



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran

Church • School • Preschool

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

## January 2021 Newsletter

*Seeking to proclaim Christ and Him crucified to more people more often.*

### ***January is a Time of Transition***

Have you ever heard of the false Roman god Janus? According to the mythology, he had two faces. One that looked to the past and one that looked to the future. He was considered the deity that oversaw beginnings and endings. As such, Romans would worship him whenever they felt like they were in transition. It's his name that many claim ended up giving us the name January as we transition from one year into the next.

I am always glad the one true God doesn't work like the false gods of Roman mythology. Can you imagine keeping it all straight? This temple for this, that temple for that, don't mess it up or you'll irritate the god you were supposed to go to and then you'll be in trouble for sure. What a headache!

But if not a two-faced defunct deity, where are we supposed to find comfort in the transitions of life? No doubt, that's where we are right now here at St. Paul's. A time of transition, as new faces replace some of the most familiar ones around. As we anxiously await to see whether 2021 brings good news regarding pandemic and the mandates that came with them, or more of the same, can it get any worse? And of course, with change there is always anxiety. How did the old joke go? How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb? In alarm the Lutheran cries out, "CHANGE!?!"

Still in all of this, there is hope. While Janus is complete myth, we just celebrated something that is not. Confirmed in history and celebrated since mankind fell into sin and first heard the promise until now, we have a God who loves us. Loves us so much

that the old familiar verse says it all. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)"*

That Gospel message changes everything. As we celebrated the birth of Jesus, we celebrated the birth of the one who won forgiveness, life, and salvation for every sinner, for every human being born before or after Him. As we follow Him throughout our church year, we are reminded of the cost which He willingly paid for us in His life, death and resurrection. We are assured of the love that He continues to shower on us as He preserves and strengthens our faith in Word and Sacraments. And we begin to yearn all over again for the hope He provides in the lasting joys of heaven.

While that messages changes everything, it does not change. It is not a two-faced defunct deity. It is a rock-solid foundation upon which we can stand as the faces of those around us change, as a year which many want to see in the past, finally goes there and a new one takes its place with new hopes, new worries, and new challenges along the way. As we face it all together, as we stand with our God, with our Savior, we have stability. *"Jesus is the same yesterday, and today, and forever! (Hebrews 13:8)"*

**God bless all of you and our work together in 2021!**



VDMA has deep roots in Lutheran history. Worn on the shirts and armor of Lutheran soldiers, it stands for the Latin phrase "Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum" or "the Word of the Lord remains forever."

## A Warm Welcome to Our New Secretary!

We are grateful that Amy Surian has joined our staff in 2021. You'll be able to see her smiling face in the office each day. She comes to us with backgrounds in customer service and printing, among a host of other items.

*Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School,*

*1 Peter 4:10 – "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

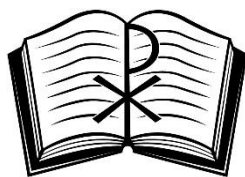
*Having grown up in a Christian home and having been blessed to receive a Christian education, this verse resonates through me. It reminds me of all the blessings that God has bestowed upon me and that we must take advantage of the opportunity to serve and use these gifts.*

*What an amazing opportunity this secretarial position is to not only apply my God given talents, but most importantly to be a part of the mission of St. Paul's in both the church and school. Preaching Christ and Him crucified and bringing the gospel to our children so that the Holy Spirit may create and nurture faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior.*

*I am excited about being a more influential part of the St. Paul's family and help carry out this mission.*

*Amy Surian*

Amy is married to Anthony (Tony) Surian, who currently serves on our Board of Christian Education and the two of them have been blessed with their daughter Onalee who attends 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at St. Paul's.



## January Service Times!

Service times will continue on Thursdays and Saturday at 6:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am in January. The Season of Lent may facilitate a change in February, however. Please keep your eyes and ears open for more information later in January.

## Installation of Officers – January 10<sup>th</sup>

We will be installing our officers for 2021 at our 9:00am service on January 10<sup>th</sup>. It's always a good opportunity for us to stop and thank them and all our other volunteers who do so much for all of us here at St. Paul's.

Headed off our boards are:

- Trustees – Joel White
- Christian Ed. – Phil Kemnitz & Andrew Rickert
- Elders – Keith Kovalaske
- Properties – none (position was vacant)

Headed onto our boards are:

- Trustees – Dean Preissner
- Christian Ed. – Randy Schoonover & Paul Rivera
- Elders – Ron Wilhelms
- Properties – Dave Jackson

Still serving on our boards are:

- Trustees – Dave Babler & Craig Freiberg
- Elders – Mark Peachy & Jim Laudloff
- Properties – Gary Schwefel & Mark Ewerdt
- Christian Ed. – Joel Mathwig, Alan Ahrens, Tony Surian, & Tyler Dukelow

We would also like to thank Cindy Hintz, our controller, and Paul Gieschen who was a great help as the trustees formulated the budget for 2021.

## Annual Voter's Meeting – January 17<sup>th</sup>

Our annual voters meeting, where we set the yearly budget, is scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10:00am. The big work is the budget but there are plenty of other items to discuss and vote on as well, including our call for an associate pastor, depending on what the Lord of the Church ultimately decides.

