



# ST. PAUL VISITOR DECEMBER 2022

*The mission of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is to CELEBRATE and PROCLAIM to all the saving grace of JESUS CHRIST in word and deed.*

We pray for...

LaDonna, Judy, Al, Helen,  
Ernie, Myles, John, Betty,  
and Kenny Lee.

Shepherding God, you are the source of life and health. Surround those who struggle with illness or other difficulties of life and bring them to wholeness and healing.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list or have a "prayer email" sent out please call Kathy at 304-525-9630.



The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 11 after worship. We will be voting on new Council members, passing the Mission Finance Plan (budget) and discussing other business.

## ADVENT MID-WEEK

Begins November 27  
6:00pm Meal in Fellowship Hall  
7:00PM  
HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER  
In sanctuary



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
December 24  
7:00pm Special Music  
7:30pm Worship

On November 19 nine of us from St Paul went to a concert at Mountain Health Arena. I must admit that I really was hesitant in going. Loud music and multiple flashing lights, given my eyes and hearing issues, did not sound too fun to me. This from a guy who used to go to concerts all the time when I was in college. But I am pastor here and it was an opportunity to be with people from our parish. It was also a time to be with my daughter especially she experienced her first concert. So, I sucked it up and Alex and I got in the car and off we went to downtown Huntington. It was cold Saturday night as we waited.

I had heard songs from the main band MercyMe but not the other two that were playing that night – Rend Collective and a trio led by a guy named Andrew Ripp. So, we got to our seats after the obligatory stop at the “merch” table and the food table. Let me say here and now I am glad I went! This happens to me a lot, maybe it does to you too. You really do not have your heart in something and then – then God surprises you and the Holy Spirit works and – and WOW! Andrew Ripp began with a song called Rejoice that blew me away. Then Rend Collective, a large group from Northern Ireland played. Talk about high energy! It was obvious that they loved what they were doing. They engaged the crowd really, really, well, even me.

Then it was time for the headliner – MercyMe. The first song was off their new album called Grace, Amazing. The huge screen before the band came on prepped us for the song. Ever since the concert I cannot seem to get the words out of my head. They are as follows:

***“It’s the blue of the sky, It’s the beacon in the night, It’s the calm before the storm, It’s the end of all my shame, It’s the love that knows my name, It’s a peace beyond all understanding***

***Refrain – G-R-A-C-E, G-R-A-C-E It always sets me free, without ever letting go of me, G-R-A-C-E – G-R-A-C-E, Every time the Father runs, To the one who can’t run fast enough, That’s grace***

***It’s the end and it’s the start, Oh it meets us where we are, It’s the gravity that pulls us to Your heart, It’s the source of all our worth, It’s the genesis of all the universe***

***“Till He wipes our tears away, And our eyes behold His face, Hallelujah for His grace amazing grace, It rolled the stone away, So much stronger than the grave, Hallelujah for His grace amazing.”***

We talk so much about grace in our tradition. Seems to me the lead singer of MercyMe says it wonderfully. Read those words again. Which ones speak to you where you are in your faith walk? Which words encourage you and help you to understand this grace – amazing grace of God.

As we begin a new church year with Advent and preparing for the birth of Jesus – who has come and who is coming again Grace is ever before and with us. Grace is ahead of us and is with us when we are struggling. The incarnation (birth of Word made flesh – Jesus) means God is with us. It means God’s grace is ever with us. That is wonderful and exciting and awesome Good News! As we enter the preparatory Advent time may God give you Grace-Amazing Grace day by day.

Alleluia, Amen  
Pastor Kevin <><



#### **LUTHERANISM 101 CLASS – hold the dates**

Pastor Mackey will be holding a series of classes he is calling Lutheranism 101. The class session is for new and old members. The sessions will be held after worship during the Adult Forum time. The first session will be on January 8 and will be held in the parlor. All are invited to attend. The classes will run for three weeks. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Mackey

Dear St. Paul Congregation,

I am writing to you from a hotel room in Medellin, Colombia, where we just finished the first day of a five-day piano festival, hosted on the campus of EAFIT University. In the mornings, we teach individual one-on-one lessons for the students, in the afternoons, there are master classes (teaching with an audience), and student and faculty recitals take place in the evenings. I will be performing a four-hand piece called *Jeux d'enfants* (Children's Games) by Bizet with another faculty member on Wednesday.

This past weekend, I was two days in Cartagena, a beautiful century-old port city at the Caribbean coast of Colombia. The pictures show the home of my host, a lady who has a foundation for underprivileged college students and children who can't afford musical instruction or university tuition. There is also a group pic of these students and me. I had a wonderful time teaching them.

I would like to thank Pastor and everyone at St. Paul for allowing me to take part in professional opportunities like this, my student Dylan Morgan for taking my place this past Sunday and on Wednesday, and the choir for helping and working with Dylan. The music for the Advent midweek services is the "Holden Evening Prayer" by Marty Haugen, one of the foremost living Lutheran church musicians.

I will keep the newsletter short this time (tomorrow is another full day at the festival), but I would like to mention that we are elated to welcome two new choir members: Dr. Daniel and Edie Beals. Dan is a tenor and Edie sings in the Alto section. We are glad to have you!

As always, a big "Thank You" to Katherine Becker Mansouri for sharing her music with us earlier in November and playing Bach's *Arioso* for violin and piano with me as prelude for one of our November services.

I will return to Huntington this Saturday, December 3. On Sunday, the choir will sing "We Wait for Thee." Next Sunday, December 11, you will hear the anthem "Prepare the Way of the Lord." The children's service will take place on December 18, and then – it's Christmas!

See you, soon!

Henning



Giving thanks and praise to God is the best way to start each day! We focused on being thankful in November. We are blessed with so many things and it is important for us to acknowledge these blessings and give thanks to God. Our CCC group has been working on prayer and praying aloud. They have started leading in prayer before meals and closing in prayer at the end of group time. I am thankful to watch these youth grow independently in their spiritual journeys.

The CCC group celebrated "All Saints Day" by making glass lanterns that they could take home and light up every time they pray. We discussed all the Saints who have gone before us and how we honor them in prayer. We prayed aloud and lit our candles in closing. We compared the light of our lanterns to the light in our hearts and how important it is to spread our light with others like Jesus did. This young group also performed "Jesus Loves Me" for the congregation. They shared the song by singing aloud and signing it as well. This group will try anything and they are quick to learn the signing with ease. They amaze me! We have started preparing for our Christmas program "His Name is Jesus". Our group is a bit smaller this year but they are ready to deliver a mighty message! The youth will perform the Christmas program during worship on December 18th. There will also be a reception to follow the service, so we may celebrate Jesus' birth and have fun and fellowship!

St. Paul LYO attended the "Mercy Me" concert with guests Andrew Ripp and "Rend Collective" from Ireland. There were nine of us in attendance. It was spiritually uplifting to sing praises unto the Lord with so many others. Our group danced, sang and laughed and enjoyed our time of renewal and praise! I have to add that we all danced! It was a blessing to see everyone's smiling faces and true joy while praising God together. We look forward to attending Winter Jam, a collection of many Christian bands, in January. The LYO group is also preparing music for the Christmas Program with Barbara Garnett and the Bell Choir.

Our 3rd year Confirmands have been attending classes and also doing service. Alex and Katie have been working along with Creigh Pemberton, Pastor Kevin, Kathy and Amy tying quilts for Christmas. This is such an important part of the third year of confirmation. This is when we serve and become true disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a blessing to watch our youth serve in various ways. It always amazes me how God truly brings people together to serve and do His work. I love watching Faith turn into action. These girls are also preparing a duet for the Christmas Program.

We will honor two of our college graduates during the Worship Service on December 18th. Jacob Simpkins is graduating from Marshall University on December 10th with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. Zoe May is also graduating from Marshall University with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts with emphasis of Graphic Design. We are proud of our graduates and we wish them the best and pray for their new journeys ahead. May their lights shine wherever they go! There will be a reception honoring the graduates after the service on December 18th as well.

Trust in the Lord and do good.-Psalm 37:3

We continue to trust in the Lord. We will serve God with our gifts and we will spread the word, love and grace of Jesus with all we meet!

God's Blessings this day and always.

Your Loving Sister in Christ,

Jill



## BRANCHES' DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER

The Social Ministry Committee is collecting comfortable clothing for the female clients of Branches. If you can donate sweatshirts, sweatpants, sweaters, or tennis shoes that are new or gently used they would greatly appreciate it. We are also taking monetary donations if you would like someone to shop for you. Please have your donations at the church by December 18. Any questions please see Creigh Pemberton.



## ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Our ELCA Good Gifts tree is up in the narthex! By choosing a tag from the tree and donating the specified amount to ELCA Good Gifts you are helping those in need throughout the world. Gifts can be made in honor or in memory of loved ones.

It's simple:

1. Choose a tag from the tree.
2. Place a check with specified amount in the offering plate ( or turn in to the office)
3. Give the tag to someone as a gift given in their honor.

The church office will send the money in to ELCA gifts for you.

Please make sure you indicate on your check that the money is for ELCA Good Gifts.

## CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES CRIDLIN FOOD/CLOTHING PANTRY 2016 "Warmed and Fed" Campaign Now through December 31



"she wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger..."

HONOR SOMEONE YOU LOVE and PROVIDE

A New Coat - Nutritional Food - Other Basic Needs

For Someone Who Can Least Afford It!

***Please make checks payable to Christian Associates and Mail to:***

***PO Box 595 Huntington, WV 25710***

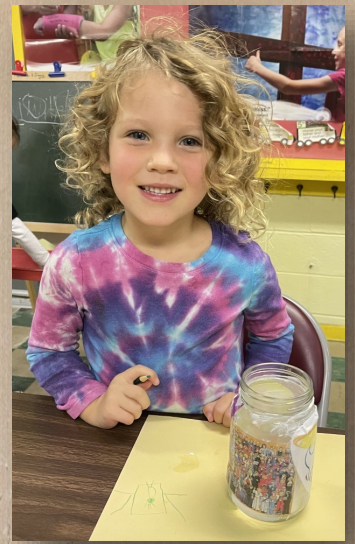
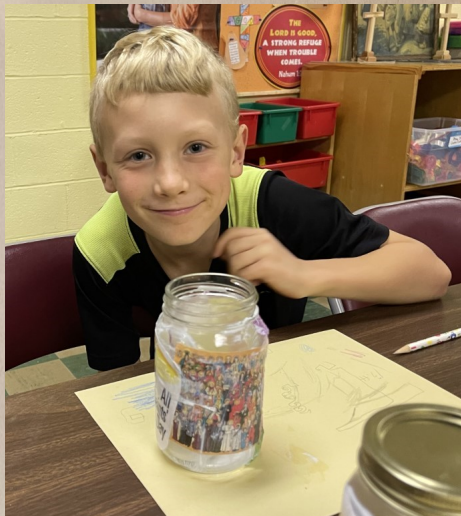
Enclosed please find a check for:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Coats/Basic Needs (\$20/Coat)


\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Nutritional Food (\$5/person/day)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you would like a Gift Acknowledgement Card/s



# December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Advent 2 10:00am Worship 11:15am Adult Forum/Sunday School 12:15pm Council	12:00pm Pastor at QRT 1:00pm Woman's Club	9:30am Quilting	Advent Mid- Week 6:00pm Meal 6:30-6:50pm Program Practice 7:00pm Worship	12:00pm Staff Meeting		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Advent 3 10:00am Worship with Blessing of the Quilts 11:15am Program Practice 11:15am Annual Meeting	7:00pm Writer's Group	9:30am Quilting	Advent Mid- Week 6:00pm Meal 6:30-6:50pm Program Practice 7:00pm Worship			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Advent 4 10:00am Worship-Children's Program Graduate Recogni- tion	6:00pm Girl Scout Cookie Training in Undercroft	9:30am Quilting	Advent Mid- Week 6:00pm Meal 6:30-6:50pm Program Practice 7:00pm Worship			Candlelight Service 7:00pm Special Music 7:30pm Worship
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:00am Worship with Lessons and Carols  						

**“His Name is Jesus”**  
**a Nativity Play**  
presented by the youth of St. Paul  
December 18  
10:00am



**BLESSING OF THE QUILTS**

December 11  
10:00am

Blessing of Quilts



**St. Paul Christmas Card Mailbox is open for business!**

Our mailbox, built by Bob Winterhoff, is back in the narthex and waiting for your cards. If you would like to give a Christmas Card to someone in the congregation please place your card(s) in the box. Be sure and check each week to see if there are cards waiting for you to pick up!!



Join us on Christmas Day at 10:00am for “Lessons and Carols” a unique and inspiring service to enrich your Christmas season.



**CRIDLIN FOOD PANTRY**

For the Month of December we will be collecting cans of spaghetti sauce for Cridlin Food and Clothing Pantry. Please place your items in the bin in the narthex.



## WORSHIP HELPERS

### December 4

Assisting Minister: Bernadette Wellman  
Reader: Ruthann Arneson  
Communion Deacon: Steve Golder  
Bread: Arneson  
Crucifer: Jacob Hale  
Acolyte: DeLaney Utley  
Ushers: Garnett/Chapman  
Flowers: Linda Hay

### December 11

Assisting Minister: Keith Wellman  
Reader: Annette DuVall  
Communion Deacon: Jenny Murray  
Bread:  
Crucifer: Katie Dowis  
Acolyte: Daniel Kist  
Ushers:  
Flowers: Graybeal

### December 18 Children's Program

Assisting Minister: Ruthann Arneson  
Reader:  
Communion Deacon: Creigh Pemberton  
Bread:  
Crucifer: Ethan Arneson  
Acolyte: DeLaney Utley  
Ushers:  
Flowers:

### December 24

Assisting Minister: Steve Golder  
Reader: Doug Korstanje  
Communion Deacon: David Stuart  
Bread:  
Crucifer: Cameron May  
Acolyte: DeLaney Utley  
Ushers:  
Flowers:

### December 25

Reader: Owen Murray  
Crucifer: Alex Mackey



**ALTAR GUILD:** Conzetts

**SANCTUARY CANDLE:** Linda Hay

**CHAPEL CANDLE:** Linda Hay

## BOOK CLUB

Wednesday January 11 at 10:00am  
in the Parlor

We will continue our discussion of "The Cider House Rules" by  
John Irving and discuss "David Copperfield" by Charles Dickens

All are welcome to join us!

Please see Kathy Mackey if you have any questions.



The readings listed below are sent to the congregation each day (Monday-Friday) by email. If you are not currently receiving the Daily Devotional and would like to please contact the church at [secretary@stpaulhuntington.org](mailto:secretary@stpaulhuntington.org) with your email address.

### READINGS FOR DECEMBER

November 26-December 2: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

December 5-9: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

December 12-16: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

December 19-23: No Devotional this week—Lessons and Carols on Christmas Day

December 26-30: Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21



- 2 Meredith Brumfield
- 3 Brice Dowis
- 5 Natalee Utley
- 8 Susie Wagner
- 9 Barbara Garnett
- 21 Chris Eid
- 27 Brier Wagner; Aryah Freels
- 30 Ingeborg White



- 27 Neil and Ruthann Arneson
- 30 Carl and Creigh Pemberton
- 31 James and Jill May

### Worship Attendance for November

Date	in person	Facebook(closed)	Facebook (open)	YouTube
11/6	78	80	92	4
11/13	75	63	76	8
11/20	65	72	86	23
11/27	60	41	Not Posted	Not Posted

### Sunday School

11/6	Adult Forum: 17	Children: 12
11/13	Adult Forum: 12	Children: 13
11/20	No Adult Forum	Children: 12
11/27	Adult Forum: 9	No Sunday School



The new offering envelopes for 2023 are available for you to pick up in the narthex.

We are taking orders for poinsettias. They are \$10.00 each. Please fill out the form below and mail it in to the church office along with your check by December 11. Forms will also be in the bulletins.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_



### Pastor KLM Blog

Pastor Mackey has started a Blog on our website. He will be posting a new entry each week. The first entry was posted on November 29. You can view the blog by going to our church website: [www.stpaulhuntington.org](http://www.stpaulhuntington.org). It will be posted on the home page. Check it out!

## PRAYER VENTURES FOR DECEMBER 2022

- 1** *World AIDS Day* Today we join our neighbors, siblings in Christ and companion churches around the world in remembering all who have been and continue to be affected by HIV and AIDS. Give thanks for the progress we have made in effective prevention, treatment and care and in discouraging discrimination against those who are HIV-positive; pray that we will not grow complacent but continue to make progress; and give thanks for the ongoing work of the ELCA's HIV and AIDS ministry.
- 2** Give thanks for our faith, which embodies hope and anticipation as well as confidence and joy in God's promises and grace, which were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
- 3** *International Day of Persons with Disabilities* Pray for our neighbors here and around the world who live with disabilities, that they might be welcomed, respected, valued and fully included in every aspect of the church and society. Give thanks for the wide-ranging work of ELCA Disability Ministry, Lutheran Services in America–Disability Network and other ministry partners.
- 4** Pray that, like John the Baptist, we will share the good news of Jesus and the love of God with boldness and humility and will invite all people to believe and be baptized into a new life in Christ, free from the confines of sin, despair and death.
- 5** Give thanks for the ELCA's Good Gifts catalog, which lifts up the diverse needs of our neighbors and offers opportunities to respond with gifts that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives around the world — from honeybees and irrigation systems to trauma counseling and vocational training for entrepreneurs.
- 6** "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" (Romans 15:7). Pray that the Spirit will help us live in unity and celebrate the faith that binds us together as siblings in God's family; pray that we will invite and welcome people into our communities of faith so that they too might experience the gifts of joy, grace and mutual care as siblings in Christ.
- 7** Give thanks and pray for the work and enthusiasm of those applying for ELCA World Hunger Education and Networking Grants, which help congregations and synods build partnerships, provide training and education, plan service learning and host events with people passionate about ending hunger.
- 8** Pray for ELCA missionaries serving with our global companions in Africa: the Rev. Elisabeth Johnson and Anne and Willie Langdji (Cameroon); the Rev. Alex LaChapelle (Kenya); the Rev. Janelle Neubauer (Rwanda); and the Rev. Brian Palmer and Rev. Linda Johnson Seyenkulo (Liberia).
- 9** Pray that God will work through us to help goodness, honesty, justice, peace, generosity and compassion flourish in the world.
- 10** Give thanks for scientists, researchers and teachers of science and math; they help us acquire skills for daily life, explore and better understand creation, expand our appreciation of God's handiwork, and develop new technologies for the health and well-being of humanity and our environment.
- 11** People of faith are not immune to questions or doubts. Give thanks for God's patience with us and for the Spirit's work of strengthening our faith, revealing the mysteries and wonder of God's boundless love for humanity, and helping us understand Scripture and faith in the context of life today.
- 12** Pray for farmers and ranchers as they prepare their fields, animals and equipment for winter, and for those planting and harvesting during winter. Give thanks for their vocation of feeding the world, their care for the environment and their wisdom about seasons and cycles of life.
- 13** Pray that, with the use of Advent candles and wreaths, we will embrace faith traditions and practices that center us on God's grace and forgiveness, received through the gift of Jesus Christ.
- 14** "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant" (Luke 1:46-48). Join in the song of Mary and give praise and thanksgiving for God's love, mercy and attentiveness — blessings experienced from generation to generation.
- 15** Ask the Spirit to help us invite and welcome with enthusiasm our neighbors and surrounding community to join in our congregational activities, celebrations and worship during Advent and Christmas, and throughout the year.
- 16** *Las Posadas* This tradition, popular in Mexico and observed by some ELCA congregations, uses lighted paths and processions from house to house to follow Mary and Joseph's journey through Bethlehem in search of lodging. Pray that our recollection of Mary and Joseph's experience will prompt us to welcome strangers, immigrants, refugees and neighbors in need.

**17** Pray for those who suffer depression, loneliness and anxiety, especially during the holidays. Ask God to help us be attentive to people around us who are struggling, that they might find understanding, hope, support, inclusion and caring companions in our communities of faith.

**18** *International Migrants Day* Pray that we will support and accompany migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in their difficult pursuit of safety, justice, self-sufficiency and family stability.

**19** Remember in prayer ELCA Global Mission personnel and missionaries who are celebrating Advent and the birth of Christ in the communities and congregations of our global companions around the world.

**20** Remember those who are alone during this time of community celebrations, meals and worship, including refugees, immigrants, and those who are imprisoned, confined to home or an institution, without family, or separated from family and community by work or deployment.

**21** *Winter solstice* Reflect on the intricacies of the universe that govern the movement of our solar system, the changing seasons and how people experience seasons in different hemispheres of the world. Praise God for a life-sustaining creation that inspires awe, curiosity and humility!

**22** "Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved" (Psalm 80:3). Give thanks for God's mercy and favor, which grant us new life and hope — not because we deserve it or have lived good lives but because God is gracious and generous beyond human comprehension.

**23** Remember those who serve and work in our communities during the holidays. May we assure them of our love, concern and gratitude, and create opportunities to include them in our celebrations and worship, especially when they are unable to be physically present.

**24** *Christmas Eve* Offer prayers of thanksgiving and joy for the gift of Jesus, our Savior, life and hope, who brings light to the darkness, "for he came down from heaven above to help a world in need" (ELW 271).

**25** *Christmas Day* All glory and praise to God — everything we have seen, heard and been taught about Jesus Christ, our hope and salvation, is true. Give thanks that God's love and mercy, present in the birth of Christ, have shaken the world and awakened our hope.

**26** *Kwanzaa* Today begins Kwanzaa, a weeklong celebration of African culture and traditions that emphasizes family, community and shared principles. Give thanks for the rich and enduring traditions, celebrations and practices of our African American siblings and the global African community.

**27** *John, apostle and evangelist* Give thanks for John and the other disciples, who trusted in and responded to Jesus' call, leaving behind their previous lives to experience God's presence and love through Jesus Christ and to do God's work in the world. Ask the Spirit to guide, inspire and equip us for sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor in a world of constant change and new challenges.

**28** Hope, joy, love and faith are infectious. Pray that the hope and joy stirred by our faith in God's love and presence in the world will spill over into our personal and professional relationships and our interaction with strangers.

**29** Pray that we will be ever mindful of our baptism, which brings us identity and purpose "through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5). Give thanks that we are equipped, encouraged and sustained by our siblings in Christ throughout our lifelong journey of faith.

**30** The birth of Christ, manifesting God's love for humanity, changed everything, forever. We celebrate the joy and significance of Christmas and pledge our lives in constant witness to God, who embraces and loves us with all our flaws, complexities and questions.

**31** *New Year's Eve* What do you hope for in the coming year? What are your aspirations? Give thanks for the assurance we receive through our baptism, that we might live in God's mercy and grace through the ups and downs of life, and pray that we will be supported during our journey by a vast and caring community of siblings in Christ.



# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

721 12th Avenue  
Huntington, WV 25701  
304-525-9630



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Please visit us at [www.stpaulhuntington.org](http://www.stpaulhuntington.org)

## CONNECT WITH US

Phone: 304-525-9630

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

[stpaulhuntington.org](http://stpaulhuntington.org)



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
St. Paul Lutheran Congregation  
Group



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Huntington, WV

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2022

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