

Year-end contributions news

Contributions to St. Paul's that are intended to be included on the contribution statements for 2019, must be received in the Business Office, by 10:00 am on December 30, 2019. If you have any questions in regards to an end-of-the-year contribution or if there are any changes to your name or address, please contact Cindy in the office at 419 893-0205 x205 or email her at canaumann@saintpaulsonline.org.

2020 Offering Envelopes are in the Gathering Space in alphabetical order by last name. Please stop by and pick up your envelopes.

As part of an effort to reduce expenses, the envelope box sets for E-type contributors do not contain the regular Sunday envelopes. A contribution slip option is available that may be utilized in lieu of the weekly envelope. In addition, if you wish to establish an e-type contribution account for automatic electronic contributions from your checking, savings or credit card account, please contact Cindy in regards to this option.

Coming in February!



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO THE
SERVICE OF INSTALLATION
FOR
THE REV. DR. TIMOTHY J.
STERNBERG

DATE & TIME: TO BE ANNOUNCED

New Trustees elected

Many thanks to those who were willing to have their names placed in nomination for a position as a Trustee. We appreciate your willingness to serve. The two new Trustees who were elected at the November Congregational Gathering are Barb Corrello and Russ Leggett.

Commissioning Service date set

Our Trustees and M.A.T. (Ministry Area Team) Leaders for 2020 will be commissioned at the 10:00 AM worship service on Sunday, January 26. Everyone is invited to attend this service to witness the Commissioning and to show your support of our leaders with your promises of loyalty and prayers.



JESUS, MY KING

January message from Pastor Tim

Invocation for the New Year

What is an invocation and why do we do it at church? It sounds like a fancy religious word but it's used as much in legal matters as it is religious. It's a Latin word meaning "to call on" and in church we begin worship by calling on God Father Son and Spirit to be present and make himself known to us.

*Yes, YHWH! I am indeed your servant;
I will present a thank offering to you,
and call on the name of YHWH.
I will fulfill my promises to YHWH before all his people,
in the courts of the LORD's temple.
Praise the LORD! -- Psalm 116.16-19 NET*

In the presence of our God we sing and pray. Before our Father in heaven we confess and we receive the body and blood of Jesus. The Divine Trinity is with us as we share God's peace with each other. Worship, then, is God-with-us.

A question to start the new (secular) year is this: Have we invoked our God for the new year? That question may sound a little strange but let's consider the message it sends to the world.

The world begins the new year with all sorts of personal promises, doesn't it? "I will do so and so." "I will give up this and that." "I resolve to be more, or less, of something." "I'm starting fresh and new."

What if we "flipped the script" and begin the new year with . . . God? "God, be present in this year for your praise and my good!" "God my Father and Jesus my Savior and Spirit my Power, in obedience I call upon you and you will deliver me." "My God, not as I desire but as you want for me. My life is yours; my every day."

A part of our Lutheran heritage is tied up in this way of thinking and speaking. Martin Luther had a practice and asked others to have it too: "In the morning, as soon as you get out of bed, make the sign of the cross and say: "God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen." Then . . . confess and pray . . . sing or whatever else may serve your devotion, and then go to your work joyfully."

This New Years Eve, let's have every Christ-follower invoke the Name of our God - for all praise and honor and glory and might belong to him! And all God's children say: "**Amen!**"



A note of thanks from your Hospitality MAT

In this season of gratitude, it's so nice to say "Thank You" to all our wonderful volunteers who give so freely and generously of their time, talents and treasures.

Our Sunday morning greeters and coffee counter servants are so appreciated!

May God continue to bless you as you bless others doing Kingdom work!

Karen Scribner,
Hospitality M.A.T. Leader

Year-End Reports are due soon

Staff, 2019 Trustees, and M.A.T. Leaders are reminded that the deadline for having your year-end report for the 2019 program year turned in to Becky, in the church office, is by the end of the day on Sunday, February 2nd. Please make a note of the deadline now.



Make a note!

In the case of inclement weather on Sunday morning or at any other time when church activities are being held, please refer to the following policy:

- Lucas County **Level 3** snow emergency: all worship and all non-worship activities are cancelled.
- Lucas County **Level 2** snow emergency: all non-worship activities are cancelled. Worship will be conducted as scheduled unless the pastor deems otherwise. Media announcements will be made.
- Lucas County **Level 1** snow emergency: Worship will be conducted as scheduled. Non-worship activities will be held unless cancelled by the event leader. If cancelled, attempts will be made to notify all participants.



**IF YOU
DO NOT FEEL SAFE OUT
IN THE WEATHER,
PLEASE STAY HOME.**



"What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven't even happened yet."

—Anne Frank

News from Mosaic Ministries

Mosaic Ministries has two wonderful programs starting this year. Start the new year off right by mentoring some of these great people!

Baby University is a 10-week parenting class that offers breakfast and lunch for its participants. Volunteers needed to lend a hand in many areas. Read a book to a small child, mentor one of the parents participating, help with breakfast or lunch, clean up or take care of the children in the classrooms. There really is something for everyone.

The Beauty Project is a class for young ladies, ages 11-18. This class meets twice a month. The ladies learn so much, from tutoring, self esteem, self defense, modesty, and self care. Men or women can participate and help mold these young ladies into strong women of the future.

If you find yourself wanting to learn more or volunteering, please see the sign-up sheets in the Gathering Space or contacting Beth Heisey (248) 709-2599.



*"Our hope is not in the new year,
but in the One who makes all things new."*

Health Matters

Paul Doerfler, Pastor

"This is what the Lord says:

'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.

Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?

²Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?' declares the Lord.

'These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word'." ISA 66:1-2



Wow! The New Year is upon us once again and the *old* gone; already!! And of course with a New Year comes the nearly automatic thinking and related efforts on our parts that what lays ahead will be so much better; easier; more fruitful. Why? Well, after all, there's our New Year's resolutions we are very serious about keeping this

year! Our commitment levels are at their peak.

And certainly we've learned many lessons from this past year by now. Surely, we won't repeat those "mistakes", those areas we fell short in. NO! If anything, we will build anew on that which we have learned and have brought forward from our past experiences—in body, mind and spirit.

But, take a step back with me, briefly. Like me, you've probably heard before, that it's often actually harder building on that which currently exists, than starting a project from scratch; anew. For example, those involved in disaster relief will say, "Rebuilding a city, is always harder than building the city." I believe the same to be true of our lives. Particularly in our cases, if yours' or my 2019 wasn't *all* that great.

Typically, a New Year represents an opportunity to reassess our lives in various areas. If we could stand to lose a few pounds, like me, you may examine your diet and make plans to, or even change your eating habits. If it's smoking, excessive drinking or some sort of substance abuse or addictive behaviors, we weigh them. Many times it leads to our seeking out needed help to better ourselves. At least for a while. It's that long-term thing, prolonged positive change that remains so elusive, so hard to sustain.

Like some of you, I've made certain New Year's resolutions before and made positive changes and embraced certain helpful, productive life growth in some of my deficient areas in mind, body and/or Spirit. But, sustaining the growth is the hardest part. Because of the sinful natures we still struggle with, this side of heaven. Why is it so hard to sustain our positive, forward growth?

Maybe, in part, it's because within our "new" resolutions, we also need to build in a "charging center." By that I mean a stronger means of

(Continues in Column 2...)

Continued from Column 1

actually *recharging* all our efforts made to be and regularly grow more and more into Jesus Christ's *nearer* image.

ISA 66 once more: **"This is what the Lord says: 'Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. Where is the house you will build for Me? Where will My resting place be? ²Has not My Hand made all these things, and so they came into being?' declares the Lord."** If I faith-fully embrace God's Word here, and in similar verses, I will stay charged in my Christ-centered growing and changes. How does that work?

By first remembering this: **"Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself..."** 1 CO 6:19, NLT. Or this: **"...But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."** JOS 24:15b.

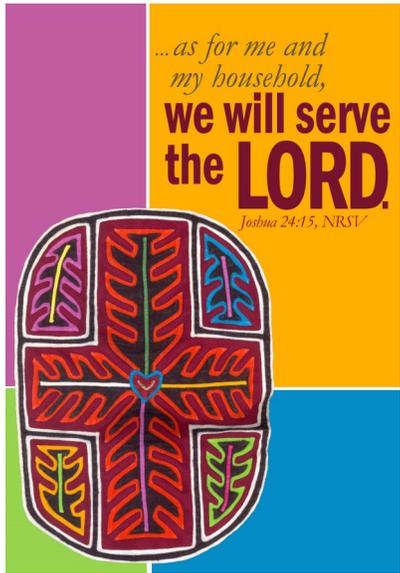
You see scripture speaks to scripture; it affirms, endorses and even embodies itself.

So what will help sustain yours' and my positive efforts in 2020 to maintain those specific resolutions that represent our also growing in Jesus? Certainly by bathing our efforts in prayer and asking for the help of God's Spirit to guide and sustain us in that area in which He desires. And recharging ourselves *continuously* using God's Word as our ongoing energy source.

(Cont. on Pg. 5, Column 1...)

**Continued from Page 4,
Column 2**

God promises then to bless our efforts and help us bear the fruit He desires for *His Kingdom*. Not ours. ***“These are The ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at My word.”*** ISA 66:2b. I pray that all your 2020 resolutions are God’s admonitions for you. And that you take full advantage of His guidance, His support and help.



Your old glasses can give new life



Millions in developing nations lack access to basic eye care services. The Lions Club has recognized the urgent need for corrective lenses and continues to lend their support.

If you have old eye glasses that you are no longer using, please bring them to the church, drop them off in the basket on the counter by the Outreach Board and we will recycle them through the Lion’s Club.

Questions? Contact Gary Langenderfer (419-893-3246).



Saturday Stitchin’

Join us for a morning of knitting and crocheting on Saturday, January 4!

Want to learn how to knit or crochet? Bring an H crochet hook or size 8 or 9 knitting needles and 4-ply worsted yarn with you.

Come at 9:30 to the Gathering Space and stay until 12:00 noon to learn or to sit and work on a continuing project. Chat with friends and enjoy the conversation and a snack or two. Bring a snack to share, if you wish.

Enjoy some time doing something you love with good friends.

December Prayer Focus: Trust

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” - Proverbs 3:5-6

Dear Heavenly Father,

We give You thanks for the blessings of the past year.

As You are “the Light of the world”, take away the darkness in our lives. As You are “the Way”, lead us in the year ahead. Reign in our hearts, O Jesus, loving King.

We entrust the past to Your mercy, Lord, the present to Your love, and the future to Your providence. In Jesus’ Name,

Amen.

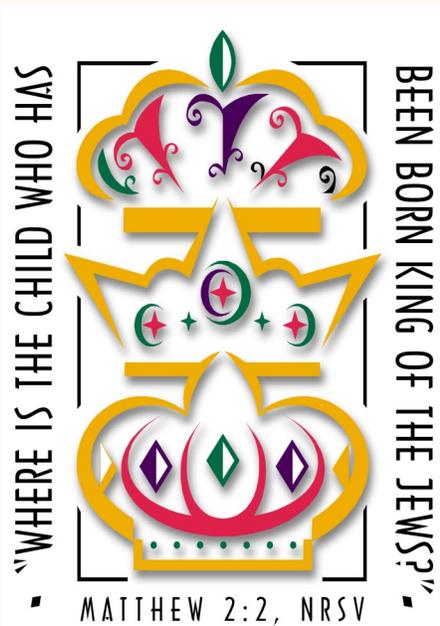


Lessons in wise faith

“The Magi teach us true faith,” said Martin Luther. Given the obstacles they encountered, we would understand if they had given up altogether!

First, the travelers were “off the mark,” coming to Jerusalem to seek a newborn king in a “royal palace.” Then, directed to Bethlehem, the wise men found a sight “so utterly out of keeping with a king” – a poor young woman and child, in a “poor hut” – that one might expect them to head straight home. “But,” declares Luther, “with a great, strong and full faith they ... follow the word of the prophet and the witness of the star in all purity of heart,” bowing to worship and honor the Savior.

—Based on Luther’s sermon for the Festival of the Epiphany (1522), *Luther’s Works*



January altar flower dates are open

Three Sundays in January (the 5th, 12th & 19th) are open on our Altar Flower calendar. If you are interested in placing flowers on the altar on any of those Sundays, please call Becky, in the church office (419-893-0205).

As a reminder, the cost is \$20.00.

Our heartfelt condolences

... to Edmund Braker and family (in memory of his beloved wife, Rita).



A reminder

Has it been a while since you received an updated church directory? If so, there has probably been quite a few address changes, etc.. Remember: You can request an updated directory as often as you would like. Just give the office a call (419-893-0205). Each color copy is only \$3.00.



No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.

—Charles Dickens

Special gifts received

A special memorial contribution to St. Paul’s has been given by Fred Dais in honor and in memory of his parents, FRED & MARGE DAIS and to honor and thank PASTOR PAUL.

A special memorial contribution to St. Paul’s has been given by Linda Scott in memory of WES & OLGA REVILL.

A special General Fund contribution has been given by: Becky Guth in honor of her St. Paul’s friends at Christmas.



Ladies Lunch & Dinner Bunch

Ladies of all ages are invited to meet at Caper’s Pizza Bar, 2038 S. Byrne Road, on Thursday, January 16, at 11:30 am OR at 6:00 pm to enjoy good food and good company together.

Invite a friend!



The Communicator
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In the event of an emergency
and it's after hours, you may reach Pastor
Paul at **419-382-5747**.

Office Hours:
Mon-Fri: 8:00 am–noon & 1:00-4:30 pm

Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Dr. Timothy J. Sternberg
Rev. Paul S. Doerfler

Sunday Schedule:

8:00 am Traditional Service
9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Modern Service

Everyone is welcome!

Trustees:

Zack Heisey
Russ Leggett
Erin Grieger
Lisa Long

**COMMUNICATOR
DEADLINE**

As a reminder, the deadline for the Communicator is the 15th of the month at 8:00 am. IF the 15th is on a weekend, the deadline is the following Monday at 8:00 am.

Submissions for repeated printing must be earmarked with the specific publication dates.

Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space. Thank you so much for meeting the deadline!

Resolve to listen

Christian philosopher Paul Tillich said, "The first responsibility of love is to listen." Yet in our fast-paced culture, truly listening to someone has become a lost art.

The intricate Chinese written character for the verb to listen offers wise insight about how to listen to people so they feel heard. The symbol is actually a combination of characters for ears, eyes and an open heart. Basically it reads, "I give you my ears, my eyes and my undivided attention." What a great image of being fully engaged during the act of communication!

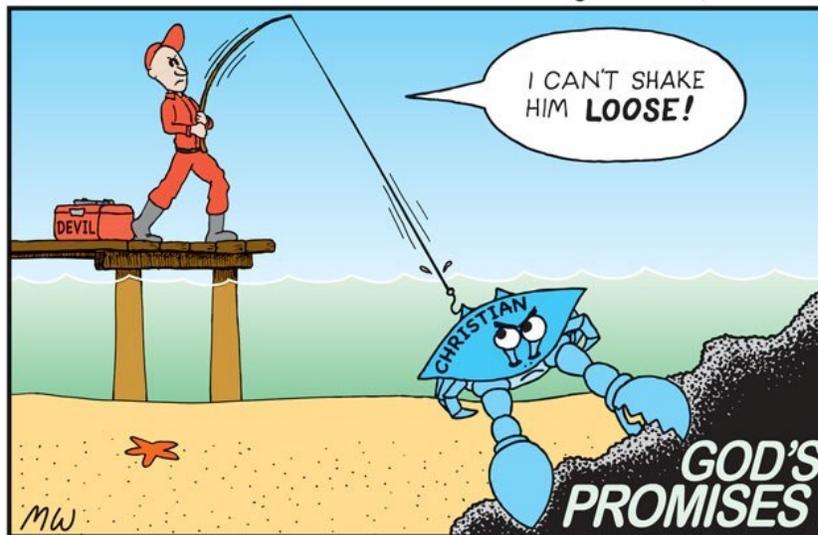


James 1:19 offers two wise resolutions for the year ahead: Be "quick to listen" and "slow to speak" (NRSV). Practicing the skill of active listening is a much-needed way to minister to other people, serving as Jesus' "ears" in a hurting world.



TIGHT GRIP

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.
— HEBREWS 10:23 NIV

Who We Are

We believe that God is willing and able to do more than we can ask, think or imagine. We believe that He has positioned us to fulfill our calling to reach out into Maumee, Toledo, and the nations with His love.

We are a Bible-based, caring church family that desires to grow in Christian faith. As a congregation, our most earnest desire, programming and efforts are focused toward reaching out to the world with the great news of salvation found in Jesus Christ. And we would like to reach out to you too.

If you do not have a church home, and if you are searching for a warm, welcoming place to learn, grow, and invest your time and talents, please consider worshipping with us.

Mission & Vision

ST. PAUL'S MISSION:

In response to Christ's great commission to share the Gospel with the whole world, St. Paul's Lutheran Church is called to make disciples by connecting the unconnected to Jesus Christ and together growing in full devotion to Him.

ST. PAUL'S VISION:

Do L.I.F.E: Love. Inspire. Forgive. Encourage. L.I.F.E: The building blocks of authentic, Christ-centered community.



Prepared Especially For:

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Maumee, Ohio 43537

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