

January Tidings 2017

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Pastor's Musings

I recently purchased a 2017 wall calendar to hang in my kitchen. (Yes, I still like to have the hardcopy wall calendar hanging on the wall.) As I do every year I flipped through the months, checking out the pictures, and also the holidays and other events printed on the calendar. Looking at the clean slate of a new calendar, I am filled with hope and a bit of anxiety as we begin a new year. As always so much is unknown about the future, and even the things that are planned for can quickly change, and such thoughts raise the anxiety level. But, the more powerful force is the hope within me, grounded in the knowledge that God has always watched over me, and 2017 will be no different. Things may not go according to my plans, but no matter what, I will be venturing forth with my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, walking with me.

I pray that no matter what the new year brings, you may always experience the power of God's love and the security of his faithfulness. Happy New Year!

ST. PAUL'S REFORMED CHURCH Core Beliefs and Values

Beliefs

We are saved by grace alone through Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior.

Prayer is an important part of our personal
relationship with God.

We experience the presence of the living Lord
through our worship and fellowship with
one another

Values

Accepting - We respect all who want to develop a
relationship with Jesus Christ.

Education - We believe Christian Education is a
lifelong process. We value
and commit our time together to learning more about
our faith through

Worship, Bible Study and Sunday School

Fellowship

We believe involvement in the worship
and fellowship of

St. Paul's enriches us as individual Christians
and our life together.

Room for All Pot-luck Supper

When looking to the future, we as a congregation recommitted ourselves to heeding God's call to work for justice, and once again decided to focus our attention on the needs of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgendered community. To that end, we are hosting a Room for All gathering on Saturday, January 14th at 6:00pm. This will be a pot-luck supper and will include a discussion on the place of LGBT persons in the life and ministry of the Reformed Church in America. This is open to all. If you plan on attending, please bring an entree and dessert to be shared at our dinner table.

Winter Restorative Prayer

All are invited to a time of prayer and reflection on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 9:15am. This is a wonderful opportunity to focus on God's grace as we enter the new year.

The Service will precede the Sunday Worship Service, which as usual will begin at 10:00am.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Service

Given the racial tensions and discussions on race that were so much a part of our national life in 2016, the Babylon Clergy Cluster has decided to hold a Prayer Service as part of our communities' observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday in January. The Service will be held on Sunday, January 15 at 7:00pm at St. Paul's Reformed Church. It is the hope of the area clergy that this event will help all of us, as we wrestle with the matter of racism in our lives and society.

Election Results

At the congregational meeting on December 11, 2016 the following people were elected to serve on Consistory: Cindy Lavorata (Elder - Worship), Caryn Galante (Deacon - Finance), Cheryl Lento (Elder - Education), Jean Ann Rogers (Elder - Clerk), and Barbara Walters (Deacon - Stewardship). These people will be installed into office during the Worship Service on Sunday, January 8, 2017 during the Worship Service.

The congregation extends its thanks to those who have served during their terms of office: Pam Lavorata, Richard Lavorata, Kathy Mayers, Jane Costantino, and Ellen Stockert.

January Communion Service

In the month of January, we will celebrate Holy Communion on January 8 rather than on New Year's Day, January 1.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The congregational meeting for the Receiving of the Annual Report and the Approval of the Budget, will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 11:00am.

It is hoped that all members, and friends of the congregation, will attend as we discuss not only what was done in 2016, but also look to the future of St. Paul's.

Thanks Tom!

The congregation extends its thanks to Tom Cunningham who once again ascended the church building to check on the condition of our roof and to clean out the gutters before winter.

With Regrets

At its meeting on December 14, the Consistory accepted with regrets the resignation of Scott Olsen from Consistory and chair of the Family Care Committee. The Consistory is recommending that Danielle Olsen be elected to fill Scott's unexpired term. The election to fill this vacancy will take place at our congregational meeting on January 29.

January Sunday Worship Service Scripture Readings:

8: Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-17

15: Isaiah 49:1-7, John 1:29-42

22: Isaiah 9:1-4, Matthew 4:12-23

29: Micah 6:1-8, Matthew 5:1-12

WORSHIP



Ushers:

Jan 1: Barbara and Phil
Jan 8: Ann and George
Jan 15: Denise and Edie
Jan 22: Lisa and Pam
Jan 29: Matthew and Ryan

Communion Servers:

Jan. 8th -Lisa and Cindy

Yours in Christ,
Pam Lavorata,
Worship Chairperson



St. Paul's Reformed Church
December Consistory Meeting

Board of Elders: (Pastor Strauch)

The Elders met tonight to go over the rolls. Two members moved from inactive to active. Two removed from active. Three people moved to inactive, and two removed from adherents and two added to adherents. The active membership total is now 48. Seven letters will be mailed to members to ask whether they want to remain on the rolls.

Pastor's Report:

South Bay has given St. Paul's a full-page ad for the price of a ¼ page ad for advertising the Christmas services. This ad will be in the N. Babylon and Deer Park editions. Pastor will be on vacation from December 26, 2016 through January 3, 2017. On January 1, 2017, the Health Team will lead the service using Lessons in Carols. Communion will be held on January 8, 2017. The Congregational Meeting was held this past Sunday for the election of Consistory members. The installation of the new Consistory members will be on January 8, 2017. The next Consistory meeting will be on January 11, 2017. The Annual meeting is on January 29, 2017. All Annual reports are due in by January 15, 2017. Room For All will have a Pot Luck dinner on January 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. The website and Face Book will post this event. Letters will be sent out as well. There will be a St. Paul's sign-up sheet to ask for people to set up and bring an entrée. Room For All will send us some pins and things. Marilyn Polbruck may be here for the dinner, it depends on her schedule. Pastor wants to distribute RCA vote papers. We will reach out to the teen center. They appreciated our cookies. Pastor would like to lead an initiative to bring together faith and healing. The January teen event will be postponed until March. There may be a faith discussion led by Pastor Strauch with some teens, but they don't know when it will be held, possibly in the Spring. We may consider becoming a "Pride Partner" in June at the Long Beach Pride event. A Pride Partner would be committed to help-out at the event and possibly have a St. Paul's table set up there. Details to follow. This would be an excellent opportunity to get much needed exposure for St. Paul's in this community.

S. Olsen approached Pastor and would like to resign from Family Care and have his wife, Danielle, take his place. S. Olsen would help J. Altieri with property. A motion was made to accept S. Olsen's resignation, with regrets by R. Lavorata, and seconded by P. Lavorata. A motion was then made to appoint D. Olsen to chair Family Care by K. Mayers, and seconded by R. Lavorata.

Shared Building Committee:

It was worked out that they need to be out of the building by 4:00 p.m. except for one Sunday a month. Then they would be out by 7:00 p.m. The drum set has been moved to make room for the Christmas tree which will go up tomorrow.

Stewardship: (Pastor Strauch)

J. Rogers and B. Leun sent out the final Stewardship letters.

Finance: (R. Lavorata)

The owed bills information was not available. R. Lavorata stated that we should be able to get through January, but we will need to have a fund raiser soon.



Worship: (P. Lavorata)

We will be holding a Mardi Gras Pancake dinner on February 25, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. The Poinsettia order will be coming in this Saturday.

Property: (Pastor)

J. Altieri picked up bags of Ice Melt. P. Magnoli will continue to plough for free and store his equipment at St. Paul's. We will need someone to shovel the steps. J. Altieri has looked into getting a railing installed on the chancel steps.

Pre-school: (B. Milligan)

One new student was enrolled in the three-year old class. There may be a new student in the four-year old class. The Christmas pageant will be held this Friday. Monday, Patty's husband will dress up as Santa Claus and give out books which the children's parents provided. Next Wednesday is the Christmas party. In January 2017, the evaluations for the students will be held. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held also. The annual Winter Olympics will be held in mid-January. Patty is already advertising in January for next September's pre-school enrollment.

Family Care: (S. Olsen)

We need a new sign-up sheet for January 2017. Having the Coffee Hour sign-up sheet upstairs has been working better. January 29, 2017 the Congregational Meeting and brunch will be held.

Christian Education: (K. Mayers)

The children practiced Sunday for the Hanging of the Greens on December 18, 2016. There are seven children in Cheryl's class and 4 children in Karen's class. Pastor has 2 children in his class. They are adopting a family for Christmas. The family has 4 children and a Mom. Women's Fellowship met on December 2, 2016 at K. Gallante's house. This was the largest meeting to date, there were 8 attendees. On December 20, 2016 B. Leun will host the Women's Bible Study Christmas party at her home. A suggestion was made to have a play at Easter with the pre-school as a fund raiser. C. Lento has to start a search for a Sunday school teacher for the 2-5 grade class.

Mission: (Pastor)

The December mission will be the Gift of the Christ Child collection.





JANUARY

2017

1	10.00am	Worship Service
8	9.15am 10.00am 10.00am	Winter Restorative Prayer Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 5 Worship Service: Installation of Consistory Members
11	7.30pm	Consistory Meeting
14	6.00pm	Room for All Pot-luck Supper
15	9.00am 9.00am 10.00am 10.00am 7.00pm	Confirmation Class Choir Rehearsal Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 5 Worship Service Prayer Service
22	9.00am 9.00am 10.00am 10.00am	Confirmation Class Choir Rehearsal Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 5 Worship Service
29	9.00am 9.00am 10.00am 10.00am 11.00am	Confirmation Class Choir Rehearsal Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 5 Worship Service Congregational Meeting