**The Parish Post**

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**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**3253 Niagara Carthage Road**

**Whispering Pines, NC 28327**

**november 2018**

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**Council News:**

Here at St. Paul, we are approaching the end of the Church Year and beginning a New Year. It is a time of reflection to look back at what we did and look ahead to what we will do. November 18th is the Annual Congregational Meeting held immediately after worship service. We will be voting for new council members, voting on our 2019 Financial Forecast (formerly known as the Budget) and voting on some changes to our Constitution and Bi-Laws. These will be emailed to you after the Council Meeting on November 1st.

If you were asked to serve on Council, please take some time to prayerfully consider this Call. We are all here to follow our Lord and grow the church. We always need new and fresh ideas which come from new people serving Him.

The Financial Forecast is just that – a Forecast of what we have available and *need to spend in 2019.*

The changes to the Constitution and By-Laws were done to make it easier and clearer to understand.

An exciting new event planned for December (date to be determined) is to hold a live Nativity on our front lawn. We need help to make this a success. John Schneider is in charge of building the Manger. If you would like to help him, please contact him at (919)498-2269. We also need help sewing the garments for the people to wear. Volunteers are needed to portray Mary, Joseph, 3 Wise Men, and a couple of Shepherd. Other help is needed to serve hot cocoa to those who come. This is a great outreach event and we need everyone’s help.

November 4th is the date we go back to a 9am service. It is also the weekend we change clocks. Remember “Fall back – Spring ahead”

Midweek Advent Services begin November 28th. These services are held at St. James Church at 7pm. The Christmas Season brings a fast paced, sometimes hectic way of life, which creates havoc in our lives. We all know “the reason for the season” is to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Be sure to take time on Wednesday evenings to reflect on this. Join us at St. James and you will find peace and comfort during this wonderful season.

Louise Jensen, Council President



**"Inseparable"**

Romans 8:38-39 - For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Today hasn't been easy: too much to do and too little time to do it! It was hard enough simply to meet the daily demands at work; on top of those, a bushel-basket full of extra problems weighed me down!

It all made me very tired. Tired? Perhaps weary is a better word. I can get tired but still have enough strength to cope with a busy day or a lot of problems. But being weary, in my book, means to be one step beyond tired. It means I have a lack of energy, a lack of zeal, no patience at all. When I'm weary, I'm irritable. And when I'm irritable, no wants to be by me, including me.

Satan uses our problems, our tiredness, our weariness, as opportunities to drive wedges between God and us. That's when I think of God's promises in the Bible. It may be across the room on a table, and yet it may seem like an eternity before I open it to receive God's refreshing Word. That's the temptation of Satan, too, keeping me from receiving God's grace through His written Word.

God always is calling us when we are tired or overburdened by problems. Often, we let Satan succeed in separating us from the love of God. The apostle Paul clearly explains that nothing at all really can stand between God and us. That's right: nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39b).

That is not always easy to believe. But God's promises are true. Deep down I know that. Often I forget. Often I'm tempted to forget. Often I get weak -- get weary -- don't care anymore. But the psalmist knew that regardless of the great problems he faced in life, he was not separated from God, for he wrote, "O LORD, You have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways" (Psalm 139:1-3).

Inseparable.together, with God in me and working through me, with His Word close to my heart and His Spirit working in my soul to make me a living example of Christ Jesus -- that inseparable team shall always be victorious, regardless of the enemy. Temptations, weakness, trials, troubles will never overcome the person who realizes God's inseparable love in Jesus. That inseparable team may have one weak member that gets tired -- even weary -- and may stumble and fall into sin. But the greater Member, God Himself, will show His grace in merciful ways when that happens, offering forgiveness through repentance.

**THE PRAYER**: Heavenly Father, when I am tempted to forget Your promises to be with me, remind me of how Jesus, Your Son, my Savior, is ever by my side. In His Name I pray. Amen.

From *The Lutheran Layman*, July 1983 issue, "Inseparable" by Gerry Perschbacher

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**Our current prayer list is below:**

Bob Schultz (Home Dialysis)

Joe Raymond (Back Surgery)

Tim Miller (Brain Cancer)

Dorothy Loughran (Brain Cancer)

Rod Ward (Bladder biopsy)

Sandra Shepherd (Bladder Cancer)

Richard Rindflesich (Prostrate Surgery)

Jennifer Lewis (Breast Cancer Surgery)

John Rossi (Colon Cancer)

Frank Fabish (Cancer)

Joanne Perry (Chronic Lung Disease)

Jennifer Lewis (Breast Cancer Surgery)

Sondra Nelson (Neck surgery)

Barbara Nelson (Breathing Problems)

Katelyn Krause (Spinal Surgery)

George Dupy (Kidney Transplant)

Jeannie Lloyd (Heart Surgery)

Carol Ward (Breast Cancer)

Lennard Mills (Cancer)

Mary Schmidt (multiple myeloma cancer)

Kristi Brenneman (Breast Cancer)

Peggy Ballew (lung cancer)

Robert DeSandy (Physical Limitations)

Joan Gillis (Ovarian Cancer)

Michelle DeMassi (Aggressive breast cancer)

Bob Thompson (Recovering from a Stroke)

Lloydene Meilbrecht

If you know of any of the individuals on our prayer list who have recovered or no longer need our prayers, please email me so I may remove their names

George Venet

Part of God’s Plan

“*In those days . . .”* So begins a well-known passage of Scripture. Do you know what comes next? “*In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree . . .”* (Luke 2:1). Some of us can quote the whole story by heart. Even though we’ve heard it year after year, some of us for many years, the story is still precious to hear, still warms our souls, still excites our minds, still calms our fears.

Two seemingly inconsequential people of little means obeyed that decree and traveled to the town of Bethlehem to register for the census. The woman, Mary, was about to have a child. She knew that her child was the Son of God, a child to be named Jesus. Joseph, her husband, knew he was not the father of the child, although that was how the world saw him. These were two of God’s faithful. They knew the prophecies regarding the Messiah. They had been visited by the angel and learned that they were to be part of the fulfillment of those prophecies. They didn’t know how things would turn out. They didn’t know all that God had in store for them. They just “*obey[ed their] rulers and submitted to their authority*” (Hebrews 13:17) as they trusted God to guide and protect them and His Son each step they took on His path.

Of course, God did just that, He provided a place for the child to be born (Luke 2:7). He sent angels to announce the birth of the King and moved the shepherds to respond to the joyful news and go to worship the new Baby (Luke 2:8-20). He sent “*Magi from the East*” who brought “*gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh*” and then believed the warning God gave them in a dream and avoided the evil King Herod on their return trip (Matthew 21-12).

How many of these people involved in this most wondrous story realized the important and memorable parts they played? We cannot say for sure but surmise none could really comprehend the eternal significance of the events as they unfolded.

We, too, are involved in God’s plans. Certainly none can equal in importance the birth of Christ, but nothing God does is without purpose. Are we listening for the voice of the Spirit as He speaks to us through God’s Word? Are we, as we go about our daily routines, obeying our rulers, cognizant of being God’s feet and hands and voice to carry out His plan? Do we bring our gifts, aware that God may use them according to a purpose we can’t even imagine? How exciting it is to think and know that we are God’s instruments! What a loss of blessings to us if we refuse to let God use us and another gets the opportunity instead (Esther 4:14)!

As we live out our daily lives as stewards, “*let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith . . . so that we will not grow weary and lose heart*” (Hebrews 12:2-3), but instead look forward with eagerness and anticipation toward the unfolding of God’s plan in our lives.

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**FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS**

St. Paul Lutheran Church supports both the Sandhills/Moore Coalition for Human Care and the We Care Food Pantry. Donation baskets are in the narthex.

**CARING MINISTRY**

The Caring Ministry is a group of women who get together once a month to put Cancer Care Kits together for the Oncology Department at First Health. We also sew pillowcase dresses for The Tiny Hearts of Hope Orphanage in Viet Nam. In addition, we also provide transportation to doctor appointments, hospital, shopping, etc., if needed. We provide meals if there is a need. However, we do not know when to do this so we need you to tell us. If you know of someone in our church or perhaps a neighbor who is in need, please let Claireann Haines or Louise Jensen know. This Ministry is here to help those outside our church but also those within our church. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, we meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10am to assemble Cancer Care Kits and work on Pillow Case Dresses.

Please let us know if you are willing to drive, provide a meal, or just visit someone in need.

**Cancer Care Kits:** In September we delivered 48 Cancer Care Kits to First Health Oncology. Thank you to all who furnished the items to put in the kits or the money to purchase the items needed.

The Caring Ministry is in need of the following items for the Cancer Care Kits:

Tissues (small individual packs)

Small Prayer or Inspirational Booklets

 (such as Portals of Prayers)

Bottled Water

Pencils – sharpened (or mechanical

 Pencils)

Puzzle Books (Fill it in, Find a word,

Sudoku, etc.)

These items will be put into bags to be given to patients receiving chemo at First Health Oncology.

**PILLOW CASE DRESSES:**

We are in need of:

New or gently used pillowcases

Double fold bias tape

¼ inch elastic

Donations can be left in the Caring Ministry Bin in the Narthex.

**DID YOU KNOW** . . . that if you are already a Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) investor, you have the opportunity to partner again and earn**2.0% or 2.5% on a two- or four-year term note?** (Balance over $25,000 earns second-tier rate.) LCEF’s PartnerPLUS is available to current investors (for a limited time only). For more information and an investment application, please see (Gary Gee) or visit **lcef.org.**

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**November Birthdays:**

November 07 Chris Mancuso

November 15 Dr Taylor Vice

**November Anniversaries:**



November 09 Gary& Pat Gee

November 30 Roger& Louise Jensen

If we have missed an anniversary or birthday, I am sorry. Please send me the information (toffeeh@aol.com) and I will add you to our list. Thank You!!

**Weekly and Monthly Parish Post Preperation**

If you have any announcements to be included in the weekly Parish Post please submit them to Claireann Hanies at toffeeh@aol.com by **5 PM the Wednesday before service**.

November Monthly Parish Post announcements need to be sent to Claireann Haines at toffeeh@aol.comby **5 pm Tuesday, November 27th**.

Thank you.

**CONTACTS**

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**Church Website**

www.stpaulinthepines.com