



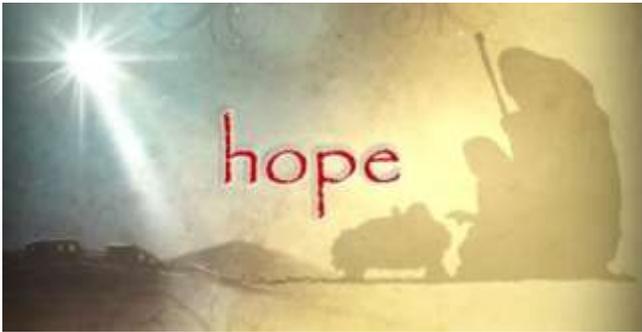
## The Voice

of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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### December 2018



For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

--Romans 8: 24-25

Dear Friends and Members--

On November 11, we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armistice Day, which marked the end of the First World War. That was a day of hope for all the world, as guns were silenced, the dead were mourned, and life began again throughout a ravaged Europe.

On November 10, we remembered the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kristallnacht, the night of the broken glass. All over Germany, Austria and other Nazi controlled areas, Jewish shops and department stores had their windows smashed and contents destroyed.

What happened in those 20 short years, to the hope that flourished on Armistice Day? How did it happen that the world slid so quickly back into violence and hatred.

Where is our country headed today, as we stand in the shadow of a massacre at a Jewish Synagogue in Pittsburgh, and with the resurgence of racism, and fear of the stranger? What do you hope for, as a follower of Jesus Christ? What are you waiting for? How strong is your patience?

This is the world into which Jesus was born. A world far from perfect. A world torn by hatred and the brutal use of force to subjugate the people of God. "To you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord." That was the message of the angels to the shepherds on the hills outside of Bethlehem.

There was a cost for saving the world. It wasn't cheap. As followers of the one who paid that cost with his life, what are we to do, how shall we act, what priorities ought we set? As we move through Advent into Christmas, how do we live in hope?

Pastors Wendy and Tim

## Do our young people pray? How do they pray?

During November, members of our group had a frank discussion about the lived experience of prayer - how we pray and how we do (or do not) talk to God in prayer during our busy daily lives. Prayer that takes place outside of church is a personal experience that we don't often talk about openly and collectively, and many of us have trouble initiating the routine of prayer into our lives own outside of church. When disaster strikes in our lives, like



beggars, we are usually quick to pray; but it is during the "business as usual" times of our lives that we fail to remember the beneficial role of prayer in our lives. Each of us has a unique way of praying, but sometimes those unique ways are more similar than we think. The act of prayer requires an acknowledgment of vulnerability - when we share our prayers with others, we are engaging in a radical act. It is not often easy for adolescents to be so vulnerable, but having parental and adult role models who can model vulnerability in prayer is helpful. As adults, when we acknowledge our vulnerabilities, doubts, and weaknesses, we can teach younger generations to do the same. At a time during which many young people are skeptical and disenchanted by the hypocrisies of adults and of figures of authority (the church included), it's important to nurture and express vulnerability, and one way of doing this is through discussion and prayer.

Just as the truth of how we pray is important to acknowledge in discussion, it is also important to recognize the ways in which we fail to pray as constituting a subject worthy of discussion. Some of us recite prayers, some of us talk to God, and some of us do both; but some of us don't know how to pray outside of church, and that's something we're going to be working on together. One of our group's goals this year is to support one another in working prayer into our daily routines. It's not easy to do but the first step is facing the elephant in the room of prayer, which sometimes is the fact that prayer has left the room or building altogether. Our prayer routines and our prayers do not have to look/sound alike but we can learn from one another how to pray when we are honest about how we do (or do not) pray. Not all members of the youth group are interested in praying and in developing a more self-conscious way of praying but many are. You can help to lead us by praying with us.

One of our goals this year is to expand the way in which we think and talk about prayer - so that it can include elements of the secular that can connect us to the sublime. If we can see acts like singing, reading poetry, or watching Star Wars as paths of connection between ourselves and each other, and most importantly as a path of connection with God, then we may be able to see prayer active in our lives in ways we did not before recognize. During our youth discussion meetings, our student leaders are going to start to lead the action of prayer - by leading us in prayer, however they do it and define it. The goal is for our youth members to feel empowered. While other aspects of our lives may be out of our control, we are in charge of our prayer lives. I encourage all of our adult members to allow the young adults in your lives to lead you - in discussion and prayer. In this way, they can be your teachers.

Adults and parents in the congregation can be part of our discussions on prayer. This month and during the rest of the year, we urge our adult and parental supporters to talk and think about prayer with us and to expand the way that you think about prayer to include non-traditional and secular traditions in which the teachings of Jesus are present and from which we can draw wisdom that will translate into community-transforming action.

Jessica Lowell Mason, Youth Discussion-Action Group Leader

## UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS –

Before we know it, these projects and events will be here. Please mark them on your calendars now and start thinking about how we can make the holiday brighter for those less fortunate.



### Our Annual *Angel Tree* Project

Again it's that time to join in bringing some cheer to children with our angel tree project. Join us in providing gifts for children in pre-K—grade 4 at School 74 in Buffalo.

Please purchase an outfit and toy for each child's name you receive, wrap the gifts, put them inside the large box provided, and attach the label provided to the end of the box.

All gifts must be returned to church by **December 9<sup>th</sup>**

If you are interested in sponsoring a child but would rather not shop, you can see Arlene Bossert who will be happy to assist you.



**BOOKS for the children in School 74:** In conjunction with the Angel Tree project, your gift of \$1 will sponsor a book, and our goal is to provide a book for each child help us give the gift of reading to a needy child this Christmas. Watch for us in the social hall beginning November 11<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\*\* COPY PAPER BOXES NEEDED \*\*\***

**We are also in need of copy paper boxes for these gifts. If you have access to them please leave them on the stage.**



## Ladies Aid –

Ladies Aid will have this year's last meeting on December 11, then go to Gate House Grill for lunch. They will resume on January 8.



## Caroling Party –Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> –6:00 pm

We'll meet in the social hall at church promptly at 6:00. Dress warmly, bring a plate of cookies to share, bring lots of kids and plan to stay for pizza and wings upon our return to church by 9:00 pm. Please join us as we carol to our shut-ins!

Small gifts are needed for our shut-ins. If you are able to provide 15 of each item, please leave them in the box in the social hall. Suggestions such as oranges, hard candy, small breads, or anything you think might be appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!

Details and sign-up sheets are in the social hall.

Service of Lessons and Carols,  
Sunday, December 9, at 9:00am.  
Only one service of Worship that Day!  
Come, enjoy this beautiful service!



Our annual congregation Tree Trimming Party will be  
**Sunday, December 9**

from 11:00 – 1:30 pm

Join us to help trim the social hall tree, frost cookies for our shut-ins, enjoy a yummy pot luck brunch, let the kids shop in our fabulous elf shop AND a visit with a special guest from the North Pole!

**Sunday School Christmas Pageant**  
**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**  
**Come celebrate with our church children!**



**THE LADIES AID MITTEN TREE** is in the social hall. Please bring in new mittens, hats & scarves, which will decorate the tree and be delivered to the Salvation Army for Christmas.

## CELEBRATING 150 YEARS!

Kick off the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Paul's in Williamsville with the purchase of our limited edition commemorative glass ornament! Sales will begin in December – so look for our display in the Social Hall. Remember, commemorative ornaments make great gifts, but there are only 75 available - so don't miss out!



### Recent Activities at St. Paul's--



**Confirmation Day**  
**October 28, 2018**



Congratulations to Gaby Brown, Olivia

Langlotz, Jenna Doerfler, Lauren Koenig, Bobby Dickie, and TJ Hutchinson.

## **Annual Spaghetti Dinner**

**What fun we had!**

**So many helpers!**

**So much food!**



**Thanks for your support!**

**We hope everyone enjoyed themselves!**



## Schedule of Worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>

5:00pm Family Worship with Communion

11:00pm Traditional Candlelight Communion

Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>

10:00am Festive Communion followed by Christmas reception



Please remember to save your DASH register tapes. Dash's super market gives the congregation \$2.50 for each \$100 of purchases. These "rebates" are used for Youth group and incidental expenses such as the women's retreat. St Paul's began participating in the program in 2005. We have received over \$12,000 in rebates.

This is an important program for the youth and the women's retreat. Please save your register tapes. They can be deposited in the cigar box on the table outside of the narthex or in the large manila envelope on the bulletin board in the Social Hall.



*Turkeys are needed for Friends of Night People. We need people to buy turkeys and also people to cook them. Please see Faith White for details.*

**FRIENDS OF NIGHT PEOPLE** planning is under way. Volunteers serve the evening meal 2 or 3 times a year on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. We leave church at 4:15 and serve from 5-7pm. Please call Arlene Bossert at 697-4848 if you've never volunteered before but wish to in 2019, if you've volunteered before but wish to be removed from the schedule, or if you have questions.

**ALTAR FLOWERS — OPEN DATES:**

**December 9**

Forms are on the table in the narthex & foyer, or just call the office to reserve a date.

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS — DECEMBER 2018 VOICE**

*All donations go into the Memorial Fund unless otherwise indicated.*

**In memory of Addison (Pat) McGowan**

*Anonymous for chancel step railings*

**In memory of Dorothy Ford**

Sharon A. Seitzman  
Gretchen Schultz  
Andy & Lindsey Kotelnicki  
Roland L. Rosati  
Daniel & Carolyn Ford  
Dianne Westacott

**PRAYER LIST— DECEMBER VOICE**

Members:

Dick Atkins	Zoe Malchow
Diane Busdiecker	Dee Marinov
Dick Edwards	Jim Murray
Ursula Grau	Eva Paulson
Beverly Heinricher	Art Plant
Pearl Kibler	Kim Retallack
Holly Kolb	Tony Rizzo
Marge Kolb, Harris Hill	Pat Valentine



**OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to Marilyn, Jacob & Nathan Pfisterer on the October 21<sup>st</sup> death of Glenn Pfisterer, beloved husband and father. A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's on November 17 at 3:00pm

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES** to Jessica Lyn Andrews and Patrick Henry Reagan who were united in marriage on November 10, 2018.

***The deadline for our December edition of the voice is Monday, December 17, 2018***

***Please send your articles to [stpaulsvoice@yahoo.com](mailto:stpaulsvoice@yahoo.com) or in our box in the office.***