

# The Epistle - January 2017



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

### NEW YEAR/NEW LIFE

The 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has designated January 8<sup>th</sup>, The Baptism of Our Lord as a day to remember our baptisms and those who have been baptized over the years at St. Paul's. It is a great way to begin a new year, as baptism and its remembrance are ever-new beginnings, that moment when God embraced us in grace and love and promised us that we would ever be his daughters and sons, sisters and brothers of Jesus.

Or put another way:

"We were buried with Christ through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Romans 6

Or, whatever happened to Jesus in that tomb will be ours as well. Luther suggests that the power of this baptismal promise is to begin and end each day. It is to lead us out into the public square of our daily lives with assurance that God's love "works." And as we lie down to rest, this promise assures us God holds us in his arms as we sleep.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, ("The Cranberry Book,") has continued the Lutheran Book of Worship's emphasis on baptism by offering the "Remembrance of Baptism," as an alternate to confession and absolution to begin a liturgy, and by including Luther's "Small Catechism," in its entirety. (Bored with a sermon? It makes great reading material.) While the 10 Commandments, Apostles' Creed, and Lord's Prayer make up the larger part of this Catechism, Baptism and Holy Communion bring us the sustenance needed to live out the rest of the catechism's teaching.

It is important to note as you read "Baptism," (Next column.) it is the "head of the family" that is charged with sharing/teaching the catechism. As we remember God's baptismal promises to us, we are called to remember those we have made for children we presented, those at our Confirmations, and those as members of a congregation to the newly baptized. A great way to begin a new year!

Pastor Michael+

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FROM MARTIN LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM...

As the head of the family should teach them in the simplest way to those in his household.

### THE INSTITUTION OF HOLY BAPTISM

#### *First: What is Baptism?*

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is water used by God's command and connected with God's Word.

*Which is that Word of God?*

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!"

### THE BLESSINGS OF BAPTISM

#### *Second: What does Baptism do for us?*

Baptism works forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare. What are these words and promises of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

### THE POWER OF BAPTISM

#### *Third: How can water do such great things?*

It is certainly not the water that does such things, but God's Word which is in and with the water, and faith which trusts this Word used with the water. For without God's Word the water is just plain water and not baptism. But with this Word it is baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of rebirth by the Holy Spirit.

#### *Where is this written?*

St. Paul says in Titus, chapter 3, "God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." This is a trustworthy saying.

### THE MEANING OF BAPTISM FOR OUR DAILY LIFE

#### *Fourth: What does baptizing with water mean?*

Baptism means that the old Adam in us should be drowned by daily contrition and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

#### *Where is this written?*

St. Paul says in Romans, chapter 6, "We were buried with Christ through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

**JOIN US TO REMEMBER OUR BAPTISMS!**

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**FOR OUR WORSHIP PREPARATION...**  
**THE READINGS & PRAYERS OF THE DAY FOR JANUARY 2017**  
**CYCLE A OF THE THREE YEAR LECTIONARY – THE YEAR OF MATTHEW**

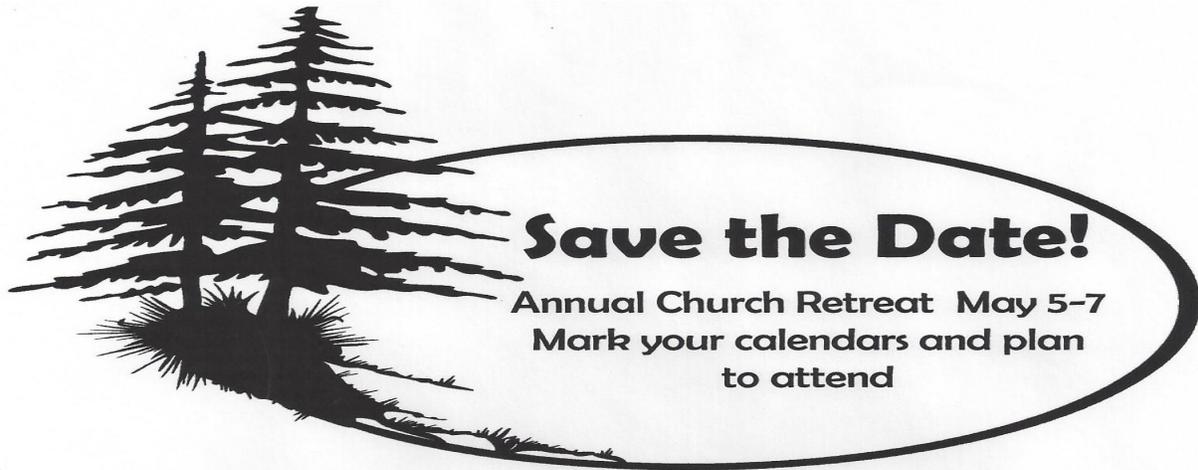
THE DAY OF THE CHURCH'S CALENDAR	PRAYER OF THE DAY	WORD & SACRAMENT	SERVICE OF THE WORD
<b>January 1, 2017</b> <b>NAME OF JESUS</b> Readings: Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21	O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.	One Liturgy 9:00 a.m.	
<b>January 8, 2017</b> <b>Baptism of Our Lord</b> I Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17	O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.	10:15 <b>A day to remember our baptisms as part of our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b>	8:00
<b>January 15, 2017</b> <b>Epiphany 2</b> Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.	8:00	10:15
<b>January 22, 2017</b> <b>Conversion of St. Paul</b> <i>Transferred from Jan. 25, Our "Name Day."</i> Acts 9:1-22 Psalm 67 Galatians 1:11-24 Luke 2:22-40	O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world. Grant that we may follow his example and be witnesses to the truth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.	8:00 & 10:15	
<b>January 29, 2017</b> <b>Epiphany 4</b> Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12	Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Liturgy @ St. Luke's Lutheran The Rev. Beth Folkemer will be our guest preacher for the day.	





## JANUARY MUSIC NOTES:

During the month of January we will conclude the season of Christmas and begin the season of Epiphany. We will celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord on the 8<sup>th</sup> and the Conversion of St. Paul on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. On the 29<sup>th</sup> we will combine with the other Lutheran Churches for our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Festival at St. Luke's Lutheran.



*The Christian Family Committee would like to thank everyone that came out to attend craft day! It was a success due to your support. The shut in's really enjoyed the gifts we made. A extra special thank you to everyone that help put it together and take it down. Look for upcoming Christian Family Events!*



*Dear Friends in Christ,  
Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year! My family & I would like to thank the wonderful visit of Christmas carolers that came to sing for us! The night was cold and beginning to ice and they came anyway to bring a little song and cheer to us in my home. We hope to see them again next year! God Bless you & Merry Christmas! ~Margaret Wallen*

Our brother in Christ, *Pete Pautenis*, claimed the promise of his baptism on December 19, 2016.



\*\*\*\*\*

**Ushers are greatly needed for both services.** If you would like to serve your church in this capacity, please contact the church office (359-4822). There is minimal training required.

*Thank you for your consideration.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Bible Study** meets on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, (and sometimes 5<sup>th</sup>) **Tuesdays** of the month, bible study will meet at 1:30pm. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> **Mondays** of the month bible study will meet at 6pm (just before council & committees meet). Note the variation in days & times. Please join us whenever you can!

\*\*\*\*\*

**HOOKS AND NEEDLES** meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Library. This will continue throughout the school year. Anyone who enjoys fiber crafts is invited.

\*\*\*\*\*



2017 Offering Envelopes are available in the Kammerer Room.  
Counters Needed: If interested or have any questions please contact Barb Schwartz (637-3252)

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**HEY: SR. HIGH YOUTH! Write down this date!**

All youth in grades 9 - 12 are invited to attend the second monthly Sr. High Youth Sunday School Class to be held **January 8**. We will continue to explore our faith and take time to enjoy food and fellowship. Meet us upstairs in the Sr. High Youth room. See you then!

## Call Committee News

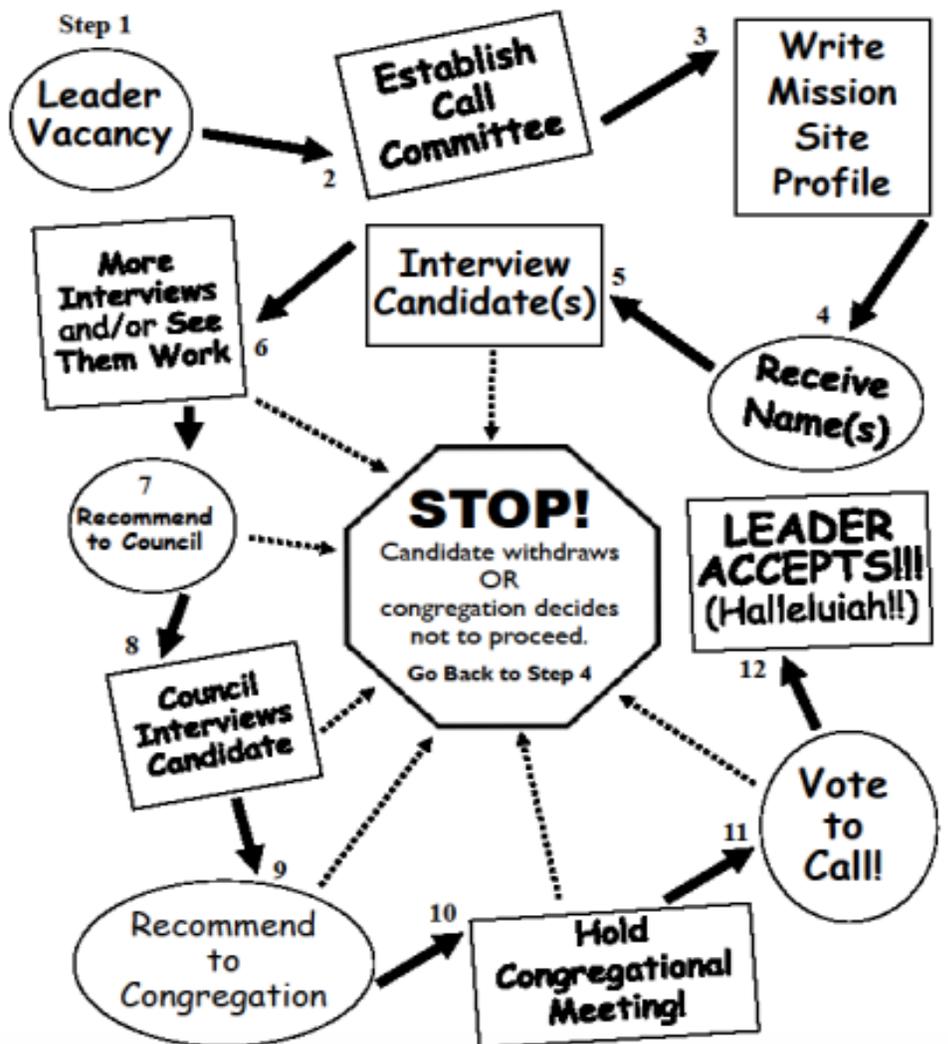
*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. Isaiah 11:1-2*

A shoot shall come out of the stump! But if the root system of this stump isn't strong, it will die. If the roots are strong and the soil rich, it will sprout a shoot. It might not be as big as the original tree, but this new life has promise. This happens so much in our lives. We feel a lose and then see no hope. Maybe some of us are still feeling this lose. But, I assure you that our roots are strong and our soil rich. We don't need to look far to see how this happens. Remember back before Ruth's Harvest started...remember when people wanted to supply food for food-insecure children on extended weekends: 150 sandwiches were made and only one child showed up. There was a sense of defeat. But, then the idea came of giving the sandwiches to neighbors. People met new neighbors, made connections, prayed together; they evangelized! Then it was decided to pack extra for those extended weekend and Ruth's Harvest sprouted and grew! Something sprouted from this dead stump. It sprouted because we have the strong roots and rich soil!

Maybe we are feeling like we're having a "dead stump" moment. But, with our strong roots and rich soil we will create a shoot! Our time will come when we find the right Shepherd. That will be our time of new growth. We don't know what exactly will grow, but based on our past we should be confident it will grow strong! We must be patient as this call process moves forward. We must work to keep our roots strong and soil rich while we continue through the process.

At the time we're writing this, we are waiting on the names of our three candidates. Rest assured this doesn't mean that nothing is happening. The Synod is working to find the best candidates to fit our needs. This will help us be as successful as possible. It's an important part of the process that we need. Keep an eye out on the website and in the bulletins for the most up to date process. As always we thank you for your continued support and prayers!

## 12 Steps to Your New Leader!





## St. Paul's will be 150 years old in 2017

Join us for anniversary celebrations during the  
year:

January 8 - Recognition of those baptized at St. Paul's

June 4 - Recognition of those confirmed at St. Paul's

June 25 - Recognition of those married at St. Paul's

Oct 29 - Recognition of 50 Year members as we commemo-  
rate

500 years of Reformation and our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event  
with Bishop Jim Dunlap

\* \* \* \*

Connect to our past with older order of worship  
services on Feb 19, April 2, and Sept 24

\* \* \* \* \*

Come to sing familiar hymns from past years and  
to hear a newly commissioned anthem  
to mark our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Please take a moment to notify the church office:



- ◆ When you (or a family member) would like a visit from the pastor
- ◆ When there is a death or serious illness in your family
- ◆ When you wish to add or remove someone from the prayer list
- ◆ When you move to a new address or your phone number has changed
- ◆ If you wish to be added to the Epistle emailing list
- ◆ When you wish to borrow tables/chairs from the church
- ◆ When you wish to fill out a form of use for the Social Hall (policy is at least 30 days in advance)
- ◆ When you need information about scheduling a baptism or wedding
- ◆ When you wish to submit an article for the newsletter and/or bulletin announcements
- ◆ When you wish to update with graduation information

**Church Office Telephone 717-359-4822**

Email Address: [office@stpaulslittlestown.org](mailto:office@stpaulslittlestown.org)

Please note: Phone & email messages are checked only office hours on weekdays

For a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastor Richard Michael 717-314-7898  
or [Richardmichael1@mac.com](mailto:Richardmichael1@mac.com).

**WEBSITE:** [www.stpaulslittlestown.org](http://www.stpaulslittlestown.org)

**The Pastor will be out on vacation January 23-30.** More information will be forthcoming regarding coverage during this time.



**Information for FEBRUARY Epistle is due by Wednesday, January 18.** All contributions of articles/information from all corners of St. Paul's are encouraged! Please submit material via email of-  
office@stpaulslittlestown.org or by placing it in the secretary's mailbox in the church office. Please note: Items submitted after the deadline may be held until the subsequent newsletter, so information can be dispersed promptly. Thank you!

## **YEARBOOK TIME!!!**

Just a reminder that the deadline to turn in all committee reports for the Yearbook is **Thursday January 12<sup>th</sup>**. **All members: Contact the church office with any changes or additions to personal information** (address, phone number, email address, cell number, work number, youth in college and their addresses) **by Thursday January 12<sup>th</sup> as well.** This will help make the Yearbook as current as possible! This is a big project so please be sure to meet the deadline!

## New Year Greetings from the Parish Nursing Team.

As was previously mentioned in the December newsletter, the Parish Nursing Team for St. Paul's congregation promised to provide more information on what a Parish Nursing Program will mean for the members of our church. First and foremost, please understand this will not be in the form of providing ongoing hands-on skilled nursing functions, such as wound care or any other skilled nursing task that is able to be provided by a home care agency already established within the community. The primary intention of the program is to provide spiritual and resource guidance that will assist congregational members to maintain their independent living status as much as possible. In addition to that, educational articles on illness prevention and wellness promotion will also be provided. The following list of examples should provide further explanation on what the nurses will offer:

- a. Newsletter articles of prevention and wellness-such as "don't forget to get your flu shot."
- b. Periodic blood pressure screenings.
- c. Medication awareness and field questions that members may have about specific medications.
- d. Assist members with transition of care from hospital to home in the way of clarifying discharge instructions to ensure understanding of the medical provider's treatment goals.
- e. Accompanying a member to a physician appointment that may need an extra set of eyes and ears to ensure understanding of the medical providers instructions for care.
- f. Resource guidance and management of services intended to keep the member home in a safe, independent living status as much as possible.
- g. Spiritual counseling and explanation for patients facing end of life decisions in creating advanced directives and Prevention of Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) agreements that will guide their treatment wishes.
- h. Coordination of meal support for individuals/families as needed on an emergent basis.

Other goals of the parish nursing service will be considered on an individual basis to determine if the care is appropriate for the parish nursing team or needs to be referred to an agency more equipped to support their needs.

The key contacts for this service are Pastor Michael, Jill Baird, RN, Sue Bowmaster, RN or Janet Cutsail, RN. Please do not hesitate to call for questions regarding services using the contact information below:

The Church office: 359-4822  
Jill Baird, RN  
[RI50ja@earthlink.net](mailto:RI50ja@earthlink.net) or 717-359-5525

Sue Bowmaster, RN  
[svbowmaster@AOL.com](mailto:svbowmaster@AOL.com) or 717-630-0976

Jane t Cutsail, RN  
[jcmcc04@embarqmail.com](mailto:jcmcc04@embarqmail.com) or 359-7521

A few wellness tips for January:

1. Use precautionary measures when walking on ice and snow. Wear protective footwear that has good traction and insulation. Take short steps and walk at a slower pace to react quickly to changes in traction
2. Prevent harmful exposure to cold temperatures by applying a scarf to the face to warm the air you breathe in freezing temperatures.
3. Avoid extreme physical exertion, such as prolonged shoveling of snow.
4. **January is National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month.** Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women worldwide. Regular pap testing is the best way to detect the presence of cell abnormalities and protect against invasive cervical cancer.

# FINANCIAL CORNER

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Littlestown PA  
Donations Account Balances (11/01/2016 - 11/30/2016)

Tuesday, December 06, 2016

Page 1 of 1

Account	Period Activity	YTD Balance
<i>Giving Accounts</i>		
801 - ENV CONTRIBUTIONS	9,629.00	117,849.00
802 - Initial Offering	0.00	575.00
803 - Loose	169.20	1,842.60
804 - Sunday Church School	68.75	442.15
805 - Good Friday	0.00	295.00
806 - Lent	0.00	923.00
807 - Ash Wednesday	0.00	320.00
808 - Maundy Thursday	0.00	600.00
809 - Easter Sunrise	0.00	720.00
810 - Christmas Eve	0.00	10.00
811 - Music	0.00	495.00
812 - Weekly Bulletins	85.00	725.00
813 - Youth	43.00	465.00
815 - Major Building Impro	145.00	1,474.00
816 - Memorial Fund	50.00	1,025.00
817 - Funeral Fund	0.00	400.00
818 - Line of Credit	120.00	2,840.76
820 - Christian Ed.	0.00	10.00
822 - Organ Fund	0.00	40.00
829 - Roof Fund	0.00	5.00
830 - Disaster Relief	0.00	25.00
831 - A/C	4,105.00	4,285.00
832 - Flooring	5.00	50.00
860 - Food Pantry	260.00	2,477.00
861 - Luth World Relief	92.00	702.00
862 - Heifer Int'l Fund	0.00	34.00
863 - Lutheran Home	0.00	15.00
864 - Seminary	0.00	20.00
867 - Benevolence	5.00	107.00
868 - Ruth's Harvest Fund	79.00	2,253.00
871 - Flowers	0.00	28.00
872 - Out Reach	10.00	120.00
899 - Misc. Donations	0.00	440.00
<b>Total Giving Accounts</b>	<b>\$14,865.95</b>	<b>\$141,612.51</b>

Count: 33  
Period: 11/01/2016 - 11/30/2016  
Year: 2016

2016 Income and Expenses							
Month	Actual Expenses	Funded from Savings	Current Expenses	Actual Offering	Other Income	Total Income	Surplus / (Deficit)
Jan	\$ 14,958		\$ 14,958	\$ 11,680	\$ 6,380	\$ 18,059	\$ 3,102
Feb	\$ 16,609		\$ 16,609	\$ 14,021	\$ 2,299	\$ 16,320	\$ (289)
Mar	\$ 16,886		\$ 16,886	\$ 14,686	\$ 1,929	\$ 16,615	\$ (271)
Apr	\$ 15,655		\$ 15,655	\$ 11,209	\$ 4,692	\$ 15,901	\$ 246
May	\$ 19,738		\$ 19,738	\$ 11,407	\$ 2,540	\$ 13,947	\$ (5,791)
Jun	\$ 16,261		\$ 16,261	\$ 11,868	\$ 3,695	\$ 15,563	\$ (698)
Jul	\$ 16,066	\$ 1,240	\$ 14,826	\$ 11,725	\$ 3,800	\$ 15,525	\$ 698
Aug	\$ 21,133	\$ 2,000	\$ 19,133	\$ 14,872	\$ 1,588	\$ 16,461	\$ (2,673)
Sep	\$ 13,305	\$ 441	\$ 12,864	\$ 12,166	\$ 1,744	\$ 13,909	\$ 1,045
Oct	\$ 13,723		\$ 13,723	\$ 13,113	\$ 3,550	\$ 16,663	\$ 2,940
Nov	\$ 13,304		\$ 13,304	\$ 14,866	\$ 2,551	\$ 17,417	\$ 4,113
Dec			\$ -			\$ -	\$ -
<b>2016</b>	<b>\$ 177,638</b>	<b>\$ 3,681</b>	<b>\$ 173,957</b>	<b>\$ 141,613</b>	<b>\$ 34,768</b>	<b>\$ 176,380</b>	<b>\$ 2,423</b>

The current value of Unrestricted Investments available for support of any future additional deficits is: **\$ 143,875**

*Barbara L. Ashurst*



# St. Paul's - JANUARY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Barb Schwartz	2	3 James Boyd	4 Karissa O'Conner	5	6 Grace Toms Neil Snyder	7
8 Terry Burnette	9	10	11 Don Schumaker  <i>Gary &amp; Sue Strevig</i>	12	13 Becca Burnette Sherrie LaMotte	14
15	16	17	18 Chris Aulthouse Derrick Sneeringer	19 Wilbur Mayers	20 Matthew Groft	21 Thongpoon Carter Don Snyder
22 Ethan Rosenkrans	23	24	25 Michelle Conaway Abbey Smeak	26 Amanda Caples Melissa Caples	27	28
29 Kimberly Airing Clyde Keilholtz	30 Lester Schue	31 Justin Myers	<p>If you wish to add, remove or notice a mistake, please contact the church office. 359-4822 / <a href="mailto:office@stpaulslittlestown.org">office@stpaulslittlestown.org</a></p>			

# JANUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <i>Happy New Year!</i> <b>9:00AM</b> Worship NO Sunday School	<b>2</b> <b>6-8PM</b> Girl Scouts	<b>3</b> <b>1:30PM</b> Bible Study <b>6-8PM</b> Girl Scouts <b>6:30-8PM</b> H&N	<b>4</b> <b>6:00PM</b> Bell Rehearsal <b>7:00PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>5</b> <b>2:00PM</b> Ruth's Harvest Packing	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>8:00AM</b> Worship <b>9:00AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:15AM</b> Worship <i>Celebrating 150 Years of Baptisms</i>	<b>9</b> <b>6PM</b> Bible Study <b>6-8PM</b> Girl Scouts <b>7:00PM</b> Committee Mtgs.	<b>10</b> <b>6-8PM</b> Girl Scouts	<b>11</b> <b>6:00PM</b> Bell Rehearsal <b>7:00PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>12</b> <b>2:00PM</b> Ruth's Harvest Packing <i>Yearbook Info. Due</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>8:00AM</b> Worship <b>9:00AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:15AM</b> Worship	<b>16</b> <b>6PM</b> Bible Study <b>6-8PM</b> Girl Scouts <b>7:00PM</b> Council Mtg.	<b>17</b> <b>6-8PM</b> Girl Scouts <b>6:30-8PM</b> H&N	<b>18</b> <b>6:00PM</b> Bell Rehearsal <b>7:00PM</b> Chancel Choir <i>Newsletter Info. Due</i>	<b>19</b> <b>10:00AM</b> Ruth's Harvest Packing	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>8:00AM</b> Worship <b>9:00AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:15AM</b> Worship	<b>23</b> <b>6-8PM</b> Girl Scouts	<b>24</b> <b>6-8PM</b> Girl Scouts	<b>25</b> <b>6:00PM</b> Bell Rehearsal <b>7:00PM</b> Chancel Choir Food Pantry	<b>26</b> <b>2:00PM</b> Ruth's Harvest Packing	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <i>5th Sunday Festival @ St. Luke's Lutheran Church</i> <b>9:00AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:15AM</b> Worship <i>Potluck Luncheon following Worship</i>	<b>30</b> <b>6-8PM</b> Girl Scouts	<b>31</b> <b>1:30PM</b> Bible Study <b>6-8PM</b> Girl Scouts				

## **The Epistle - ISSUE DECEMBER 2016**

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### **The Church Staff**

**Rev. Richard Michael—Interim Pastor**

717-314-7898 / [richardmichael1@mac.com](mailto:richardmichael1@mac.com)

Ben Messinger—Choir Director

Martha Lobaugh—Organist

Ann Hartman—Assistant Pianist

Abbi Bucher—Parish Secretary

Michele Colvin—Treasurer

Barb Schwartz—Financial Secretary

Susan Haines—Sexton

### **Congregational Council**

President—Charlie Abruzzo      Secretary—Casey Miller

Kimberly Airing, Rich Burnette, Janet Cutsail, Mary Hall,  
Candy Rule, Darbye Smeak, Don Snyder,  
Javier Sandoval ( Youth Rep.)