



**St. Paul's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**  
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***The Meh Factor and Epiphany***

One of the fun things about being alive in this day and age is the way that slang words spread around the globe at lightspeed. Because of the internet, what was once a simple catch phrase amongst friends can become everyone's favorite expression in a week's time. One such word is "Meh."

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Communicated like a sigh, Meh is simply an expression used to convey indifference to a subject or simply not caring. It's the verbal equivalent of shrugging your shoulders. It shows that the speaker is apathetic, uninterested, or indifferent to the question or subject at hand. It is occasionally used as an adjective, meaning something is mediocre or unremarkable. For example, someone asks you, "What do you want for dinner?" you can say "Meh," meaning "I don't really care." Or if someone asks, "Do you want to go to the mall?" you can say, "Meh, I have nothing to do today." The term has even made it to describe newsworthy events. On October 14, 2013 ABC News posted on their website: "US Government Shuts Down, World Says, Meh."

Sunday School 9:00am  
Preschool-5th grade

If we're honest with ourselves, when it comes to our faith, we sometimes fall under the sway of what I call the "meh factor." Think about it. As Christians we have the awe-inspiring privilege of interacting with an infinitely pure and holy God who created everything from humanity to the tiniest sub-atomic particle. More than this, in Jesus Christ, this same infinitely pure and holy God became flesh to bare our sin away. Faced with such astounding news we often shrug it off with nothing more than a, "meh." For example, think about worship. Do you know that every Sunday we come together, God actually meets and serves us through Word and Sacrament? Amid such a staggering reality, we shrug our shoulders and think, "Meh, the last hymn went a bit long this week, I was late for brunch."

So, what's the remedy for the "meh factor?" In his book, "Your God is too Small," author J.B. Phillips writes:

**Join us for  
worship  
Sunday  
mornings at  
10:10am  
or  
Watch our  
livestream at  
stpaulssarver.com/  
livestream**

Many men and women today are living, often with inner dissatisfaction, without any faith in God at all. This is not because they are particularly wicked or selfish... but because they have not found with their adult minds a God big enough... to command their highest admiration and respect, and consequently their willing co-operation.

To activate St. Paul's prayer chain contact the following people:

Cheryl Young  
724-822-0579  
or Alice Schneider  
724-352-3366

VISIT US ONLINE AT [www.stpaulssarver.com](http://www.stpaulssarver.com)

**Serving for the month  
of February**

*Ushers:* Dan & Sue Marcinko,  
Kendra Smith, Autumn Sperski

*Communion Assistants:*

Matthew Wilson, Terry Braden

*Tellers:*

Greg & Terry Carns, Ron Mariotti

*Lectors:*

2/2 Brenna Callithen

2/9 Dave DiSanti

2/16 Marlene Lacanic

2/23 Will Fleske



Lent begins on Wednesday,  
March 5. Join us for Ash  
Wednesday Services at noon &  
7:00pm

Also, we will be worshipping  
Wednesday evenings throughout  
lent at 6:00pm. More information  
coming soon!

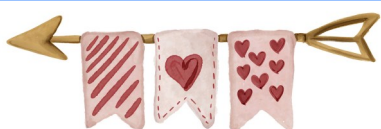


**Luther's Corner**

"For whenever a  
godly Christian  
prays: "Dear Father  
let Thy will be done,"

God speaks from on high and says:  
"Yes, dear child, it shall be so, in  
spite of the devil and all the world."

Martin Luther's Large Catechism



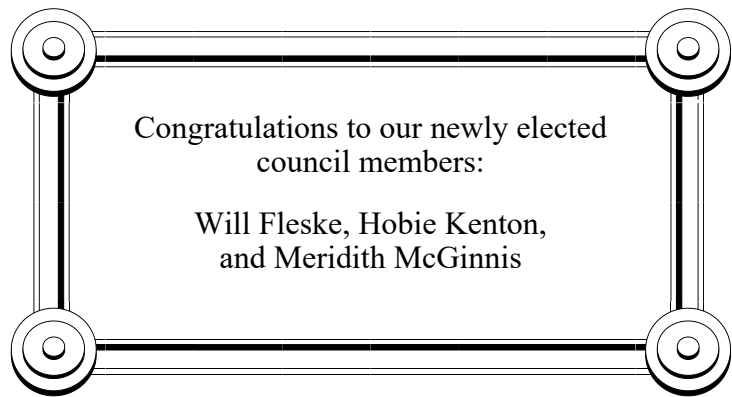
**Love is patient,  
Love is kind.**

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

In other words, to combat the "meh factor" in our hearts, we need a vision of God that is big enough to awaken us from our sloth, glorious enough to strike our hearts like lightning, almighty enough to make us uncomfortable with the way things are, and finally loving enough to move us from despair to worship.

This said, the season of Epiphany is the perfect time to encounter this God. Each one of our readings on Sunday Mornings are perfectly designed to laser focus our hearts on the dawning and awe-inspiring light of Jesus Christ. So, this Epiphany, spend some time in the Word.\* While you're doing so, humbly ask God where you may have grown cold and indifferent toward him. Confess those areas and cling to Jesus for forgiveness. Finally, ask God to replace your "meh factor" with awe. Do that and see what happens.

\*A wonderful resource from our own NALC can be found at:  
[thenalc.org/worship-resources/devoted-to-prayer-introduction/](http://thenalc.org/worship-resources/devoted-to-prayer-introduction/)



**Sunday, February 16 ~ Immediately following the  
worship service.**

Join us in Heide Hall for our annual Chili Taste Sensation!  
Please sign up at the kiosk if you would like to enter your best pot of chili. The chili will be set up (anonymously) in Heide Hall where you will be able to sample each of them and vote on your favorite. We have prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> places. After the voting takes place a chili lunch will be served! Hope to see you there!



Our hearts go out in Christian love and sympathy to the Szebalskie families and the Olson families on the loss of their loved ones:

Larry Szebalskie 1/3  
Tom Olson 1/10



We welcome into the kingdom of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

*Luke Reesman, Lucy Reesman, and Lillie Reesman*

Dear St. Paul's Church Family,  
Thank you all for your prayers, cards, caring words and presence at the funeral home in support of our whole family during this difficult time in loving memory of Larry. Your outpouring of love, kind expressions of sympathy have been a blessing, comfort, and solace to all of us. A special loving thank you to our dear Pastor Shawn Smith for the meaningful funeral service, compassionate words, prayers, guidance, time and support he so lovingly shared with our whole family. We are blessed to have such a caring Sheppard and loving church family.



In Deepest Appreciation,  
Carolyn and the Boyer and Szebalskie Families

St. Paul's,  
Thank you all for the gift cards and for your thought and prayers as I enter college even though I recently moved. I miss you all!  
Sarah Reyer

Thank you so very much for the gift cards. I really appreciate it.  
Cole Lux

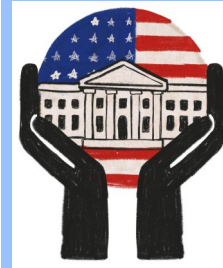
Once again St. Paul's, you have humbled the Smith family with your generous Christmas gift. It is truly an embodiment of how well you have cared and continue to care for us these past 10 years. We cannot thank you enough!

God bless,  
Pastor Shawn, Kendra, Isaiah, and Zoe



- 2/3 Gia Conglose
- 2/7 Meridith McGinnis  
Ellie Reyer
- 2/8 Kathy Hill
- 2/13 Chris Cashell
- 2/19 Madilyn Boyer
- 2/21 Fred Pierce
- 2/24 Katie Johnson
- 2/27 Marcus Johnson  
Pastor Shawn
- 2/29 Alice Schneider

### A Prayer for President's Day



Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest gratitude for this country and the freedom to worship you. Stir up a sense of stewardship so we all may care for our nation and each inhabitant of it.

We pray especially for our leaders, that you will bless them with wisdom and humility. Prompt everyone in positions of authority to pursue righteousness, justice and the welfare of all.

Remind us of the psalmist's teaching: "Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12, NRSV). May that promise be fulfilled "from sea to shining sea." Amen.



# FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Coffee Talk 10:10am Worship Service 6:00pm Confirmation	3	4	5 Bell Choir 6:30pm	6 Bag Night 6:30pm	7	8
9 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Coffee Talk 10:10am Worship Service 6:00pm Confirmation	10 Council Meeting 6:30pm	11	12 Bell Choir 6:30pm	13 Praise Band 7:00pm	14	15
16 <i>Chili Cook-off</i> 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Coffee Talk 10:10am Worship Service 6:00pm Confirmation	17 Cabot Food Bank 8:30am & 5:30pm	18 Women's Group Meeting 9:30am	19 Bell Choir 6:30pm	20 Praise Band 7:00pm	21	22
23 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Coffee Talk 10:10am Contemporary Worship Service 6:00pm Confirmation	24 Quilt Guild 5:30pm	25	26 NO BELL CHOIR	27 Family Life Volunteering 6-8pm	28	

## Offering Breakdown for Month of January

Category	January Total Received	YTD Received	Annual Budget
General	10,341.70	10,341.70	
Loose	681.00	681.00	
Memorials	930.00	930.00	
Initial	100.00	100.00	
Heide Hall	150.00	150.00	
<b>Total Current</b>	<b>11,272.70</b>	<b>11,272.70</b>	<b>202,921.00</b>
<b>Benevolence</b>	<b>598.30</b>	<b>598.30</b>	<b>15,550.00</b>
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>11,871.00</b>	<b>11,871.00</b>	<b>235,208.00</b>
<b>New Church Building</b>	<b>2,942.00</b>	<b>2,942.00</b>	



St. Paul's Preschool and Women's Group will be holding their annual Yard Sale on Saturday, May 3. Although we will be accepting donations at a later date, it's not too soon to start collecting items you wish to contribute! Please no large appliances and only children's clothing. Thank you in advance of your support of our ministries.