

Good News!

St. Paul Lutheran Church

311 Marlboro St. Hamlet, NC 28345

The last Advent service of Holy Communion will be held Monday, **December 21 at noon and 5:30 pm**

in the sanctuary. Visit

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D48AAA2CA7F85-services>

to reserve your spot.

Masks and social distancing are required.

This is a wonderful time, just before Christmas, to celebrate Holy Communion with the congregation.

December 2020
Volume 1, Issue 4

Inside this issue:

New Way to Give 2

Hamlet House Angels 2

Letter from Council 3

Holy Communion 4

Mission & Goals 4

Due to the increasing spread of COVID-19 in Richmond County and beyond, the Congregation Council has decided to cancel the outdoor Christmas Eve service. This was a difficult decision to make because we all want to worship together. It just isn't safe.

*Instead, the **Christmas Eve service will be live streamed on Facebook Live at 7:00 pm.** We'll sing carols, hear the Christmas story, and give thanks for the gift of Jesus. Gather around your Christmas Tree with those in your household and let's worship together.*

A New Way to Give in Support of St. Paul Lutheran Church



The council is pleased to announce an additional way for you to give in support of the ministries of St. Paul. In addition to giving by check, electronic funds transfer from your bank or electronic giving through Vanco, you can now give using a mobile app called GivePlus+. This is also a Vanco giving option.

GivePlus+ is a free app that you will need to download from Apple's App Store or Google's Play Store. You can search for the app using the words "GivePlus Church." There are no fees associated with using the app.

After you've downloaded the app, you'll need to search for the church. St. Paul is identified as "Saint Paul Lutheran Churc." Then you can set-up your account. Once you've linked your account to the church, you'll not need to do this step again.

On the app, you can set-up a one-time gift or recurring donations in a frequency that works best for you. Your donation can be made immediately or scheduled for a later date.

You'll have the option to connect your checking or saving account to the app or give by credit card. Once you've established these giving preferences, they will be ready for you the next time you log into the app. You can change your password, frequency, and giving method at any time.

Please note that if you're giving by credit card, you'll have the option to add 1.5% to your offering to offset processing fees.

You're ongoing financial support of the ministries of St. Paul are greatly appreciated!



Angels at the Hamlet House

Many thanks for your generosity that provided Christmas gifts to 17 angels at the Hamlet House. They were delivered on Monday, Dec. 7. Thanks to the Social Ministry committee for coordinating this effort.

A Message from the Council President

December 12, 2020

Dear Members of Saint Paul:

I am writing on behalf of the Congregation Council to provide updated information regarding the election process for new council members and the approval of a budget for the 2021 fiscal year. Pursuant to our constitution, the election of new Congregation Council members normally occurs during the month of October. Subsequently, a new budget is presented and adopted by the congregation during the month of December. Unfortunately, the pandemic has resulted in our inability to meet face-to-face and worship together since March. As a result, we have been unable to fulfill our constitutional requirements as we plan and look ahead to 2021.

Consequently, at its November meeting the Congregation Council took action to keep the church operating until such time our constitutional obligations can be fulfilled. Please note the following:

-The current Congregation Council members and officers will remain in place until new elections can be held during October 2021. At that time, the election cycle will move forward as normal following a one-year moratorium on voting.

-The budget as adopted by the congregation for the 2020 fiscal year will remain in effect for 2021. Basically, the Congregation Council has adopted a "Continuing Resolution", until such time that the congregation can meet in a duly announced and called session for the purpose of approving a new budget.

I along with the members of the Congregation Council appreciate your continued support and prayers as we work with Pastor Northrup to carry out our mission at Saint Paul. We are indeed fortunate that Pastor Northrup agreed to serve as our minister and as the result of her leadership our congregation has developed a robust social media and web-based presence, she offers limited services for communion, we continue to feed the hungry because of committed volunteers and Pastor is diligently working to make recommendations as we prepare for our return to worship in the sanctuary. Finally, make plans now to attend our virtual Christmas Eve service at 7 pm via Facebook Live. While we were forced to cancel plans for our outdoor service, we can still worship together and share many of our Christmas traditions via Facebook. As a church family, we always look forward to our Christmas Eve service each year. Make plans now to attend!

With highest regards,

Rick W. Watkins, President

Saint Paul Lutheran Church Congregation Council

Short Services of Holy Communion

The next service is on **Monday, Dec. 21 at Noon and 5:30 pm**. Those who wish to attend need to reserve their spot. You can do that by emailing Pastor Pam at pastor@stpaul Lutheranhamlet.org, calling her at 919-987-0102, or visiting <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D48AAAA2CA7F85-short2>.

We need to continue doing our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Please evaluate your own health before coming to church. Stay home and talk with your doctor, if you have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or a recent loss of the sense of smell or taste. Please stay home if you have been exposed or think you've been exposed to COVID-19.

Everyone coming to the church is expected to wear a mask and maintain the appropriate level of social distancing. Please follow these instructions:

- Enter using the elevator or the front doors. Other doors will be locked.
- Avoid clustering on the steps, in the narthex, or sanctuary.
- Refrain from hugging and touching each other.
- Use hand sanitizer and pick up a bulletin when you enter.
- Disposable masks are available on the table when you enter.
- Space yourselves out in the sanctuary – if possible, leave a row between you and the person in front of you.
- When you depart, wear your mask until you are away from others.

Mark your calendar! Services of Holy Communion will be held on Mondays, Jan. 4, 11, and 25 at Noon and 5:30 pm

If you are unable to attend in person and would like to receive Holy Communion in your car or at your house, please let Pastor Pam know so that arrangements can be made.



St. Paul Lutheran Church

311 Marlboro St.

Hamlet, NC 28345

910-582-0729

www.stpaul Lutheranhamlet.org

www.facebook.com/stpaul Lutheranhamlet

Contact Pastor Pam at

pastor@stpaul Lutheranhamlet.org

or 919-987-0102

St. Paul's mission is to

*Proclaim the Good News
of Jesus Christ to our
community and the
world.*

Congregation Goals

*Deepen faith + Grow
the church + Help
others + Increase
fellowship*

*How can we pursue these goals
in the year 2021?*

*Share your ideas with
Pastor Pam.*