

# CORNERSTONE

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

**January 2022 Volume 29, Issue 1  
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church**

### **PLUM Pastoral Message JANUARY 2022**

#### **“FROM HEAVN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME .”**

One of the great gifts Dr. Martin Luther gave to the church was the gift of hymns meant to be sung in public worship for the purpose of instructing the members of the church and inspiring the faithful with the Good News of salvation freely given to all people of faith. One such hymn, generally associated with Christmas, is “From Heaven Above” (Lutheran Book of Worship #51; Evangelical Lutheran Worship #268). The fourteen verses of this hymn sung to a tune that is far from the contemporary tones and rhythms to which we are accustomed proclaims the message of God’s grace and hope presented to us and to all the world in the newborn baby Jesus in Bethlehem’s manger.

As we pass from 2021 to 2022, I have made the difficult decision that it is time for me to step back and retire from PLUM. In the past eleven years I have had the privilege of watching PLUM grow from a small beginning to become the new face of the church in Pittsburgh. And I am grateful to the members of PLUM and to our wonderful pastors and staff, past and present, who have shared themselves

with me and allowed me to share in this ministry together with them.

We have seen city and suburban congregations draw closer together in study and mission. We have taken great joy in seeing new leadership arise, and we have received great benefit from the strong, faithful witness of young and old alike. We have cried together and comforted each other with a comfort that arises out of our confidence that God never leaves our side. We have assured each other that God continues to walk with us through pandemics, social unrest and divisions, and circumstances that call for difficult choices. We know that it is the Holy Spirit who leads us and inspires new life in us.

Even though I will retire from PLUM at the end of February, I will not be far away and my heart will always remain with you. The future holds great promise, and the road ahead will be filled with new surprises and new experiences. The 14<sup>th</sup> verse of Luther’s hymn propels us into the future:

**“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
who unto us the Son has given.”  
With angels sing in pious mirth  
a glad new year to all the earth!**

God bless all the members of PLUM and our congregations as we boldly and faithfully move forward following the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

+Pastor Paul Koch





- The PLUM Call Committee has processed the first step for the 3 applicants for the new pastor's position. All 3 applicants have been submitted to the synod and will now begin the second stage. Please pray for this committee as they endeavor to find the right fit for PLUM.
- Bishop Kusserow will be on a sabbatical leave from 1 January – 28 February 2022. Acting Bishop, Rev Abraham Allende, retired and former bishop to the NE Ohio Synod will take his place during this time.
- January 5, 2021, What's Next Meeting, 7PM, zoom.
- January 6, 2022, PLUM Call Committee, 6 PM, zoom.
- January 7, 2022, Taize Service, 7PM, zoom
- EPIPHANY BIBLE STUDY, Thursday, January 11, 2022, 1 PM, zoom.
- January 12, 2022, PLUM Worship Committee, 7PM, zoom.
- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. day, January 17, 2022.
- EPIPHANY BIBLE STUDY, Tuesday, January 13, 2022, 7 PM, zoom.
- Jefferson Avenue has become a one-way street from Pike Street to College Street. Signs have been installed and will be enforced.
- EPIPHANY BIBLE STUDY, Thursday, January 13, 2022, 7 PM, zoom.
- St Paul's Council Meeting, Jan 24, 2022.
- PLUM BOARD, January 31, 2022, 7 PM, zoom.



### Eternal Candle –Month of January

Laurie Nickles sponsors the Month of January.

If you would like to sponsor the eternal candle for the month of February 2022, please notify Ann Morrocco, 724-746-5897 or [amorrocco1@verizon.net](mailto:amorrocco1@verizon.net). Donation is \$25.00. Put your check/money, your name and envelope number in the envelope and place in the collection plate.

### PLUM PASTORS

The Reverend John Gropp/412-680-7867  
The Reverend Brenda Henry/412-390-8005  
The Reverend Susan Devine/412-496-4889



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE – 11:15 A.M. -- St Paul's

January 2 – Lay Minister Williams  
January 9 – Pastor Sue Devine  
January 16 – Pastor John Gropp  
January 23 – Lay Minister Janet Craig  
January 30 – Pastor Brenda Henry



Please remember all who suffer from disease, COVID-19, violence or distress, frontline health care workers; all who protect and serve our country and community; all who suffered the loss of a family member or friend; all PLUM churches and our PLUM pastors and staff; the congregation of St. Paul's and the Canonsburg community; especially ...Samantha, Milt, Charlotte, Steve, Barbara, Lee, Logan, Karen, Dom, Jim, Donna, Kevin, Barb, John, Michelle, Lynn, the Richmond family, our Bishops, our Synod, our PLUM pastors, all military members and their families, our Bishops, our Synod, our PLUM pastors.

(Please notify Ann Morrocco, [amorocco1@verizon.net](mailto:amorocco1@verizon.net), if anyone should be added or deleted from our prayer list).

Protect and bless all of our young people, especially...Logan Billingham, Andrew Cowser, Gina Cowser, Eleanor Marie Cregut, Austin Filby, Joelle Filby, Clarke Johnson, Larry Ryan Johnson, Gregory McGrail, Lindsey Nimal, Josh Porter, Jaxon Porter, Jordyn Porter, Aaliyah Gilpin, Adalae Carmichael.



## JANUARY MONTHLY MISSION

MISSION SUPPORT



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 9  
January 10

Adalae Carmichael  
Bernita Porter





### Lectors

January 2 - Lee Jones  
January 9 - Mark Pollo  
January 16 – Scott Cregut  
January 23 – Scott Latta  
January 30 – Mike Ferens

### Assistants

January 2 – Carol Ferens  
January 9 – Scott Cregut  
January 16 – Scott Latta  
January 23 – Ann Morrocco  
January 30 – Karen Billingham

If you are interested in serving as an assistant please sign the signup sheets next to the flower chart or notify Ann Morrocco; 724-746-5897; email: [amorocco1@verizon.net](mailto:amorocco1@verizon.net).

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**Envelope Giving:** The 2021 envelope numbers will be repeated in 2022. Continue using your old envelopes but please put your name on the envelope. If you would like a complete new box of envelopes, please notify Karen Billingham, [karen10903@gmail.com](mailto:karen10903@gmail.com). You may also use a personal envelope; put your name on the envelope, and your 2021 number, if known. Place in the collection plate or mail to St. Paul's. Should you have any questions, please call or text Karen Billingham, 412-780-9757.

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**KUDOS** goes out to Mark and Nancy Pollo for the outstanding repairs/refinishing of our church doors.

**Kudos** to all that cleaned, scrubbed floors and decorated St's Paul's for Christmas.

**Kudos** has been received for the St. Paul's Christmas Eve Service from members.