

The Monthly Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Volume 68, Issue 1 • January 2022

This is sort of an odd Christmas day for Susan and me, though it is welcome. We are home in the parsonage by ourselves, not traveling to be with family, nor having another service across the road at church. Just Susan and me. It is relaxing. And relaxing is a nice gift at the end of a very busy week.

Indeed, it has been a busy year. Looking back over the past 12 months, there have been too many trips back and forth between Mebane and Salisbury to count. We lived in two locations for half the year, then moved into the newly renovated parsonage. By the way, it is a privilege to live in this lovely home. We have a picture postcard view of the world we grew up in, crossing the road in either direction.

Many parts of our life together have been framed this way. We are grateful for how God keeps bringing us back to our roots, and to him. Our first call was to a congregation who were foundational in our living the life of faith. We learned the importance of daily time in the Scriptures and in taking advantage of worship and fellowship events as often as possible. Then, those events happened every day of the week, and now, there is also something going on at St. Paul's every day. Well, not today.

But as I look back through the years to the 1970s, nothing was happening on Christmas Day at our first church either. Though, if there was a service at St. Paul's today, I would welcome that opportunity to worship and be with you. Maybe we will have a Christmas Day service in one of the years ahead that we share together.

Susan and I love being with you; it is a big part about why we accepted this call: you are a frame on our life. You love the Word. You love worship and lots of fellowship opportunities. And you love our Lord. We love being part of that with you. We are grateful for being part of you, being embraced and included in the St. Paul's family so easily and quickly.

This is what I am thinking about and being grateful for this Christmas morning. I thought I would let you know.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2022!
See you in church,
Pastor Ryman

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence...*

The church website and domain
are being updated and shifted to
StPaulsLutheran.Church.
Check it out — often!

Thank you.

Thanks to those who have invited me into your home for a visit. I still want to visit everyone so please call the church office and ask Pam to schedule a visit with me in your home. Please take a moment before you read this newsletter any further and call the church office (704-633-0922).

Pastor Ryman

Biscuits & Beverages will be available in the fellowship hall at **8:30am on January 2nd**. Be sure to stop in and enjoy breakfast before Sunday School.

Packing Away Christmas Decorations

Decorations will be removed on Saturday, January 8th, beginning at 9:00am. Check your calendar and call Bonnie at 704-279-3126 or email lwaynehinson@yahoo.com to let her know you are willing to help.

Outreach Kicks Off New Year!

Let's get ready to plan ways we can reach out to our community. Thanks to Johnny Lombard, Carolyn Canup, Tim Deal, Susan Bernhardt, Sarah Boothroyd, Susan Faggart, Nicole Amos, Julie Jaramillo, and Jason Bernhardt for agreeing to serve on the Outreach Committee. Our first organizational meeting will be January 9 at 2:00pm in the Conference Room. Come with ideas of things we can do to better serve our community with spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Sound Tech Needed

An additional person is needed to operate the soundboard on a rotating basis (approximately once a month.) Training will be provided. If you are interested in helping with this important aspect of our ministry, please see Tim Deal.

Sunday Worship Service at 10:30am in the sanctuary continues to be mask-optional. If you listen from your vehicle in the parking lot, tune in to 104.5FM. Services are also available on the website and Facebook page (StPaulsLutheran.Church or facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC).

Events at a Glance

Dec. 31 – Office closed

Jan. 2 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am in the fellowship hall

Handbell practice **resumes Sunday, Jan. 9th** at 4:00pm

Men's Choir practice **resumes Sunday, Jan. 9th** at 5:00pm

Girl Scouts – Tuesdays, at 6:45pm

Adult Choir practice **resumes Jan. 12th** at 6:30pm

Confirmation Class – Wednesdays, 7:30pm; **resumes Jan. 12th**

Bible Study/Prayer – Thursdays, 10:00am and 6:00pm; **restarting Jan. 13th**

Vespers at the Parsonage *each Sunday* – finger foods at 6pm, Vespers at 6:30pm

Contact information — If your address, phone number, or email has changed in the last year, please call the church office. We are planning the 2022 yearbook and a pictorial directory soon and need to have the information as accurate as possible. If you provide information to the church that you do not want publicized, let us know and we can keep that information private. Thank you.

Inclement Weather Procedures

If there is inclement weather during the week, we typically follow the Rowan County School System judgment on road conditions. Generally, if they close schools, then church activities and the church office will be closed.

Since Pastor Ryman is just across the street, he will always offer worship services as they are scheduled. If you are willing and able to come, please do. If you are unsure about driving or walking into the church, please do not put yourself at risk. Stay home.

In case of snow or ice, please keep in mind that the church parking lot and walkways may not be totally clear. Our Property Committee will work hard to make the walkways and parking lot safe.

Changes and notifications will be announced as soon as possible. We will post notices on our website, and update our listing on WBTV Charlotte, WSOCTV, WCCB Charlotte, and WCNC Charlotte if, in rare instances, there are cancelations or delays.

Once announced, please help us by contacting those who may not have access to the internet.

Lutheran Women's News

- Ellen Bumgarner Circle is responsible for sending cards to shut-ins for January.
- Forms with group information (officers, hosts, leaders, meeting times, etc.) for the 2022 yearbook need to be returned to Sarah Goodman or Alice Davis
- Items for Trinity Living Center will be purchased this month. Alice Davis will shop and deliver the items.
- Quarterly Meeting, January 9th, at 5:00pm in the Conference Room; Bonnie Bost Circle has devotions.
- Circles are to collect clothes for Koontz Elementary School, sizes 3T – Youth XL; needed are t-shirts, jogging pants, girl's leggings, underwear, etc.
- Thanks to all who provided food and/or helped serve at the reception at the parsonage and for the playcast for the Christmas Pageant.

Bonnie Bost Circle – Monday, January 3, at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall to take down the Chrismon Tree

Ellen Bumgarner Circle – Wednesday, January 5, at 9:30am

Melissa Lura Circle – Monday, January 10, at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall

Hama Lingle Circle and Grace Ridenhour Circle will meet together for dinner on Monday, January 10, at 6:00pm, China Grove Family Restaurant

Kathy Ketchie Circle – Sunday, January 9th, at 4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

St. Paul's Lutheran Men

St. Paul's Lutheran Men will kick off 2022 when they meet Monday evening, January 24th, at 6:30 in the fellowship hall. George Reese and Tim Deal will provide the meal, which will be a salad and baked potato bar, along with their world famous and highly acclaimed cherry dessert with ice cream.

Following the meal will be a really interesting program about Amish barn raisings, and life lessons that can be learned from that amazing process.

All men are invited and encouraged to attend and enjoy!

Naomi's Heart Mission

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Paul's:

We would like to thank you for your generous gift of support we recently received. Through your generosity this helps us to continue to minister to many children and families who benefit from all the programs, feedings, outreaches, and Bible teachings at the mission and surrounding villages. During this time of the corona virus we are using what extra we have to buy rice. Thank you for your generous heart that enables us to give to children and families in need.

We are truly blessed and grateful for your love for this ministry.

Blessings,
Kristie L. Ward
Founder, Naomi's Heart Mission

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Paul's:

Danny and I would like to say thank you for giving us the opportunity to visit you on Sunday, November 7th, during Sunday School and Church service with the children. We enjoyed so many wonderful times of sharing with all of you about Naomi's Heart Mission throughout our stay with Pastor Mark and Susan. The 'Old Timey Stew', Vespers, Bible studies, and even a drive to see the Christmas lights at the Canup's! We truly felt welcomed and loved by all of you at St. Paul's.

During our time with you, 13 children were sponsored to attend Naomi's Heart Mission Christian Academy, and we were blessed with many gifts of money for 'Lugaw' feedings, rice, school supplies, and general needs.

Again, thank you for having the love and desire to walk beside us as we serve a great and mighty God.

Blessings,
Kristie Ward
Founder, Naomi's Heart Mission

Memorial Gifts

Gifts were received in memory of Kathy Aldridge for the Helping Hands Fund from

Melissa Bernhardt
Myra Jane and Terry Eller

A gift was received in memory of Kathy Aldridge for the General Fund from
Wayne and Johnsie Taylor

Gifts were received in memory of German R. Jaramillo for the General Fund from
Grady and Jenny Earnhardt
Wayne and Johnsie Taylor

A gift was received in memory of German R. Jaramillo for the Capital Building Fund from
Karen and Tim Deal

A gift was received in memory of German R. Jaramillo for the Helping Hands Fund from
Myra Jane and Terry Eller

A gift was received in memory of Zelia Padgett for the Capital Building Fund from
Denise P. and Daniel Foutz

A gift was received in memory of Victoria Squires for the Helping Hands Fund from
Dot and Harold Goodman

A gift was received in memory of Bill Reissner for the Helping Hands Fund from
The Hama Lingle Circle

A gift was received in memory of Janet Young for the Capital Building Fund from
Karen and Tim Deal

A gift was received in memory of Janet Young for the Helping Hands fund from
Myra Jane and Terry Eller

A gift was received in memory of Helen Misenheimer for the Helping Hands fund from
Myra Jane and Terry Eller

A gift was received in memory of Martha Hopkins for the Helping Hands Fund from
Myra Jane and Terry Eller

Gifts were received in memory of Dorothy Powell Bingham for the Capital Building Fund from
Jerry and Linda Beaver
Ben and Susan Bernhardt
Alice Davis
Karen and Tim Deal
Grady and Jenny Earnhardt
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson

A gift was received in memory of Dorothy Powell Bingham for the Helping Hands Fund from
Dana and Crystal Bost

A gift was received in memory of the
birthday of Wilma Lefler Heilig for the
Handbell Choir from
Delores Stanley

A gift was received in honor of Hugh and
Kathy Wilhelm for the Capital Building
Fund from
Becky Lyerly

A gift was received in honor of Dana and
Crystal Bost for the Helping Hands Fund
from
Dottie Stancil

A gift was received in honor of Alice Davis
for the Capital Building Fund from
Helen Gordon

A gift was received in honor of the
Property Brothers for the Capital Building
Fund from
Helen Gordon

A gift was received in honor of Keith,
Amy and Sophie Hoffner for the Capital
Building Fund from
Helen Gordon

A gift was received in honor of Helen
Gordon for the Capital Building Fund
from
Alice Davis

A gift was received in honor of James
and Mary Lee Earnhardt's 50th wedding
anniversary for the Capital Building Fund
from
Ben and Susan Bernhardt

*Search me, O God,
and know my heart;
try me, and know
my thoughts.
And see if there be
any wicked way in me,
and lead me in
the way everlasting.*

Psalms 139:23-24

Our sympathy is extended to Russell
Bingham and family on the death of
Ms. Dorothy Powell Bingham, Russell's
mother. Ms. Bingham died December 16,
2021.

Our sympathy is extended to Judi
Honbarger and family on the death of
Judi's brother, Jackie Sherrill. Mr. Sherrill
died December 28, 2021.

Thanks

Dear Church,

God is gracious and loving. We see him through all of you. When Daddy went to be with Jesus, he left such an empty spot in us. I want to thank you all for the many blessings you are helping German, my Momma and me with. Your prayers were heard by God. We feel a comfort I wouldn't have been able to imagine from the Holy Spirit. You have helped get us to church, have given us the means to eat, have spent time with us, and comforted us. We feel we have family. You all are our family. We also love each card of remembrance that has come in, and the memories you have shared to us of who he is to you. It really means a lot to us. We made a book with them. I pray this church is blessed beyond measure. It is a firm and strong group. We are grateful, and filled to the brim with overwhelming humbleness. We hope that God is glorified through it all.

We love you,

German, Julie, and Linda Jaramillo

Dear Ben,

As the messenger – dare I say angel – for the Sunday School, we want to return thanks to you for the Christmas Collection. We count ourselves richly blessed to serve at St. Paul's, and by the overwhelming love and support of our brothers and sisters. We appreciate all of you very much.

Love,

Susan and Pastor Mark

A big thank you goes out to Donnie Austin, Susan Faggart (2), Gay Newsome, Terri Powlas, Melinda Redding, Susan Ryman, Jane Wilhelm, and Kathy Wilhelm, for cooking turkeys this year. The CIS Family Christmas Meal was served at First Presbyterian Church on December 16th. I appreciate everyone's help!

Three-Wide Foundation would like to thank you for your prayers, donations of money or time, and volunteering for this year's Christmas dinner and coat give-away. There were 310 plates served. Thank you!

Susan Bernhardt

Steve Thomas (Three-Wide Foundation)

Donna Thomas

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, visits and calls over the past few months. Alan was released by the surgeon after triple heart bypass and will have Cardiac Rehab for the next few months. He continues to improve every day. We are very grateful to our church family and miss you all. Can't wait to be back in church on a regular basis. Thanks for everything!

Alan and Donna Lyerly

My son Michael, and his wife, Annette Hoosier, and I, want to thank everyone who prayed for Lindsey Grace Hoosier during the terrible time in September when she was in the hospital with covid for a month. She is doing good now. God is good.

Shirley P. Hoosier



Rowan Helping Ministries — Volunteers delivered 119 lbs. of items collected during November to RHM. Items needed in all areas of RHM are listed on their website www.rowanhelpingministries.org.

Income and Expenses for November 2021

Income: \$30,664 Expenses: \$36,386

Expense over Income for November: \$(5,722)

Income over Expense for the Year: \$13,985

Capital Building Fund as of November 30: \$191,257

December income/expenses will be in the February Newsletter.

*...and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

OUR MISSION

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922 ~ Fax: 704-636-1300

Email: splchurch@att.net

Website: www.StPaulsLutheran.Church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

CHURCH STAFF

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Pamela Cottingham, Secretary

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George Barringer, Council President

gsbarringer@carolina.rr.com

Connie Burleson, Organist

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John Brock, Music Director

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Judy Lowman, Treasurer

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Alison Moore, Girl Scouts Coordinator 704-467-9191

Alison and Aaron Moore, Boy Scout Coordinators, 704-467-9191

St. Paul's newsletter, the "Monthly Epistle," is intended to keep everyone informed about happenings within the congregation that effect and contribute to our ministry together. In order to maximize reach and minimize cost, the preferred methods of distribution are by email, and posting on our St. Paul's website (www.splcweb.org). All members are encouraged to use the newsletter as a resource to help you consider how God is calling you to be involved in the life of his church. If you are unable to access the newsletter online, or would just like to have a printed copy to refer to, the most cost-effective way to receive it is to pick up a copy from the church office or in the narthex. We mail copies to those members whom we know don't have online access, are shut-in, or live out of town. If you want to be added to our email list, or to the mailing list, please contact the church office.