

The Epistle

Volume 23 Issue 1
January 2024



Sunday, January 21st

We invite everyone, members and friends of St. Paul, to join us after worship

for a visioning session led by

Sherri Kile Schafer,
Director for Evangelical Mission,
West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod
of the ELCA



Lunch will be served. Please join in and help shape our future together.

As we begin thinking about our vision for St. Paul, we offer the following article for your consideration:

Casting a Vision

by Melvin Amerson

Lewis Center for Church Leadership

Not long ago, while driving along the coast observing nature, I became aware of countless people fishing. I wondered what their visions or expectations were for that day. Then it dawned on me that there were parallels between fishing and visioning. Vision casting for pastors and leaders is much like going fishing.

Many visionary leaders in the church cast visions for their ministry at the start of a new year. For these leaders, as it is for those who fish, vision is a preview of things to come. It serves as a guide to what the future holds for pastors and the lay leadership, as well as those seeking to catch fish.

Upon further reflection, I realized that both fishing and visioning required certain things in order to achieve success, often varying in clarity and receptivity. Fishing requires an assortment of equipment, two of the most important pieces being the lure and weight. How one presents or promotes a vision is akin to casting with a lure and weight. Metaphorically, consider the lure as a vision being cast. The lure is the God-given vision that hooks and draws believers to ministry opportunities and possibilities. The weight is the force or conviction with which a vision is shared.

The weights used in fishing are as important as the lure, because the two work in tandem. Weights are used to help project the lure to the

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Sunday, Feb. 4th

Annual Meeting of the Congregation



Congregational MEETING

To be held immediately following worship
In order to have voice and vote in the meet-
ing, you must have a contribution of record
and have communed within the current or
preceding calendar year (2023-2024)

Questions? Ask Pastor Tony or Council
President Joanne Seasholtz

Committee chairs and Ministry Coordinators:

Please submit annual reports to the
church office by January 22nd

Welcome New Members December 10th, 2023

DaQuane Franklin
Brandi and Stephen Summits



Join the crew

There are upcoming opportunities to
serve at Scott's Run Settlement
House on the 4th Wednesdays of
January, February, and March, 2024.

Noon to 1:30

Let us know if you can help

From the Piece Makers

Read a news paper or listen to a radio or TV news and you cannot keep from learning of a great need for help for the needy throughout the world and that need is likely to increase as 2024 progresses. For that reason we ask you to consider joining the Peace Makers at our work session between 10 and 2 on Fridays in the fellowship hall. We really need more helpers. Our membership has decreased in the past two months but not our goals and fellowship. Renate had surgery on her hand and has not been able to join us for several weeks. So in December we surprised her with a carry-in pot luck luncheon on a Thursday instead of the December Birthday Party we have had in the past.



Thank you to those who purchased gifts at the Narthex Bazaar. We heard many comments on the beauty of items. We hope that those who received the items as gifts will enjoy them. Watch as additional quilts and lap robes appear on the banisters in the church. Should you know of a person with an illness who might use a lap robe, please tell us so that we can bring some cheer and warmth to their lives. The Peace Makers cooperate with each other and Lutheran World relief in making and sending quilts to nations where children and families receive warmth and the benefits from our efforts.



Empty Bowls Monongalia

The 2024 Soup & Bread Luncheon, the primary fundraiser of Empty Bowls Monongalia, will be held on Saturday, February 24th, at Mylan Park from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Empty Bowls provides support for organizations that combat hunger and promotes awareness about local hunger issues.

At the luncheon, soup is served in handmade bowls. Guests may keep their bowl as a reminder that someone's bowl is always empty. Tickets are \$20; children under 12 are \$10 and do not receive a bowl.

Contact Tamara Riegel to purchase a ticket: email at office@stpaulmorgantown.org, in person, or phone 304-599-0620. Please write checks to Empty Bowls Monongalia. The last Sunday to purchase tickets is February 18th.

Raffle tickets for a quilt are also available. Sign up sheets to bake cookies or donate bread are posted in the narthex.



"We're Waiting"

Children's Advent Program



Clockwise from top right: Eli Naumann, Isaac Naumann, Emma Stevens, Bridgette Reed, Michael Barclay, Sammy Setley, Charlotte and Claire Stacy, Luke Naumann



A new sign up sheet for altar flowers for 2024 is now posted in the narthex.

You may wish to sponsor flowers for an anniversary, a birthday, or in memory of a loved one.



Romantic Potluck & Solemn Worship
Together at last

VALENTINE Dinner The calendar this year offers an interesting juxtaposition, St Valentine's Day & Ash Wednesday on the same day. Join us for a lovely Valentines dinner in the fellowship hall, celebrating the gift of love. Then we'll head upstairs for our annual Ash Wednesday worship, to solemnly enter into Lent and remember our humility and mortality.



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desired location. Casting a vision requires the proper weight for the purpose of distance, direction and connection. A lure attracts, but the weight allows the lure to land in the right location and connects with the targeted group of people. The manner in which a vision is shared or projected determines how it is received.

The appropriate weight is needed for a desired cast. Consider a light weight. It is usually suited for short distances because wind can affect its distance and location. Heavy weights may travel a great distance but tend to cause a big splash and scare the fish. A huge or transformational vision can have the same effect on a congregation or an organization; it may scare members in certain settings. Typically, when the climate is favorable and the proper weight and lure are used, fish will not be alarmed, and they will likely be attracted to the lure. Members are drawn to the vision for the congregation in much of the same way.

On occasion, there will be times when fishing means being willing to wade in the water to get a feel of the current or undercurrent. Currents in a congregation may affect the casting of a vision. Before casting, know the current of the body of believers into which you are casting, select the right lure and choose the right weight, so that it may reach the right location with the appropriate impact. In Luke 5, Jesus asked Simon Peter to cast the nets one more time after a day of not catching anything. It was that particular casting of the nets that brought in more fish than they could manage. Keep casting your vision until you get a hit!

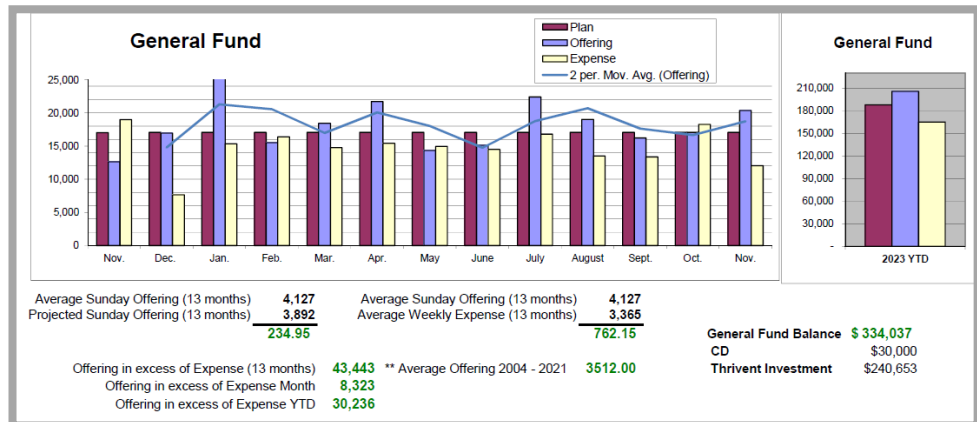
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Serving in





SERVING ST PAUL January 2024	ASSISTING MINISTER	LECTOR	USHER	COUNTERS	BROADCAST
7 th 10:00 AM Epiphany	M. Sampson	T. Riegel	W. Graham	C. Henry M. Peters	C. Wertz
14 th 10:00 AM Baptism of Our Lord	S. Setley	L. Naumann	L. Springer	D. Stiles W. Graham	Peters
21 st 10:00 AM	M. Grimm	B. Parsons	D. Custer	M. Suder J. Seasholtz	C. Wertz
28 th 10:00 AM	M. Haas	M. Boroff	L. Springer	M. Boroff L. Stevens	S. Setley

Treasurer's report for November 2023





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 9:00 AM Prayerful Walkers	5 10:00 AM Piecemakers	6
7  Epiphany 9:00 AM Sunday School and Choir 10:00 AM Worship	8	9 10:00 AM Bible Study	10	11 9:00 AM Prayerful Walkers	12 10:00 AM Piecemakers	13
14  Baptism Of Our Lord 9:00 AM Sunday School and Choir 10:00 AM Worship Service	15 	16 10:00 AM Bible Study	17	18 9:00 AM Prayerful Walkers 7:00 PM Council	19 10:00 AM Piecemakers	20 11:00 AM CRLC Listening Post
21 9:00 AM Sunday School and Choir 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Visioning Session	22	23 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Youth Orchestra	24 12:00 PM Volunteer at Scott's Run	25 9:00 AM Prayerful Walkers	26 10:00 AM Piecemakers 7:00 PM Suncrest Neighborhood Association	27 8:00 AM Lutheran Men in Mission @ Eat'n Park
28 9:00 AM Sunday School and Choir 10:00 AM Worship Service 3:30 PM Circle of Friends 5:00 PM Mon Orchestra	29	30 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Youth Orchestra	31			

Reminder: Deadline for February newsletter is January 25th!!!



St. Paul Lutheran Church

MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA
FOUNDED 1897

The **Epistle** is a publication from:

St. Paul Lutheran Church,
Morgantown, WV

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Officers Of The Congregation

President: Joanne Seasholtz

Vice President: Lindsey Naumann

Secretary: Lillian Stevens

Treasurer: Steve Woodruff

Financial Secretary: Jeanne Lemasters

Council Members

Mary Haas

Grethe Myles

Lillian Stevens

Lindsey Naumann

Steve Woodruff

Joanne Seasholtz

Julie Sandolfini

Bill Graham

Mike Peters