



St. Paul's News

2020

475 State Street Albany, New York 12203 518.463.0571

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Paul writes these words as his opening remarks to the church in Philippi. He writes of his thankfulness for the body of believers there who have committed themselves to the same ministry: spreading the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. I could have written these same words to the faithful here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church! I am thankful for what you have given and continue to give to our body of believers.

As I continue to learn the history of this great congregation, its inception, its transition to English, and its response to the growing secularism movement, I am blown away at the faithfulness which the people of this church have demonstrated. Through all the challenges, you remained one, and you continued to gather and worship at this location each week, and have embraced the many various ministries God has placed into your laps to serve and love the people around you. We are now at an exciting time where we are blessed with the task to look ahead and dream what we hope our life together will look like in the years to come. Not just our life together, but the footprint we leave in our community here in Albany, and everywhere we live.

This task is not our church's alone. We are dreaming along with our sister congregation, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church here in Albany. I want to encourage you to start dreaming and start praying about what our church will look like in 5 years, 10 years, and 20 years. Pray that God would continue to guide and lead us, as he faithfully has for over 150 years already.

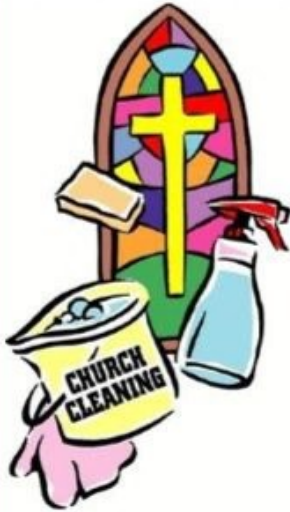
This year as we look forward to Lent and Holy Week, we are blessed to be able to partner with our friends from St. Matthews. They have graciously invited us to worship with them each mid-week Lenten service, as we have invited them to worship with us on Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services. I would encourage you to come and worship together, and make sure you introduce yourself to new faces as they show up.

Ash Wednesday: February 26th 7:00PM @ St. Paul's
Lenten Worship: Wednesdays March 4th – April 1st
5:45PM Supper & 6:30PM Service @ St. Matthew's

The apostle Paul also writes to the church of Philippi, "If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind." May this be our prayer also as we look to our Lenten season to come, and the future of our historic church here at St. Paul's Lutheran. May God continue to bless each of you as you serve him in love, because Jesus has first served us in love.

Your Brother In Christ
Vicar Jim Dorner

ST. PAUL'S CLEANING MINISTRY



We continue to tidy and clean at St. Paul's, please join us for an hour or two on **Saturday, February 22, 8:30-10:30 am**, as we tackle another area of the church. But, if you can't join us then, not a problem, just select a job, and then come in and work when it's convenient for you. Any questions? Speak with Sheryl Baum.



ANNUAL MEETING

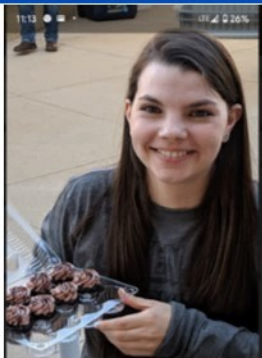
Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23rd after worship. Reports from the various boards will be presented. We will also be discussing our work with St. Matthew's in the future. Please make every effort to attend as we plan the upcoming year for St. Paul's. We need your ideas and input!!

Homeless Shelter Dinners:

Many thanks to Lori Seim for stepping up to cook for the next shelter dinner on Tuesday, February 4.



However, volunteers are still needed for the next dinner St. Paul's is scheduled to provide on Tuesday, March 31st. It really is a simple task to make a pan of macaroni & cheese, a salad or a tray of brownies and the men are so appreciative of the home-cooked food provided. If you can make an entrée, a tossed salad, a side dish or a simple dessert, please sign-up on the sheet in the rear of the sanctuary or contact Sheryl Baum. Thank you!



Stephen and Lisa Brickman would like to thank everyone who has been praying for their daughter Elizabeth. In November 2019 she had surgery to remove cancer from her tongue. Please know that her recovery from this procedure has exceeded all expectations her parents and surgeons have had! She has learned to speak, eat, drink, and swallow with a smaller and modified tongue. She's also back at work as an ER technician in a trauma center in California.

At the Council Retreat in January, the Planning Council voted on a Bible Verse to be our "motto" for 2020. The following verse was unanimously chosen because it is thought to be very applicable to St. Paul's.

Have I not commanded you? 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'" Joshua 1:9

Lisa Brickman is heading up our Fellowship Committee. She will be preparing the coffee and tea each Sunday. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the church for people to bring something to share at Coffee Hour. It does not need to be fancy. You could bring something and someone else can contribute also.

PLEASE sign up ! You can be a HOST and provide all the food for that day, or contribute an item. Let's all chip in and help. We all enjoy out fellowship at coffee hour!



LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

LENT begins on Wednesday, February 26. This year, we will be joining our brothers and sisters at St. Matthew during the Lenten season.

On ASH WEDNESDAY, service will be held at St. Paul's at 7 PM. Please plan to attend to begin your Lenten journey to the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday.

Midweek Lenten Services (Wednesday evenings during Lent) – 5:45 soup supper – 6:30 Service at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 75 Whitehall Rd.





Celebrating a

FEBRUARY

1. JULIE ALEXANDER
7. SHIRLEY SCHMITT
14. Sarah Gebreyes
19. STEFANIE CALAMARAS
22. Juliette Dorner
25. CHRISTOPHER SHELDON
27. THOMAS KINGSTON

Congratulations to GREAT Grandmother, Viola Stevens. Her new great grandson, Felix S.D. Okair, Jr. was born in Liberia on Jan 26th.

ELDER
James Roberts



CANCELLATIONS AND CLOSINGS

If the weather is bad, check with TV and radio stations for cancellations and closures at St. Paul's. We will also send out an email to notify as many people as we can. If you know someone without email, please contact them.

SHOPPING LIST

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE BACK OF CHURCH. ITEMS NEEDED FOR CLEANING, ETC. WILL BE POSTED ON INDEX CARDS. IF YOU CAN, TAKE A CARD OR TWO AND PURCHASE THAT ITEM AND BRING IT IN THE NEXT WEEK. WHAT A HELP THAT IS TO OUR "BUDGET". THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR HELP!

DATE	FLOWERS	COMMUNION ASSTTANT	SETRVICE STEWARD	ALTAR COMMIT-TEE
Feb 2	The Alexander Fmaily in celebration of Julie's birthday	Lori Seim	Nicholas Alexander	Noor Javed and Family
Feb 9	Alida Earl in memory of Dad, Frank Boshea's, birthday.	Lori Seim	Nicholas Alexander	Noor Javed and Family
Feb 16	The Alexander Family in celebration of Alan and Julie's wedding anniversary	Linda Calamaras	Nicholas Alexander	Frances and Andrew VanAcker
Feb 23	Joan Aldi in memory of mother, Kathleen Lawler on her birthday	Linda Calamaras	Braxton Harris	Frances and Andrew VanAcker