



# The Messenger

## December 2019

**St. Paul's  
Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church**

3295 S. Union Ave.  
Alliance, Ohio 44601  
330-823-2285

### FROM PASTOR MUSE

*And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

*Hebrews 10:24-25*

Last month I introduced the concept of discerning what the church means to you. I asked each of you to contemplate this question. I said that I would be using this space over the next year to talk about how the church needs the members as much as the members need the church. This is a symbiotic relationship between people and the faith community. If the faith community is not serving the people, then the relationship is fractured. If the people are not supporting the faith community, then the relationship is fractured. Hence the nature of a relationship, a two-sided exchange, which is mutually beneficial.

The first point of focus I want to bring forward to "stay connected." This is foundational to any relationship, to be present, to be part of the actions of the other. For a relationship to grow and strengthen, it requires interaction. This is also true of the relationship with God and the faith community, from both sides. Our lives are enhanced, and our spirits grow when we engage the community. The community is strengthened by your presence in it. As I stated last month, the faith community is a husk without the people. The congregation needs you as

much as you need the congregation! It is challenging to grow with each other and support each other when we are not together for extended periods. The work of the community falters when its members are not present and engaged. Staying connected is foundational to the enhancement of the faith community and the work of God's kingdom.

Staying connected takes work and investment. It requires decision making that places the work of the community and your place in the community above other things. Like any other relationship of importance, making time for the church is just as important as the church providing resources for you. Examining one's schedule and time investment to ensure that proper amounts of time are available to support the work of the church is one of the ways to stay connected. Setting aside a specific time each week for the faith community and then making decisions to support that time set aside for the church. The faith community needs its members to make it a priority so that the work can continue, and the kingdom of God can more fully be expressed.

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Keeping other things from gaining importance over the church is another way to stay connected. Many things draw on our time, and they have validity and meaning. It is through the faith community that our relationship with God is enhanced. Working to keep God at the top of our priority list can be difficult, for there are many other things that can intrude. Yet the task of the believer is to keep God at the top. We strive to push aside anything else that wants to claim the top spot in our lives.

The final piece I want to raise in staying connected is breathing through the disagreements with grace and love. Like any relationship, we will not agree on everything, and some challenges will require negotiation and compromise.

Staying connected to the faith community is a commitment to the community above the disagreement. Sometimes leaving is necessary, but many times it can be overcome by conversation and love. Don't let a dispute or a disappointment keep you from the faith community. Resolve to work it out and find a path of resolution. Stay connected! "Stay in the boat," as Paul would say and let us weather the storms of life together. The faith community needs you just as much as you need it.

God's Blessings,  
*Pastor Muse*

## FROM PASTOR THOMPSON

### CHRISTMAS OR CHAOS

I thoroughly enjoy the lights, music, gift-giving, and worship of Advent and Christmas. What I struggle with are the crazy busy days that result from the addition of events. I know many of you have schedules like my family. Work, education for children or yourself, children's and your own commitments, the list goes on. When the Holiday Season arrives our schedules rarely adjust for the holiday expectations.

If you don't have this experience during the Christmas season, I am thankful. Or you may find that you thrive on the added opportunities.

The questions for me and how I keep my focus on faith is, "How will I prioritize my expectations of the season?" For myself, this includes saying, "No" to some invitations. It may consist of attending an event but leaving early. I chose to do this not to make myself look "too important" to stay, but because I know that it is right for my physical and emotional well-being.

You may want to hibernate through the Christmas season. Maybe you are grieving, physically, emotionally, or spiritually overwhelmed. Give yourself grace and practice gentleness with yourself. It is ok to opt-out of some events and activities. Pick and chose the ones that you know will be most life-giving and joy-filled.

If you are concerned about a friend, family member, or neighbor who looks like they are hibernating, invite them but give them the space to say, "No." Maybe an invitation to one-on-one coffee or lunch may be the blessing they need rather than a big gathering where they may feel the need to put on a false front.

Whether you are excited, ready to hide, or somewhere in between, one thing we all can do is set realistic expectations for the season. For me, this includes a realistic budget for gifts, building into my schedule evenings or afternoons of rest, and remembering that nothing needs to be "perfect." Christ was born and will return. The

number, size, or cost of gifts, parties, or meals will not change this truth.

When the social pressure to "do Christmas" becomes too much, remember, God already did Christmas. The vital work is done. God is born in human flesh and dwells with us. "Emmanuel"

If you are overwhelmed, grieving, or otherwise, not feeling like Christmas, call me. We can talk, cry, and explore how you can reclaim Christmas.

Remember EMMANUEL=God with us!

Peace,  
*Pastor Diana Thompson*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*Planted in Good Soil, to Grow for God!*

### GREETINGS TO ALL!

I hope everyone is having a wonderful fall!! We would love for you to join us for Sunday school! Our teachers have powerful lessons they would love for you to take part in! Our Sunday school class takes part from 9:45am to 10:45am.

### SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

As we are quickly approaching the holiday season, we will be working with the Alliance Food Pantry to collect items for our local community. During December, we will collect toothpaste, men soap/body wash, and toilet paper! We will have two collecting locations, one in the Sunday school hallway downstairs and one in the back of the fellowship hall! Any donations are much appreciated! Thank you for helping serve our local families and community!

### KID'S CHURCH

The children discuss God's message of the day, take part in crafts and games, and build relationships with friends!! Kid's Church starts after the children's time and ends before the sharing of peace. Students preschool through 5th grade are welcome to join us for Kid's Church. We will continue to work on projects for our shut-ins and our community. We look forward to seeing you!! Our children have made gifts for our shut-ins during October, November and December! A very special thank you to Gayle Figenschuh for delivering these special gifts!

### FAMILY FUN NIGHT! FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

We will have food, crafts, a movie, and lots of fun!! The food and activities will begin at 6 pm, and the movie will start at 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be served during the movie! Please feel free to bring blanket/pillows!! Mark your calendars now and please join us!

With God's Love, *Brianne Black*

### MEDITATION WITH PASTOR MUSE

Thursday, December 5, at 10:30 am.  
Tuesday, December 17, at 7:00 pm.

No experience is required. Wear comfortable clothes and bring an open heart and mind.

### ADVENT DEVOTIONS

There are a number of devotions available for the Advent Season located on the resource table in Garnes Hall. These devotions help us to center our minds and hearts on the season of Advent and the coming Christ Child. Feel free to take and use these devotions. They can be applied even if the season has already begun.

## GIFT AND MINISTRY SUPPORT

### First-time visitor packets

Beginning in December, we will have information folders for visitors to our congregation. The packets include a couple of brochures about our ministries, a list of contacts for various programs and activities, a welcome letter, and a current newsletter. If you meet someone who is a first-time visitor to the congregation please give the family one of the packets. You can also offer them one of the two giveaway items. The first is a magnet clip, the second is a stress ball. (If

there are children in the family each child is welcome to have a stress ball.)

### A personal invitation is the most appealing

How did you learn about a new restaurant? A great book? A fun vacation location? We are most likely to try something new if it recommended by people we trust. It is no different when people visit a church. They may do some on-line research, but statistics show that most visitors attend a church because someone they

know personally invited them. As we move toward Christmas, this is an ideal time to invite neighbors and friends to St. Paul's. We have lots of events that are not worship but a great way to learn about the congregation. For example: Invite and bring them to "Around the Table Carol Sing" make it easy for them to say yes by offering to bring enough food and tableware so they can be your guest. It is excellent hospitality and a chance for you to introduce them to other church members.

Thank you for your recent donation of personal care items to Rockhill and Parkway Elementary Schools! It is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Tracy Lewis  
Family Support Specialist

Dear Neighbors,  
Thank you so much for participating in our first Trunk or Treat Event! The families had a wonderful time and we treated 125 children. We appreciated your collaboration and look forward to next year!

The Christian Education Committee of First United Presbyterian Church

Thank you so much for your donation of hygiene products. Its very much appreciated.

Carla Derr Family Support  
Specialist Alliance Intermediate.

Thank you to Pastor Tim and my entire Church family for all the prayers, cards and support for me during my illness. It is wonderful to feel the love of so many people coming my way, helping to heal me with your love and prayers. God is Good!

In Christian Love Vickie Swain

*The Eternal Flame is given to the glory of God in loving memory of Roger Robb, Douglas Robb, Susanne Holland and thankoffering for our wonderful children and grandchildren by Bonnie and Don Holland.*



**HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY TO YOU!**

May you enjoy many more and may God bless each one of you in many ways as you enjoy another year in God's grace.

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 – Averi Starkweather | 18 - Joan Ellsworth |
| 2 – Michael Knapik     | 20 - Fred Schuller  |
| 2 - Trudy Mehl         | 20 - Taylor Rhome   |
| 2 – Ryan Edward Scott  | 23 - Marie Stoudt   |
| 2 - Kathi Trainer      | 24 - Diane Linhart  |
| 3 - Barbara Bixler     | 24 - Susan Skropits |
| 5- Colleen Carman      | 25 - Holly Lucy     |
| 5 - Kayla Trainer      | 26 - Marcy Supelak  |
| 7 - Grace Pifer        | 27 - John Linhart   |
| 7 - James Rackley      | 30 - Amy Craig      |
| 7 - Jerry Webb         | 30 - Paige Zeigler  |
| 8 - Leigh Ann Worley   | 31 - Randy Cubick   |
| 14 - Karen Kinser      | 31 - Jordan Miller  |
| 15 - Mercedes Gorby    | 31 - Debra Garrott  |
| 15 - Jeff Webb         |                     |

**SPECIAL EVENTS AND REMINDERS**



Once again it is time to fill **the Mitten Tree** with mittens, caps, scarfs, socks, anything warm.

The tree will be up through December 1, 2019. The need is great.

**CHRISTMAS INVITATIONS**

Stacks of Christmas invitations will be available on the resource table in Garnes Hall. There will be five postcards in each stack. Every member of the congregation is encouraged to take at least one stack of postcards and mail them to family, friends, or even strangers from the phone book.

## MUSIC & WORSHIP

Music & Worship Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 4 immediately following the decorating of the Sanctuary. Please see Gina Falconer if you are unable to attend.

### DECORATE THE SANCTUARY

We will decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas on Wednesday, December 4 at 6:00 pm. Come and eat with the Youth Group at 5:30 pm. Please plan to come and help us prepare for the Christmas season!

### AROUND THE TABLE CAROL SING

Just a reminder ... The Annual Around the Table Carol Sing is December 1. We gather at 5:00 pm and eat at 5:30 pm. Please bring a main dish, salad or desert to share (recommend 1 dish for every 2 people). Dinner rolls and drinks will be provided. Please bring your own table settings. Come out and enjoy the fellowship and time to prepare our hearts for the birth of our Lord!

### CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM

We will be doing a small production as a part of the family service on Christmas Eve at 6:00 pm. If you have a child age 3 through high school who is interested in joining us, please contact Gina Falconer or Pastor Muse.

We will have rehearsal for the Christmas Eve family service on Thursday, December 19 from 5:15 – 7:00 pm. We will provide pizza for dinner before we start practice. We will have a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 21 at 10:00 am and possibly an additional rehearsal (if needed) on Monday, December 23 at 10:00 am.

**ALL INFORMATION FOR THE JANUARY MESSENGER WILL BE DUE BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019.**

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

We will have three services to celebrate Christmas Eve on December 24. We hope you will be able to join us for one of our services and celebrate the birth of our Lord!

- 12:00 pm – service in the chapel
- 6:00 pm – family service with candlelight
- 9:30 pm – liturgical service with candlelight

There will also be ONE service on Sunday, December 29 at 9:30 am.

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

A special thanks came in recently from Mrs. Parks, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor at the middle school, thanking our church family for the health care items sent for their use.

We also had a wonderful response to our “Hoodies for Hero's” campaign acquiring hooded sweatshirts for our community veterans. Thanks so much.

As in past years, our committee isn't requesting any one particular thing during the month of December.

Please consider donating to a mission of your own choice to make the Christmas season brighter.

Just sending one more big “thank you” to everyone in our church family for all the donations you have given to the many mission requests made throughout the year.

### ALLIANCE COMMUNITY DINNER IN DECEMBER

We do not have a Community Dinner to host in December.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
JANUARY 26, 2020.**

Please have all Annual Committee Reports turned into the Church office by December 31, 2019

# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1st Sunday in Advent</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Fellowship Hour 9:45 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 12:30 am Chapel Communion 5:00 pm Around the Table Carol Sing	2 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Grief Support Group	3 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	4 10:30 am Open Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 4:00 pm Catechism 5:30 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Decorate Sanctuary 7:00 pm Open Bible Study 7:00 pm Worship & Music	5 10:30 am Meditation with Pastor 5:15 pm Singing Angels 5:30 pm Children's Choir 5:45 pm KFC Ringers 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	6 1:00 pm Church Women United 5:30 pm Girl Scouts party	7 8:00 am Breakfast with Santa 5:00 pm Crossing Casual Worship 6:00 pm Fellowship Dinner
<b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Fellowship Hour 9:45 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 1:00 pm Community Service Sunday 2:00 pm Black Games Hall <b>Newsletter Items Due</b>	9	10	11 10:30 am Open Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 4:00 pm Catechism 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Open Bible Study	12 5:15 pm Singing Angels 5:30 pm Children's Choir 5:45 pm KFC Ringers 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	13 12:00 pm Deborah's 6:00 pm Family Fun Night	14
<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Fellowship Hour 9:45 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 1:00 pm Youth Sunday	16 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Grief Support Group	17 7:00 pm Meditation with Pastor	18 10:30 am Open Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 4:00 pm Catechism 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Open Bible Study	19 5:15 pm Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal 5:15 pm Singing Angels 5:30 pm Children's Choir 5:45 pm KFC Ringers 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	20 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal	21
<b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Fellowship Hour 9:45 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship	23 10:00 am Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 12:00 pm Chapel Worship 6:00 pm Family Worship 9:30 pm Candlelight Worship	25 <b>Have a Blessed Christmas Day!</b> Church Office Closed	26	27	28
<b>One Worship Service Today</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship Hour	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve Have A Blessed 2020</b> Annual Committee Reports Due				

## DECEMBER 2019—THE WORD OF GOD IN WORSHIP

### December 1, 2019 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### INTRODUCTION

*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**READINGS AND PSALM** Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."* (Ps. 122:1), Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

### December 8, 2019 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### INTRODUCTION

*At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**READINGS AND PSALM** Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, *May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace.* (Ps. 72:7), Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

### December 15, 2019 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### INTRODUCTION

*A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.*

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**READINGS AND PSALM** Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, *The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.* (Ps. 146:8)

Luke 1:46b-55 (Alternate), *My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.* (Luke 1:47), James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

### December 22, 2019 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### INTRODUCTION

*Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.*

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**READINGS AND PSALM** Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, *Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.* (Ps. 80:7)

Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

### December 24, 2019 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS EVE (I)

#### INTRODUCTION

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**READINGS AND PSALM** Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, *Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad.* (Ps. 96:11)

Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

### December 29, 2019 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

#### INTRODUCTION

*As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.*

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**READINGS AND PSALM** Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, *The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven.* (Ps. 148:13)

Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23

# CONTINUING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## PASTOR'S SUNDAY ADULT CLASS

Pastor Muse leads an adult class every Sunday morning. It is in the room next to the bathrooms on the main floor, room #3. Pastor Muse is leading a study based on "The Storm Inside" by Sheila Walsh. This study will focus on trading chaos for identity with God. It is not too late to join us!

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Sign up for *The Weekly Messenger* on our website [www.LivingBody.org](http://www.LivingBody.org) or text 4STPAULS to 22828.

## MID-WEEK EUCHARIST

Mid-week Eucharist. Join us every Wednesday at noon in the chapel for a time of word, prayer and Eucharist.

## INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

We continue to collect used ink cartridges and toner cartridges. This is a great way to help offset the cost of office supplies. Our box is running low so please contribute. There is a donation box in Garnes Hall.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE SUNDAY

DECEMBER 8.

There will be a Community Service activity on Sunday, December 8 beginning at 1:00 pm.

We will decorate cookies to be given out to those in need.

## ATTENTION ST. PAUL'S MEN

We are hosting Breakfast with Santa on December 7th from 9 am until 11 am. If interested in helping, please contact Josh Falconer or Bob Williams. Help is needed with set up, cooking, serving and cleanup.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST is Saturday December 21.

We gather at 8:30 AM, Christmas Brunch and Fellowship all men are welcome to join us.

## REMINDER OF HOSPITAL ADMITTANCE

Due to the change in confidentiality regulations the hospital is no longer allowed to contact churches when a member is admitted. If you are admitted to the hospital please make sure you indicate you are a member of St. Paul's and contact the church office so we know of your time in the hospital.

## BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will continue in December with the group studying the Gospel of Matthew. We gather every Wednesday at 10:30 am and 7:00 pm in the Welcome Center. Everyone is invited to join.

## FIRST SATURDAY MEAL AT "CROSS"ING

Join us at the "Cross"ing on Saturday, **December 7 at 5:00 pm** for our casual worship service in the pavilion.

Following the service, we will have our first Saturday meal and fellowship time. This month we are planning baked potato bar and dessert. Tableware and drinks will be provided.

## DEBORAH'S

The Deborah's will meet on December 13 at 12:00 pm at Chives for our Christmas Luncheon. We invite all women of all ages to join us for Christian fellowship! There will be no meetings in January and February

## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United will gather at the First Baptist Church, 1659 East State on December 6 at 1 pm. The program will be presented by the Marlinton School Choir. CWU members are asked to take bars of soap for the Alliance Food Pantry. The Board will meet at 11:30 am.



Lectors	8:30	11:00	Acolytes	8:30	11:00
December 1	Kevin H	Gayle F	December 1	Bergen R Logan W	Jake M Owen M
December 8	Pat N	Pat L	December 8	Mark G	Ben C
December 15	Sue G	Deb G	December 15	Owen S	Brianna W
December 22	Logan W	Jen M	December 22	Abigail G	Katie T
December 24 Christmas Eve	Cindy M (12:00) Art G (6:00)	Gayle F (9:30)	December 24 Christmas Eve	Brianna & Katie W (6:00)	Kyle & Owen H (9:30)
December 29 9:30 AM	Karen W		December 29 9:30 AM	Karen G	
Greeters	8:30	11:00	Ushers	8:30	11:00
December 1	Craig H Sue H	Tim & Debbie O	December 1	Mark H Michael K	Josh F John W
December 8	Bonnie H John & Diane L	Greg & Cathy B	December 8	Joe C Barb C	Jack & Barb E
December 15	Pat N Dorothy A	Josh & Dominic F	December 15	Brian & Janice M	Dave & Donna M
December 22	Emily & Aaron O	Debbie R Susie D	December 22	Bob K John L	Kevin & Adee P
December 24 Christmas Eve	Joyce & Josh F (6:00)	Debbie R (9:30)	December 24 Christmas Eve	Michele & Kevin H (6:00)	Josh F Bob W (9:30)
December 29 9:30 AM	Keith B Celeste L		December 29 9:30 AM	Josh & Gina F	

Coffee Hour Hosts	
December 1	Greg and Cathy B
December 8	Sue G, Bob and Mary Lou W
December 15	Joan B, Diana C
December 22	Karen W, Dick and Cindy M
December 29	Lorraine F, Sara D



**YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES**

- \* The youth will help to decorate the church for Christmas on **Wednesday, December 4**. We will have our meal and then begin the decoration process.
- \* The youth will have the opportunity to decorate the Christmas Tree in the sanctuary beginning at **5:00 pm on Wednesday, December 11**. This will be followed by a meal and then another activity.
- \* The youth will go **Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 15**. We will meet at the church at 1:00 pm and then travel to nursing homes in the area to bring the songs of Christmas to the residents. We will conclude our time about 3:00 pm.

**WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP  
5:30 PM—7:00 PM**

All youth 5th—12th grade and their friends are invited to our weekly Youth Group. Dinner served at 5:30 pm and we conclude at 7:00 pm.

Weekly Youth group topics

December 4: Decorate the church

December 11: Decorate the Christmas Tree

December 18: The importance of giving/Spirit of Christmas

December 25: Merry Christmas, No meeting

**ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Alliance, OH 44601

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The Reverend Timothy H. Muse - Lead Pastor  
The Reverend Diana Thompson - Administrative Pastor  
Rhonda Ferrall - Secretary  
Kathy Sloan - Organist  
Gina M. Falconer - Director of Music  
Brianna L. Black - Director of Christian Education  
Gayle B. Fiegenschuh - Communion Minister and Visitation

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Stay informed and sign up for *The Weekly Messenger* email on our website, Facebook page, or text 4STPAULS to 22828.

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**  
December 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 11AM.  
All are welcome. Bring a nonperishable food item or free will donation. Kids will get a free picture with Santa. Everyone gets a breakfast of Pancakes, Sausage, Fruit, Milk, Juice or Coffee. All donations go to the local food banks.

**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**JANUARY 14, 2020**  
**7:00 PM**  
Reminder: Council meets very other month on the odd numbered months!

**Christmas Eve Worship - December 24, 2019**  
Worship in the Chapel at 12:00 pm  
Family Worship at 6:00 pm  
Candlelight Worship at 9:30 pm  
Holy Communion at all services.  
Guest Harpist and Candlelighting at 6 and 9:30 pm.



*Around the Table Carol Sing*  
1 Joy the Lord our God will bring  
2 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns in  
3 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the  
4  
*Sunday, December 1, 2019*  
*5 pm Gather, 5:30 pm Meal, followed by Singing*  
Potluck dinner, please bring your tableware and a dish or dessert to share.  
let while fields and  
d; he comes to make his bless-ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

