

# NOTATIONS

COMING TOGETHER TO LEARN, LIVE, AND SHARE THE TRUTH OF CHRIST

## January

### St. Paul's Greeters -- Grace Ushers

January 3

Joy Taylor

January 10

Mark & Joline Bartelt

January 17

DuWayne Zamzow

January 24

Lee McCauley

January 31

January 3

January 10

January 17

January 24

January 31

### FAMILY BIBLE HOUR

will be held at St. Paul's, 9:15 am every Sunday, for 2021! The children will continue with Sunday school, and the adults will study Philipians. Join us!

Study <sup>the Bible</sup> with us



### St. Paul's Financial Update

November Income:	\$10,379.12
November Disbursements:	\$ 8,060.52
Christian Ed Fund:	\$ 1,866.00
<i>(2021-2022, begun 7/1/20)</i>	
YTD NLHS Offerings:	\$ 4,141.00
2020 NLHS Commitment:	\$ 3,500.00
YTD Mission Offerings:	\$ 2,755.00
2020 Mission Goal:	\$ 1,800.00
Painting Fund:	\$ 1,710.00
Goal:	\$ 3,000.00



### Grace Financial Update

November Income:	\$10,073.64
November Disbursements:	\$ 5,762.93
2020 Mission Goal:	\$ 4,700.00
YTD Mission Offering:	\$ 4,480.61
Percentage of Goal:	95.33%
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 2,788.15



O Lord Christ, our Savior dear,  
Bless us and be near us.  
Grant us now a glad new year.  
Amen, Jesus, hear us!

### Baptized into God's Family

Hannah Faith Sturm, born October 24 to Jeremy & Katie Sturm, became a child of God through Holy Baptism on December 6 at Grace. May God ever keep this little lamb in his grace and love!



# January

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Philippians 4:23

# 2021

Grace/St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Churches

Pastor Joel Willnitz, 715-675-3751 (office), 989-751-3684 (cell)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 8:00 am HC Worship (SP) 9:45 am Bible Hour (SP) 10:30 am HC Worship (Gr)	4 12:30 pm Circuit Study Club, Trinity, Berlin	5 6 pm Catechism (Gr)	6 6 pm Catechism (Gr)	7 6:30 pm Sunday School Teachers (SP)	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2 1 pm Undecorating (Gr)
10 8 am Worship (SP) 9:45 am Bible Hour (SP) 10:30 am Worship (Gr)	11 6 pm Catechism (Gr)	12 6 pm Catechism (Gr)	13 6 pm Catechism (Gr)	14	15	16
17 8 am HC Worship (SP) 9:45 am Bible Hour (SP) 10:30 am Worship (Gr) 11:30 am Annual Voters' Meeting (Gr) 2 pm Annual Voters' Meeting (SP)	18 6 pm Catechism (Gr)	19 6 pm Catechism (Gr)	20	21	22	23
24 8 am Worship (SP) 9:45 am Bible Hour (SP) 10:30 am Worship (Gr) 1 pm Joint Annual (SP)	25 6 pm Catechism (Gr)	26 6 pm Catechism (Gr)	27	28	29	30
31 8 am Worship (SP) 9:45 am Bible Hour (SP) 10:30 am Worship (Gr)						

# Worship Options

Despite COVID-19, we still have a full and active worship life with several options, so each family can go to church as they feel comfortable.

## Face-to-Face

Join us each Sunday in church for regular congregational worship! Masks encouraged.

8:00 am at St. Paul's  
 9:15 am Family Bible  
 Hour at St. Paul's  
 10:30 am at Grace



## Radio Worship

Join us each Sunday in your car in the St. Paul's parking lot! Hymnals available just inside the door.



8:00 am at St. Paul's  
 99.7 FM

## YouTube Worship



Join us each week from your home. Links to our YouTube services are emailed to our members each Sunday, and can be found on our congregations' Facebook pages. Call 715-675-3751 to be added to the email list, or to add a friend.



## Praise the Lord for His Blessings During Difficult Times

Dear members of Grace and St. Paul's,

God's faithful servant Job in the Old Testament seemed to have lost everything. His flocks and herds were stolen or destroyed. His children were tragically killed in a windstorm. He lost his health. In the midst of his difficulties Job confessed, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." [Job 1:21]

Through Job's great difficulties the Lord was drawing him closer to himself and leading Job to cling more tightly to him. During the 42 chapters of the book of Job, the LORD was teaching Job the mystery, that he was blessing Job not just in spite of his difficulties, but actually through his very difficulties.

The hymnwriter Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) learned that blessed mystery. His earlier years were spent amid the horrors of the Thirty Years' War. He did not obtain a settled position in life until he was 44 years old. He didn't marry until four years later. He was cruelly driven from his pastoral position in Berlin in 1666 because he held to the truth of God's word. His wife, after a long illness, died during the time that he was without office in Berlin. Four of their five children died during childhood.

Paul Gerhardt is widely regarded as one of the finest hymnwriters of all time. In the midst of tremendous trial and tragedy, no doubt his ability to express the far greater joy of salvation in Christ was gained in the Lord's school of adversity. He learned that the Lord was blessing him not just in spite of his difficulties, but through those very difficulties.

2020 has been a year of some challenging, sad, and troubling times for many of us. May God grant us his grace to understand the mystery. He is blessing us not only in spite of our difficulties, but actually through them. May we remember 2020 as a year of the Lord's great blessings, and may he continue to so bless us in 2021 and the years to come.

Why should cross and trial grieve me? Christ is near with his cheer; never will he leave me.

Who can rob me of the heaven that God's Son for my own to my faith hath given?

Though a heavy cross I'm bearing and my heart feels the smart, shall I be despairing?

God, my Helper, who doth send it, well doth know all my woe and how best to end it.

God oft gives me days of gladness; shall I grieve if he give seasons, too, of sadness?

God is good and tempers ever all my ill, and he will wholly leave me never.

Hopeful, cheerful, and undaunted ev'rywhere they appear who in Christ are planted.

Death itself cannot appall them, they rejoice when the voice of their Lord doth call them.

Death cannot destroy forever; from our fears, cares, and tears it will us deliver.

It will close life's mournful story, make a way that we may enter heavenly glory.

What is all this life possesses? But a hand full of sand that the heart distresses.

Noble gifts that pall me never Christ, our Lord, will accord to his saints forever.

Lord, my Shepherd, take me to thee, thou art mine; I was thine, even ere I knew thee.

I am thine, for thou hast bought me; lost I stood, but thy blood free salvation brought me.

Thou art mine; I love and own thee. Light of Joy, ne'er shall I from my heart dethrone thee.

Savior, let me soon behold thee face to face – may thy grace evermore enfold me!

-Paul Gerhardt, TLH 523

Your friend in Christ,

Pastor Willitz

