



Christmas Eve Worship

7:00 pm Family Candlelight Service

10:00 pm Special Music Begins "Camarada Brass Quintet"

10:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Dear Friends in Christ.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2 (NIV) "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

As we enter the season of Advent, we embark on a journey of anticipation and preparation. Advent, derived from the Latin word "adventus," meaning "coming," is a time of expectant waiting and reflection on the significance of the birth of Jesus Christ.

In the midst of our busy lives, Advent invites us to pause and turn our hearts toward the true source of light, the Christ child. Isaiah's prophetic words remind us that in a world often overshadowed by darkness, a great light is coming—a light that will dispel the gloom and bring hope to the hearts of those in need.

Week 1: Hope During this first week of Advent, we focus on hope. The candle we light symbolizes the hope that the promised Messiah brings. Just as the people of Israel clung to the hope of a Savior, we too anchor our hope in the birth of Jesus—the fulfillment of God's plan to redeem and restore.

Prayer: Lord, in this season of anticipation, help us anchor our hope in You. May the light of your promises illuminate our hearts, dispelling any darkness we may face.

Week 2: Peace In the second week, we turn our attention to peace. The Prince of Peace is coming to bring reconciliation and harmony. As we light the second candle, let it be a reminder that in the chaos of life, Jesus offers a peace that surpasses understanding.

Prayer: Prince of Peace, in a world filled with turmoil, grant us your peace. May our hearts find rest in the assurance that you are in control, bringing calm to the storms around us.

Week 3: Joy Joy permeates the third week of Advent. The shepherds experienced great joy as they heard the news of the Savior's birth. Let the lighting of the third candle be a proclamation of the joy that Christ's coming brings to our lives.

Prayer: Gracious God, fill our hearts with the joy that comes from knowing You. In the midst of challenges, may the joy of the Lord be our strength, lifting our spirits and drawing us closer to You.

Week 4: Love The fourth week centers on love. God's love is revealed in the gift of His Son. As we light the final candle, may it remind us of the overwhelming love that led God to send Jesus into the world.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, your love knows no bounds. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of your Son, help us to love others as you have loved us.

As we journey through Advent, let us open our hearts to the transformative power of Christ's coming. May the light of hope, peace, joy, and love shine brightly in our lives, preparing us to welcome the Christ child with awe and gratitude.

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

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330.481.9888 or langfordeddie.47@gmail.com

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Kathryn Myers, Chair Amy Burkett, Sue Ambrosic Gayle Jackson

Becky Johnson Cindy Lash Deidra Monastra

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dan Farrar, Chair Greg Klein John Liebermann Patty Long Tracie Schmolt John Stanko

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Lea Lang, Chair Amy Burkett John Liebermann Lisa Skelly

STAFF SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Greg Klein, Chair Jennifer Nelson Maurer Jackie Pritchett Elizabeth Schehl

Paul Mutchler

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

Craig Maurer, Chair Sue Ambrosic Karl Kalk Lynda Klein Phyllis Staver

PARISH FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Carol Stoner, Chair Gary Collard Sue Reid

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Jim Johnson, Chair Dave Allman

Joe Hepler

John Liebermann

Dennis Morgan

John Stanko, Liaison for Chair

WELFARE & SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Cindy Lash, Chair **Christine Bates** Lvnda Klein Deidra Monastra Becky Myers Kim Oberlin JuDee Reed

Cheryl Shaw David Stoner

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

Greg Klein, Chair Abigail Haake

Karl Kalk Phyllis Staver Rev. Kreemer Carol Butler Patty Long **Dwight Butler**

Kathryn Myers Kim Oberlin

YOUTH & PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Scott Larson, Chair Tracie Brumfield Rachel Deerwester Adam Johnson Jennifer Johnson Amy White

Church Council Highlights

Your Church Council met on Tuesday, November 14. Pastor Mark gave his report which included letting Council know he will take vacation time in January which will include Sunday, January 7th. Kathryn Myers has agreed to preach on that Sunday. Pastor Mark's latest surgery on his foot was successful and he is hoping to be free of the boot sometime in January. We rejoice with him that this challenging time with restricted mobility is nearly over! Pastor also reported that the Northeastern Ohio Synod is moving from a two-day to a one-day Annual Synod Assembly Meeting in May.

Our treasurer, Dan Farrar, reported that we have a total of \$127,950 in the Capital Campaign account as of the end of October, with all expenses related to the new concrete stairway coming up from the Harvard Ave. parking lot paid in full. The capital improvement project now being undertaken is the renovation of the Gleitsman Lounge. We received several bids for the new flooring and the low bid was submitted by Hosner Carpet One in Canton. New flooring could be installed as early as the middle of December. Thank you in advance for your patience as the remodeling takes place in this cherished gathering area. It was also reported by John Stanko from our Property Management Committee that St. Mary's Catholic Church has offered to handle the snow removal of our parking lots and the exterior walkways, on both Sundays and Wednesdays, with thanks for our allowing them to use those lots by parishioners for their early Sunday morning service. The interior snow removal including the walkways and the backstairs at St. Paul's will be completed by Moyer Property Service.

Regarding the Christmas gift and food giving project, the Salvation Army has modified their process. As a result, Cindy Lash shared with Council the changes in our process as well, including that the gifts for the children are not to be wrapped, and also that our collected food items will be placed in bags to be given out to families on December 8th who attend our own community meal and clothes closet. Cindy will communicate the changes to the congregation, and children and families will be gladly served as always. We continue to be so grateful for the generosity of our congregation, especially at Christmas.

Under new business, it has been made clear that it is the responsibility of Church Council, according to our Church Constitution, to grant official approval for those seeking confirmed membership to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Working somewhat backwards, Council has approved the following for confirmed membership: Carol and Dwight Butler, Jan and Monte Geuy, Phyllis Staver, and LaShell and Lynn Williamson. These individuals are already very involved in the life of our congregation and we give thanks to God for them and their desire to join St. Paul's! We will be "catching up" with the approval of other member applications and we thank you for your kind understanding as we get all of these processes in good order.

With the death of Don Gray, Council has a seat which needs to be filled. The Church Constitution permits Church Council to "elect by majority vote a successor until the next annual meeting." If you would like to be considered for this vacancy, please let me or anyone on Council know of your interest. Council voted to have Phyllis Staver fill the seat on the Mission Endowment Committee vacated due to Don's passing. Her willingness is greatly appreciated. Respectfully shared,

Patty Long
President, Church Council



Adult Sunday School

We will continue our focus on prayer as we move into the Season of Advent. We'll be drawn into the expectations and promises of Christ's coming as we study the prayers of those who remained faithful even in the midst of much uncertainty. We will celebrate our belief in the One who was and is and is yet to come! Join us as we gather following the Sunday worship service on the top floor of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for easy access.

-The Adult Sunday School class will NOT meet on December 24 or 31.



Prayer List Changes

In order to communicate the names of those who are in need of our more immediate attention and prayers, the names of individuals will be kept on the prayer list found in the church bulletin for one month and then removed. If there is an individual who needs to remain on the list, a call should be made to the church office requesting the name be placed on the list. Please know these changes are being made so we might give particular prayerful attention to those more recently added to the list. Thank you for your kind understanding. - (Worship and Church Music Committee)

In our prayers today we will remember

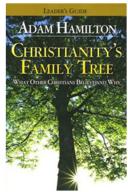
Pat Adams, Brenda Brown, Roxie Bader, Chris Collard, Vickie Groenke, Mary Hardesty, Dick Longworth, Martha Scott, Linda Shaffer, Rick Sofir, Chrissy Sturtz



Our Sympathies

Please keep the family of Shirley Widing who passed away on November 13th in your prayers. The funeral was at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Massillon, on November 21st. May God Bless and keep them in their time of mourning.

Thursday Morning Bible Study Starting October 26th, 10 am Christianity's Family Tree by Adam Hamilton



Adam Hamilton presents eight Christian denominations and faith traditions pointing out that each has a unique, valuable perspective to offer on the Christian faith. Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism, and Methodism. Step-by-step session plans for each week, including goals, prayers, Scripture, discussion questions, activities, key insights, notable quotes, and leader "extras" are included, along with reproducible handouts for participants to use during the week, helpful hints, and flexible session formats.

Remembering our Shut-ins: Eleanor Grunden

When is your birthday? June, 20, 1926 (97 years old)

How many brothers and sisters do you have? 4 brothers & sisters

How long have you attended St Paul's? all her life

Where did you graduate from? Washington High School in 1944.

Where did you work? MCA in Massillon

What was your husband's name and where did he work? Frankie was a fireman

What is your favorite food? I love all foods.

What is your favorite color? Blue

Who is your favorite singer? Bing Crosby

What is your favorite movie? White Christmas





Community Meal

It was our annual Thanksgiving meal when St. Paul's served 93 dinners at our monthly Community Meal and Community Closet on Friday, November 10.

Our traditional menu consisted of roast turkey, mashed potatoes, and gravy, tossed salad, cranberry-jello salad, dinner roll, beverage, and either a piece of pumpkin or apple pie for dessert.

All of the pies were donated by our very talented and dedicated kitchen ladies! A special "thank you" to all who give so willingly to our ministry. We also wish to express our sincere thanks for the significant private donation we received this month. Our holiday meals are typically a bit more expensive, so thanks for thinking of us. There are many needy people who come to our community meal and we try very hard to make them feel welcome. Among the attendees were 2 young girls. Each was given a small toy as a gift from the congregation.

Both the Community Closet and our care bag tables were very busy on this night. We are so blessed to have the resources, the time, and the willingness to make this offering to our community. All honor and glory to the God who loves us all, and expects us to help those in need. You too can help! Please contact either Jack Fortune at 330-874-3525 or Lea Lang at 330-224-2263 to discuss.

St. Paul's Community Meal and Community Closet provide a free meal and clothing for all on the 2nd Friday of each month. Our next opening is Friday, December 8, from 4:30 to 6:00. We are looking forward to a festive Christmas gathering. Thank you for your prayers and continued support.

Jack and Marsha Fortune







Clothing Closet

Please help our organization and storage efforts and be mindful of the season when donating items

Spring/ Summer donations requested 2nd week of April - September 1st

Fall/ Winter donations requested 2nd week of September - April 1st

ITEMS ALWAYS NEEDED - Personal care items, purses, undergarments (mens underwear and undershirts, womens underwear, bras, pajamas), Seasonally appropriate outerwear like jackets and shoes

HELP SORT CLOTHES-The 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month (December 6th & 20th)

HELP DURING SHOPPING - Every 2nd Friday of the Month 4:15 - 6:00pm

Many hands make light work and we appreciate all of your support with one of our most popular ministries!

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped sort clothing the past couple months. We appreciate the extra help! There is still a lot to organize, but we appreciate the help!

Please contact Sue Ambrosic at 330-832-5798 if you would like to have the Altar or

Throne Flowers for 2024. Thank you!

Mission Endowment Fund

Mission Endowment Fund committee members have adopted a new form for making nominations. This form is available by request from a committee member (listed on page 3). If you have an organization or cause for consideration please request the form and submit the details to the committee.

Download the St. Paul's Phone APP

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the "My Church" by Pushpay. It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing STPLC APP.

Then click on the St Paul's logo, that's it.



To take advantage of all the app's features you must create an account. Get notifications and reminders of upcoming events, access our live stream worship and worship bulletins, send prayer requests, see the church calendar, and you can even give electronically.

Download Today!

St. Jacob Euchre Night: December 9, 2023

Where: St. Jacob Social Hall
Arrival Time: 5:30 pm
Tournament: 5:50 to 9:00 P.M.
What to bring: A snack to share
Pop and Coffee provided
There is a \$5.00 donation



We hope some of your congregation at St. Paul's in Massillon will come to enjoy the fun, fellowship, and food. You will note there is a \$5.00 donation. This goes toward prizes and a contribution to a need identified by the group.

RSVP by Friday, December 8, 2023, to Sue Phillabaum at smphillabaum@hotmail.com or Carolyn Carasea at c.carasea@gmail.com

God's Kitchen Angels

Making cut out cookies

This was one of the last days we baked. Yes we have fun. As you can see if we happen to have any broken cookies, we must make sure they taste ok. We had

orders for 276 dozen that means we made 3,312 cookies. Wow that is a lot of cookies but such fun with a wonderful group of ladies. We want to thank all of you who have supported God's Kitchen Angels by buying our pumpkin rolls and cookies. We truly are blessed with a wonderful church family.































St. Paul's Seeking an Administrative Assistant

The primary purpose of this position is to initiate, coordinate, and manage the multiple modes of communication at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, working in collaboration with church staff, leadership and other members of the congregation. It is a part time salaried position – 20 hours per week which includes in-office hours 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mon. - Fri. The full job description is available on the church website. We encourage anyone who is interested in the position or who may know someone who would be interested to check out the full description and submit a cover letter and a resume to the church office to the attention of the Staff Support Committee.



Attention Scholarship Applicants!

It's time to apply for the Spring Semester Scholarships.

If you have received the scholarship in the past and would like to simply renew please submit the following form:

https://forms.gle/hwcRCJuiSraMqha49

If this will be your first time applying for a scholarship please fill out the complete application in the following form:

https://forms.gle/yNuELqbP8MDodvBr8

If you have any questions regarding the renewal or application process please feel free to text Lea Lang at 330-224-2263.

Blessings as you continue your studies!

Confirmation:











Serving During the Month of December 2023



Assisting Minister

If you are interested in becoming an Assistant Minister. Please contact Karl Kalk at (330)904-9797 or email at karlkal@msn.com



12/3 - Carol Stoner

12/10 - Andrew Lang

12/17 - Veronica Kreemer

12/24 10:00AM - Kathryn Myers

12/24 7:00PM - Karl Kalk

12/24 10:30 PM - Scott Larson

12/31 - Sue Reid

Communion Assistants

12/3 - Cindy Lash & Scott Larson

12/10 - Lea Lang & Greg Klein

12/17 - Carol Stoner & David Stoner

12/24 10:00AM - Kathryn Myers & Gary Collard

12/24 7:00PM - Cindy Lash & Scott Larson

12/24 10:30 PM - Patty Long & John Stanko

12/31 - Cindy Lash & Scott Larson

Greeters

If you are interested in becoming a Greeter. Please Contact Karl Kalk at (330)904-9797 or email at karlkal@msn.com

12/3 - Greg & Lynda Klein

12/10 - Gary Collard

12/17 - Craig Maurer

12/24 - Marilyn Norton

12/31 - Rob Pritchett

Lay Lector

If you are interested in becoming a Lay Lector. Please contact Karl Kalk at (330) 904-9797 or email at KarlKal@msn.com

December

Sydney Johnson

Ushers

If you are interested in becoming an Usher. Please contact Dick Longworth at (330)756-2943 or email at richardlongworth7569@gmail.com

December

Jeff Akey Gary Collard Dave Dourm Dan Farrar

Sacristan

Kathryn Myers

If you are interested in helping with Sacristy please call Kathryn Myers at (330)327-2590.



Income and Expense Summary

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Month Ending October 2023

	October	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$22,483	\$97,669
Endowment Withdrawal	\$6,399	\$12,649
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$25,833</u>	\$95,029
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$3,048	\$15,288









- 2. Holly Herron
- 3. Thomas Wright
- 5. Vera Keefer, Karen Lunkwitz, Charles Stuck
- 6. Amy Burkett, Ralph Burns
- 9. Judy Lemasters
- 10. Carol Marlow
- 11. Jason Deuble
- 15. Carter Moden
- 18. Gary Diuk

- 20. Debra Hannum, Carl Sekulich
- 21. Christine Bates, Sharon Johns, Jennifer Maurer
- 22. Virginia Lang
- 23. Evelyn Eclem
- 25. Patricia Myers
- 27. Lisa Skelly
- 28. Karen Kiefer
- 30. Steven Crofut, Judy Hall
- 31. Kayla Hepler



Dec. 7th - Jim & Becky Johnson

Dec. 28th - Robert & Julia Englehart

Dec. 28th - Tom & Deb Schmolt

Please email newsletter articles to Tracie Schmolt at financeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org by the 15th of the month. Thank you!!





12/3 - Worship Service 10:00am

12/3 - Candlelight Walk

12/5 - Worship & Music Committee 6:30pm

12/6 - Snip N Stich 8:30am

12/6 - Help sort clothes - Clothes Closet

5:30pm

12/7 - Friendship Circle 6pm

12/7 - RSVP for Euchre @ St. Jacob's

12/8 - Community Meal & Clothes Closet 4:30 -

6:00pm

12/8 - Euchre @ St. Jacob's 5:30 - 9pm

12/10- Worship Service 10:00am

12/12 - Church Council 7:00pm

12/13 - Snip N Stich 8:30am

12/14 Bible Study 10:00am

12/15 - Bridge Deadline

12/17 - Worship Service 10:00am

12/19 - Finance Committee 6:00pm

12/20 - Snip N Stich 8:30am

12/20 - Help sort clothes—Clothes Closet 5:30pm

12/21- Bible Study 10am

12/24 - Worship Service 10:00am

12/24 - Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm

12/24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10:30pm

12/25 - Christmas Day

12/27 - Snip N Stich 8:30am

12/28- Bible Study 10am

12/31 - Worship Service 10:00am

Friendship Circle



Friendship Circle will be meeting a Becky Johnson's house on December 5 at 6:00 pm at 2357 Amberwood Cir NE, Massillon for their Christmas party. Please bring a \$10.00 gift if you'd like to be included in the Christmas gift exchange. Please let Becky know if you will be attending.





Poinsettia PROGRAM

December 24th, 2023



Given by:

Brooke Duplain Liz Duplain Chris & Judy Hall Judy & Chris Hall Deb Hannum

Joe & M.E. Hepler Gayle Jackson

Shane Jackson & Patricia Kandel

Greg & Lynda Klein Lynda & Greg Klein Patty & Bob Long Dennis Morgan Kathryn Myers Rick Richards

The Sabina-Campbell Family

Niall Slater

Starretts, Deubles, and Hirschman families

John Tasseff

Paul & Susan White

Rev. Lynn & LaShell Williamson

Gladys Zepp

Given by:

Rick Richards

Jennifer & John Stanko
Paul & Susan White

In Memory of:

Matt Duplain & Robert Haas Matt Duplain & Robert Haas

Robert & Helen Hall, Robert & Jeanne Brocke

Kristy Gaynor

George & Mary Lou Mitchael

Walt & Barb Kress, Jim & Shirley Hepler

Craig Jackson Craig Jackson

Bob & Louise Klein

Lee & Jim Annen, Michael Whelan

Jean & Howard Murphy, Wahnita & John Long

Paula J. Morgan

My husband, James Myers & my parents, Mervin & Lois Lutz

Robert L. & Donna Richards, Howard & Helen Richards, Cal & Irene Roan,

Jack & Marge Richards, Ken & Dorothy Hodgson, Ruthie Richards,

Eliza Boeing, Rose Boeing, Pamela Richards, Shirley Widing

Craig Jackson

my parents, Thelma & John Slater

Augie & Bette Morningstar, Jim & Jan Starrett

Shirley Tasseff

Parents

Judy Clarkson & to the Glory of God

Mr. & Mrs. P.L. Mitchell, brothers & sisters

In Honor of:

Vivianne Richards Greene

Mr. & Mrs. Francis Stanko, Brian Lash, Frank James Stanko

Grandchildren



Welfare & Social Action Committee

Collection of Nonperishable food and misc items for

the Salvation Army Christmas families

Christmas Gifts - The tags are on the tree in the Gleitsman Lounge. Please buy 3 gifts for each child and return them with the tag to the Salvation Army or put them under the tree in the lounge by December 11th. All gifts are to be **unwrapped!** The parents will be able to pick from the selection for their kids.

Volunteers are needed to help with the gifts at the Salvation Army.

Monday, December 18th from 9-12 and 1-6

Tuesday, December 19th from 12-5

The Salvation Army's phone number is: 330-833-6473

The nonperishable food will be distributed to the families who join us for our community meal on Friday, December 8th.

Thank you for your generosity.

Blessings and peace, Cindy Lash Welfare & Social Action Committee



God's Kitchen Angels

God's Kitchen Angels will meet December 12th at noon.

We would LOVE for you to join us!!!

Please contact Sue Ambrosic for more information.



VISIT US AT: WWW.STPAULSMASSILLON.ORG

THE BRIDGE—CONNECTING CHURCH AND HOME

WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00 A.M. SERVICE

