

# ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Maryville, TN

## THE GOOD NEWS December 2019 Edition



December 24, 2019

THIS  
CHRISTMAS,

*there is a place  
for you here*

Candlelight Service/Communion  
7:00pm & 11:00pm



### Worship Times

**Sunday Morning**  
8:00 am & 10:30 am

**Sunday School**  
9:15am

### Contact Us

**Pastor:** *The Rev. Rick Ohsiek*

**Phone:** 865-982-4285

**Fax:** 865-977-8070

**Email:** [splchurch@bellsouth.net](mailto:splchurch@bellsouth.net)

**Web:** [www.stpaulmaryville.org](http://www.stpaulmaryville.org)

### Church Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 8:30am-5:00pm



## PASTOR AND CHURCH COUNCIL

### A Message from Pastor Rick:

#### Wait, Watch, Prepare...

These are some of the themes of the season of Advent. Sometimes we think of these three as separate ideas, but they all work together to help us get ready for our Lord's arrival.

A young couple who live across the street from me are expecting their first child in January.

I had a conversation with the husband last week about their soon to be coming son. He was trying

to patiently wait, but I could tell he was getting excited and a little nervous about the new arrival. He was watching everything carefully and mentioning that the signs he saw might suggest that the baby would come a little before the due date. They were doing all they could to prepare: getting baby furniture, stocking up on everything they need, even reading books on how to parent a newborn. If anybody is ever ready for a child, I think my neighbors will be.

Do we put the same kind of effort in preparing for the coming of Jesus, both now and when he comes again?

Are we so caught up in our commercial Christmas that we fail to see the signs of how much we need Jesus now?

#### As we enter another Advent, here are some suggestions as to how we can actively wait, watch and prepare for Christ's coming:

- ◆ When you are out in public, take some time to stop and do some people watching. Celebrate the happy smiles you see. Pray for those who look tired, worn out, or depressed.
- ◆ As you pass the many places collecting for charity, think about how these groups help people in need. Consider how you can help, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year.
- ◆ Look for little signs of God's reign already present in the world. Pay attention to the smallest acts of kindness happening around you. Say a prayer of thanks to God for even the simplest acts of love and service.

Even though we are waiting for Christ to come again, Jesus is already here in the words and actions we see and hear around us.

May we continue to not only pray for Christ to come again, but may we also bring Christ to others as we reach out to all God's children.

Peace,

*Pastor Rick*



### ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS

Wednesday, December 11th, & 18th  
6:00pm



Soup  
Supper

Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy a simple meal During Advent. Hearty Soups and Bakery style breads will be provided by the Fellowship Team. Members are asked to help only with clean-up

Clean-up entails: placing remaining soup in freezable containers, washing; soup kettles, utensils and storing items for future use, cleaning tables, and taking out the trash.

### Mid-Week Advent Service ~ 6:30pm

Wednesday, December 11th, & 18th

Holden Evening Prayer

Join us after supper for a time of reflection as we prepare our hearts for the Gift of the Christ child.



## PASTOR AND CHURCH COUNCIL



### A Message from the Council President

**Thanks to all who attended** the November 17 Congregational Meeting. I am sure you enjoyed the potluck meal and fellowship opportunity.

**For those of you who were not there**, Teena Conrady, Zack Gordon, and Ed Martin were elected to serve on the Church Council in 2020 replacing Rick Anger, Kara Birdwell, and Herb Perry. Also, John Beck was reelected and Brian Kaufman was elected to serve on the Endowment Board. Brian replaced Jacqueline Conzemius. Ann Hall replaced Beth Drane on the Columbarium Board and Susan Ward was reelected to serve as Treasurer.

**Many thanks to** those who served in these positions in 2019 and to the newly elected members for their willingness to serve starting in 2020.

**Two other decisions** were made at the meeting. One was to approve the 2020 Spending Plan as

presented totaling \$309,010. If you want to read it, you can go to the 11/14/19 Weekly News and click on "agenda" then scroll to the 3rd page.

The other decision was to approve changes to the Constitution & Bylaws. The changes will be presented for ratification at the January 2020 Congregation meeting. Copies of the approved Constitution & Bylaws will be available in December.

**Please join me in thanking** Sue Tyler and Warren Bielenberg for the Pictorial Directory that were available November 17th. If you haven't received one, copies are on the usher's table in the hallway.  
*Herb Perry* - Council President

#### Financial report Jan 1<sup>st</sup> thru Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>:

Income	\$244,554.	Projected income	\$260,000
Expenses	\$264,916.	Budgeted expenses	\$265,000
YTD loss	( \$ 20,400. )		
Operating fund balance Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$34,000.		
Operating fund balance Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup>	\$14,000.		
Income needed in November and December to meet our projected giving	- \$60,000		
Average monthly giving this year	has been \$24,000.		

The St. Paul Church Council meets monthly on the third Monday ~ 7:30pm

Herb Perry- President [hpcp2@tds.net](mailto:hpcp2@tds.net) Merl Krull – Vice President [merlinkrull@gmail.com](mailto:merlinkrull@gmail.com)

Heather Wright– Secretary [heatherlewright@gmail.com](mailto:heatherlewright@gmail.com)

Susan Ward– Treasurer - [splctreasurer7@gmail.com](mailto:splctreasurer7@gmail.com)

Rick Anger - [angerrick@gmail.com](mailto:angerrick@gmail.com)

Kara Birdwell - [karabirdwell@hotmail.com](mailto:karabirdwell@hotmail.com)

Brooke Nowak - [ballerinab183@hotmail.com](mailto:ballerinab183@hotmail.com)

Warren Bielenberg - [web9272@msn.com](mailto:web9272@msn.com)

Beth Drane - [Tenneliz2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Tenneliz2000@yahoo.com)

David Silseth - [drsilset@gmail.com](mailto:drsilset@gmail.com)



### Capital Campaign enters its third year

In November of 2017 the church began a three year capital campaign to fund updates to the church kitchen, send youth to the national youth gathering, help start the Stephen ministry program, support the Blount County Community Food Connection, Family Promise and reduce our church building debt.

As we enter 2020, our third year, all these things have been done except eliminating our debt.

Our debt which started in 2002 was over one million dollars. When this program was announced in November of 2017 the balance was \$275,000. With gifts so far, outstanding pledges and monthly payments our balance at the end of this three years program will be \$129,000. Thank you to all who have made this happen.

But there is still time for more. Gifts and pledges over the next 13 months will further lower our loan balance. Mark your gift Capital Campaign, you can also designate whether you want it matched by the Endowment Fund, or not matched. Eliminating our debt will save us \$26,000 a year in interest and principal payments. \$129,000 and counting down.

**How low can we go? The Capital Campaign Team thanks you for making this happen.**



# DISCIPLESHIP

*Volunteer Needed- Coordinator*

## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

We are asking you to take a bag home and fill it with non-perishable food items and return it on Christmas Eve (or before) and place it under the tree in the Welcome Center.

The filled bags will be given to the Food Connection. Bags are located on the Usher Table.

### Advent Reflections/Fill The Bag

**Suggested idea for using your Advent Calendar**

**1) Light a candle to begin your reflection**

**2) Check-in with each other/yourself** (give everyone a minute or so to share about their day)

**3) Use the Advent calendar to mark the days until Christmas.** *Each day will have a Bible verse, hymn, or tell about ELCA Good Gifts. What does this verse/hymn mean to you?*

**4) Add at least one food item to your bag each day.**

*Bring the full bag back on Christmas Eve, or before and place under the Christmas Tree in the Welcome Center. Bags will be given to the Community Food Connection*

*Suggested non-perishable food items:*

Week 1: Peanut Butter, Tuna, Canned Chicken, Pasta & Pasta Sauce

Week 2: Oat Meal, Cereal, Grits, Corn, Green Beans

Week 3: Apple Sauce, Canned Peaches, pears, pineapple...

Week 4: Mac-N-Cheese Mix, Pasta, Noodles

*You may use any combination, the hope is to have at least 24 items in the bag*

**5) Prayer** *You may use this one or one of your own.*

Dear God, we give you thanks for all that we have. Guide us to share with others, so that all people may be fed. In Jesus name, Amen

**6) Blessing** Make the sign of the cross on the forehead of the person to your right saying, Jesus Loves You



**Community  
Food Connection**  
of Blount County, Inc.

# PARISH LIFE

*Barb Miller - Coordinator*



## Ladies Christmas Brunch

December 7th, 2019, 11 am

Invite a friend and join us. Please bring a dish or dessert to share.

**Optional: \$5 to \$10 gift exchange (Christmas Theme)**

**SPAM** Adults 55+

### December Program

**Friday, December 6:** Dinner at O'Charley's (5:00) and the "Messiah" at the Clayton Center (8:00). Cost for the concert is \$20.

**Contact Tim or Leslie Walker for more information.**

LUTHERAN  
MEN'S MISSION

### Men's Christmas Dinner

**Thursday December 5th  
6:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall.

All men of the church are invited to our Annual Christmas Dinner. Rene will be serving a prime rib dinner. Put your name on the signup sheet next to the kitchen and we'll see you on the 5th at 6:00  
Tom Sims—MIM President  
[tom0884@att.net](mailto:tom0884@att.net) 865-805-2789

DAYS FOR  
GIRLS

Days for Girls will not meet in December. Much progress has been made during the last few months, resulting in the completion of 92 shields for the kits.

When we resume in January, we will work on bags to hold the entire kits. Join us for this rewarding ministry.

## Host Week

**December 29th - January 5th**

Please add your name to the volunteer signup sheets located in the Welcome Center. Contact Deb Johnson 865-724-7058 for more information about how you can help homeless families in Blount County.



# SERVING

## Volunteer Needed - Coordinator



### Thank U 4 asking!

I have helped co-ordinate St. Paul's Thanksgiving Basket ministry for approximately 15 years. This year it seemed I was in the right place at the right time to answer some of your various questions about this project. Based on the giving from previous years, we usually request 20 families determined by the Blount

Co. school system in need of food baskets. In addition, we accept names within our church family.

Your donations of non-perishable food items and/or money, plus a \$250 Thrivent Action Team contribution, allow us to provide each family with a complete

Thanksgiving meal including:

- non-perishable food items
- a turkey
- 1 gallon of milk
- 1 package of rolls
- 1 pie
- fresh fruit and other items as our budget permits
- an aluminum roasting pan

In addition, for the past several years, our Comfort Quilt Ministry has provided a quilt for each child in the families from the school system. This year that numbered 33! A member of our church also donated hand knitted scarves this year.

I regret that you are not able to experience the appreciation shown by these families when they come to pick up their baskets. However, please know that your contributions make for a true "Thanksgiving" for these families.

Thank U! Suzanne Bielenberg & Mary Nell Biehler



A Stephen Minister comes alongside a hurting person and meets with that person on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support. Men are paired with men; women with women.

Over the years, well over one-and-a-half million people have benefited from the one-to-one, Christ-centered care of a Stephen Minister. This care is entirely confidential—no one knows the identity of a care receiver except for his or her Stephen Minister and the pastor or Stephen Leader who paired the two together. Typically the Stephen Minister and the care receiver meet weekly for as long as it takes to get past the difficult period. That might mean months or years. If you know someone who would benefit from this Christ-centered care, please talk to Pastor Rick.

## What is a prayer shawl?

*"Shawls ... made for centuries universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify.*

*Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles..."*

Janet Severi Bristow Copyright ©2019

Some recipients have continued the kindness by making a shawl and passing it onto someone in need. Thus, the blessing ripples from person-to-person, with both the giver and receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a sheltering, mothering. Upon completion, a final blessing is offered before the shawls are sent on their way.

### Who receives a Prayer Shawl?

Anyone who is in need of comfort and prayers. You may take a shawl at any time to give to a friend, loved one or neighbor.



### Blessing of the shawls

**On December 1st** we will bless over 25 prayer shawls and 200 pocket shawls for St Paul congregation to use for various reasons. Everyone attending worship will receive a pocket shawl for their own personal use. The prayer shawls will be in the narthex on a quilt rack under the prayer board, plus the pocket shawls will be in a basket on the pew.

### How do I join this ministry?

We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:00am. Please join us! Contact Ann Munson or the church office for more information.

**ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE**  
**Note: If you are unable to serve when scheduled, please find a replacement for that Sunday.**

*Continued on the back page*

Duties	December 1		December 8		December 15		December 22
	8 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	8 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	8 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Assistant Minister	Charlie Malin	Charlie Malin	Carolyn Speck	Susan Ward	Warren Bielenberg	Beth Drane	Art Hafner
Communion Assistants	Jackie Kreider Carolyn Speck	Mark Fisher	Warren Bielenberg Joel Searfoss	Elaine Fisher	Betty Ludwig Nan Wylie	Marsha Bryant	Beth Drane
Lector	Warren Bielenberg	Ann Hall	Betty Ludwig	Gail Hafner	Will Ludwig	Merl Krull	
Ushers		Herb Perry James McMillion Robert Bryant		Tom Sims Bob Ullom Linda Ullom		Herb Perry Denny Mansmith René Zimmer	Herb Perry René Zimmer Robert Bryant
Altar Guild	Suzanne Bielenberg	Janice Hoover	Bertha Franks	Kris Zimmer	Betty Ludwig	Carolyn Speck	Janice Hoover
Acolyte/Crucifer		Drew Ohsiek		Hannah Rundle		Nathan Rundle	Hannah Hatmaker
Torch Bearers							
Nursery		Carol Perry Darlan Lindquist		Brooke Nowak Alyssa Rundle		Kara Birdwell Noah Ohsiek	Anne Sims Drew Ohsiek
Greeters	Alice Andrews	Anna Judway	Jan and Erika Hanes	David and Ruth Sliseth	Heinz and Shirley Lips	Denice Birdwell	James and Ann Hall
Sound Room	Greg Caldwell	Tom Sims	Steve Zrioka	Noah Ohsiek	Joel Searfoss	Drew Ohsiek	Armando Carbon
Tellers		Herb Perry James McMillion		Warren Bielenberg Joel Searfoss		Carolyn Speck John Beck	John Walker



# FELLOWSHIP

*Dorian Caldwell - Coordinator*

## 10:30 Service Fellowship Teams

- December 1** Tom & Lyla Lindquist,  
Carla & James McMillion
- December 8** Barb & Bob Miller,  
Tim & Leslie Walker
- December 15** Darla & Brian Kaufman,
- December 22** Jacqueline Conzemius,  
David & Charlene Dubs

## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TREAT POTLUCK

- December 29** Lorraine Geary, Sue Stauffer,  
Dorine Keeble, Patty Harmon



# DECEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries



- December 3 Lexi Dubs
- December 4 Madelyn Carpenter
- December 6 Judy Krull
- December 6 Jenna Burts
- December 8 James McMillion
- December 9 Andrea Joyal
- December 10 Zach Gordon
- December 12 John Beck

- December 12 Joel Searfoss
- December 13 Ann Jordan
- December 14 Delores Block
- December 15 Elaine Fisher
- December 15 Meaghan Liner
- December 16 Armando Carbon
- December 18 Larry Galyon
- December 19 Francis Turmo
- December 22 Jeremy Snoderly
- December 23 Emily Moritz
- December 23 Jim Weeks
- December 25 Rachel Patterson
- December 27 Kathy Kaun
- December 30 Erika Hanes

## ANNIVERSARIES

- December 1 Ken & Neenah Dressler
- December 2 Roland & Bertha Franks
- December 7 Steve & Linda Zrioka
- December 10 George & Georgia Daily
- December 14 Jerry & Carolyn Glein
- December 16 Gloria & Carl Leonard
- December 16 Jeremy & Courtney Snoderly
- December 20 Claude & Tena Abbott
- December 23 Heinz & Shirley Lips

- December 23 Robert & Marsha Bryant
- December 26 James & Norma Watson
- December 28 Mark & Elaine Fisher
- December 28 Rick & Elizabeth Anger



# ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH



429 Sandy Springs Road  
Maryville, TN 37803

*Sharing Christ's Love  
With the World*

## Dates of Interest

*Check Calendar for times and places*

**OFFICE CLOSED ~ December 25th-January 1st**

### Council:

Monday, December 16th ~ Council Meeting

### Discipleship:

Sunday, December 2nd, 9th, & 16th ~ Youth Group Meeting

Wednesday, December, 5th, 12th, & 19th ~ Creative Advent

### Fellowship:

Wednesday, December 11th, & 18th ~ Advent Soup Suppers

### Worship:

Wednesday, December 4th ~ Hanging of the Greens Service

Wednesday, December 11th, & 18th ~ Mid-week Advent Service

Sunday, December 22nd~ **ONE MORNING SERVICE ONLY**

Tuesday Evening, December 24th ~ Candlelight Service with Communion

Sunday, December 29th ~ Lessons and Carols ~ **ONE MORNING SERVICE ONLY**

Worship Assistants	December 24 Christmas Eve		December 29 Lessons & Carols
	7 p.m.	11 p.m.	10:30
Assistant Minister	Jean Beck	Carolyn Speck	Elizabeth Anger
Communion Assistants	Charlie Malin	Carol Perry	
Lector	Kris Zimmer	Carol Perry	
Ushers	John Beck Robert Bryant René Zimmer	Herb Perry	Herb Perry Linda Ullom Bob Ullom
Altar Guild	Linda Zrioka	Carolyn Speck	
Acolyte/ Crucifer	Hannah Rundle	Noah Ohsiek	
Torch Bearers	Elaine Fisher Steve Zrioka	Carolyn Speck Carol Perry	
Nursery	Sue Tyler		Deb Johnson Hannah Rundle
Greeters			Patricia Harmon
Sound Room	Greg Caldwell	Drew Ohsiek	Greg Caldwell
Tellers			Dee Dee Walker Kris Zimmer

