

ST. PAUL VISITOR DECEMBER 2021

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, Charles, Anne,
Jackie, Marty, Judy,
Nora, Myles, Debbie, Al,
Dave, and Eric.

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 whole-
ness and healing.
Amen.

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.

WORSHIP

We will have in person worship during December. We ask that you wear a mask while in the building. The service will also be live streamed on Facebook and posted on our YouTube channel.

COVID 19

As of now the council is asking that all persons wear a mask while in the church building.



OFFICE HOURS

Generally someone is in the church office Monday through Thursday from 9:30am-1:30pm. If you are planning to come to the church please call beforehand to make sure Pastor or Kathy is there.

OFFERINGS

Your offering is still very important to continue the mission of St. Paul. Please mail your offering to the church address:

721 12th Avenue
Huntington, Wv 25701

**CONNECT
WITH
US**

Phone: 304-525-9630

Email:

secretary@stpaulhuntington.org
pastor@stpaulhuntington.org
music@stpaulhuntington.org
youth@stpaulhuntington.org

**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE**

stpaulhuntington.org



St. Paul Lutheran Congregation
Group



St. Paul Lutheran Church
Huntington, WV

Dearest Lord Jesus,

It has been a busy day today. Doesn't it seem like this is the way it goes? We are coming to a very busy time – end of year celebrations, Christmas parties, and families traveling for the holidays. They say that the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is the busiest time for airports and bus and train stations. The roads are full of people trying to get to where they want to go. We are headed to Ohio to spend Thanksgiving with my family. First time we have done this is quite a while.

It is interesting that amidst all this hurrying and going and celebrating your church has decided to celebrate a New Year with the beginning of Advent. I love Advent! I think you know that by now. I also think you know that I love Advent because of when I was a child we always celebrated Advent at home – taking the faith home if you will. I have never asked my siblings if they remember Advent as fondly as I do. I need to make a note of this and ask them sometime.

You have taught us Lord through your Church that Advent is a time to prepare. This preparation takes many different forms: outward preparation like putting up the lights, Christmas tree with its decorations, listening to the many and various musicians who have Christmas CD's and who can forget watching all those Hallmark Christmas

movies. This outward preparation is good and right but it also seems to me as a person of your Word that inward preparation is also important. What do you mean by inward preparation Lord?

From what I have been able to learn and try to practice, inward preparation means that our hearts are involved. Worship is one of the ways you engage our hearts Lord. This year at St Paul we will be singing one of my favorite liturgies for our Advent midweek services: Holden Evening Prayer. I pray I will give the music the justice and heart it deserves. I also pray that worshippers will experience this new liturgy with their hearts.

The other way our hearts are involved in Advent is that we seek your will for our lives. Our hearts are softened to your will for us. Our hearts are seeking to do this will daily as your followers. It seems to me that that means being open to the Holy Spirit when it comes knocking and it does come knocking.

In our preparations Lord I pray this place and your people here will celebrate the wonderful outward preparations but we will also be ready for the Holy Spirit's nudging when it comes a calling. To prepare inwardly. To prepare our hearts.

Thank you for this time to prepare Lord. Thank you for all you have done and have promised to do for us in giving us new life daily.

Your servant in the faith,

Kevin L Mackey <><

Dear St. Paul Congregation,

Advent is upon us—I am sure you have been looking forward to this time of the year. We are awaiting the Glad Tidings with eager anticipation, and I am glad that this letter will bring additional good news: The Church Council has approved congregational singing.

In December, the entire congregation will sing together Gathering and Sending Hymns. “Light One Candle” will be sung by a solo singer from the choir. We are omitting the Hymn of the Day, so the service won’t last too long. The choir has been practicing on Wednesday nights at 7 pm (please come by or talk to me after church, if you are interested in joining!), and we will sing Advent anthems on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of Advent. On the 4th Advent Sunday, we can look forward to the children’s service, which Jill May has put together and which will feature both, solo and ensemble music with the kids. It’s going to be great. Thanks so much to Jill, and also to Barbara Garnett for rehearsing with the bell choir.

On Christmas Eve, we will present special music at 7 pm, and the service will start at 7:30 pm. You will enjoy a brass trio (two trumpets and one trombone) during both, the special music and our congregational hymn singing: Silent Night, Joy to the World, and others. Alternating hymn verses between organ and brass is a tradition that I remember from my childhood in Germany. The choir will be singing a Christmas anthem, and the bells will be playing under Barbara’s direction, as well. For special music, I will also perform a virtuoso piano solo arrangement of Tchaikovsky’s Pas de Deux from the Nutcracker.

I will leave for Germany to be with my family right after Christmas. Please say a little prayer that all goes well. Keith Wellman will be playing on Sunday, December 26 (thank you!), and I will hire another pianist for January 2. On January 9 I will be back behind the organ console at St. Paul, and we will start choir practice again on Wednesday, January 12.

I’ll close with a German nursery rhyme:

Advent, Advent,
A little light is shining.
First one, then two,
Then three, then four,
Then Baby Jesus is at the door.

(Older kids add):
And when the fifth little light is shining,
You've slept through Christmas!

The musical notation consists of three staves of music. The first staff starts with a G clef and a common time signature. The lyrics "Ad - vent, Ad-vent, ein Licht-lein brennt, erst" are written below the notes. The second staff begins with a C clef and a common time signature. The lyrics "eins, dann zwei, dann drei, dann vier, dann" are written below the notes. The third staff begins with a C clef and a common time signature. The lyrics "steht das Christ - kind vor der Tür." are written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: G, C, D/C, G/H, D, G, Am/C, D, D7, G.

Henning

As November comes to an end, we transition from Christ the King Sunday following with Thanksgiving and then the beginning of Advent. Thank the Lord for what he has done and let everyone sing His praise with shouts of Thanksgiving! The youth have been busy this past month and we have taken time to serve and be thankful and share the good news.

The CCC group made communion bread for a few Sundays in December. This group has also been busy collecting cereal and milk to send home to the backpack program for Thanksgiving break. This group loves to help others. They have also made pumpkin pie in a bag. Some had never tasted pumpkin before. The CCC group also made turkey windsocks to celebrate Thanksgiving. If you have a moment, check out their "Thankful" bulletin board when entering the glass doors. We have discussed the importance of prayer and singing praise and giving thanks to the Lord. They are thankful for family, pets, the music played on the organ during worship, friends and fellowship. As they learn together, they grow together in Christ. Together, they are preparing for the Christmas program. Together, they will present the Christmas Story for our congregation during worship on December 19. Together, they will sing praise to the Lord and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The LYO group has come back into action by practicing bells after worship each Sunday, so that they may deliver a song called "He is born" during the Christmas program. The Confirmation students have been also meeting on one Wednesday a month. This group has reunited and will be reading the scriptures from the old and new testament to deliver the Christmas story. Our youth are also learning to offer their gifts and musical talents. We will have a special trumpet solo, a lovely duet, a song with sign language, a song performed by bell choir and also a few hymns the congregation and youth will join in together. Let the light of Christ shine and reunite all this Christmas!

The Girl Scout Troops of St. Paul and our youth also made cards and candy bags to honor all the Veterans of our church for Veteran's Day. Our Girl Scout Troops also had a Friendsgiving event and collected many non-perishable items for our Christmas baskets. These girls love to help serve the community.

I am thankful to be blessed to work with the youth of our church. Watching them learn, love, grow, serve and share the love of Jesus and His word is pure joy. Come and witness the love of Jesus transcend through our youth on Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 10am as they present the Christmas Story according to Luke and share and praise the Lord through several musical opportunities.

Let us Rejoice in the Lord and be glad in it!

Your Loving sister in Christ,
Jill



ELCA GOOD GIFTS



Give something
unexpected
this
Christmas.

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.



"A CHRISTMAS GIFT"

Christmas Program by the children and youth

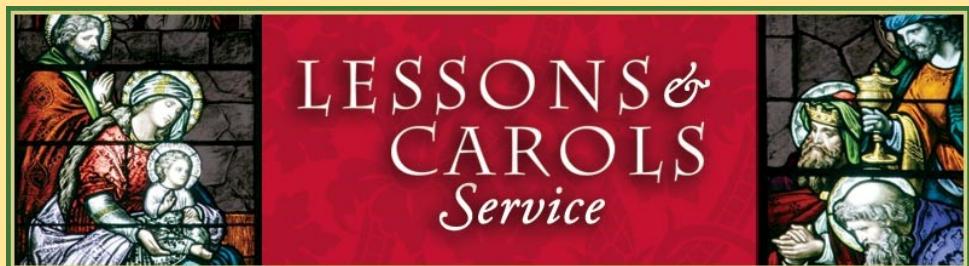
December 19

Sunday morning at 10:00am



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held next Sunday, December 12, right after worship. We will be voting on the new council members and the Mission Finance Plan for 2022. We are still in need of council members. Please prayerfully consider serving St. Paul in this way.

Join us on Sunday, December 26 at 10:00am for "Lessons and Carols" a unique and inspiring service to enrich your Christmas season.



Want to help decorate the church for Christmas? Red Poinsettias in 6 inch pots can be purchased for \$10.00 each. Dedications can be in honor of, or in memory of loved ones. Orders must be in the church office by December 12 along with payment. Order forms will also be in the bulletins.



In honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

By: _____

Number of Poinsettias _____



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

PO Box 595

Huntington, WV 25710-0595

Please send this form with your check to the above address.

Enclosed please find a check for:
\$ _____ Coats/Basic Needs (\$20/
Coat)

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

Name: _____





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

If you would like to make a prayer request for yourself or someone else there are several ways you can do this:

Call the church office at 304-525-9630 and request a name to be put on the prayers that are read on Sunday morning.

Call the church office and request that a prayer email be sent out to the congregation

Request prayer on our Facebook page—
"St. Paul Lutheran Congregation Group"

You may also email the church at
secretary@stpaulhuntington.org



Our condolences to Judy Dumke on the death of her husband, and member of St. Paul, Dr. Warren Dumke on November 4.



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

They are also in need of men's jeans, all sizes and women's tops size 2X and above.



The Social Ministry committee has resumed the Backpack program for Southside Elementary. They will be packing and delivering 25 bags of food each week. The bags contain enough food for the weekend. Our supplies are very low. Donations would be greatly appreciated. Some suggestions of needed items are:

Individual mac and cheese

shelf stable milk

Individual pasta meals

pop tarts

Individual fruit cups

Individual applesauce

Individual cereal cups

Please do not donate items that contain peanuts.

Worship Helpers for December

Altar Guild: Cam Hale and Jeanna Bell

Reader/Worship Assistant

12/5 Linda Schneider

12/12 David Stuart

12/19 Keith Wellman

12/24 Bernadette Wellman

12/26 Ruthann Arneson

Acolyte

DeLaney Utley

Ethan Arneson

Flowers:

Linda Hay

Anne Graybeal

B. Wellman

Hayman Pemberton

Candles:

B. Wellman

Bread Providers:

Judy Korstanje

Ruthann Arneson

Youth

Conzettts

Youth

Advent Mid-Week

All mid-week services will be online this year. They will be available to view on our YouTube channel each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm.



NOON BIBLE STUDY



DAILY DEVOTIONAL in your inbox



BIBLE STUDY

Pastor will continue to post his Bible study each Thursday on our YouTube channel.

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 with your email address.

READINGS FOR DECEMBER

November 29-December 3: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Luke 3:1-6

December 6-10: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Luke 3:7-18

December 13-17: Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Luke 1:39-45

December 20-24: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:oopm Mid-Week worship on YouTube	2	3	4
5 10:00am Worship Blessing of the Quilts 	6	7	8 7:oopm Mid-Week worship on YouTube	9	10	11
12 10:00am Worship Annual Meeting 	13 7:00pm Writers Group	14	15 7:oopm Mid-Week worship on YouTube	16	17	18
19 10:00am Children and Youth Christmas Program 	20	21	22 4-5pm Third Year Confirmation 7:00pm Mid-Week worship on YouTube	23	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 	25
26 10:00 Worship with Lessons and Carols (Pastor on Vacation)	27	28	29	30	31	

PRAYER VENTURES FOR DECEMBER

- 1** *World AIDS Day* Join in prayer with our siblings around the world to remember all in our communities who have been and continue to be affected by HIV and AIDS. Pledge to God that we will work together to raise awareness and recommit ourselves and the church to a faithful and dedicated response.
- 2** Give thanks for Advent wreaths and other faith traditions that remember and celebrate God's dwelling among us in Jesus, God's gift of eternal life, and Jesus' enduring presence and light in the world and within us.
- 3** *International Day of Persons with Disabilities* Pray that we will grow stronger and more aware in our church's commitment to seek full inclusion and equitable participation of all people within the life of society and the church, embracing the whole person — abilities, questions, life experiences, complexities and all.
- 4** "Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation" (Psalm 25:5). Pray that God will be patient with us as we strive to be faithful followers and students of Christ; ask the Spirit to stir our hunger for understanding the word of God and reveal its implications for our daily lives.
- 5** Pray that we will be eager to share the gospel and will welcome the Spirit to use our gifts, abilities, insights and life experiences to prepare the way for others to believe in Christ.
- 6** Give thanks for the opportunities provided by the new ELCA Good Gifts catalog to respond generously to the unique needs and priorities of congregations, companion churches and partners — close to home and around the world.
- 7** Pray for congregations in your community and for ELCA congregations and ministries across the country, that we will thrive in our witness and service and will encourage one another in doing God's work in the world.
- 8** Pray for our global companions and our companion synods as we journey together during Advent, drawing on our diverse traditions and practices to focus on the coming of Jesus, the gift of salvation and our unity in the body of Christ.
- 9** Praise God for looking upon us with mercy and love, for liberating us from the consequences of human weakness and sin, and for restoring our relationship as children of God.
- 10** Reflect on your hopes and what you anticipate as a child of God; express them to God and thank God for accompanying us in times of waiting and anticipation and for remaining faithful to the promises God has made to us.
- 11** Give thanks for how our siblings in Christ observe and celebrate Advent, Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ in diverse cultures. Pray that these rich and meaningful traditions, practices and perspectives will deepen our understanding and appreciation of the gift and good news of Jesus Christ — God's sacrificial expression of love and mercy.
- 12** Pray that, through the work of the Spirit in us, every aspect of our life will manifest the good fruits of love, generosity, justice, peace, service and faithfulness to the word of God.
- 13** Pray for congregations and youth ministry leaders who are making decisions about participating in the ELCA Youth Gathering and for those who have decided to attend and are beginning to prepare for their faith-building experience.
- 14** Remember in prayer seafarers and fishermen of all nations whose work separates them from family, friends and community for long periods of time. Pray that they will be uplifted and sustained by the assurance that they are remembered, valued, loved and always connected with their siblings in Christ, everywhere.
- 15** Pray that we will be filled with "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7) and that our most burdensome worries, concerns and anxieties will be calmed and diminished.

16 Las Posadas (“The Inns”), a tradition observed in Latin America and in some congregations in our country, remembers and reenacts the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter just before the birth of Jesus. Give thanks for his birth and remember in prayer refugees, immigrants and people everywhere who are homeless and seek shelter, rest, sanctuaries and hope.

17 Living in the promise and reality of the new covenant God has made with us in Jesus Christ, remember in prayer the words of Isaiah: “I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation” (Isaiah 12:1-2).

18 *International Migrants Day* Pray for our siblings who are refugees and immigrants around the world, in our country and at our borders. Ask the Spirit to fill us with generosity and renew our commitment to justice, compassion and empathy, recognizing both our unique needs and our common desire for safety and security, the best for our children and families, meaningful and life-sustaining employment, caring communities, opportunities to use our gifts and skills, and mutual acceptance and respect as children of God.

19 Rejoice in God our Savior, who shows us love and mercy and attends to the needs of people who are poor, hungry, ill, neglected or excluded by society. Pray that God will work through us, using our unique gifts and passions to respond to, serve and embrace our neighbors in need while respecting their dignity.

20 *Katharina von Bora Luther (1499-1552)* Remember and give thanks for the witness, leadership and service of women who help strengthen our faith, share the gospel, grow and provide leadership for the church, deepen our understanding of Scripture, and serve neighbors in need around the world.

21 *Winter solstice* As the days get shorter in our hemisphere, pray for people of all ages who suffer depression and loneliness, especially during the holiday season; pray that they will be comforted and uplifted by their faith and the knowledge that God is ever-present and sees our suffering, loneliness and despair; and ask the Spirit to help us be attentive, caring and empathetic friends and siblings in Christ for one another.

22 Pray that God will hear and attend to our every prayer — spoken or silent, individual or communal — and that God will restore us, strengthen our faith, guide our lives and help us respond to perplexing problems in our communities and the world.

23 Let our prayers echo Mary’s song of praise for God’s power, presence and life-giving activity in the world, and for looking upon humanity with undeserved love and mercy and blessing us with the promised messiah, Jesus Christ.

24 *Christmas Eve* What an awesome gift has been given to us in the birth of a tiny, unassuming baby — the son of God, our true Savior and the redeemer of the world. “Glory to God in the highest” (Luke 2:14)!

25 *Christmas Day* Sing and shout prayers of thanksgiving and praise to God for living among us in the person of Jesus to help us experience and understand the good news of God’s saving grace, truth and amazing love for humankind and all creation. Again, we say, “Glory to God in the highest!”

26 Pray that our life together in the church and as siblings in Christ will help us mature in faith, understand God’s word and ways, face the challenges of daily life, serve our neighbor and be confident in inviting others to believe and have faith in Jesus.

27 Kwanzaa begins this week. Give thanks to God for the richness and significance of the traditions, cultures, values, stories, faith and leadership of our siblings of African descent.

28 Let us join earth and the heavens in praising God, from whom all things are brought into being and imbued with life and purpose.

29 Pray that our lives will shine brightly with the love and mercy God has shown us, so that we are clear witnesses to the gospel and bold and unconstrained in serving our neighbors in need who yearn for hope, relief and good news.

30 In a world where anger, vengeance, division, impatience and self-interest are all too familiar, pray that we embrace together the freedom, new self and purpose that we have received in baptism, so that we, too, will take to heart the words of encouragement Paul wrote to the Christians in Colossae: “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love” (Colossians 3:12-14).

31 *New Year’s Eve* Give thanks that we are new creations in Jesus Christ and that we can begin each day of every year with hope, renewed faith and restored vision for the work that God calls us to do in the world.



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Church office: 304-525-9630

Henning Vauth, Music Director
music@stpaulhuntington.org

Jill May, Youth Director
youth@stpaulhuntington.org

Kathy Mackey, secretary
secretary@stpaulhuntington.org

CHURCH COUNCIL 2021

Vice President, Jenny Murray

Treasurer, Andrew Wellman

Secretary, Cheryl Conzett

Financial Secretary, Linda Schneider

Neil Arneson, Worship and Music

Carolyn Fornash, Education

Linda Hay, Worship and Music

Doug Korstanje, Stewardship/Finance

Jenny Murray, Fellowship

Cheryl Conzett, Property

John Scott, Social Ministry

Bernadette Wellman, Social Ministry