially mourn the death of loved ones as we miss them and the blessing they were (and still are) to us. We struggled with health matters or financial problems of various kinds. We've had to deal with troubled relationships. We're still coming to grips with Pastor Schuessler's departure.

But all that happened in 2019 was not negative. There were also great joys. Babies were born and baptized. People were instructed and confirmed and welcomed to the Lord's Table. The daycare, preschool and school continues to teach Bible stories and tell children of Jesus. God still provides abundant mercy toward us by bringing us through difficulties and joyful times, and most especially by the forgiveness of sins He so generously bestows in His Word and Sacraments.

As we look forward to the next year, we think of new beginnings and changes we want to make in our lives. Some of these changes involve setting specific goals such as losing so many pounds, ridding ourselves of a bad habit, learning a new skill, or completing a certain project. Others involve changing our attitude and behavior (which may relate to certain goals) such as having daily devotions (by ourselves and/or with the family), exercising regularly, eating a better diet, watching less TV, and reading more, etc.

As a congregation, we also look forward to what God will do for us in the new year. We continually pray that He will bring us the pastor we need. We look forward to more reasons for rejoicing as our loving Father continues to bless us so richly (as individuals and as a congregation). And as we look forward, we have an opportunity to "start over" in a sense. No, we can't un-do the past, but we can live in the forgiveness God gives as we look to the future. We can re-dedicate ourselves each day to do whatever we can, in word and deed, to help St. Paul's thrive and grow, always depending on the Lord of the Church to bless us. And this means trusting our Lord in ALL things, including our daily needs as well as our calling a pastor.

So, as we enter the new year, I encourage you to make worship at St. Paul's a high priority. It's important that you are here each week to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation, for without His gifts our faith will not sustain us. Furthermore, your attendance encourages others as well. Secondly, I urge you to have a regular devotional life individually and as a family. And parents, it's vital that you teach your children God's Word and the catechism, and bring them to God's House. Discuss spiritual and Biblical topics in the car and at home. And finally, pray for each other, your vacancy pastor, the pastor God will bring to you, and your congregation, that the Lord would grant us grace and mercy to live as His dear children.

So as we enter the new year, keep these thoughts in front of you:

- Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

- Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)

- Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:9-10)

- And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Colossians 3:17)

Your servant in Christ,

**Pastor Landskroener**

**Our Homebound Members**

Mrs. Lila Goedelman  
St. Paul's Senior Community  
1021 West E St. Room 2055B  
Belleville, IL 62220

Mrs. Fran Hosto  
MorningSide Care Center  
39 Dorothy Drive Rm #112  
Troy, IL 62294

Mrs. Barb Wright  
MorningSide Care Center  
39 Dorothy Drive Rm #112  
Troy, IL 62294  
Mrs. LaVerne Boeshans  
123 W. Throp  
Troy, IL 62294

Mrs. Jean Tieman  
San Gabriel Memory Care  
2509 Frank Watson Parkway  
Highland, IL 62249

Shirley Schnoeker  
300 South Station Road Apt. 8303  
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Lois Rodenbaugh  
714 Troy Road  
Collinsville, IL 62234

**Quarterly Voters' Meeting:** The next St. Paul's Quarterly Voters' Meeting is Sunday, January 19 at 11:45 a.m. following the 10:30 a.m. service. The agenda and reports are available on the table in the narthex.

**Thank You:** We thank Rachael Beckemeyer and her merry band of folks for decorating the church for Christmas, and for taking the decorations down after Epiphany.

**Thank You:** We thank God for the gift of music we have received through Jo White's 40 years of service as organist. A reception will be held in the church basement **following the 8:00 a.m. service on Sunday, January 12.** Cards of thanks are appreciated.

## **LCMS Stewardship Ministry**

### **Newsletter Article – January 2020**

Our God is a God who works through means. He can and has worked immediately without agency, as the Bible testifies, but primarily, on the whole and for the most part, our God works through means. He does this not only for all of our earthly needs but also for all of our spiritual needs. And He does this for our benefit.

He provides for all our needs of this body and life through means. He gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.

He gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger; He gives us faithful neighbors and good friends to help in times of need and lack. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so that we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so that we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, redounds to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior. In that body, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all – a life we have failed to live because of our sins – and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to proclaim, in His stead and by His command, that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Through these same pastors, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word, igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And He gives us His life-giving body and blood to nourish us in this same faith until the end. Our God is a God who works through means.

This is true also of stewardship. This is what St. Paul wrote in Philippians:

"I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:18–19).

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.

"For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus Christ]," St. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 1:20. This is true also of you. Trust in the God who provides for all that we need in body and soul through means. And not only will you find His "yes" to you, but others will find it, too, through you. "But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also" (2 Cor. 8:7).

### **Serving St. Paul's in January, 2020**

**Saturday, January 4, 6:00 pm** Acolyte: Luke Wilderman; Altar Guild: Yvonne Rieger, Lynn Fitzgerald  
Elder: Sam Italiano; Organist: Claudia Loethen; Ushers: Sam Italiano, Brion Boeshans, Randy Jones, Seth Schaefer

**Sunday, January 5, 8:00 am** Acolyte: Sophia Everett; Altar Guild: Yvonne Rieger, Lynn Fitzgerald  
Elder: Fred Patterson; Organist: Claudia Loethen; Ushers: Joe Walls, Brett Sollberger, Jacob Doyle, Steve Doyle

**Sunday, January 5, 10:30 am** Acolyte: Ryan Kaffer, Jr.; Altar Guild: n/a; Elder: n/a;  
Organist: Claudia Loethen; Ushers: Colin McLaughlin, Ted Fedder, Alex Englebrecht, Tony Sipes

**Saturday, January 11, 6:00 pm** Acolyte: Tyler Beuth; Altar Guild: Mary Ann Bonneville, Bonnie Levo  
Elder: Jim Mesenbrink, Sam Italiano; Organist: Cayla Wilderman; Ushers: Brion Boeshans, Sam Italiano, Seth Schaefer, Kevin Campe

**Sunday, January 12, 8:00 am** Acolyte: Amelia Sievers; Altar Guild: n/a; Elder: n/a;  
Organist: Claudia Loethen; Ushers: Jim Kesterson, Jason Powell, Mike Salanitro, Fred Patterson

**Sunday, January 12, 10:30 am** Acolyte: Andrew Carruthers; Altar Guild: Mary Ann Bonneville, Bonnie Levo; Elder: Tim Launhardt, Darrell Wittenberg; Organist: Claudia Loethen; Ushers: Keith Jackson, Dave Thomas, Mark Schlemer, Tim Wittenberg

**Saturday, January 18, 6:00 pm** Acolyte: Dean Hupp; Altar Guild: Adeline Amen; Elder: Jim Mesenbrink, Sam Italiano; Pianist: Tim Wittenberg; Ushers: Sam Italiano, Brion Boeshans, Randy Jones, Kevin Campe

**Sunday, January 19, 8:00 am** Acolyte: Alan Winte; Altar Guild: Adeline Amen; Elder: Mike Hampton; Pianist: Tim Wittenberg; Ushers: Jim Kesterson, Ken Sipes, Brett Sollberger, Joe Walls

**Sunday, January 19, 10:30 am** Acolyte: Gibson Hunt; Altar Guild: n/a; Elder: n/a; Pianist: Tim Wittenberg; Ushers: Jason Kesterson, Mark Schlemer, Colin McLaughlin, Alex Englebrecht

**Saturday, January 25, 6:00 pm** Acolyte: Maggie Norris; Altar Guild: Grace Cottingham, Bev Wooldridge; Elder: Jim Mesenbrink, Sam Italiano; Pianist: Jen Wittenberg; Ushers: Sam Italiano, Brion Boeshans, Kyle Sipes

**Sunday, January 26, 8:00 am** Acolyte: Steven Stock; Altar Guild: n/a; Elder: n/a; Pianist: Jen Wittenberg; Ushers: Jason Powell, Jacob Doyle, Steve Doyle, Mike Hampton

**Sunday, January 26, 10:30 am** Acolyte: Madelyn Hunt; Altar Guild: Grace Cottingham, Bev Wooldridge; Elder: Tim Launhardt, Darrell Wittenberg; Pianist: Jen Wittenberg; Ushers: Dave Thomas, Jason Kesterson, Tim Wittenberg, Tony Sipes

## **This month at St. Paul's:**

Sat., 1/4 6:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

**Sunday, 1/5** 8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study and Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
12:00 p.m. Adult Catechesis  
Tues., 1/7 9:45 a.m. Mom's Morning Mingle

7:00 p.m. Elders' Meeting  
 Wed., 1/8 8:30 a.m. Chapel  
 9:45 a.m. Women's Bible Study  
 4:30 p.m. Public School Catechesis  
 6:30 p.m. Stewardship & Finance Board Meeting  
 Thurs., 1/9 7:00 p.m. Choir  
 Sat., 1/11 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast  
 6:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

**Sunday, 1/12** 8:00 a.m. Worship  
 9:00 a.m. Reception in honor of Jo White's 40 years as organist  
 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study and Sunday School  
 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
 12:00 p.m. Adult Catechesis  
 Mon., 1/13 6:30 p.m. School Board Meeting  
 7:00 p.m. Trustees' Meeting  
 Tues., 1/14 9:45 a.m. Mom's Morning Mingle  
 Wed., 1/15 8:30 a.m. Chapel  
 9:45 a.m. Women's Bible Study  
 4:30 p.m. Public School Catechesis  
 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting  
 Thurs., 1/16 7:00 p.m. Choir  
 Sat., 1/18 6:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

**Sunday, 1/19** 8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study and Sunday School  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
 11:45 a.m. Congregational Voters' Meeting  
 12:00 p.m. Adult Catechesis  
 Tues., 1/21 9:45 a.m. Mom's Morning Mingle  
 6:00 p.m. PTL Meeting  
 Wed., 1/22 8:30 a.m. Chapel  
 4:30 P.m. Public School Catechesis  
 Thurs., 1/23 7:00 p.m. Choir  
 Sat., 1/25 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast  
 6:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

**Sunday, 1/26** 8:00 a.m. Worship  
 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study and Sunday School  
 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
 12:00 p.m. Adult Catechesis  
 Tues., 1/28 9:45 a.m. Mom's Morning Mingle  
 Wed., 1/29 8:30 a.m. Chapel  
 4:30 P.m. Public School Catechesis  
 Thurs., 1/30 7:00 p.m. Choir  
 Fri., 1/31 4:00-7:00 p.m. PTL Fish Fry  
 Sat., 2/1 6:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

**Sunday, 2/2** 8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study and Sunday School  
 10:30 a.m. Worship  
 12:00 p.m. Adult Catechesis

## **Preparing for Sunday Worship**

2nd Sunday after Christmas, January 5  
 1 Kings 3:4-15  
 Ephesians 1:3-14  
 Luke 2:40-52

Baptism of Our Lord, January 12  
 Isaiah 42:1-9  
 Romans 6:1-11

Matthew 3:13-17

2nd Sunday after Epiphany, January 19

Isaiah 49:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42a

3rd Sunday after Epiphany, January 26

Isaiah 63:7-14

Galatians 4:4-7

Matthew 2:13-23