

St. Paul's News

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It's a new year for the Church with the First Sunday of Advent approaching. A new start, a fresh beginning.

It is the same for our congregation in how we organize ourselves to have the greatest impact on our community. As has already begun in part, and as I tried to explain at our congregational meeting, we are going to experiment with a new structure for our congregation. A new start, a fresh change.

Executive council- The executive council includes the president and vice president, financial representatives, building and grounds, and the pastor. They will meet monthly for 1-1 ½ hours in order to provide vision, oversight, and accountability to each other and for the various "task forces". The executive council will also meet 2 weeks in between those longer meetings after worship for 5-10 minutes before Bible Study to allow for more communication and accountability to what each of us are tasked to complete.

Full Council- The full council includes all elected congregational representatives as well as others who desire to have a voice in the direction of our congregation. The full council will meet quarterly on Saturdays for 2-3 hours, allowing for more "big picture" thinking, planning, and dreaming. The full council met for the first time on Nov. 11th and laid the groundwork for our congregation going forward.

Task Forces- This will start with a small group of individuals who will gather every other week for prayer, encouragement, and then looking to particular needs. We'll start with one group that will concern itself with both inreach and outreach, but ideally that group will split in 3-5 months to have a group for each, inreach and outreach, so that those interested can join the group where they feel they can have the greatest impact. Other task forces that meet less frequently are the VPL (Anne Ragoni leading), and upreach (Diane and Pastor leading).

The overarching idea is that different styles, frequencies, and lengths of meetings allow us all to accomplish more for the sake of the mission we have been called to. There will be more updates forthcoming as we begin the new Church year and look to the new calendar year as well. If anything above piques your interest, please speak to pastor. You don't need permission to get involved with both your voice and your hands!

Pastor

TREE TRIMMING AND DECORATING THE SANCTUARY

Sunday, **December 10th** right after worship, we will all stay in the sanctuary and put up the Christmas Decorations and decorate the tree. After we finish, we will be treated to a Ziti Luncheon! Please plan to stay for a short while after worship and make our worship space festive for the Christmas season.



The new altar flower chart for 2018 has been posted in the Narthax. Please take a moment

and sign up for the Sunday(s) that you would like to place flowers on the altar and the dedication for the bulletin. Thanks for your help!!

Cost of the flowers is



\$30



COFFEE HOUR SIGN UP

You don't have to sign up for a full coffee hour. Just sign up to bring an item or two on a Sunday morning. Tina, Chamberlain, and Braxton Harris have been so great taking charge of coffee hour each Sunday. Please help out with your donations each week.



Be patient...
until the
coming of
the Lord.

JAMES 5:7

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

—DECEMBER 24th—

5:00 PM—FAMILY CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

—DECEMBER 25th—

9:30 AM CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Shelter Dinners



Homeless Shelter Dinners:

We have joined with the Lutheran Cluster churches once again to provide dinners for the overflow shelter on Tuesday evenings. Many thanks to Sheryl & Steve Baum for providing the first shelter dinner in November, and to Lori Seim & team for signing up for the December 12th dinner. St. Paul's remaining dates are:

December 12 (check with Lori Seim to see if anything is still needed)
March 6
April 3

Two people or families are still needed to coordinate dinners for March and April, but that doesn't mean you need to prepare the entire dinner. Please consider asking others to help make the meal with you. In this way, more people can participate in this important ministry. Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the rear of the church.

You'll find it very rewarding to make dinner for these homeless men. And thank you in advance for helping with this



Cluster Collection

JANUARY—FEBRUARY CLUSTER COLLEC-
TION

The Schuyler Inn, located in Menands is an emergency housing shelter for families. Many of the residents are there as a result of severe financial difficulties or natural disasters, such as fire or flood. They often arrive with nothing more than the clothes they are wearing. Their need is great.

During January and February the Cluster churches will collect:

- Packages of diapers
- Baby wipes
- Diaper rash ointment
- Socks for adults.

Items may be left in the basket in the back of the church.

CANCELLATIONS AND CLOSINGS



If the weather is bad, check with TV and radio stations for cancellations and closures at St. Paul's. There will be notification on Capital News 9, channels 6,10,13, WXXA, and radio stations FLY92, WGY,WRVE,B-95.5



*Our Wishes to you is for a
blessed Christmas
And a Happy and Healthy
New Year*



PORTALS OF PRAYER FOR JANUARY—MARCH ARE AVAILABLE IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR A COPY.

- 1. EJAZ ABID
- 5. Kennedy Grace Foley
Cassidy Olivia Foley
- 7. ALAN DAVID ALEXANDER
- 10. OLGA MARTINEZ
- 12. BRITT FOLEY
RAHEELA WASEEM
- 15. NIMMY DAVID
ROBERT OESER
- 20. ELI BAUM
- 26. ANNE VAN ACKER
- 27. TORRE ROSENZWEIG
NOOR JAVED
- 28. DAVID ALEXANDER
- 30. RAIGEN LYNCH



ELDER
ALAN
ALEXANDER

DATE	FLOWERS	SERVICE STEWARD	Communion Assistant	ALTAR COMMITTEE
12/3	Kingstons in celebration of all of the December birthdays of their family.	Tom Calamaras	Jeremy David	Muriel Brady and Linda Calamaras
12/10	OPEN	Tom Calamaras	Diane Kingston	
12/17	OPEN	Nicholas Alexander	Diane Kignsoth	Frances Van Acker, Joan Aldi, Sue Sheldon
12/24	Arnold and Wilma Seim in remembrance of Margaret Shihart	Braxton Harris	Lori Seim	
12/31	OPEN	Tom Ragoni	Lori Seim	

PLEASE FILL IN THOSE RED BOXES FOR FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE

**LOOKING AHEAD
JANUARY 21st
YOUTH SUNDAY
AND LUNCHEON**