



St. Paul's News

475 State Street Albany, New York 12203

New Year Greetings from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Out with the old, and in with the new! Every year we say goodbye to the good and the bad that the previous year brought us, and we look forward to what the new year might have in store for us to come. Though it comes with its challenges, it can also be an exciting and hopeful time. We often make resolutions of ways in which we might improve ourselves. How we can improve our health. How we can improve our diets. And this year, I would like for each of us to consider how we might improve our faith.

Improvements are best begun with a full assessment of where you are at. Before beginning a vigorous exercise routine, it is wise to test your heart and see what it can handle. Before beginning a new diet, it is wise to catalog what an average day of food looks like. This is true for all areas of our life when it comes to improvement. As we look ahead to improving our faith life this year together at St. Paul's, we will begin with an assessment of where we're at, by reminding ourselves who we are in Christ, and what we have been created to do. This will provide a platform from which to spring forward in faith, trusting that God's Spirit will continue to intercede and work in our hearts and our lives.

Beginning January 12th, we will have a 3 week sermon series devoted to helping us improve our faith. We want to be the best stewards of all that God has gifted us with, and it is my prayer that together we might learn more about who we are and who God intends for us to be. As a part of this process, you should receive (either in worship or in the mail) a Giving Pledge Card. At the end of the 3 week series you will be asked to prayerfully consider how God is leading you to support the mission and ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. As we seek to make our mission and ministry in the world echo Christ's, we will spring forward in faith and grow together in the Kingdom that He has come to establish.

Your Brother in Christ
Vicar Jim Dorner



Shelter Dinners:

Many thanks to Sheryl Baum, Andrew Van Acker & Cindy Esterby the delicious dinner that they prepared in early December! The menu included chili con carne with rice, tossed salad, and a selection of cakes for dessert and was much appreciated by the people at the shelter.

Can you help with a future meal? The next dinner St. Paul's is scheduled to provide is on **Tuesday, February 4, 2020**. Preparing a meal is easy, a typical dinner is for about 20-25 people and should consist of an entrée, a starch (potato, rice, pasta), a vegetable or salad and a dessert. Meals should be completely cooked and in disposable pans. Food may be prepared ahead of time and brought to St. Paul's on Sunday, if that works better for you. Look for the sign-up sheet in rear of the sanctuary. If you have any questions see Sheryl Baum.



Taking down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations (and the tree) in the Sanctuary after our church service on January 12th. Please stay after church and lend a hand. Many hands make for light work!



WINTER IS HERE AND IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER, CLOSINGS WILL BE POSTED ON THE FOLLOWING STATIONS:

Capital	WGY – 810
News 9	WGY
WXXA TV	WRGB TV
WFLY – FLY	WRVE – The
92	River
WTEN TV	WNYT TV



JANUARY/ FEBRUARY CLUSTER OUTREACH MINISTRY

The Schuyler Inn located in Menands, is an emergency housing shelter for families. Many of these families are there as a result of severe financial difficulties or natural disasters (such as fire or flood). They often arrive with nothing but the clothes they are wearing and are in great need.

During January and February please consider donating:

- ♦ Packages of diapers (all sizes)
- ♦ Baby wipes
- ♦ Diaper rash ointment
- ♦ Socks for adults
- ♦ Body wash
- ♦ Shampoo
- ♦ Toothpaste and toothbrushes

St. Paul's Cleaning Ministry

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January Cleaning – Join us for an hour or two on **Saturday, January 18th, 8:30-10:30**. It's easy – cleaning caddies are ready to grab & go and someone will be there to direct you. Thank you!



*Thank
you!*

This time of year always ushers in new things. New toys for the kids at Christmas. New resolutions for the adults. A new year is before us, and all the hopeful excitement it can bring. As we look to the future we are thankful for the past. Here at St. Paul's we have two people who are 'retiring' from their current positions. Linda Calamaras has served as the Financial Secretary for over 10 years, and Tina Harris has served as the Fellowship Coordinator for the past 3 years. Both jobs are big time commitments and come with their respective challenges. St. Paul's has been blessed by these two wonderful women of God. You know we are blessed, because they

have managed their jobs in such a way that most of us did not have to think about them getting done...because they always were, and admirably. Please, speak a word of thanks to Linda and Tina this year, and rejoice with them as they get a time of rest in the new year to come.

As thankful as we are to Linda and Tina, we are also thankful for the two women who have volunteered to step in as each of their replacements. Julie Alexander has agreed to be the new Financial Secretary, and Lisa Brickman has volunteered to serve as the new Fellowship Coordinator. God has truly blessed St. Paul's with women and men of faith who will step up and serve when a need arises. Please pray for Julie and Lisa as they begin their new task in



PORTALS OF PRAYER for January—March is available in the back of the church. Please help yourself. Take one for a friend.. It might help to brighten their days.

If you would like a statement of your contributions and gifts to St. Paul's for 2018, please call the church office or see Linda Calamaras.



JANUARY



The chart for ALTAR Flowers for 2020 is posted in the narthex. Please sign up (or call the church office) for the dates you desire and the dedication. The price is \$30 per week.

1. Danial Golet
Catrin Golet
5. ZWELONKE USHE
7. ALIDA EARL
15. GEORGE DAVID
17. ERIKA KAHLER
PETER VAN ACKER
20. BAILEY ALEXANDER
24. Tristen Dorner
24. MONICA MALL
28. Reta Francis



ELDER
Alan Alexander

DATE	FLOWERS	SERVICE STEWARD	Communion Assistant	ALTAR COMMITTEE
1/5	Wilma and Arnold Seim in honor of John's birthday	Tom Calamaras	Noor Javed	Wilma and Lori Seim
1/12	OPEN	Tom Calamaras	Noor Javed	
1/19	OPEN	Tom Ragoni	Anne Ragoni	Julie and Bailey Alexander
1/26	The Alexanders for Bailey's Birthday	Tom Ragoni	Anne Ragoni	