

THE EPISTLE - January 2018



The Epistle Issue: January 2018

How could Christmas be upon us already! Advent has waned and a new year of life together is right around the corner. The joy of the season is in full swing as the sanctuary is coming to life for Christmas. I have to say I am overjoyed to be celebrating Christmas as pastor of St. Paul's. As I came to know the traditions of the church, heard the stories of Christmas' past, and sang a little Christmas cheer to our homebound members, it has been one of my favorite months in ministry. And as of the writing of this article the main celebration of the season is still yet to come!

One of my favorite Christmas hymns for Christmas is *O Little Town of Bethlehem* and the third verse of the hymn really hit me this year.

*“How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.”*

What a message of hope for us during this time! While our world loves big and flashy entrances, the greatest gift of heaven quietly comes to us in the most vulnerable and most human way possible, through the birth of a child. And what's even more amazing is that Jesus didn't come once, but continues to come to us. In the meal we share around His table, in the waters of Baptism, and in the many profound ways Christ shows up in our lives each day. So, as we celebrate the long awaited coming of Jesus, our own meek souls can rejoice that he continues to come and be with us even today.

On a personal note, Katie and I have been blessed by your warm welcomes and consistent care throughout these last five months since joining this community in July. I wish I could say after five months I have St. Paul's all figured out. However, I think there will be many more months, if not years, ahead of us until I'm bold enough to say that! What I will say is that I am excited for the next five, and the many more months to come after that. And I am dreaming, no, not of a white Christmas, but of where St. Paul's may be a year from now. What new ways can we serve our community? What adventures will the Spirit guide us to? How can we as a congregation radically live out the hospitality God has called us to? As 2017 has been a year of transition and change, I hope that 2018 will be year of reflection and searching. God's provision has seen us through 150 years, and I'm certain God has plenty more in store for us.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to you all!

Pastor Chris Thomas

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JANUARY WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES:

During the month of **January** we will begin the season of Epiphany. We will celebrate the **Baptism of Our Lord** on the 7th and the **Conversion of St. Paul** on the 21st.



2018 Envelopes are here. Please pick your box up in the Kammerer Room at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

Church Council REMINDER: We will have the 2018 Organizational Meeting on Saturday, January 6th at 10AM. Members please note: The leadership contacts / roles will be changing. This information will be updated as received and included in the February Epistle.

2018 Altar flowers and bulletin sponsorship

Charts are now available on the sign-up table in the Kammerer Room. Flowers are ordered directly from the florist by the sponsor. Bulletin acknowledgement needs to be given to the Parish Secretary for sponsored Sunday. To sponsor bulletins, donation to the church is \$20.00. You may send to the church office or place in the offering plate with the check or envelope designated "Bulletins." Inform the secretary of your desired Sunday acknowledgement for that that bulletin. This is a thoughtful way to honor loved ones or special occasions, and at the same time provide a service to your church.

OPEN DATES for JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2018:



BULLETINS

January 14, 21 & 28
February 4, 11, 18, 25

FLOWERS

January 7, 14, 21 & 28
February 4, 11, 18 & 25



Weekly Bible Study Please join us in January for a conversation-driven Bible study focusing on the Gospel text for the coming week. Bible studies are held in the Kammerer Room on Mondays from 6pm-7pm and Thursdays from 12pm-1pm. No experience necessary! Come and join in on the conversation as we dive into the text.

Dental Donations Bring in your church bulletin when you visit **Littlestown Dental Associates, PC** and a \$5 donation will be made to the church at the end of the month.

INFORMATION UPDATES:

Address/Phone Number Change

Michelle Conaway
291 Bollinger Road
Littlestown, PA 17340
Phone #: 717-521-8717



Erin Schumaker shares about her new ministry in Guatemala

I grew up here at St. Paul's but have been living in Guatemala for the last few years. At the end of December, I will be going back to Guatemala to work as a full time speech therapist as part of a rural medical clinic mission called Recycled and Redeemed. I will be working with kids and adults with communication disorders as part of a 4 person team. We will be traveling to 7 rural towns in Guatemala. Some we will travel to weekly, others once a month. This allows us to build a genuine connection with the people there and as a therapist this means I can provide ongoing care to my patients. If you are interested in reading about my time in Guatemala, you can read about it in my blog at: <https://agapeloveguatemala.blogspot.com>. Although I will receive a small stipend to live on through the mission, there are many materials that are still needed for this ministry to thrive. If you feel called to help financially in this way please contact Don or Judi Schumaker or Pastor Chris. Most of all, please pray for me. Pray that I follow God's call wherever God needs me to go. That I go without fear and love God's people without boundaries.



SAVE THE DATE
MAY 4 - 6TH, 2018
ST. PAUL'S FAMILY RETREAT

**CATCHING GOD'S VISION
FOR ST. PAUL'S!**



CROP WALK FINAL NEWS RELEASE Happy New Year!!! It will indeed be a "happy new year" start for the Littlestown Community Food Pantry and Ruth's Harvest. Surprisingly, St. Paul's has already received the 25% grant for the 2017 Community CROP WALK. This is "history - making", first time ever, that the grant money has been issued during the same YEAR of the event. (This is my 16th year as coordinator & has never happened before.) That means the \$3,725.00 total collected for the event, with the 25% grant, will be a wonderful foundation for the Littlestown Community Food Pantry receiving \$558.75 and Ruth's Harvest receiving \$372.50. (15% / 10% split) This wonderful financial blessing has been guided by your prayers, support, sponsors and the very important desire of all those 53 walkers. Thanks be to God!! I am also truly, truly grateful to all of you for your continued support with this very worth-while event. Thank you everyone.
Sincerely, Ernie. Spamer.

Thank You Notes



Rosemarie Melanson has been in the prayer of the church for the past couple months. She is the cousin of my friend Shawn and was gravely injured in the Las Vegas shooting in October. She is still in critical care under acute immediate care, but she is off life support and making progress, though very slowly, toward recovery. Thank you for praying for her, and please keep Rosemarie and her family in your prayers over the holidays. --Ayleen

The Property Committee would like to thank all of the individuals who have volunteered and tended to our beautiful Cross Garden and front garden areas of our Church over this year's growing season. We hope that you will consider returning next year to continue in this ministry. We would also like to recognize the Littlestown Garden Club for the beautiful portulaca plants that they provided and planted in our Cross Garden this year.



The Property Committee would also like to thank all of the volunteers who have opened and closed our church building and prepared it for Sunday services as well as special functions since late August of this year during the medical leave of our Sexton. We would also like to recognize Ernie Spamer for his regular mowing of the front of our grounds during this same time period.

From the Sexton: As I am easing back into working, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone for the support I've been given... from the Property committee (and all who assisted them with covering bases while I've been out), to those who sent cards and messages (your thoughts and words of encouragement meant so much), to all who sent up prayers for successful surgery and healing and a fast return to (my) normal - Thank You!! Knowing so many among you were thinking of me helped keep recovery headed in the right direction (often an email or note arrived to offset a bad day). I appreciate the opportunity to return at an approved lighter duty as I work toward clearing the last few speed

Winter Weather In the event of inclement weather, please refer to WGAL (website or mobile app) or Forever Media Snow Scan (www.foreveryork.com) for cancellations and/or delays of Sunday morning services. The church office will follow the Littlestown School District for cancellations & delays throughout the week. Other church activities will be cancelled or delayed at the discretion of the event leader or church leadership. In the interest of safety and the well-being of all concerned, the facilities of St. Paul's will be closed and any scheduled activities will be canceled if a snow emergency or other weather-related emergency is declared by state or local officials.



HELP WANTED – No Experience Necessary

As the new year begins, so does the service terms for some of our council members. This, of course, leads to vacancies on council which must be filled. The council understands that for many of us, “time” is a very precious and scarce commodity, and that is probably why it is frequently used in conjunction with “talents and treasures”. However, the time commitment to council is probably less than you think. In addition, you do not need to be a long time member of Saint Paul’s to be on council. Some of us were members of Saint Paul’s less than a year before joining council. Fresh ideas are always welcome. Please prayerfully consider joining council. If you any questions, ask pastor or a council member.



If this is an event you would be interested in, please see Kimberly Airing or a member of the Christian Family Committee.



FAITH & FAMILY NIGHTS

With the Hershey Bears

Saturday, December 2, 2017

Saturday, February 3, 2018

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Groups of 15+

100 Level Seating

\$20.50

Save up to \$7.50

200 Level Seating

\$15.00

Save up to \$8.00



717-508-BEAR

HersheyBears.com

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LITTLESTOWN COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Food distribution will take place on the **4th Wednesday** of the month at Bart’s Centenary on King Street from 3 to 5 pm. If you would like to donate your time or resources, please come to Bart’s Centenary anytime from 1 to 6 pm on the 4th (3rd in December) Wednesday of the month, or use your monthly giving envelope. There is a shopping cart in the Kammerer Room for donations to the **Littlestown Food Pantry**. Other non-perishable food items are encouraged at any time as well. **The next food pantry will take place Wednesday, January 24.**

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

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

For a **Pastoral Emergency**, please contact:

Pastor Chris Thomas (517)-202-9388

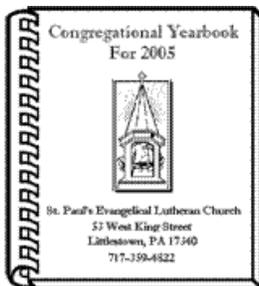
or pastor@stpaulslittlestown.org

WEBSITE: www.stpaulslittlestown.org

Pastor Chris will be on vacation January 9-15. If you have an immediate pastoral need during this time, please get in touch with Pastor Becca Ajer-Frantz (717-359-4825) @ or Sister Deb McClellan (717-476-4581)

Information for FEBRUARY Epistle is due by Wednesday, JAN. 17.

All contributions of articles/information from all corners of St. Paul's are encouraged! Please submit material via email of-[fice@stpaulslittlestown.org](mailto: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!!! The deadline to turn in all committee reports for the Yearbook is **Thursday, January 11, 2018**. **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 11th 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!

From the Parish Nursing Team **Medicare Basics: Hospital Stays Inpatient & Outpatient Care**

Have you recently been placed in the hospital for medical treatment as a Medicare patient? Or, you may find yourself facing a future hospital stay. This experience can be much worse when, or if it comes with a case of bill shock. Anytime you seek treatment as a Medicare client, make sure you understand how costs vary for inpatient and outpatient hospital stays and what you can expect to pay. This article came straight from United Medicare Advisors and can be viewed on the unitedmedicareadvisors.com website.

Inpatient vs Outpatient Care

The amount you'll pay for hospital services such as X-rays, laboratory tests, and medications varies depending on whether you receive inpatient or outpatient care.

Inpatients are people formally admitted to hospitals with orders from their doctors. Inpatient care is typically reserved for serious health conditions or trauma. According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, inpatients usually stay at a hospital for at least two nights under **the Two-Midnight rule**, but these patients may stay for weeks or months depending on their illness and ailment severity.

Outpatients aren't admitted to hospitals with orders from their doctors. Instead, their hospital stay is more temporary, and some may stay overnight. For example, they may visit the emergency department, but they must remain for medical observation overnight. This overnight stay still doesn't change their patient status.

Outpatients may receive the following services during their visit:

- Emergency department services
- Observation services
- Minor surgeries
- Rehabilitation services
- X-rays
- Lab tests

In most cases, you will not get to choose whether you're an inpatient or an outpatient. Medical professionals will decide for you based on the seriousness of your condition. Typically, you choose your status only if you need rehabilitation treatment. Outpatient rehab is usually much cheaper, with copays and coinsurance costing between \$10 and \$50 per visit. Inpatient rehabilitation costs can vary depending on the treatment and facility, but they are usually much more expensive. However, some patients appreciate the continual care inpatient treatment provides.

What Do Inpatients Pay?

When you consider inpatient vs. outpatient care, the costs for inpatient treatment get shared between patients and their health insurance providers. **Inpatient care typically has two parts:**

- The facility fees
- Costs related to the physician or surgeon

From the Parish Nursing Team

Medicare Basics: Hospital Stays Inpatient & Outpatient Care (continued)

Inpatients pay a one-time deductible for their hospital stay. If their stay stretches beyond 60 days, they will also incur a copayment. This copayment costs \$329 per day for days 61 to 90 and \$658 for days 91 and every day after. **Medicare Part A covers most inpatient care, including the following:**

- Prescribed medications
- X-rays
- Use of medical supplies, appliances, and equipment

Medicare B also contributes to inpatient costs, covering most of the doctor's services. You will typically pay a 20 percent coinsurance payment for these services.

Inpatients sometimes pay more for their medical treatment than outpatients in total because they use more hospital resources, including beds and the time of health care professionals.

Roughly, half of all inpatient admissions come via hospital emergency departments. While you're in the emergency department, you're treated as an outpatient. Your Part A policy will typically cover the inpatient care you receive, but not the care you receive as an outpatient.

What Do Outpatients Pay?

Medicare Part B covers 80 percent of the cost of most outpatient services after policyholders have met their yearly deductible. Outpatients are usually responsible for a small annual deductible, then the remaining 20 percent coinsurance for most or all medical services during their stay.

Outpatients typically pay a coinsurance fee for each medical service they receive after meeting the Part B deductible. A typical outpatient may incur a separate charge for emergency room services, each X-ray required, each lab test, and observation care. Each separate coinsurance charge must cost less than the **Part A deductible, which, in 2017, stands at \$1,316**, according to Medicare.gov. People with a **Medicare Supplement Plan** may not worry about this deductible, but the bill can increase for outpatients with Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans.

Outpatients also pay the coinsurance for all services from health professionals they receive, even those from professionals who aren't their primary physicians.

Outpatients often pay less overall for their medical treatment than inpatients. However, this situation may not be true for outpatients requiring many expensive tests or treatments.

Too many people are unaware of how much their hospital stay will cost. Share this post with your social network and tell your family members and friends so that they're armed with knowledge before they enter the hospital.

FINANCIAL CORNER

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Littlestown PA

Donations Account Balances

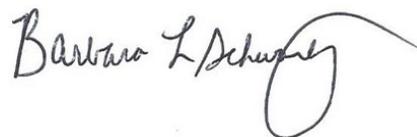
(11/01/2017 - 11/30/2017)

Monday, November 27, 2017 Account	Period Activity	Page 1 of 1 YTD Balance
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Giving Accounts

801 - ENV CONTRIBUTIONS	11,544.00	125,237.15
802 - Initial Offering	0.00	480.00
803 - Loose	192.56	1,793.89
804 - Sunday Church School	42.60	504.25
805 - Good Friday	0.00	445.00
806 - Lent	0.00	685.00
807 - Ash Wednesday	0.00	398.00
808 - Maundy Thursday	0.00	280.00
809 - Easter Sunrise	0.00	1,340.00
810 - Christmas Eve	0.00	10.00
811 - Music	0.00	475.10
812 - Weekly Bulletins	100.00	705.00
813 - Youth	33.00	411.00
815 - Major Building Impro	180.00	1,440.00
816 - Memorial Fund	200.00	2,575.00
817 - Funeral Fund	0.00	500.00
818 - Line of Credit	120.00	1,171.00
828 - CROP Walk	0.00	328.00
831 - A/C	35.00	2, 4 894.96
860 - Food Pantry	173.50	1,405.50
861 - Luth World Relief	80.00	611.00
862 - Heifer Int'l Fund	0.00	0.50
863 - Lutheran Home	0.00	30.00
864 - Seminary	0.00	95.00
867 - Benevolence	25.00	105.00
868 - Ruth's Harvest Fund	232.50	1,690.10
869 - Auxillary to SpiritTrust Gettysburg	0.00	133.00
871 - Flowers	147.00	160.00
872 - Out Reach	0.00	50.00
874 - Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	0.00	203.00
876 - Angel Tree	143.00	143.00
878 - Utz Terrace - SpiritTrust	0.00	5.00
899 - Misc. Donations	20.00	2,099.00
Total Giving Accounts	\$13,268.16	\$170,403.45

Count: 33
 Period: 11/01/2017 - 11/30/2017
 Year: 2017





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 Neil Snyder Grace Toms
7	8 Terry Burnette	9	10	11 Don Schumaker Gary & Sue Strevig	12	13 Becca Burnette Sherrie LaMotte
14	15	16	17	18 Chris Aulthouse Derrick Sneeringer	19 Wilbur Mayers	20 Matt 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 make a correction, please contact the church office. (717)359-4822 / office@stpaulslittlestown.org</p>		

JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  Office Closed	2 6-8PM Girl Scouts	3 6:00PM Bell Rehearsal 7:00PM Chancel Choir	4 12-1PM Bible Study 1:30PM Ruth's Harvest Packing	5	6 10AM Council Organizational Meeting
7 8:00AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:30AM Craft Day 6-7:30PM Confirmation @ St. John's	8 6-7PM Bible Study 7PM Committee Meetings	9 6-8PM Girl Scouts <i>Pastor Chris Vacation</i>	10 6:00PM Bell Rehearsal 7:00PM Chancel Choir <i>Pastor Chris Vacation</i>	11 1:30PM Ruth's Harvest Packing <i>Pastor Chris Vacation</i>	12 <i>Pastor Chris Vacation</i>	13 <i>Pastor Chris Vacation</i>
14 8:00AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship Congregational Meeting 6-7:30PM Confirmation @ St. John's <i>Pastor Chris Vacation</i>	15 7PM Council Meeting <i>Pastor Chris Vacation</i>	16 6-8PM Girl Scouts	17 6:00PM Bell Rehearsal 7:00PM Chancel Choir	18 12-1PM Bible Study 1:30PM Ruth's Harvest Packing	19	20
21 8:00AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 6-7:30PM Confirmation @ St. John's	22 6-7PM Bible Study	23 6-8PM Girl Scouts	24 6:00PM Bell Rehearsal 7:00PM Chancel Choir Food Pantry	25 12-1PM Bible Study 10AM Ruth's Harvest Packing 11-3PM Garden Club	26	27
28 8:00AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 6-7:30PM Confirmation @ St. John's	29 6-7PM Bible Study	30 6-8PM Girl Scouts	31 6:00PM Bell Rehearsal 7:00PM Chancel Choir			

The Epistle - ISSUE JANUARY 2018

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Worship: Sundays @ 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

The Church Staff

Rev. Chris Thomas (pastor@stpaulslittlestown.org/(517)202-9388)

Abbi Bucher - Parish Secretary: office@stpaulslittlestown.org

Michele Colvin - Treasurer: treasurer@stpaulslittlestown.org

Barb Schwartz - Financial Secretary: donations@stpaulslittlestown.org

Susan Haines - Sexton: sexton@stpaulslittlestown.org

Ben Messinger - Choir Director: music@stpaulslittlestown.org

Ann Hartman - Assistant Pianist

Congregational Council

Charlie Abruzzo, Kimberly Airing, Rich Burnette,
Janet Cutsail, Mary Hall, Casey Miller, Candy Rule

Church Committee Chairs

Christian Education: Jan Sweigart

Christian Family: Kimberly Airing

Christian Witness: Charlie Mauck

Finance: Don Snyder

IT: Jeff Plattenburg

Memorials: Sue Strevig

Parish Nursing: Janet Cutsail

Records: Ann Hartman

Property: Tracy Schwartz

Service Ministry: Diana Spamer

Worship & Music: Sue Strevig