

## PASTOR'S POTPOURRI

### No News Update

Due to the post-Christmas vacation, the amount of time spent compiling the Annual Report, numerous demands of the church office, and a host of property issues requiring attention and coordination from the church office (eg., a burst water pipe on January 3, an insurance claim, and repair work), there was not enough time to put together a January newsletter. (Reminder: our Parish Secretary is in the office from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.) We did provide up-to-date news, announcements, and weekly schedules through the POEM (Pastor's Office Email). If you don't get the POEM, consider sending your email address to the church office (stpaulsew@verizon.net). The POEM is sent out on Thursday afternoon.

### A Belated Word of Thanks

...to you, the people of St. Paul, for your generous congregational Christmas gift which Stan MacDonald presented to me on your behalf on Christmas Eve. In addition to that gift, I also received several gift cards to local restaurants, two goats given in my name to *God's Global Barnyard* (a ministry of the ELCA), several gifts directed to ministries of the ELCA, and assorted cards and goodies. I am grateful for your kindness, generosity, and thoughtfulness. Thank you.

### Lenten Coin Folders or Banks

...are not included in this mailing. We are trying another way - - making them available at church. Please take one or the other after Worship. Your gifts will help with hunger projects sponsored by the ELCA, the NJ Synod, and St. Paul Lutheran Church. Last year you gave \$891.25.

On Super Bowl Sunday, we collected 524 cans of soup and \$688 for our annual Souper Bowl of Caring. The soup went to the Redeemer Lutheran Church food pantry. Your financial gifts will help Redeemer in Trenton and local hunger ministries.

*"Lord, when was it we saw you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger..."* Matthew 25

### Happy Birthday to Dorothy Dabrowski

...who will celebrate her 100th birthday on Sunday, February 25. A reception will follow the 11 am Service.

### Lenten Services

*The Passion of Our Lord According to Mark*

Wednesdays 7:30 pm - 8:15 pm

February 21 and 28

March 7, 14, and 21

A 6:45 pm Soup Supper will precede each Service

### Holy Week Services

*Palm Sunday*

March 25

Worship at 8:30 am and 11 am

Education Hour at 9:40 am

*Holy Thursday*

March 29

Worship at 7:30 pm

*Good Friday*

March 30  
Worship at 12:30 pm and 7:30 pm

*Easter Sunday*

April 1  
Sunrise Service at 6:45 am  
(Memorial Garden)  
Worship at 8:30 am and 11 am  
Education Hour at 9:40 am

### **Mortgage Facts and Figures**

In February 2017, our mortgage debt was \$731,682. Since the *Forward in Faith* campaign began in May and because of your generous support, the debt is down to \$385,922. We are well on our way to defeating “Goliath” (a.k.a., our mortgage debt).

### **Annual Report Factoids**

Baptized members - 460  
Confirmed members – 350  
Average weekly attendance:  
Worship - 165  
Education Hour - 71

2018 Spending Plan - \$436, 000  
Mission Support (NJ Synod and ELCA) - \$68,500

2017 Annual Reports are in the narthex. Pick up a copy. It is the latest chapter in the history of St Paul.

*Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.*

*James R. Egan*