



The Voice

of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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January 2019

December 2018



“Residents are not allowed back in yet and emergency crews and utility workers are the only ones who get to see it. But a Christmas tree stands in downtown Paradise, California.

In front of the town’s brick “Welcome” sign that survived the inferno that incinerated almost everything else, the 12-foot Noble fir twinkles at night with solar-powered white lights.

It’s a gift from the fire survivors of Santa Rosa’s Coffey Park neighborhood who, for the second time in less than a year, are embarking on a grim pilgrimage to offer a bit of hope to a place where it’s difficult to find any.”

This was the beginning of a news story that appeared in the Santa Rosa Mercury Newspaper shortly after Thanksgiving. Bound together by tragedy, one group of survivors sought to bring hope to another group of survivors. It seems to me to be a tender thing to do, one that risks opening old wounds for the sake of those whose wounds are fresh.

There are many survivors to think about this year, for fire and flood, earthquake and tornado have been deadly this year. But it is often so in our history. Christmas comes in times of war, pestilence, famine. It knows no other way. The beautiful thing about hope is the way it comes to life in hearts crushed by heavy loads. John 1: 5 says: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” As Christmas fades into New Year, and New Year back into into the daily ebb and flow of life, we urge you to be people of hope. In the simple acts of kindness and compassion you bring hope to others, you cause hope to overcome the grief and loss that can be so consuming.

We don’t get to pick the times we live in, but the beauty of the Christian faith, is that it calls us, in every time and place to be people who live in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas. Happy New Year.

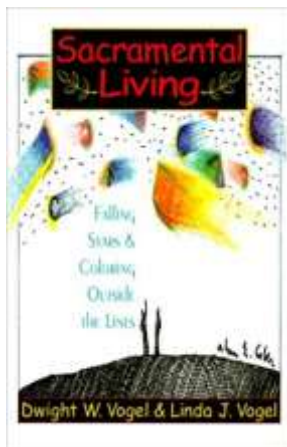
Pastors Wendy and Tim

GIFTS

As we celebrate the season of Epiphany, we remember the gifts the wise men brought to the baby Jesus. If you could give Jesus a gift, what would it be? You can, you know, and you actually already do. Because your congregation sends a portion of your offering to the Synod, you give gifts to Jesus all over the world. Jesus, in the form of a teenager from Central America who is in the United States because he fears for his life at home (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Oppportunity). Jesus, in the form of a family in California who just lost everything in the wild fires (Lutheran Disaster Relief). Jesus, who lives in Zimbabwe and has a school to go to thanks to you (World Hunger). Jesus, a student at college who is lonely and looking for guidance (Campus Ministry). Jesus, a refugee at the border (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services). Jesus, a seminary student who can't pay her tuition (Fund for Leaders). All these ministries, and many more, are funded by Mission Support. If you'd like to learn more, go to ELCA.org and click on the "Our Work" tab.

May God bless this new year, and each congregation and member in their commitment to do God's Work with Our Hands.

We are church together for the sake of the world.



Worship on Wednesdays Resumes on January 9th

Our Worship on Wednesdays will resume on January 9th with a series of topics taken from the book "Sacramental Living" by Dwight and Linda Vogel. They define sacramental living as "Taking everyday life seriously and discovering ways the church's worship intersects our daily journey. Chapter headings include: Wonder, Awe, Time and Eternity, Community, Journey.

Come join us each Wednesday evening at 7:30pm.



The Christian Medical and Dental Associations of WNY is looking for a Director, a full time position, to interface with both students and medical professionals. Dr. John Crane is a member of the organization, and can give you first-hand information, if you happen to be interested in

the position. The Christian Medical & Dental Associations of Western New York (www.CMDAofWNY.org) is a chapter of the national organization, Christian Medical and Dental Associations (www.CMDA.org). CMDA provides resources, networking opportunities, education and a public voice for Christian healthcare professionals and students. According to their announcement:

The Purpose of the Director of CMDA of WNY is:

To work within CMDA's Campus and Community Ministries at a local level to motivate, train and equip graduate, resident and student healthcare professionals to glorify God in their practices, schools, homes, communities and around the world.

The full announcement with the complete set of qualifications is available from the pastors. If you have questions or are interested in applying for this position, please contact

David Holmes, MD, President, CMDA of WNY at 716-697-1884 (cell) or dholmes@buffalo.edu.

The application is due by January 12, 2019.

Celebrating 150 Years!

Kick off the 150th anniversary of St. Paul's in Williamsville with the purchase of our **limited edition commemorative glass ornament!**

Look for our display in the social hall. Remember, commemorative ornaments make great gifts, but there are only 75 available. Don't miss out!

YOUTH NEWS –

Dear Parents,

I am so excited to share with you information about our Youth Talent Show that will be held on Friday March 9th at 6:30 PM. As part of the 150th Anniversary Celebration of St. Paul’s, we are looking for your children (ages 0 – 18) to be part of this fun event. We are hoping to have every child participate in some way. Erin will be coordinating music for the Sunday school classes to perform and we are asking you to encourage your child to perform any talent independently or with friends. Some ideas are jokes, magic, singing, playing an instrument (Erin is happy to work with any of your children on this), dancing, or reciting any short poem or story your child has written. After the show we will have a short reception in the social hall where children can display any of their original art work.

Your child’s performance idea should be selected and submitted no later than February 9th. This gives us plenty of time to plan the order of acts as well as create a program for the event. Entry forms can be found in the January voice or on the table in the church foyer. We will also need volunteers to help with this event so please contact me if you are interested.

We are looking forward to this event. If you have any questions or comments please don’t hesitate to reach out. Thank you everyone!

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy 2019,

Andrea Whitmarsh

andrea_whitmarsh@hotmail.com

716-308-9986

My child _____ will be performing the following act(s) at the Youth Talent show:

1) Type of performance and title: _____

Will this require music? Y N Would you like help from Erin on this? Y N

Additional comments:

2) Type of performance and title: _____

Will this require music? Y N Would you like help from Erin on this? Y N

Additional comments:

OUR CAROLING PARTY was enjoyed by all! Thanks to all who came out on a cold and snowy night to provide beautiful carols to some of our shut-ins! Special thanks to everyone who provided those yummy and beautiful gifts for our shut-ins to receive.

THANK YOU to each person who participated in the wonderful Christmas caroling event on Friday night. The carolers who came to this house were super wonderful. They sang many Christmas songs and they were beautiful.

Words cannot tell you how blessed we were to have you sing for us. I would have liked the whole world to hear you sing. In addition, thank you to the many people in the background preparing the gift bag, making the beautiful decorated cookies, the pumpkin bread loaves, poinsettia, candy cane & orange, and an ornament for our tree. I don't know everyone's name to tell you thank you, thank you, thank you! —Cal and Arlene Lauer

2018 ANGEL TREE – THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone who worked on making our Angel tree project successful again! Very special thanks to our partnership churches: St. John, Trinity East Amherst and North Park. We couldn't do this project without your assistance! We're so grateful for...

- St. John's Nancy & Jeff Human and Nancy James for coordinating the Angel Tree there and for the books provided by their monetary donation
- North Park's Michelle Doedema for coordinating and for once again helping us reach our goal
- St. Paul's for spearheading this outreach project!

Others to thank:

- Bob Bossert for the hours he spends at the computer so we have those invaluable Angel Tree tags, and for securing and driving the rental truck to deliver our gifts to School 74
- Kim Olsen for ordering the books and Peg & Lee Clukey for collecting your dollars to provide those books!
- John and Kathy Hannon for helping to sort boxes
- The Williamsville Homemakers who meet at St. Paul's on Wednesday mornings. They provided money for books as well as for the truck rental this year!! Thank you, ladies, for your generosity!!
- Sara Smith for helping to hand out tags and to all who helped load and unload the gifts at St. Paul's and School 74!

Finally, to all members of our congregations who faithfully purchased 242 gifts so young children could enjoy a Christmas surprise – THANK YOU!

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

ST. PAUL'S in WILLIAMSVILLE

1869 ~ 2019

Calendar of Events

Sons of St. Paul's Preacher Series	Ongoing
History of St. Paul's Presentation & Pot Luck	January 20 th
Olde Fashioned Church Service	February 17 th
Youth Talent Show	March 9 th
Olde Fashioned Easter & Breakfast	April 21 st
Marriage Celebration & Renewal	May 4 th
Church Picnic – Anniversary Edition	June 9 th
Olde Home Days Parade	July 9 th (tentative)
Confirmation Reunion	July 13 th -14 th
Anniversary Concert	August
Time Capsule	September 22 nd
Anniversary Dinner Dance	October 5 th
Bishop Visit	November 3 rd
Olde Fashioned Ice Cream Social	November 17 th
Tree Trimming – Anniversary Edition	December 8 th

Event Highlight ~ January: History of St. Paul's Presentation & Pot Luck ~

What better way to kick off our anniversary year than with a quick history lesson led by our resident historian, Julianna Woite! Join us on January 20th for a trip into St. Paul's past. Learn about the birth of Lutheranism in WNY and the evolution of a tiny mission church at the corner of Eagle and North Ellicott Streets. This multi-media presentation will highlight pictures of St. Paul's and its members through the years and will include artifacts from our rich past. Let's begin our anniversary year by celebrating our past and embracing our present!

Presentation, 4pm ~ Although this is a family friendly presentation, alternate activities/crafts will be provided in the Sunday School for any interested children

Pot Luck Dinner, 5pm ~ Please bring a dish or desert to share

Sign up in the Social Hall or email Julianna Woite at jlwoite@yahoo.com



ONLINE OPTION FOR RECEIVING THE VOICE

If you have not yet notified us whether you would like the voice emailed to you or sent by regular mail, please fill out the form that's on the table in the foyer and leave it on Sharon's desk, email us at stpaulwilliamsville@roadrunner.com, or call the church office to let us know your preference.

Ladies Aid –

Ladies Aid will resume on January 8.



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.



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

Congratulations to Johanna Habermehl on the December 11th birth of her son, Michael
Stephen Albrecht.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS — JANUARY 2019 VOICE

All donations go into the Memorial Fund unless otherwise indicated.

In memory of Edward C. Jacobi

Karen (Jacobi) Dunnewold *Current Fund*

In memory of Dorothy Ford

Ms. Dorothy Adamczyk *Current Fund*

In memory of Glenn Pfisterer

Karl & Judy Kristoff *Endowment Fund*
Elaine Beck
Jon & Kim Olsen
Curt & Joyce Chace
Richard & Betty Venator

In memory of Marge McKeegan

St. Paul's Ladies Aid

PARISH REGISTER – JANUARY 2019 VOICE!

RICHARD JOSEPH LYNCH IV, son of Richard J. Lynch III & Melissa (nee Orlando) Lynch, was baptized at St. Paul's on December 16, 2018.

The deadline for our February edition of the voice is Monday, January 21, 2019

Please send your articles to stpaulsvoice@yahoo.com or in our box in the office.