



# THE EPISTLE - December 2017



**The Epistle**  
**Issue: December 2017**

## A Season of Waiting

It seems like just yesterday I was being welcomed into this community and now as we reach Advent, we are about to step off into a new year in the life of the church. As we enter into Advent it can be a truly helpful exercise to embody this new season in our everyday living. As the climate seasons change we often express these changes in small but comforting ways. When we move from summer to fall our clothing gets longer and the colors we wear often change. As we approach winter we don our hats, gloves, and boots. In this way, the ebb of the seasons is embodied in us and we feel it in the air, in the clothes we wear, and often in the activities we do.

When it comes to the church seasons, especially Advent, we don't have as many opportunities to live out the season in our daily lives. Advent is especially difficult because of its close proximity to Christmas. It can be easy to lump the two together and in doing so, to miss a really important part of the church year. A time of reflection and vigilance. A season of hope that even as night surrounds us in these darkest nights of the year, Christ's light will still overcome it. Advent is a wonderful season of the church year, a time when we await Christ's arrival. Not only his being born in a manger on Christmas, but also his return in the future, and his daily coming into our hearts and minds. This threefold way of awaiting Christ is an important expression for us as the church. As we await the baby Jesus in the manger we are awaiting his coming again in glory and his continual light entering into our lives.

So how might we live into this Advent season? One way that has been around for over a century is the use of an Advent wreath to mark the weeks of Advent as we approach the day of Christmas. As the nights around us get darker, each week we brighten our homes with the light of another candle, showing our hope in Christ's coming then, now, and in the future. Advent calendars can be another helpful way to mark the days of Advent. In particular, the Ruth's Harvest reverse advent calendar marks the days of Advent and offers opportunity to share some of the light of Christ with others in need. Maybe one of the most powerful ways to mark this season is to step back from the hustle that so many will be feeling during this time of year. To pause and spend some time in daily devotion. However it is you mark this season, may you see the light of Christ glowing in your life this year.

In Christ,  
Pastor Chris Thomas

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## **A Brief History of Lutherans in America**

While many challenged the medieval Roman Catholic Church—Savonarola, Jon Huss, John Wycliffe—it was the work of Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk, that gave birth to a movement derisively called “Lutherans,” what some call “the oldest branch of Protestant Christianity.” Traditionally Luther’s questioning of the theology and structure of the medieval Roman church is said to have begun with his Ninety-Five Theses, “nailed” to the church door in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517. This work, which challenged the practice of selling “indulgences,” led to a widening rift between Luther, and the Papacy. The invention in the 1400s of the printing press and movable type by Johannes Gutenberg enabled Luther’s thesis and his other works challenging the Pope to spread throughout the empire.

On June 15, 1520, Martin Luther was excommunicated and soon declared “outlaw” and “heretic.” For many reasons, not all theological, many of the northern German provinces of the Holy Roman Empire adopted Luther’s new “evangelical catholic” bible over tradition, and began to implement it into the churches in their territory. The history that followed would bring troubled times for Europe and the Church. This led many protestants to seek refuge in the New World, the Americas, and their promise of sanctuary, freedom and hope.

Lutherans have been in America for almost 400 years, coming principally with the waves of immigration from Germany and Scandinavia. During the eighteenth century, Lutheran congregations were founded in the middle colonies, with later waves of immigration moving further west. The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod traces its roots to these early settlers, while our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has more eclectic roots.

Unlike those in the later waves of immigration, our German Lutheran ancestors rarely came in massed groups, but generally as individuals and families. With them scattered and often economically stressed, forming sustainable congregations was difficult. Most Lutherans settled in the middle colonies, from New York to Maryland, with the majority settling in Pennsylvania. (There were even earlier groups in Georgia and Delaware, but that’s another story.) Often these German immigrants retained their native language. This drew them into fellowships based on language with Reformed (the followers of Calvin and Zwingli), and Moravians (the followers of Jon Huss—who claim to be the oldest Protestants). The result of these fellowships was “union”—two bodies sharing the same building. Many of these congregations existed until recently, and at least one locally is still in existence.

Making the transition from State Lutheran churches in Europe to the free and voluntary religious system of colonial America was difficult, as individualism spawned by the renaissance thrived on the American frontier. But that was only one of the challenges. The poverty of the immigrants, the distrust of all authority, both religious and political, and the lack of trained pastoral leadership made the life of early American Lutherans extremely difficult. And it did not help that the Lutherans in Europe were not of one mind. The first significant and best-known leader for colonial American Lutherans was Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, who was sent to Pennsylvania in 1742. Muhlenberg acted quickly to draw together the scattered Lutheran congregations and challenge the orthodoxy of many “wannabe” Lutherans—chief among them, Conrad Biessel of the Ephrata Cloister. To consolidate Lutheran worship, preaching and

teaching Muhlenberg formed the Pennsylvania Ministerium in 1748. This ministerium existed to regulate and examine Lutheran pastors, to settle internal disputes, to create and encourage common worship practices, and to improve the fortunes of Lutherans in America. Today Muhlenberg is the recognized patriarch of American Lutherans. His motto was “Ecclesia Plantanda” (“Let the Church be Planted.” You can visit his church and grave today in Trappe, PA. As the economic conditions of these early immigrants and their children and children’s children improved, these predominantly German congregations became the center of community life. The congregation existed not only to serve the religious needs, but to provide education and cultural life for the local community. Eventually they would establish some of our earliest hospitals and colleges.

In the decades following the Revolutionary War, American Lutherans would undergo a “wrenching” change, as native languages gave way to English. Since Lutheran worship and theology had never before been done in English, there were serious doubts expressed by some that this would even be possible. With the geographical and institutional growth of Lutherans in America, the necessity of larger governing bodies became increasingly apparent. What began with Muhlenberg has continued to today, as these ministeriums and synods have become the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Missouri Synod, the Wisconsin Synod, the North American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Brethren, and more. Chief among their responsibilities remains the care of the education of leaders for the Church.

We are part of the evolving history of one of these church bodies. The General Synod was established in 1820, and out of this body, in 1826, came Gettysburg Seminary under the leadership of Samuel S. Schmucker. Though it was not the first seminary (That was in Oneonta New York in 1797, today’s Hartwick College.), “Gettysburg Seminary” (whose name recently was changed to “United Lutheran Seminary” in a merger with our seminary in Philadelphia) is the oldest seminary still in existence and still forming leaders for the Church. Other seminaries were formed by other groups of immigrants: the Swedes formed Rock Island Seminary; and the Finns formed the Suomi Theological Seminary. These merged and became the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, IL (Pastor Chris Thomas’ alma mater).

As we move forward, Lutherans continue to embrace the challenges of life in these United States and the world. Many of these challenges have not changed—language, economy, the supply of trained leaders, the lack of consistency and a common practice of worship— all that faced Muhlenberg are still with us.

We thank God for the saints who have gone before us and pray that we might offer the future a foundation as strong and as sure as they provided us, ever with Christ as our cornerstone.

*Thanks to the Rev. Richard Michael for help with this history.*



## **DECEMBER WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES:**

During the month of **December** we will celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas. The Chancel Choir will be enhancing the 10:15 AM service on the 24th by presenting a **cantata**. Our **Family Christmas Eve** service will begin at 6 PM and **Candlelight** service begins at 10:30 PM. (preludes begin at 10:00). St. Paul's Ringer's will be playing a prelude on Christmas Eve at the Candlelight service.

Friday, December 15th we will be **Christmas Caroling** to our shut-ins. We will meet at the church at 6PM for this evening. Please bring a covered dish to share after the caroling is finished at the home of Gary and Sue Strevig. (160 Newark St. 359-4289)

Anyone wishing to provide prelude music for the **Christmas Eve Candlelight** service should sign up on the sheet outside the choir room door or contact Ben Messinger at 359-4556 or [ben-messinger@comcast.net](mailto:ben-messinger@comcast.net)

Please note that we will not be having an 8 AM service on Dec. 24 and on Dec. 31 we will worship with all the Lutheran in town at St. Luke's (330 White Hall Rd, Littlestown)



**Angel Tree** Again this year, we are collecting Christmas gifts for New Hope Ministries to distribute to needy families in the area. Please consider dropping off a new, unwrapped gift by December 3. Make someone's Christmas a little brighter (including your own!) If you are able to help with the distribution, please contact Jan Sweigart or sign up online at New Hope's website –[www.nhm-pa.org](http://www.nhm-pa.org).

**Christmas Craft Day** Join us December 3rd following the 10:15 service in the social hall for Christmas Craft Day! There will be crafts for all ages. We will also be making our Christmas gifts for our shut-ins. Pizza and beverages will be provided, just bring a side or dessert. Please sign up in the Kammerer room so we make sure we have enough supplies for everyone.



**Needed** Christian Family needs clean clear small jars with lids for our snow globe craft on craft day. Please bring in any you may have and place in the box in the Kammerer room! Thank you!

**Longest Night Service** We will join with St. John's to observe the longest night on Thursday, December 21 at 7pm at St. John's.

**REMINDER: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 IS OUR FIFTH SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE & POTLUCK AT ST. LUKE'S BEGINNING AT 10:15AM**

Our sister in Christ, *June Maidan*, claimed the promise of her baptism on November 10, 2017.



**Annual Congregational Business Meeting** Please plan to participate in the Annual Congregational Business Meeting on December 10, to discuss and adopt the budget for 2018 and to elect new council members. A formal letter with proposed budget has been sent either by way of email if you are on the email distribution list or by US Mail, if not. Please spend some time and prayer considering both our mission at Saint Paul's and your personal commitment to fulfilling that mission in Christ.



**Adult Sunday School Classes** Hard to believe that the Christmas Season will soon be upon us! We invite you to learn about "The Journey" with the Adult Sunday School class during the season of Advent this year. Perhaps it will help each of us to learn and remember the true meaning of Christmas!

**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.



**Weekly Bible Study** Pastor Chris leads two Bible studies focusing on the Gospel texts for the coming week. The first is on Mondays from 6pm-7pm and the second is on Thursdays from 12pm-1pm in the Kammerer Room, Please join us!



**CROP WALK** Currently the receipts for the 2017 event exceed \$2,000.00. HOWEVER; there are still two churches that have not turned in their representative packets. Hopefully, all the information will be available for publishing with the "January 2018" newsletter. In the meantime, thank you to all who have made this event another success for the Littlestown Community CROP WALK. Peace. Ernie Spamer

## **LITTLESTOWN COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY**

Food distribution takes 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 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 distribution takes place on Weds. December 20.**

**A REMINDER TO THE PARENTS OF SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS, GRADE 0 THROUGH GRADE 8:** In September, all Sunday Church School students from 0 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade were asked to complete and return an emergency contact form to their classroom teacher. This form will be valuable in the event of any emergency that may arise with your child, especially if no significant other is in the church during this time. This is just a reminder to complete and return the form if you have not done so. The Christian Education Committee thanks you for your prompt attention to this matter.

## Thank You Notes



Thank you for the lovely crimson and thanks to all who made our 150th anniversary so memorable! ~Doris Plunkert



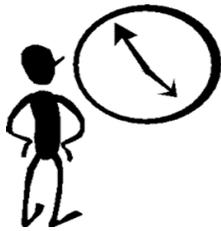
You may have noticed that the Steeple Clocks are finally all back in service again, following damage to two of the clock minute hands during storms last winter and spring. The Property Committee wishes to express our appreciation and thanks to Dustin Krug at M&M Tool & Die (113 E. King St - behind Redeemers UCC) for the gratis refurbish work completed on both of these minute hands, especially considering one of them was severely damaged after be run over on Patrick Ave. Congregation members involved in getting them back into place again and set to the correct time were Al Simon, Bob Palmer, and Jeff & Sharri Plattenburg.



A special thank you to all of the St. Paul's family members who shared pictures and information about their military veterans for our Veteran's Day tribute display. We are seeking more pictures and more information about St. Paul's veterans for next year. These may be submitted to the office. Thank you!

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING** We all need a little Christmas so on Friday, December 15th, all of our St. Paul's members are invited to meet in the church parking lot at 6PM to visit our homebound members. Our group will carpool to the Gettysburg Lutheran Home to serenade Betty Geisler and then to Harry & Bonnie Strine who live in Lake Heritage. The rest of our stops will be determined at a later date as we know their availability. Whether you can sing or just make a joyful noise, we need all of you to share the holiday spirit with those who look forward to our yearly visit! Please bring the children, because residents appreciate talking to, seeing and hearing them express their joy. After caroling we will convene at the home of Gary & Sue Strevig (160 Newark Street, Littlestown). Please bring a covered dish, snack, etc... to share. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Kammerer Room. Please contact Gary or Sue Strevig with any questions. (717-359-4289)





## WHAT TIME IS IT ??? NOT SURE --- READ ON.

Hello St. Paul's members,

During the recent completion of the newly installed air conditioning units, some members were in the attic evaluating locations of ceiling joists for the purpose of constructing enclosures around the air handling equipment on the second floor. There was difficulty getting to the areas to obtain the joists locations. “WHY?” Seems the attic has once again acquired a tremendous accumulation of who knows what.

Advance notice is being given to all the committees, and others, that an attic spring house-cleaning is going to be held sometime in April or May of 2018. For now, this communication is putting all possible concerned on NOTICE. More information will be forth-coming. Thank you.

Sincerely, Ernest Spamer, “Ernie”  
*Property Committee member in charge of project*

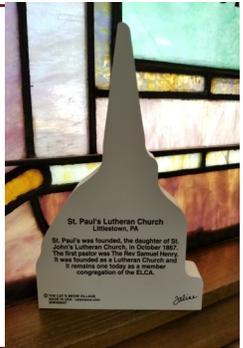


**Winter Weather** In the event of inclement weather, please refer to WGAL (website or mobile app) or Forever Media Snow Scan ([www.foreveryork.com](http://www.foreveryork.com)) for cancellations and/or delays of Sunday morning services. The church office will follow the Littlestown School District for 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.

**LAMB CHRISTMAS CONCERT** The Littlestown Area Municipal Band, under the direction of Ben Messinger, will present a Christmas concert on Sunday, December 17, 2017 beginning at 3 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church located at 53 West King St. in Littlestown. Selections for the concert will be songs of the season. We will also take requests from the audience. The public is encouraged to attend. Free will donations will be accepted.



**Cat's Meow Sale!** Remember St. Paul's 150th Anniversary with a Cat's Meow version of St. Paul's. Each piece is about 6" tall, 4 1/2" wide. They will be \$10 each for congregation members and \$15 for non-members. They will be available for purchase in the Kammerer room on Christmas Eve, as well as after the regular services that day.



## INFORMATION UPDATES:

**New Emails** The following email addresses have been set-up for use by the people listed. Please use them going forward for the appropriate designations.

<a href="mailto:donations@stpaulslittlestown.org">donations@stpaulslittlestown.org</a>	Barb Schwartz
<a href="mailto:treasurer@stpaulslittlestown.org">treasurer@stpaulslittlestown.org</a>	Michele Colvin
<a href="mailto:sexton@stpaulslittlestown.org">sexton@stpaulslittlestown.org</a>	Susan Haines
<a href="mailto:music@stpaulslittlestown.org">music@stpaulslittlestown.org</a>	Ben Messinger

## HELP WANTED – No Experience Necessary

As the end of the year rapidly approaches, 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.

## 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 Chris Thomas (517)-202-9388

or [pastor@stpaulslittlestown.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulslittlestown.org)

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

**Information for JANUARY Epistle is due by Wednesday, DEC. 13.**  
**DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE, PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER DEADLINE.** All contributions of articles/information from all corners of St. Paul's are encouraged! Please submit material via email [office@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



**The secretary will be out on vacation December 26-29.** If anyone is able to volunteer to cover the office for a short period of time during any of the listed dates please sign up on the sheet provided in the Kammerer Room. I will contact you to confirm. Very light duty of work is necessary, such as checking messages and mail. Thank you!

## 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

## **Holiday Greetings from the Parish Nursing Team:**

### **Tips for a Healthy Holiday Season:**

As we realize how quickly the Christmas holiday is fast approaching and Thanksgiving already past, for many people this can mean increased pressure due to increased time management for food preparation, shopping and celebratory preparations that include entertaining and attending parties and family gatherings, while still caring for the normal activities of daily living. This can create quite a time crunch and we find our diets quickly regressing to foods filled with salt, sugar and increased calories; increasing our potential for weight gain and non-adherence to prescribed special diets, such as cardiac and diabetes. While our holidays are a happy, fun time they can also result in the following:

- Increased travel
  - Less sleep associated with increased activities
  - Exceeding the household budget
  - Lack of physical exercise
  - Increased alcohol consumption
  - All -around higher stress in order to meet the demands of work, friends, and family
- All of these things have the potential to increase the risk for a cardiovascular event such as a heart attack or stroke.

Below are some helpful reminders to manage your holidays more safely and healthier:

- If you are the hostess planning a party, choose healthier recipes to reduce salt sugar and calories. Your friends and family will probably thank you. You can get heart healthy recipes on the American Heart website: [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)
- If you are attending a party, eat a healthy snack before going to reduce your hunger and the potential for consuming higher calories and dietary restrictions.
- If you are traveling, be sure to pack your prescribed medications in your carry- on bag and upon arrival, plan a safe place for medication storage out of the reach of children or pets.
- Always carry a list of your prescribed medications with you-perhaps in your wallet.
- Plan time to get some physical exercise; the recommended time by the American Heart Association is 30 minutes a day.
- Try to get an adequate amount of sleep.
- Plan for the increased expenditures that are easily incurred for holiday planning. Financial strain is a high cause for stress.
- Avoid gatherings with persons known to have contagious illnesses. (Also, consider a flu injection for protection.)
- Try to limit your alcohol consumption for both health and safety reasons.
- If you are planning to have guests in your home be sure to secure any firearms that may be in your possession, especially for the safety of children who may be visiting.

Please don't forget the holiday season can also be a time of painful loneliness and grief for many people. Consider a visit to a person in your life who may be in need of companionship to ease this type of holiday duress.

We wish everyone a happy and safe holiday filled with God's blessing.

The Parish Nursing Team,  
Jill Baird, RN  
Sue Bowmaster, RN  
Janet Cutsail, RN

Do not forget we are available for consulting and medical guidance when needed.

# FINANCIAL CORNER

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Littlestown PA

Donations Account Balances

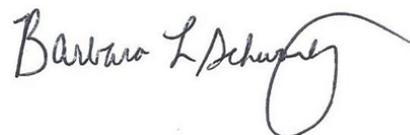
(10/01/2017 - 10/31/2017)

Monday, October 30, 2017 Account	Period Activity	Page 1 of 1 YID Balance
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***Giving Accounts***

801 - ENV CONTRIBUTIONS	13,653.00	113,693.15
802 - Initial Offering	0.00	480.00
803 - Loose	353.42	1,601.33
804 - Sunday Church School	69.35	461.65
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	85.00	605.00
813 - Youth	35.00	378.00
815 - Major Building Impro	140.00	1,260.00
816 - Memorial Fund	0.00	2,375.00
817 - Funeral Fund	0.00	500.00
818 - Line of Credit	120.00	1,051.00
828 - CROP Walk	25.00	328.00
831 - A/C	2,555.00	24,859.96
860 - Food Pantry	85.00	1,232.00
861 - Luth World Relief	30.00	531.00
862 - Heifer Int'l Fund	0.50	0.50
863 - Lutheran Home	0.00	30.00
864 - Seminary	0.00	95.00
867 - Benevolence	15.00	80.00
868 - Ruth's Harvest Fund	75.60	1,457.60
869 - Auxilary to SpiritTrust Gettysburg	0.00	133.00
871 - Flowers	0.00	13.00
872 - Out Reach	0.00	50.00
874 - Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	203.00	203.00
878 - Utz Terrace - SpiritTrust	0.00	5.00
899 - Misc. Donations	80.00	2,079.00
<b>Total Giving Accounts</b>	<b>\$17,524.87</b>	<b>\$157,135.29</b>

Count: 30  
Period: 10/01/2017 - 10/31/2017  
Year: 2017



# FINANCIAL CORNER

2017 Income and Expenses								
Month	Actual Expenses	Funded from Savings / LoC	Current Expenses	Actual Offering	Other Income	Added to Savings	Current Income	Surplus / (Deficit)
Jan	\$ 13,177		\$ 13,177	\$ 17,473	\$ 5,508	\$ 5,645	\$ 17,336	\$ 4,159
Feb	\$ 16,691	\$ 351	\$ 16,340	\$ 16,770	\$ 1,865	\$ 4,395	\$ 14,240	\$ (2,101)
Mar	\$ 13,574		\$ 13,574	\$ 22,923	\$ 2,073	\$ 10,645	\$ 14,351	\$ 776
Apr	\$ 40,303	\$ 25,000	\$ 15,303	\$ 19,543	\$ 4,620	\$ 3,830	\$ 20,333	\$ 5,030
May	\$ 16,026		\$ 16,026	\$ 11,836	\$ 2,813	\$ 797	\$ 13,852	\$ (2,173)
Jun	\$ 15,114	\$ 54	\$ 15,060	\$ 11,198	\$ 44,362	\$ 42,345	\$ 13,215	\$ (1,844)
Jul	\$ 62,697	\$ 48,500	\$ 14,197	\$ 12,052	\$ 3,750	\$ 615	\$ 15,187	\$ 990
Aug	\$ 22,862	\$ 913	\$ 21,949	\$ 13,590	\$ 1,583	\$ 215	\$ 14,958	\$ (6,991)
Sep	\$ 13,411	\$ 60	\$ 13,351	\$ 14,225	\$ 2,228	\$ 148	\$ 16,305	\$ 2,955
Oct	\$ 22,532	\$ 3,982	\$ 18,550	\$ 17,525	\$ 3,852	\$ 140	\$ 21,237	\$ 2,687
Nov	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Dec	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>2017</b>	<b>\$ 236,387</b>	<b>\$ 78,860</b>	<b>\$ 157,527</b>	<b>\$ 157,135</b>	<b>\$ 72,654</b>	<b>\$ 68,775</b>	<b>\$ 161,015</b>	<b>\$ 3,488</b>

The current value of Unrestricted Investments available for support of any future additional deficits is:

**\$ 160,760**

Line of Credit Balance owed is:

**\$ 37,732**

## MISSION OF THE MONTH ENVELOPES

Every month a different organization will benefit from the Christian generosity of St. Paul's via our blue Mission of the Month envelopes. Following are organizations identified by council to be recipients of these gifts. If you would like to suggest an organization, please contact a council member.

**December – Grace BeMiller Scholarship Fund**



# WANTED: GENTLY USED KIDS' WINTER CLOTHING SIZES 5T TO ADULT SMALL

Ruth's Harvest will hold a Kids' Winter Clothes Closet in early December to provide free clothing for the children of the LASD who currently receive free/reduced lunches. We will begin collecting clothes in November. Our success in this endeavor will depend on the generosity of the community. We need donations of gently used:



- Jeans
- Winter Shirts
- Jackets
- Scarves
- Hats



A collection box will be available in each church. Collected clothing will be sorted with the help of students in NHS and be made available at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Additional information to follow.



## RUTH'S HARVEST ADVENT CALENDAR



Each day add the item to a box and donate the contents to Ruth's Harvest.  
(Total for the Advent Calendar is approximately \$50.00)

ADVENT 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Dec 3</b> Raisins  6-1 oz or \$0.99	<b>Dec 4</b> Vegetables  4-4 oz or \$1.64	<b>Dec 5</b> Pop Tarts 12 pastries or \$1.49 	<b>Dec 6</b> Oatmeal 10pk 1.51 oz or \$1.49 	<b>Dec 7</b> Snack Crackers 12-1.5 oz or \$3.14 	<b>Dec 8</b> Popcorn 8 bags or \$1.24 	<b>Dec 9</b> Ramen Noodle Soup Chicken or Beef 12pk. or \$2.16 
<b>Dec 10</b> Applesauce  6-4oz or \$1.49	<b>Dec 1</b> Peanut Butter Crackers  8-1.38 oz or \$1.29	<b>Dec 12</b> 100 % Juice Box 8-6.75 oz or \$1.49 	<b>Dec 13</b> Muffins 5pk- 8.25oz or \$1.79 	<b>Dec 14</b> Cookies 12 pk or \$3.29 	<b>Dec 15</b> Cereal  8 pk or \$3.41	<b>Dec 16</b> Breakfast Bars 24pk or \$4.20 
<b>Dec 17</b> Pudding 12 3.25 oz or \$2.47 	<b>Dec 18</b> Peanuts 5pk 12.9 oz or \$0.95 	<b>Dec 19</b> Fruit Cup  4-4 oz or \$1.69	<b>Dec 20</b> Chef Boyardee Spaghetti or Ravioli 7 oz can or \$.64 	<b>Dec 21</b> Pocket Kleenex 6pk or \$1.00 	<b>Dec 22</b> Canned Chicken 4 oz or \$.98 	<b>Dec 23</b> Kraft Easy Mac 6pk or \$2 
<b>Dec 24</b> Fruit Snack 24 pk or \$3.99 	<b>Dec 25</b> Merry Christmas 		<i>It costs approximately \$5 a child per week for this mission</i>	<i>We currently pack 130 backpacks a week.</i> 	<i>Please consider donating to this worthy cause.</i>	<b>Thank you for participating. Please deliver your donations to your church.</b>

Prices, quantities and brands may vary depending on where you shop. This is only a guideline that represents the pricing we have found. Any donations you make will be greatly appreciated. Checks, made payable to Ruth's Harvest Littlestown, may be mailed directly to Sharri Plattenburg, c/o Ruth's Harvest, 780 Kindig Rd, Littlestown, PA 17340.



# St. Paul's Advent Activities

December 3 ~ Christian Family's Craft Day  
*(following late service)*

*Pizza will be provided, please bring a snack, dessert or beverage to share*

December 15 ~ Christmas Caroling

Meet in the church parking lot @ 6PM

Please bring a covered dish, snack or dessert to share afterwards at the Strevig's

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

Christmas Cantata @ 10:15AM

*(There will be no Sunday School)*

Family Service 6PM

Candlelight Service 10:30PM

*(preludes start at 10PM)*





# St. Paul's - DECEMBER

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>If you wish to add, remove or make a correction, please contact the church office.            (717)359-4822 / <a href="mailto:office@stpaulslittlestown.org">office@stpaulslittlestown.org</a></p>					1 Louise Morelock	2
3 Lucas Denault	4	5	6	7 Nick Cibula	8 Dylan Smeak	9
10 Bruce Stair	11 Bobbye Dillman	12  <i>Kevin &amp; Diane Cavanaugh</i>	13 Hank Roschen	14 Linda Decker	15	16 Allyson Daron
17 Andy Baird	18	19	20	21 Colin Denault	22 Gary Plattenburg	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Andy Daron	30 Beth Cibula
31						

# DECEMBER 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
<p>We have a new calendar posted on our website  <a href="http://stpaulslittlestown.weebly.com/calendar.html">http://stpaulslittlestown.weebly.com/calendar.html</a></p>					1  Office Closed	2 Advent Decorating		
3 8:00AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:30AM Craft Day 6-7:30PM Confirmation @ St. Paul's 7-9PM LAMB	4 6-7PM Bible Study	5 6-8PM Girl Scouts	6 6:00PM Bell Rehearsal  7:00PM Chancel Choir	7 1:30PM Ruth's Harvest Packing	8	9 Advent Decorating		
10 8:00AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship Congregational Meeting 6-7:30PM Confirmation	11 6-7PM Bible Study  7PM Committee Meetings	12 6-8PM Girl Scouts	13 6:00PM Bell Rehearsal  7:00PM Chancel Choir	14 12-1PM Bible Study  1:30PM Ruth's Harvest	15 6PM Christmas Caroling  Office Closed	16 Advent Decorating  7-9PM LAMB		
17 8:00AM Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 1-5PM LAMB Building Use 3PM LAMB Concert 6-7:30PM Confirmation @ St. Paul's	18 6-7PM Bible Study  7PM Council Meeting	19 6-8PM Girl Scouts	20 6:00PM Bell Rehearsal  7:00PM Chancel Choir  Food Pantry	21 12-1PM Bible Study  1:30PM Ruth's Harvest Packing  7PM Longest Night Service @ St. John's	22	23 Advent Decorating		
24 10:15AM Worship w/Cantata 6PM Family Service 10:30PM Candlelight Service (preludes begin @ 10PM)  <b><u>NO 8AM SERVICE</u></b> <b><u>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</u></b>			25	26	27	28	29	30
		Secretary Vacation	Secretary Vacation	Secretary Vacation	Secretary Vacation			
31 Fifth Sunday Worship @ St. Luke's  10:15AM Worship 11:30AM Potluck Lunch								

## **The Epistle - ISSUE December 2017**

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Website: [www.stpaulslittlestown.org](http://www.stpaulslittlestown.org)

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](mailto:pastor@stpaulslittlestown.org)/(517)202-9388)

Abbi Bucher - Parish Secretary: [office@stpaulslittlestown.org](mailto:office@stpaulslittlestown.org)

Michele Colvin - Treasurer: [treasurer@stpaulslittlestown.org](mailto:treasurer@stpaulslittlestown.org)

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Ben Messinger - Choir Director: [music@stpaulslittlestown.org](mailto:music@stpaulslittlestown.org)

Ann Hartman - Assistant Pianist

### **Congregational Council**

President—Charlie Abruzzo

Vice President—Kimberly Airing

Secretary—Casey Miller

Rich Burnette, Janet Cutsail, Mary Hall,

Candy Rule, Darby Smeak, Don Snyder