

# CORNERSTONE

---

“THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU AT ST. PAUL’S”

December 2017

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Volume 23, Issue 12

Dear Members and Friends of Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries,  
Psalm 92:1. “It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High.”  
November is the month of giving thanks for our many blessings. As I have been asked to write this Pastor’s page, I pause and give thanks to all of you. For allowing me to serve as an “Auxiliary” Pastor stepping into your pulpit and presiding at the table for Holy Communion each week. Although I may only see you every six weeks based on the rotation schedule, there are many attributes of individual congregations I lift up in Thanksgiving.

I am Thankful for...

**BBLC- Bethany Bethel Park Lutheran Church:** First and for most ample parking. Plus your progressive ways of communicating with one another through social media, texting and saving trees. Your Sunday “fun” School is very attractive and exemplifies the Body of Christ. I thank you.  
**CLC- Christ Lutheran Church:** For your ministry towards young women offering prom dresses to attend an event they may not otherwise be able to attend. In addition for allowing me to choose a pink dress for a Hospice patient who wanted to wear the dress as her bridal and burial gown. And of course the 40 plus baptismal gowns and jumpers for babies who may never leave the Neo-Intensive Care Unit. I thank you.

**DBLC- Dormont- Bethany Lutheran Church:** For the last standing choir who gets

up every Sunday to sing praise and glory to God. And of course your awesome fish fry’s and free Turkey dinners as an outreach to the community. I thank you.

**ELLC-East Liberty Lutheran Church:** For your steadfastness and patience while you seek a new church building ever mindful of wanting to stay in the community. For your willingness to tackle difficult social issues be it immigration, refugee resettlement or mental illness in the community. I thank you.

**LCOS-Lutheran Church of Our Savior:** For the presence of your wind chimes dancing in the air as a reminder of the Holy Spirit gathering with us. For your members who need assistance getting to church be it with a wheelchair or a walker, who serve as witnesses to the importance of weekly attendance and the great lengths they will go to get a place at the table. I thank you.

**MLC-Messiah Lutheran Church:** For your personal and professionalism. There is no doubt this is truly a Lutheran church with your ushers at the front door, the love and support exemplified by your members and of course the non-judgmental person who entered my car to turn off my lights. I thank you.

**MTLC-Mt. Oliver-Trinity Lutheran Church:** For the cherubs in the balcony singing Glory to God in the highest! For hosting a much needed diaper bank, and for offering backpacks to students as they begin a new school year. I thank you.

**RLC- Resurrection Lutheran Church:** For sponsoring the Nursery School in your building and the children’s beautiful art work

adorning the Foyer. One can't help but feel young again seeing their creativity and energy. For opening your doors at Election time so neighbors could fulfill their civic duty. I thank you.

**SAL-St. Andrew Lutheran:** For your weekly procession of the crucifix reminding all who leads us and who we are to follow. For your unconditional welcome and acceptance for all who walk to church every Sunday. I thank you.

**SPLC-St. Paul's Lutheran Church:** For you flexibility and willingness to be open to new ideas. For weddings and baptisms. I thank you.

**STLC-Sheraden Trinity Lutheran Church:** For actively putting young people in roles of leadership Sunday morning and your support and mentorship of a Seminarian. I thank you.

**ZLC-Zion Lutheran Church:** For your crochet blankets and bonnies for the infants at CHP. And not sure how this happens but for always begin as every present support after a long three day weekend of being on call and helping me discern Law from Gospel. I thank you.

To our amazing Secretaries/Administrative Assistants who never miss a beat producing the weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter, answering calls with a smile and serving as the backbone for daily operations. I thank you.

And for our extraordinary Pastors who have answered the Call to full time ministry, who give selflessly of their time, their wisdom and experience bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to all who have ears to hear. I too, give thanks for prayers lifted up each and every day. For God sightings, acknowledging the many ways God still actively encounters us. And most of all, for the opportunity to gather with the faithful, preach the Gospel

and share in the Eucharistic Service on a weekly basis. I thank you.

May you and your family have a warm and blessed Thanks-filled holiday season with the tastes, smells, and colors of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas with family, friends and God.

*Pastor Elizabeth Mayforth*

"If the only prayer you say in your whole life is, 'Thank you' it would suffice."

--Meister Eckhart, 13<sup>th</sup> century German monk.



Hello my name is Brenda Henry. I am a recent graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (June 2017) where I earned my Masters of Divinity degree.

Prior to seminary, I worked as a social worker. I received both my undergraduate (90) and Masters of Social Work (92) degrees from Michigan State University. My concentrations of study were child welfare and medical social work. My career focus has been advocacy for those that have struggled with poverty, are from lower-socioeconomic backgrounds and members of under-representative, "hard-to-serve" and marginalized communities. I have primarily worked with women and families in a variety of settings (i.e. hospitals, nursing home, not-for-profit, academia and governmental) with the aim/goal of assisting them to obtain the services needed to improve overall health, well-being and quality of life. This has included direct care, education, program management and advocacy to ameliorate the

effects of systemic issues of poverty, oppression and racism.

I am originally from the Caribbean. I was born and raised in St. Croix, US Virgin Islands. I am a first generation American. My dad was from the island of Antigua. My mother was born on the island of Montserrat and raised on St. Kitts. I am the proud mother of two. My daughter is a junior at LaSalle University in Philadelphia as a scholarship recipient majoring in International Business/Marketing. My son is a college sophomore. He spent his first year at Waynesburg University where he was a member of the football team and a Bonner Scholar. We discovered that this was not the best fit for him. So as we explore other options, he is continuing to pursue his Business Administration degree at CCAC. My younger sister is also a very important part of my nuclear family as she was 'my first' child who lived with me from the age of thirteen. We relocated to Pittsburgh in 2004 and have made it our home.

I have had an ecumenical faith journey. I was baptized and confirmed as a Moravian in St. Croix, USVI. I spent my young adult years as a member of a UCC congregation in Lansing, Michigan. While living in Pittsburgh I have been a Baptist until April of 2017 when I joined Hope Lutheran Church of Forest Hills. During my spiritual journey, I have come to appreciate that God is ever present and uses many hands and variety of settings to serve his creation.

In the past two years I had the wonderful opportunity to be mentored by Pastor Susan Schwartz at the Children's Institute and at Hope Lutheran. At the Children's Institute, I grew to understand the role of Chaplaincy in the healing process. A big part of that experience was appreciating how ministry intersects both in the secular space and

congregations. It allowed me to see how both of my vocations are an unfolding part of God's part for me. At Hope Lutheran I was privileged to see and be a part of what God is doing through the various ministries. I have grown to treasure the Hope's community dedication to being a witness to others of God's unmeasurable grace. It is through this support of Hope and my wonderful mentors Pastor Schwartz, Pastor Karen Battle and Pastor Beth Siefert that I am now in my discernment process of ordained ministry in ELCA. I am delighted to continue my training with PLUM. I look forward to learning from and working with this community and seeing how God is at work.

Peace and Blessings,

*Brenda N. Henry*

PLUM Student Minister



Advent begins Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will be decorating with stars which represent God's gifts to us. We will write on the stars either what our gifts are or what we can do to share that gift. Beginning on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, donations will be accepted for these stars. Money collected will be given to Armory Youth Center. If you cannot make it to church, but would like to purchase stars please call Nancy Pollo at 724-207-0941 and she will make sure to purchase a star in your name and hang it for you.

Also during Advent we will be following the theme of watching and waiting. There will be a Watching and Waiting table placed in the

Sanctuary to display items used to mark time while waiting. These could and should include clocks, watches, calendars or use your imagination and bring things that could be used to mark time. Items used for watching will also be displayed. These could be binoculars, telescopes, glasses, etc. Please remember to mark your items with your name so they can be returned. Following the Advent Season we will be entering into the Time of Light – expressing God's light in our world, on our lives. We will have a Table of Lights from our homes. So please bring a candle, lantern, flashlight, etc. to bring your light into the Sanctuary. Once again, mark your light source so it can be returned.



The members of St. Andrew invite the fellow PLUM members to join them for a soup supper followed by Bible Study and worship during the weeks of Advent. The time is from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Seminarian Susan Devine will be leading the Advent study worship. Those attending may bring a non-perishable food collection to benefit the St. Andrew Food Pantry or make a monetary donation to benefit ELCA World Hunger.

Come and enjoy a warm meal and time gathered around God's Word as we prepare together for the great celebration of Jesus' birth.



Decorating of the church will be held following the worship service on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Make plans to join us.



**December 24<sup>th</sup>** Our regular Sunday morning service will begin at 11:15 a.m. This will be a Lay Laid Service. Pastor Paul Koch will be at the service to distribute Holy Eucharist. Carol Ferens will be assisting Pastor Paul, Nancy Pollo will be writing a sermon for Karen Billingham to deliver. Kids will be doing the Reading and the Prayers. This service is being offered for those who are unable to be with us at our Christmas Eve service.



**Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service** will begin at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Beth Siefert will be our pastor that evening. There will be special music provided by a String Quartet from the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Make plans NOW to attend as we celebrate the Birth of our Savior. P.S. Anyone having Facebook is encouraged to spread the news about our special guests.



Join us on Sunday, December 31 (the final day of this year) as we worship God through Lessons and Carols. Pastor Melba will be presiding. Lay readers are needed, contact Jill.

# Adopt A Family

St. Paul's has adopted a family of 4 children from South Central School. If you wish to support this mission, please send cash or check to St. Paul's by Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please make sure to include your name and address with the donation.



Pastor Melba will be at St. Paul's on Tuesday morning from 9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for anyone who has a need to talk with her in private. From 10:30-11:30 she will be conducting Bible Study. No need to call before coming. She will be located in Eberle Hall.

## December Office Hours

- Monday, December 4, Wednesday, December 6
- Tuesday, December 12, Wednesday, December 13
- Monday, December 18, Wednesday, December 20
- Tuesday, December 26, Thursday, December 28
- Time is 10:00-1:00 on those days

**HOW  
MISSION  
SUPPORT  
WORKS**



St. Paul's committed \$2,400.00 towards Mission support for 2017. With five Sundays remaining, we are short as of our commitment by \$490.60. We have in the past years, exceeded our commitment. Let's try to do it again this year.



## Poinsettias

The Christmas season is approaching and it is time to order poinsettia plants to decorate our sanctuary. The choices are red or white, at the cost of \$6.00 per plant. All orders and money are due by Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and money is due by Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. To order, please fill out the information below and return completed form in the offering plate or by mail to:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
210 North Jefferson Avenue  
Canonsburg, PA 15317-3828

You may also order by email at [stpaulscbg@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulscbg@verizon.net).

~~~~~  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please order \_\_\_ Red Poinsettias \$6.00 each

Please order \_\_\_ White Poinsettias \$6.00 each

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Paid (date) \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_



## December Assistants and Sponsors

### Acolyte

- December 3 – Diamond Dibble
- December 10 – Joshua Porter
- December 17 – Logan Billingham
- December 24 – Joshua Porter
- December 31 – Diamond Dibble

### Assisting Minister

- December 3 – Carol Ferens
- December 10 – Jill A. Shook
- December 17 – Ann Morrocco
- December 24 – Ann Morrocco
- December 31 – Carol Ferens

### Eternal Candle

Karen and Logan Billingham

### Fellowship

- December 3 – Ann Morrocco
- December 10 – Milt & Charlotte Stemmler
- December 17 – Karen & Logan Billingham
- December 24 – No Fellowship
- December 31 – No Fellowship

### Flowers

- December 3 – Carol Jean Straka
- December 10
- December 17 – Carol Jean Straka
- December 24 – Christmas Poinsettias
- December 31 – Christmas Poinsettias

### Lector

- December 3 – Charlotte Stemmler
- December 10 – Mark Pollo
- December 17 – Carol Jean Straka
- December 24 – Youth of St. Paul's
- December 31 – Lessons and Carols

## Worship Leaders

- December 3 – Pastor Dibble
- December 10 – Brenda Henry
- December 17 – Pastor Gropp
- December 24 – Lay Laid Service
- December 24 – Pastor Siefert (Christmas Eve)
- December 31 – Pastor Dibble (Worship schedule is subject to change)



|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Charlotte Stemmler | December 2  |
| Lindsey Nimal      | December 3  |
| Anna Mae DeWalt    | December 5  |
| Ann Morrocco       | December 6  |
| Jordyn Porter      | December 6  |
| Bridget Layton     | December 11 |
| Jonathan Bowland   | December 13 |
| Peter Dibble       | December 18 |
| Aaliyah Gilpin     | December 20 |
| Joyce Griffith     | December 29 |
| Scott Latta        | December 31 |



Ev, Sharlene, Anna Mae, Mark, Virginia, Margaret, Albert, Jim, Patty, Joyce, Dan, George, Elinor, John, Edward, Randy, Jim, Christine, Sherry, Rich, Faith, Anna Mae, Holly, Richmond family, Rose, Laura, Andy, Anita, Jean, Carelle, our Bishops, our Synod, our PLUM pastors and members and our church. Names will be kept on the list for 3 months if needed. A new list will be created the beginning of January. If anyone should be added or removed, please contact the church office (724-745-5962) or email: [stpaulscbg@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulscbg@verizon.net).