



JANUARY 2019

The Disciple's Connection

St. Paul's Lutheran Church—Painesville, OH 44077

Our Mission Statement: To witness to our faith in Jesus Christ through worship, education, building relationships and caring for others.



WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday 6:00pm
Sunday 8:15am & 10:45am

PASTOR

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WAIT A MINUTE!! 2018 CAN'T POSSIBLY BE ALMOST DONE, CAN IT?! Well, that's what the calendar says; a couple weeks from now [as I write this] 2018 will be done and 2019 will be here. As a calendar year winds down, people look back at the past 12 months in their life. 2018 for me seemed to be parts taking some forward steps, and then a couple back. There were parts where I felt stuck in neutral, and parts where I could see progress. Believe me, I still have a lot to learn about myself. And through it all God is doing some renovation, despite my hindrance.

How about your last 12 months? How has God blessed you in 2018? What part of the year was he carrying you through? What do you want to be different, better 2019? I trust 2019 will be different for you because it seems no 2 years ever turn out the same. I hope the New Year brings new opportunities for you and your family.

Let me suggest one small thing for 2019; for myself, for all disciples of St. Paul's. Find 1 thing to be thankful for each day. I know there are many days when I come to the end of it and I haven't made time to thank God for one thing. I've let the burdens and worries of that day rob a little bit of joy. Thanksgiving hasn't been THAT long ago, even though it seems like it. We do use that time to remind ourselves to give thanks to God. What if Thanksgiving could be carried over to each day of our life? It can. Some of you may already be there and can easily find one thing to be thankful for each day. If you can, add one more thing in each day. With the Holy Spirit's help, giving thanks can also become living thanks, because we see in each day a blessing that has come from God and has been received.

There will always be decisions that this group of disciples will need to make. I want to encourage everyone to be a part of the decision-making process. You have a voice and a vote. The more people that are involved, the better & more informed our decisions will be.

As we begin this New Year, let us begin it in prayer. Pray that God will lead you and guide you. Pray that you will be ready go where He leads you. Pray that the enemy will not find a way to deceive you. Pray that in the midst of uncertainty, that the Holy Spirit will calm you with the sure & certain Word of God. Pray for your Council members & Elders. Pray for them as they serve God and seek to do His will. Pray for each other as brothers and sisters in the faith who need encouragement every day. Pray for people of this community that all may know Jesus as Lord and Savior and may be brought into a saving relationship with Him. Pray continuously, for the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

In Christ, Pastor Sundbom

The New Year always brings hope for a new beginning. Rejoice in the sure hope that, in Christ, you are a brand new creation.

"In His great mercy (God) has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"
(I Peter 1: 3)





ALTAR FLOWERS for 2019

The Altar Flower Chart has been posted on the wall next to the double doors leading out of the sanctuary (above the ushers station). If you would like to honor a birthday, baptismal birthday, wedding anniversary, or the memory of a loved one or give flowers "To The Glory of God!" please sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Be sure to print clearly what occasion is being honored and who the flowers are given by. Altar flowers are currently \$30.00. This can be placed in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" and the date of the weekend, then placed in the collection plate.



Begin the New Year In The Word!

Sundays, 9:30am (Education Hour)
Pastor Sundbom's study meets in the kitchen/Jack Lelle's in the Sactuary.

Men's Ministry Bible Study, Meets at 7pm the 2nd and 4th **Mondays** of the month.

Women's Bible Study usually meets the 2nd and 4th **Wednesdays** of the month, at 6:30pm. (*This study does not meet during Advent or Lent*).

Midweek Bible Study meets the 3rd **Thursday** of the month from 10:30 to Noon. Everyone is welcome!

Please refer to the congregation calendar For specific Bible Study Dates for Jan.

Portals of Prayer (which contain a daily Bible devotion and prayer) for Jan.—Mar. are out and can be found on the piano in the narthex of the church and in the literature rack on the wall outside the church office door.



St. Paul's looked great decorated for Advent & Christmas! A big thanks to our youth and ALL who helped! But now it's time to UNDECORATE.

Please join the youth on Saturday, January 5th at 9:00am to lend a hand in packing up and putting away the decorations until Advent Season next year.



JANUARY / FEBRUARY FOOD PANTRY

The weather has turned cold and snowy so for the next couple of months we will be collecting "warm you up foods"— soup, crackers, macaroni and cheese, hot cereals, hot chocolate, tea, coffee, etc...

Place items in the bins located at both entrance doors of the church. (As most of you know, St. Paul's supports the food pantry at Zion, Painesville). They will then be taken by St. Paul volunteers to Zion and distributed to those in need in our area.



Remainder: St. Paul's has **gluten free Communion wafers** available for those with such health needs. Please notify Pastor or an Elder if you need them distributed to you during Communion.



The Epiphany of Our Lord

Celebrated on January 6th, the word “epiphany” (pronounced ee-PIF-uh-nee) comes from a Greek word meaning “manifestation” or “being made known.” In other words, Jesus was “made known” to all people simply by being born. If we had been alive back then, we could have actually reached out and touched Jesus! He was real, and the evidence was in His birth!

Epiphany is the third part of the Christmas season. During this special season in the church year, we remember the visit of the Wise Men. Traditionally, this visit is celebrated on January 6th. Epiphany also brings to mind many other important events in Jesus’ life. For example we remember Jesus’ baptism, the star that guided the Wise Men, and most important, His birth!

“God in flesh made manifest.” This statement is hard to understand. Jesus is real, alive and once walked on the earth for all to see. Holy Communion is where Christ manifests Himself today and gives His true body and blood for us to eat and drink.

January “Life Quotes” from Lutherans For Life

www.lutheransforlife.org



January 6 “For Christians, then, ‘too many impossible. Each additional person affords another opportunity to love and give in the way that brings God Himself the highest joys. And in the neediness of every neighbor more, we encounter and embrace Christ Jesus (Matthew 25:40).” *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life*

January 13 “If God places such high value on life—all life (John 3:16)—how can we possibly be less concerned? We do love others because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). We speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves (Proverbs 31:8) because when we had no voice, no standing, no defense, Jesus stepped in on our behalf. There is no way we can be less loving.” *Christian Life Resources*

January 20 “Sixty million unborn children have died as a result of the Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions. However, through the right-to-life movement’s determination to protect mothers and their children, we continue to see evidence that our efforts to educate America about the unborn child’s humanity, and our efforts to enact protective pro-life legislation, are having a tremendous impact in moving our nation away from *Roe’s* and *Doe’s* deadly legacy.” *Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life*

January 27 “The most fundamental fact of modern biology is that your body is in a continual state of change and development from cradle to grave. Yet, through all the changes, your identity remains the same.” *Rev. Jonathan Lange, district life coordinator for the Wyoming District LCMS*





Adopt-a-Family Update:

St. Paul's Sunday School program would like to thank the members of St. Paul's Church - that very generously helped with our Adopt-a-Family program at Project Hope this year. This year was extremely successful!

We collected items for 2 families (5 children and 1 adult). The items consisted of clothing, outerwear, art supplies and toys.





We greatly appreciate everyone who donated items to this wonderful program. In this time of need, it's a blessing to be able to count on the kindness of our church community. Thank you very much for instilling the spirit of giving and for being an inspiration to all.

Blessings -

Starshine G. -
Sunday School Superintendent



Adopt a Family



St. Paul's Preschool would like to wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year!



FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE NEWS

The 2019 LWML Northeast Zone Prayer Service, will be held at St. Mark's, Chesterland, on Saturday, February 9th at 10 AM (Registration begins at 9:30). Details and a sign-up sheet will be available on the Friendship Circle table. The service is centered around the acronym for "CARES" and based on Psalm 94:17–19: *If the Lord had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence. When I thought, "My foot slips," your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up. When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul. This is a wonderful opportunity for the women of St. Paul's to join with others of the zone for a "Pre-Lent" worship and fellowship.*



LWML PRAYER SERVICE 2019 GOD CARES FOR YOU!



The women's Bible study resumes on January 9th. Welcome in the new year by becoming a part of this group which meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30-8:00. All studies come from the LWML Quarterlies (available on the Friendship Circle table). Please mark these pre-Lent dates on your calendar. (Note: we do not meet during Lent).

January 9 (Winter 2018 Quarterly – pg. 16/17 "The Shepherd's Peace")

January 23 (Winter 2018 Quarterly – pg. 18/19 "Shh! Peace. Be Still.")

February 13 (Winter 2018 Quarterly – pg. 22/23 "Lord, I Can't Handle This!")

February 27 (Spring 2019 Quarterly—TBA)



THOSE WHO SERVE IN JANUARY



ELDERS

6:00 P Saturday
8:15 A Sunday
10:45A Sunday

Dave Murphy
Craig McConnell
Rich Szoradi



LECTORS

01-05-18 6:00 Saturday
01-06-18 8:15 Sunday
01-06-18 10:45 Sunday
01-12-18 6:00 Saturday
01-13-18 8:15 Sunday
01-13-18 10:45 Sunday
01-19-18 6:00 Saturday
01-20-18 8:15 Sunday
01-20-18 10:45 Sunday
01-26-18 6:00 Saturday
01-27-18 8:15 Sunday
01-27-18 10:45 Sunday

Roy Greig
Jack Lelle
Eric West
Pastor Sundbom
Craig McConnell
Terry Wakelee
Dave Murphy
Dale Kerver
Kathleen Pennell
Frank McVan
Jack Lelle
Ken Chaffe



COUNTERS

Terry Wakelee

GREETERS

6:00 Saturday
8:15A Sunday
10:45A Sunday

