

SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE

Our mission at Saint Paul's is to: **welcome** all people; **proclaim** the good news of Jesus Christ; **experience** a personal relationship with Him; and joyfully **share** God's love with others.

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ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 19

On Sunday, November 19, at 6:00 p.m., the congregation will meet to conduct the annual business of the church: receiving ministry team reports, electing new council members and voting on our budget for 2018. A covered dish meal will precede the meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m.

A Budget Forum will be held prior to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 12, at 4:00 p.m. in Keever Hall. Members of the Congregation Council as well as the Finance Ministry Team will be available to answer any questions you may have regarding the 2018 proposed budget.

FROM PASTOR JONATHAN

Joel 2: 23-32

²³O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. ²⁴The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. ²⁵I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. ²⁶You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. ²⁷You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame. ²⁸Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. ³⁰I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. ³²Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

whole family can get together to catch up, eat good food, and watch football. The main reason Thanksgiving is now one of my favorite times of the year is the spiritual significance of the holiday. Thanksgiving is a day to celebrate the wonderful truth that we have a God of abundance. It really IS a day for us to pause and give God thanks for all that He gives us and for all that he WILL give us. What this means is God does not give us enough grace "just to get by." He gives us MORE grace than we can handle.

This is one of the themes found in our Joel reading. I believe this scripture is a wonderful and fitting text for Thanksgiving. The passage was written at a time when Israel faced a major food shortage due to a horrible locust plague. This plague lasted for many years. The damage it caused was almost insurmountable. Homes were destroyed, food crops were wiped out, and people were killed. When the plague was finally over, Israel was desperate for hope.

And in this scripture God not provides the people hope, He also gives them a promise. When God says "My people will never again be put to shame," He is making a an oath to care for His children and love them even more than before. God was going to make things right. God was going to make things better. God would rebuild.

And probably the biggest sign of hope for the people was that God promised to be right there in the middle of this renewal. He did not

Over the past five years or so, Thanksgiving has become one of my favorite holidays. It is one of the few days of the year when the

HAPPENING THIS MONTH

*Super Peeps
Sunday
November 5
3:00 p.m.*

*Luther League
Sunday
November 5
5:00 p.m.*

*Budget Forum
Sunday
November 12
4:00 p.m.*

*Annual Meeting
Sunday
November 19
5:00 p.m. Dinner
6:00 p.m. Meeting*

*Thanksgiving Holiday
Church Office Closed
November 23 & 24*

From Pastor Jonathan continued...

rebuild from a distance. God was where the people needed him most: to be present. This promise of hope, this reminder of love, is given to us today. As we look to the future and we face our own issues, we too need to open our hearts and ears to the promises God made for His children back then, and for His children now (who include us).

As you gather with friends and family, look around the table, and see the people God has placed in your life. Look around and remember the love, the laughter, and the tears that you have shared. And I would encourage you to read this passage from Joel as part of your Thanksgiving meal. Let God's word surround your table, as does His never-ending (AND never-failing) love for us all. And hear the words of God who has said, "I will be there for you. Because I love you."

FROM BILL REMELE

Extra and regular musicians are always welcome at St. Paul's especially as we prepare for Advent and Christmas! Bring your instruments and voices to Church Choir, Praise Team, and/or SPIRIT practices. What a great way that will be to get a head start on the enjoyment and fun of holiday seasonal music.

Members and families of all of our music groups are reminded of the St. Paul's Music Ministry Christmas Potluck to be held Sunday evening, December 10, at 5:00 at the home of Bob and Peggy Erickson. That will be an event not to be missed! Save the date!

ADVENT SERVICES

Our Midweek Holden Evening Prayer worship celebrating Advent 2017 begin on Wednesday, November 29, at 7 p.m. Prior to worship, we will gather in Keever at 6 p.m. for soup and salad. Come one, come all!

FROM PASTOR MARK

Thanksgiving... For All the Saints

The word *saints* is used seventy times in the Bible, and only once in the Old Testament, in Psalm 31. In Psalm 31:23 "saints," has also been translated as *faithful*, or *godly ones*. That very much captures the way saints are used throughout the New Testament. *Saints* are God's *Holy Ones*.

Martin Luther spoke of people as *saints*, too, but rather than describing exclusively *faithful*, *godly*, or *holy ones*, he added the twist that we are all simultaneously *saint* and *sinner*. Most of us would be more comfortable with the honesty of that description. Through God's Holy Spirit, we have our moments, our *saintly* moments, (hopefully many) but we have our *sinnerly* moments as well. But that's okay, because thanks be to God we are saved by God's grace through faith, which also means that there will come a time, in the resurrection, when all sins will be forever forgiven, and *sinner* will no longer be in Heaven's vocabulary. Just *saints*.

November is a month that starts out November 1 with an All Saints Day celebration. All Saints Sunday follows. On that Sunday at Paul's we remember all our loved ones who have died this past year. We light a candle, say their name, and thank God for them. It's not thanksgiving, like we celebrate toward the end of the month, with a big meal and lots of trimmings, but it is *eucharist*, another word for the *Lord's Supper* or *Holy Communion*, which literally means *thanksgiving*.

In the *eucharist*, we are reminded of the feast to come, when all God's *forgiven sinners* become *forever saints* in heaven. It is a wonderful gift that God has given us, the gift of trust that God is gracious, merciful and forgiving. Therefore, we remember all our friends and relatives (both *saints* and *sinners*, and those *simultaneously saints and sinners*), that all are in God's loving care, and for this, and much much more, we give our most heartfelt thanks and praise. Amen.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

Parents, if you believe your child or children are ready for First Communion classes, please contact Pastor Jonathan or Pastor Mark. They are ready to work with you in getting your SuperPeeps ready for their place at the Table!

JOB FAIR

New Hanover & Pender County Career Centers have partnered with Lower Cape Fear HR Association to host a job fair at the First Baptist Activity Center on November 9 from 9am - 12 noon. Over 30 employers have already registered and expect to have more registered soon.

LIFE LINE SCREENING

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church on 11/9/2017. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. There are three ways to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call toll-free 1-888-653-6441 or visit <http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle> or text the word circle to 797979

NOMINEES FOR 2018-2020 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

MARK BERGMAN

My wife Jill and I moved to Wilmington a little over 10 years ago when I accepted an offer in Nuclear Engineering from GE-Hitachi. Originally from Catawba Island, OH and Jill from Miami Beach, FL, we have lived in seven different states (some more than once). It has been a great experience to have been members of many different Lutheran Church families. We have been married 42 years and have three daughters and three grandchildren. After High School I joined the Merchant Marine, but once married with a family I started studies at the University of Toledo. I graduated in 1977 with a Mechanical Engineering degree and while working in a number of different industries in the first 10 years, the last 30 years where in nuclear engineering. My work involved overseeing the activities of the Design, Maintenance and Operation departments in maintaining a nuclear power plant's Emergency Core Cooling systems. My work took me to most states, Europe and Japan. My hobbies include photography and riding my BMW motorcycles. I have served on two Church Councils, Grace Lutheran in Fremont, Ohio and First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Manchester, Iowa. While council president in Iowa I had the good fortune to be a participant during the creation of the ECLA. My expertise (while small) is on all things mechanical and electrical. I can generally fix anything in those categories but when it comes to carpentry I cannot drive a nail straight. My work experience included budgeting, maintaining/managing complex systems and selecting (and supervising) contractors. I'm honored to be considered for St. Paul's council, and if elected, feel that my past council, engineering and finance experience will be beneficial to the congregation. Thank you.

AL CHEATHAM

After being baptized and brought up in the Baptist faith, I joined St. Paul's Lutheran Church following my marriage in 1951 in St. Paul's to Anna K. Cheatham, a life-long Lutheran. I have served in many capacities, such as teaching Sunday School, Superintendent of the Sunday School, Congregation Council, Property Chair, and presently Chair of the Memorial Ash Garden. It would be a privilege and an honor to serve on the Congregation Council under the leadership of Pastor Jonathan Conrad.

DORIS MILLER

I am Doris Miller. I live in Wallace, NC. I moved here in 2015. Previously I lived in Belvidere, IL with my husband, John Miller. We built the house in North Carolina with intent of retiring here. Unfortunately, John was diagnosed with a terminal cancer he fought for 2 years. He passed away in May and the closing on the house wasn't until June. We were packed to move, so I made the move on mine own. We had visited St. Paul's each time we came down to NC. I was a long-time member of Zion Lutheran Church in Belvidere, IL. When I moved here I transferred my membership to St. Paul's, and became a member in June of 2016 and joined the choir in October. I have been a Lutheran all of my life. I have a degree in business. I volunteered at St. Joseph Hospital, was Secretary of the Auxiliary Board for 2 years and President for 2 years. I served 2 years on the Illinois Hospital Auxiliary Board as Scholarship/Leadership Chairman. I served 2 years on the board of Zion Lutheran Church, was on the music/worship committee and evangelism committee. I also sang in the choir.

PATSY PERHALA

I was born in Carrboro, North Carolina and grew up in that area. I am the mother of three sons and four grandchildren. This past April I lost the love of my life George Perhala. What a team we did make. Together we chaperoned the youth to LYO in Greensboro, went with them on mission trips and help with fundraisers, and on the third Monday of each month we also work with the team to feed the homeless. Kairos Prison Ministry is a ministry that I am very passionate about. I have served on Council once before and worked with youth and family. It was an honor to be part of this ministry. When they asked me to run again I said "let me pray about it." God is working so much of my life it's time for me to give back to him. It would be a pleasure an honor to help carry on God's will for St. Paul's Evangelical Church. Pray for each candidate before you vote and may God's will be done.

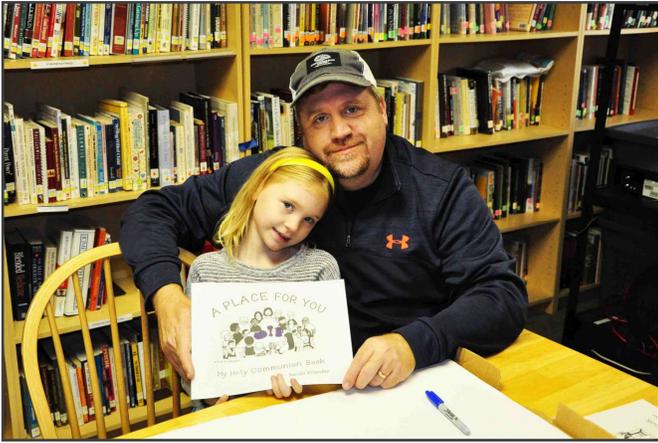
JODY PFEFFER

I consider myself to be a Wilmington native, having moved here with my family in 1962 from Chester, SC. I graduated from Laney High School and studied business at Miller Motte. I first came to St. Paul's with my husband Bill Pfeffer in 2011 and we were married in the beautiful sanctuary in 2012. I am passionate about caring for the sick and disabled, elderly, and those who are unable to come to church. I take great pleasure in visiting and extending Christian fellowship to homebound people. I currently lead a Caregivers group, am on the Staff Support Ministry Team, and serve as a greeter and communion assistant on Sunday mornings. When not in church you will find me reading books and enjoying time with my family. I have one daughter and three grandchildren who I love to do fun things with. I look forward to working with the parishioners of St. Paul's to spread the love of Christ.

MARI-LOUISE RANNO

Having been a Lutheran all my life and moving from Pittsburgh to Wilmington has been a joy, especially joining St. Paul's 10 years ago. As a former council member at St. Paul's, I remember the many great services that were performed by these members and it is my hope to again become a member of service to St. Paul's and the congregation.

PICTURES FROM AROUND ST. PAUL'S



Congratulations to Finley Hales for completing her First Communion Instruction!



PICTURES FROM OKTOBERFEST



NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolytes (9 a.m.)

5 Anna Phelps
12 Mark Haskins
19 Zach Parker
26 Parker Surratt

Acolytes (11 a.m.)

5 Kendall Bauer, Addison Kitchens
12 Delilah Mills, Anna Phelps
19 Kate Pottle, Meghan Stello
26 Kendall Bauer, Cole Fleming

Altar Guild

5 Debbie Farabee, Ruth Farabee
12 Anna Cheatham, Voncile Echevarria
19 Mari-Louise Rannow, Lynn Mickley
26 Anna Cheatham, Terri Sandlin

Caregivers

5 Becky Knott
12 Jody Pfeffer
19 Frances Lamb
26 Sue Drescher

Communion Assistants (9 a.m.)

5 Terry Obrock
12 Bob & Cheryl Trapp
19 Larry & Becky Knott
26 Joe & Lynn Mickley

Communion Assistants (11 a.m.)

5 Kitty Solomita
12 Tom Bertelsen, Terry Obrock
19 Cris Dixon, Kitty Solomita
26 Lynda Shell, Jody Pfeffer

Communion Guild (9 a.m.)

5 Helen Romeo, Bev Friese
12 Cindy Swicegood
19 Michelle Beasley
26 Bev Friese

Communion Guild (11 a.m.)

5 Christa Gerfelder, Alice Hovis
12 Kay Kruklitis
19 Anne Mason
26 Jessie Miars

Crucifer (11 a.m.)

5 Jacob Walton
12 Laurel Meitrodt
19 Beth Pottle
26 Jacob Walton

Greeters (9 a.m.)

5 John & Sally Gibbons
12 Billy & Debbie Mason
19 Jess Parker
26 Norma Flax, Bev Friese

Greeters (11 a.m.)

5 Tom & Diane Bertelsen
12 Grady & Gwen Beck
19 Mike & Diane Leiser
26 Jody Pfeffer, Lynda Shell

Monday Night Community Dinner

6 Betsy Rullman, Anita Heston, Jessica Parker, Linda McKinnon, Mike Leiser, John Gibbons
13 Anita Heston, Sandy & Peter Barrett, Jim Bauer, Mike Leiser
20 Peter Miars, Bob Erickson, Joe & Lynn Mickley, Judy & Steve Beach, John Gibbons
27 Linda Evans, Ron Fracalossi, Allan & Judi Pellnat, John Gibbons

Readers (9 a.m.)

5 Terry Obrock
12 Archie Barringer
19 Michelle Beasley
26 Debbie Mason

Readers (11 a.m.)

5 Kitty Solomita
12 Tom Bertelsen
19 Ellen Maier
26 Peggy Erickson

Ushers (9 a.m.)

5 Billy & Debbie Mason
12 Larry & Becky Knott
19 Bob & Joyce Throop
26 Fran Bolger, John Gibbons

Ushers (11 a.m.)

5 Larry Hovis, Nicky Grubbs, Nate & Sarah Askwith
12 Al Cheatham, Wilson Horton, Joe Augustine, Walt Denninger, Larry Lewis
19 George Russ, Mike Flack, Jack Baily, Tom Bertelsen
26 Dan Huggins, Mike Mason, Nick Grubbs, Jim Bailey

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



1 Henry Helgesen
Brea Kelley
2 Kitty Solomita
3 Pastor Mark Opgrand
4 Dorothy Gore
6 Robert Allen
8 Karin Mills
9 Olivia Prizzia
Elaine Walton
10 Barbara Ackerly
11 Ruth Farabee
12 Dick Hanson
13 Louis Coleman
Regan Gerow
14 Kegan Cox
Andy Kruklitis
15 Delilah Mills
16 Davis Fox
17 Ken Becker
George Russ
18 Marsh Johnson
Melissa Talley
19 Erin Fritz
21 Mike Flack
22 Peter Barrett
Griffin Hales
Lynn Hagin
Breck Newber
Richard Walters
23 Julie Dixon
August Mills
24 Olivia Darzano
26 Arlene Boscarino
Keith Hales
Diane Leiser
27 Caryway Robeson
28 Margaret Lyerly
29 Gloria Garrett
Bill Heston
Lella Green
Bill King

ST. PAUL'S NOVEMBER 2017 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5</p> <p>9 a.m. Celebration Service 10 a.m. Breakfast 11 a.m. Traditional Worship 3 p.m. Super Peeps 5 p.m. Luther League</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7 p.m. Monday Night Community Dinner</p>	<p>7</p> <p>2 p.m. Circle 4 8:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (Keever)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>4:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry 5:30 p.m. Prayer Group 6 p.m. Wednesdays Together Dinner 6:45 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Church Choir</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 p.m. NC Synod Leadership Seminar 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Annex)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10 a.m. Praise Team Practice</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9 a.m. Celebration Service 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Traditional Worship 4 p.m. Budget Forum (Keever)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Workshop (Keever) 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting (Annex) 7 p.m. Monday Night Community Dinner</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Workshop (Keever) 8:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (Keever)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Prayer Group 6 p.m. Wednesdays Together Dinner 6:45 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Church Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Life Life Screening 6:30 p.m. NC Synod Leadership Seminar 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Annex)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10 a.m. Men in Mission</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9 a.m. Celebration Service 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Traditional Worship 2:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry 5 p.m. Dinner (Keever) 6 p.m. Annual Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Project Linus (Keever) 7 p.m. Monday Night Community Dinner</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (Keever)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Prayer Group 6 p.m. Wednesdays Together Dinner 6:45 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Church Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30 p.m. NC Synod Leadership Seminar 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Annex)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9 a.m. Celebration Service 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Traditional Worship</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7 p.m. Monday Night Community Dinner</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (Keever)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Church Choir</p>	<p>23 Thanksgiving</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9 a.m. Celebration Service 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Traditional Worship 3 p.m. Super Peeps 5 p.m. Luther League</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7 p.m. Monday Night Community Dinner</p>	<p>7</p> <p>2 p.m. Circle 4 8:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (Keever)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Prayer Group 6 p.m. Wednesdays Together Dinner 6:45 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Church Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Life Life Screening 6:30 p.m. NC Synod Leadership Seminar 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Annex)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10 a.m. Men in Mission</p>
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<p>26</p> <p>9 a.m. Celebration Service 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Traditional Worship</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7 p.m. Monday Night Community Dinner</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (Keever)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Prayer Group 6 p.m. Advent Meal 7 p.m. Advent Worship 7:30 p.m. Church Choir</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30 p.m. NC Synod Leadership Seminar 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Annex)</p>		