

Saint Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

371 Wolcott Hill Road

Wethersfield, CT 06109

Phone: 860-529-5397

www.stpaulswethersfield.org

Rev. Hugh R. B. Haffenreffer

Cell Phone: (860) 966-7360

Help Needed

The Altar Guild needs a few additional members. Duties include setting up the altar on Saturday, and cleaning the altar after Sunday services. We try to work in teams of two. Currently, each team is scheduled about every 7 weeks. If you are interested in joining a team, or would like more information, please contact Linda Anderson at 860-659-4094.

Holiday Fair Update

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's fair a huge success. We raised over \$5,000 for charity, with Thrivent matching an additional \$1,100. Planning is already in the works for next year. Please contact Bill Fischer, Jr. or Debbie Viola with any questions, suggestions, or to help. A 2012 fair follow up/ 2013 fair planning meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2013 12:00 pm. All are welcome. Again, thank you to all the volunteers

Family Movie Night

January's movie, The Last Game, will be shown in Fellowship Hall on Friday, January 11 at 6 PM. Please come for the movie and popcorn ... and bring a friend or two!

Church Chapters

We will meet at Carol Bruce's home on Tuesday, January 8th at 6:30 PM to discuss the book, My Stroke of Insight by Jill Bolte Taylor. Contact Carol Bruce 860-257-7327 or Sue Agne 860-563-0776 if you are able to attend. Hope to see you there as we start another great year of reading!!!

Lenten Journey

What On Earth Am I Here For?

What on earth am I here for? In light of the increasingly unsettled and frightening changes of modern life, this is a question that demands our time and attention. It is also an important question to ask as we face an uncertain future as a congregation.

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of Rick Warren's "A purpose driven life," a new curriculum has been developed that explores this question: "What On Earth am I here for?" Over the course of the 6 weeks of Lent (and meeting in large or small groups as our community determines), you are invited to be part of that journey. A sign-up sheet will be available for any participants, so we know how many books to purchase. Friends or neighbors are invited. There will be a nominal "suggested donation" for participants, to cover the cost of their books.

For those who would like to help lead a study group, there will be 2 evenings set aside to explore the curriculum and to orient leaders to the process: tentative dates are Tuesday, January 29 and/or Thursday, January 31. For more information see Pastor Hugh.

Bishop's Visit

"Coffee + Conversation with the Bishop," 2-4 pm on Sunday, January 13th. Our new Bishop, Jim Hazlewood, is coming to meet with the people of the Greater Hartford Conference of the New England Synod. The event will be held in Kaiser Hall at Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester. This will be an opportunity to ask questions and get to know one another. Coffee and refreshments will be served. Host Pastor Joshua Rinas.

"Pizza with the Bish," 6-8 pm on Sunday, January 13th. Bishop Jim Hazelwood will gather with middle and high school youth of the Greater Hartford Conference of the New England Synod. The event will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Meadowlark Lane, Vernon. Come hang out with our new bishop, enjoy some pizza and ask any questions you might have. Host Pastors Tim Oslovich and Jeff Stalley.

Happy Birthday:

3 MaryAnn Mead

3 Rebecca Malinguaggio

3 Richard Kratzer

4 Emil Bengtson

4 Jane Matteson

4 R. Maureen Hawksley

6 David Bayek

8 William Fischer, Sr.

8 Lorraine Cogswell

9 Kevin Kratzer

9 Beverly Liegey

11 Steven Bengtson

11 Sherwood Anderson

13 Emily Lourigan

14 Grace Durkin

16 Alan Niederfringer

18 Rylee Ruppap

18 Roxanne DeBlois

22 Margaret Carlson

25 Stephanie Lohmann

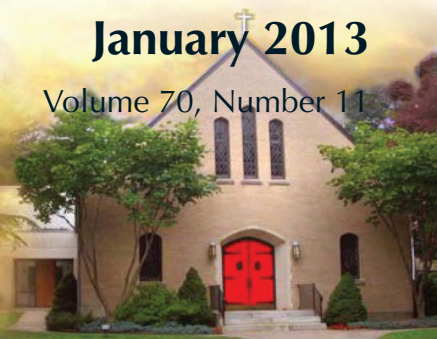
25 Caleb Parchment

28 David Leibenguth

SAINT PAUL'S EPISTLE

January 2013

Volume 70, Number 11



• **Celebrating 70 years**

On Sunday, March 21, 1943, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Wethersfield, Connecticut was officially organized and incorporated. In honor of 70 years of faithful ministry, we are planning a celebration event to take place some time after Easter. In the meantime, we are looking for photographs, items of historical value, or stories that could add to the faithful remembering of our history, as we look forward to what God is calling us to become.

• **A New Pictorial Directory**

Individuals and families are highly encouraged to sign-up to have your pictures taken for the new pictorial directory. Dates set aside to have pictures taken are January 29-31. Sign-up sheets will be located in Fellowship Hall. Our directory should be available around Easter. Contact Debbie Viola for more information.

• **SAVE THE DATE** - February

10, 2013 - 3 PM to 5 PM

St. Paul's presents - Atwater-Donnelly, a traditional American folk music and dance band. For information about the band visit them at atwater-donnelly.com

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Sunday School 10:30 AM

"A MEDITATION ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE EPIPHANY"

The "Epiphany" as a celebration and a season within the church year, has been established as a time of revelation and light. On January 6, the church remembers the story of the wise men coming to Bethlehem to pay homage to the newborn Jesus and bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This act of "adoration" is a reminder to us all that true discipleship begins with acknowledging Jesus as the ruler of our hearts and lives.

But this story has a dark and sinister side to it. Behind the story is a despicable plot to murder the newborn Jesus. According to Matthew, when Herod learns from the magi that a new king has been born in Bethlehem, he tries to employ them to locate the child for him under the pretext of wanting to pay homage to the child himself. What we learn is that far from wanting to honor Jesus, Herod wants to have him killed so as to eliminate any potential threat to his rule that this newborn "king" might pose. Thus, in this season of light, where the true nature of this newborn child is revealed to our eyes of faith, there is another story of one who would extinguish that light for his own political agenda. The deeper tragedy is found in what today we refer to as "collateral damage"—the massacring of innocent children, all those in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or younger. In the words of Jeremiah, "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

It is in light of the recent tragedy of Sandy Hook Elementary School, that the Epiphany story takes on poignant meaning. Each of these children had a gift that they were supposed to share with the world. And the collateral damage, if we might use this term again, includes the loss of faith, hope and joy not only of these children's families, school or town, but of all persons who have been given a heart with which to feel empathy. It can seem as if the darkness can extinguish the light.

The Epiphany tells us otherwise. And this is the lesson we must not only learn for ourselves but bring to a world that has grown dark and disoriented. Herod, despite his best effort, did not win. His evil plan to kill the baby Jesus was foiled. The magi refused to collude with him in his diabolical plot. And Joseph was warned in a dream to flee with the newborn Jesus and his mother to the safety of Egypt. This child grew up to be the light of the world, the hope of our lives, the love that knows no limits.

What should we do as we face not only the tragedy of Sandy Hook, but the uncertainties and challenges of life? What response do we make in the face of our own dark and despairing times? We, like the magi, first collectively bend our knees in adoration before this child. Then we, like the magi, refuse to participate in that which casts darkness upon this earth. We muster all our faith and courage and become the light in this place and this time. With every fiber of our being we stand up, shake off our apathy, and become the loving, forgiving, redeeming, and transforming body of Christ. In other words, we dare to be the Church. The light does shine in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it.

Pastor Hugh

Annual Income Report (Jan. - Nov. YTD)

	YTD Income	YTD Budget	\$ Over Budget	Annual Budget
Weekly offering	118,979.58	128,000.00	(9,020.42)	142,000.00
Special envelopes	1,931.00	2,500.00	(569.00)	4,000.00
Loose plate offerings	2,388.70	1,750.00	638.70	2,000.00
Sunday Church School	397.10	680.00	(282.90)	750.00
Total Revenue	123,696.38	132,930.00	(9,233.62)	148,750.00

Annual Meeting: It is an often quoted saying within Alcoholics Anonymous that the definition of insanity is “to do the same thing over and over and expect different results.” Each year we hold an annual meeting in January. It does not take great insight to suggest that it’s not the most popular gathering of the year. We’ve tried for the past few years to hold a potluck dinner the night, before so as to jump start a conversation about the upcoming year. This has been well received. But, still, the meeting itself has not changed much. We’ve tried also to make the written annual report available a week in advance in the hope that people would read it before the meeting. This has helped but not changed much. It is telling, that only a few years ago we had to define a quorum (the legal number of persons needed to hold an annual meeting) as 25 voting members.

On Sunday, January 27, we have a single worship service at 9:30AM. It will be during worship that the real content of our Annual Meeting will take place. The focus of this service will be on Yesterday (giving thanks for 70 years of ministry), Today (celebrating some of the ministry highlights of the past year—involving our children and youths), and Tomorrow (looking ahead to our future with unvarnished hope and trust). The formal “business”, at the end of the worship time, will involve only issues that need a formal vote: receiving reports, adopting a budget, voting in new council members, ratifying changes to our Constitution, and so forth.

In 2013, we’re turning things upside down. We are going to risk changing things where constant repetition has only produced increasingly meager results. And we are going to begin with our Annual meeting. To prepare for this celebration we offer the following:

Q&A on January 20: In preparation for this meeting, items needing your votes will be available on Sunday, January 13, two Sundays prior to the meeting. We will then hold a meeting on the 20th, between the services, for a Q&A time with members of our Council available to provide any answers. We will also have the annual reports ready for people to take home and read prior to the 27th.

Pot Luck Dinner Gathering on Saturday, January 26, from 5:00 to 8PM: We will gather on the evening before our annual meeting for the purpose of giving thanks for our past, and imagining our future together. At the heart of this discussion will be the question, “What on earth are we here for?” This is not only a personal question, but it is a collective one to be asked as a community of faith. Some of the written responses to this question will become part of our worship experience the next day.

MEMBERS IN SERVICE

ACOLYTES: *Linda Anderson, Coord.*

6 - Angela Mihalick
 13 - Jared Christensen
 20 - Celia Cheyney
 27 - Kaitlin Anderson

FELLOWSHIP HOUR: *Winnie Sawrun, Coord.*

6 - Amanda & Debbie Viola
 13 - Helen Peterson & Mary Procyk
 20 - Kaitlin & Linda Anderson
 27 - Lillian Doerschler & Winnie Sawrun

ALTAR GUILD: *Linda Anderson, Coord.*

6 - Linda & Kaitlin Anderson
 13 - Mary Procyk
 20 - Debbie Howe
 27 - Patty Bengtson

FINANCE: *Mary Procyk, Coord.*

6 - Heather Christensen
 13 - Art Bruce
 20 - Lillian Doerschler
 27 - Helen Peterson

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

6 - Jim Newmark 8:00
 - Mary Procyk 10:30
 13 - Emily Lourigan 8:00
 - Patty Bengtson 10:30
 20 - Jim Newmark 8:00
 - William Fischer, Jr. 10:30
 27 - Art Bruce 8:00
 - Mary Procyk 10:30

LECTORS: *Lillian Doerschler, Coord.*

6 - Kaitlin Anderson
 13 - Angela Mihalick
 20 - George Howe
 27 - Patty Bengtson

TAPING: *Jan Pergande, Coord.*

- Debbie Howe

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: *Sue Agne, Coord.*

6 - Lillian Doerschler
 13 - Curt Leonard
 20 - Carole Hughes
 27 - Dick Agne

USHERS:

Brian Beckwith, Coordinator, 8AM
 - Sue McDonald
Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30AM
 - Dave Bayek & Dick Agne

JANUARY 2013 | EVENT CALENDAR

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
Reminders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bishop's Visit 1/13 Annual Meeting Potluck 5PM 1/26 Annual Meeting 1/27 		1 Happy New Year OA 7:30 PM	2 Bible Study 10 AM Confirmation Class 6 PM AA 7 PM Choir Reh. 7:30 PM	3 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thur. Grp 10 AM AA 8 PM	4 AA 10 AM CA 7:30 PM	5 AA 7:30 PM
6 Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30AM No Sunday School Faith Jam grades 6-12, 9 AM	7 Safe Church Meeting 6:30 PM Outreach Meeting 7 PM OA 7:30 PM Book Club 6:30 PM Annual Report Deadline	8 Bible Study 10 AM Confirmation Class 6 PM AA 7 PM Choir Reh. 7:30 PM	9 Bible Study 10 AM Confirmation Class 6 PM AA 7 PM Choir Reh. 7:30 PM	10 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thur. Grp 10 AM AA 8 PM	11 Movie Night 6 PM AA 10 AM CA 7:30 PM	12
13 Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Faith Jam grades 6-12, 9 AM Fair meeting 12 PM Bishop's Visit to New England	14 Cub Scouts PE downstairs 6-9 PM	15 Epistle Deadline OA 7:30 PM	16 Bible Study 10 AM Confirmation Class 6 PM AA 7 PM Choir Reh. 7:30 PM	17 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thur. Grp 10 AM AA 8 PM	18 AA 10 AM CA 7:30 PM	19
20 Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Faith Jam grades 6-12, 9 AM	21 Girl Scouts Fellowship area 10 AM-4PM	22 Parish Admin 6:30 PM Council 7:30 PM OA 7:30 PM	23 Bible Study 10 AM Confirmation Class 6 PM AA 7 PM Choir Reh. 7:30 PM	24 Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thur. Grp 10 AM AA 8 PM	25 AA 10 AM CA 7:30 PM	26
27 Holy Comm. 9:30AM Annual Meeting No Sunday School/Faith Jam	28 Directory Picture Day OA 7:30 PM	29 Directory Picture Day Bible Study 10 AM Confirmation Class 6 PM AA 7 PM Choir Reh. 7:30 PM	30 Directory Picture Day Bible Study 10 AM Confirmation Class 6 PM AA 7 PM Choir Reh. 7:30 PM	31 Directory Picture Day Recovery Bible Study 10 AM Thur. Grp 10 AM AA 8 PM		Annual Meeting Potluck 5:00 PM AA 7:30 PM