

# The Masthead

*St. Paul Monthly Newsletter Edition*



Church Office: 248-541-0613 & School Office: 248-546-6555

**DECEMBER 2019**



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## DECEMBER SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Advent & Christmas Schedule  
Advent by Candlelight Program  
Servant Spotlight  
School Santa Shoppe  
Music Ministry for the Holidays



## IF I COULD ONLY BECOME A BIRD

Paul Harvey, was an American radio broadcaster, who once told a story about a family on Christmas Eve. This family had a tradition where the Mother and children would go to the Christmas Eve service, and the Father would stay home and read the paper. When the family returns home from church, they would all gather to open up their presents.

The Father was not an evil man, but he just couldn't believe in the childhood stories anymore of God coming as a baby in a manger. As the family left for church, he opened up the evening paper and began to read by the fireplace.

Suddenly, he heard tapping on the window. It was a bird flying against the glass of his window trying to get out of the snow into the warmth of his home. The man had compassion on the bird, and he went outside, hoping to bring it in.

As he approached the bird, the bird just flew against the window even harder. Pretty soon, the bird flew into the bushes below the window, half frozen, yet too afraid to be caught by this huge man. The more the man tried to reach for the bird, the more the bird flew frantically into the snow and thorns of the bushes.

After a few minutes in the cold and seeing the bird continue to injure itself, the man yelled out in frustration, "Stupid bird, can't you understand that I'm trying to help?" The man paused and thought, "If only you understood you wouldn't fly away ... if only ... if only I could become a bird, and get you to understand."

Just then, the church bells rang, as they always have on the hour. But when the man heard the bells this time, he fell to his knees and began to cry, saying, "Oh, God, I didn't understand. Oh, God, I didn't understand."

God's Son came in human form so that we might understand from where we have come, for what reason we were separated and how we could be restored to God.

*"For unto you is born this day... Luke 2:11*



## *CHRISTMAS at ST. PAUL Special Worship and Events*

*December 4 Potluck Dinner by Women's Guild 6:00 p.m.  
Midweek Advent 1 Worship (Lessons & Carols) 7:00 p.m.*

*December 6 Advent By Candlelight Program 7:00 p.m.*

*December 11 Midweek Advent 2 Worship (Great O Antiphon) 7:00 p.m.*

*December 18 Midweek Advent 3 Worship (Children's Program) 7:00 p.m.*

*December 24 Christmas Eve Worship (Family) 5:00 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Worship (Candlelight) 11:00 p.m.*

*December 25 Christmas Day Worship 10:00 a.m.*

*Church office will be closed December 24—January 1  
and will close at 1:00 p.m., January 2-3*

*God's Blessings to You & Your Family  
this Christmas Season!*



# MINISTRY



## BIBLE VERSE OF THE MONTH

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the  
Lord himself  
will give you  
a sign.  
Behold, the  
virgin shall  
conceive and  
bear a son,  
and shall call  
his name  
Immanuel.



## ADVENT POTLUCK DINNER

Everyone is welcome to come to the Wednesday Advent potluck dinner on December 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the lounge. This is sponsored by the Women's Guild. Please sign up in the lobby as to what dish you will provide and how many are coming. Thank you.

## GIVING TREE

The St. Paul Giving Tree will be planted in the narthex this Christmas season. Help a child that is less fortunate. All donations listed below welcome.

*Hats, gloves, mittens, and a scarf;  
help to shape the GIVING TREE bark,  
A tree that may in winter wear;  
clothing so the skin not bare.  
Donate to WLCFS,  
A child you will truly bless!*



## Advent Devotion Books—Call His Name Jesus

In *Call His Name Jesus*, Lutheran Hour Ministries' Advent devotions for 2019, we encounter an oft-told story in fresh, new ways. During the Christmas season, we focus our thoughts on that moment in time when God became one of us. This miracle of miracles—this most unlikely story—begins with the Christ Child—God in the flesh—who was born poorly, humbly, vulnerably into this world of sin and darkness. Lutheran Hour Ministries seasonal devotions for Advent (beginning December 1) is available for you and your family to use during the Advent season or give one to a neighbor or friend. Invite them to worship with us this holiday season. Available for pick up in the church lobby (holiday worship schedule inside cover).

**Closing For The Holidays...** A reminder the church office will be closed from December 24-January 1 and will close at 1:00 p.m., Jan 2-3. If you need assistance during this time, please contact the head Elder, Will Lichtenberg at [welichtenberg@aol.com](mailto:welichtenberg@aol.com) or 248-227-9736. If in need of a pastor, you may contact: **Pastor Ron Farah** (cell) 248-642-3137; **Pastor Jon Reusch** 248-932-5374; **Pastor Rick VanBriggle** 586-425-3260

## Celebrating Advent



**Midweek Advent 1 Worship** *Lessons and Carols* December 4 with the various music groups from St. Paul and Lutheran High Northwest Choirs. A beautiful music program you won't want to miss! Service at 7:00 pm.

**Midweek Advent 2 Worship** *"The Great 'O' Antiphons"* Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

**Midweek Advent 3 Worship** This children's program, presented by St. Paul Lutheran School children, is a beautiful telling of our Christ's birth and the reason for this season. Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.



**Christmas Family Choir** If you and your family have a desire to sing as a group this Christmas, why not join other families of St. Paul to lead in the Family Choir Service on Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm. This involves a simple 2 part and 4 part with a part for children. Rehearsals are the last two Sundays prior to Christmas Eve following the late service on December 15 & 22.

If you are interested in being a part of this fun group, please contact Greg Paul at [gpaul@stpaulroyaloak.org](mailto:gpaul@stpaulroyaloak.org) or call at 248-541-0613.

# MINISTRY



## CHRISMONS EXPLAINED

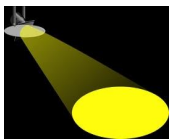
During Advent, our sanctuary is adorned in anticipation of Christ's birthday celebration during the season of Advent - that is, the four Sundays preceding Christmas and three Wednesday midweek Advents. Did you know the white & gold ornaments on our Christmas tree in the sanctuary have a special meaning?

These ornaments - called Chrismons - point to our LORD and SAVIOR by their colors, by their shapes & most importantly, by their Scripture references.

Many St. Paul members have participated in the making of these Chrismons. Gerry Breyfogle originally brought this ministry of hand-crafted sacred designs to St. Paul in the 1970s, when St. Paul began having a *Chrismon* tree.

Please take time to stop by the tree this Christmas season and check out the beautifully hand-made designs of these ornaments. If you are ever interested in learning to make a Chrismon for our tree, feel free to contact Martha Smyth, at [smythfam4@aol.com](mailto:smythfam4@aol.com)

Please find enclosed a list of some of the ornaments we have on our Chrismon trees and their meanings.



## SERVANT SPOTLIGHT

King David wrote, "I will sing of steadfast love and justice; to you, O Lord, I will make music." (Psalm 101:1) What a wonderful way to serve the Lord and St. Paul Church!

Our music program is led by the very talented and dedicated Greg Paul. Through his leadership our Sunday morning worship is enhanced. While it may be nice to just sit back and enjoy it, there are many ways one can take a more active role in St. Paul's music program.

Has God blessed you with a great singing voice? There are several opportunities open in which you can serve. If you prefer traditional music, the chancel choir sings at the early service on Sundays. They practice from 7:00 – 8:30pm every Thursday. If contemporary music is more your style, you could join the praise band. The praise band practices every Thursday from 6pm until 7pm. They also practice on Sunday mornings between services. They lead in the late service every Sunday. For those who have a singing family or not enough time to commit to a weekly schedule, there is the family choir that sings at the 5pm service on Christmas Eve. The family choir consists of individuals and families with children. They meet after the late service on the two Sundays before Christmas to practice.

If you can read music or understand the flow and beat, St. Paul has a bell choir. It meets on Thursdays from 8:30 – 9:30. They may play in both early and late service for special occasions and during holiday seasons.

For those who play musical instruments, St. Paul has several opportunities. The praise band utilizes drums, bass, guitar and piano. Instrumentalists (flutes, brass, etc.) are also needed for special services. Contact Mr. Paul if you would like to serve in any of these capacities.

There are even opportunities for those who aren't blessed with musical talents. Help is always welcome for running the screens on Sundays or putting the data into the computer before services. You might want to contact Mike Hammon if you are able to help in this capacity. Help with audio or sound board is also needed. Contact Tom Limbaugh or Greg Paul if you have some tech experience and would like to help in this capacity.

Serving the Lord through music brings joy to others and yourself. Even if none of the above opportunities are a fit for you, sing out on Sunday mornings, Monday evenings, and every chance you get. God hears and enjoys it also.



## CONSIDER AGAIN CHRISTMAS

When Pope Julius I authorized December 25 to be celebrated as the birthday of Jesus in A.D. 353, who would have ever

thought that it would become what it is today.

When Professor Charles Follen lit candles on the first Christmas tree in America in 1832, who would have ever thought that the decorations would become as elaborate as they are today.

It is a long time since 1832, longer still from 353, longer still

from that dark night brightened by a special star in which Jesus the king was born. Yet, as we approach December 25 again, it gives us yet another opportunity to pause, and in the midst of all the excitement and elaborate decorations and expensive commercialization which surround Christmas today, to consider again the event of Christmas and the person whose birth we celebrate.

*Brian L. Harbour, James W. Cox, The Minister's Manual: 1994*

*Merry Christmas From the Staff of St. Paul Lutheran*





## NEWS, NOTES and SUCH

**BE A CHRISTMAS CARD EVANGELIST**  
Send Christmas cards that show God's gift of salvation. Remind people of the real reason for the season.

**Men's Breakfast** All men of St. Paul, are welcome to the Men's Breakfast on December 21 for some great fellowship, food, devotions and Bible study. We meet in the church lounge at 7:30 a.m. Come Join Us!

**Address and Phone Changes** if you have had any changes in your name, address or phone number, please contact the church office or leave a note on the desk with the changes for the new and upcoming directory for the year ahead. Items needed in the office by January 31. Thank you.

### LUTHERAN WITNESS

A monthly subscription magazine which runs from March 2020 to February 2021. Each issue will include the *Michigan In Touch* supplement. This magazine provides LCMS lay-peoples stories, info on congregational life, foster personal growth in faith and help interpret the contemporary world from a Christian perspective. **Annual cost \$11.60** Deadline to order, December 4, after the 4th cost is \$13.60 and you'll have to order online at the CPH. Contact the

church office to continue or order a new subscription. Make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church and write in the memo line *Lutheran Witness* or leave in the office. Thank you.

**KROGER REWARDS:** Go online to [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) to create an account. Kroger Community Rewards makes fundraising easy...all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! A very convenient way to support St. Paul. Our organization number is **HG674**.

**Online Giving.** Click on the **Sign Up to Donate Now** button on our website, [www.stpaulroyaloak.org](http://www.stpaulroyaloak.org), then click on **Create Profile** and follow the simple steps to set up recurring donations. Second way, you can complete an Electronic Giving Authorization form (available in the lobby) and return to the church office. For questions, contact LeeAnne Millinger, 248-584-3128.

**FLOWERS** Did you know you can order flowers for the Altar on any given weekend. You may sign up in the lobby on the flower chart, located on the bulletin board. Flowers may be in honor or memory of someone, for birthdays, anniversaries or just because.

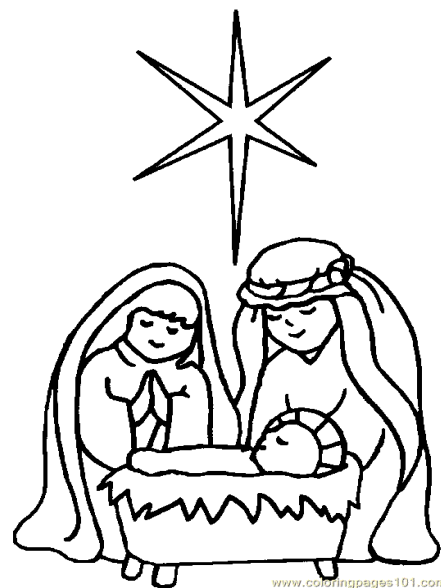
All bouquets (up to 3 per Sunday) may be ordered for \$20 each. Just fill in the line on the chart for and by whom, make a check out to St. Paul Lutheran and on the memo line put for *Flowers*, you may use the envelope provided near the chart for your check and leave in the church office through the window. We then advertise in our weekly news and notes the flowers listed.

**RED ETERNAL LIGHT** (candle) that you see on the Altar that burns 365 days is also under the same concept as the flowers. The cost for this is \$10 and the chart is located next to the flower chart in the lobby.

**FINANCIAL GIFTS—** Donate to the church by giving a memorial or honorarium by using the card located in the lobby. This is a two part card, one to go with the gift to the church and the other to be mailed to the family.

**Christmas Child—Operation Shoebox** We thank you for all your support year after year for this great program to give these boxes of gifts to children in need. Beginning in January we will start a new monthly list for collecting items needed for these shoeboxes. Cheryl Dirkse

## KIDS KORNER



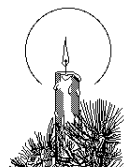
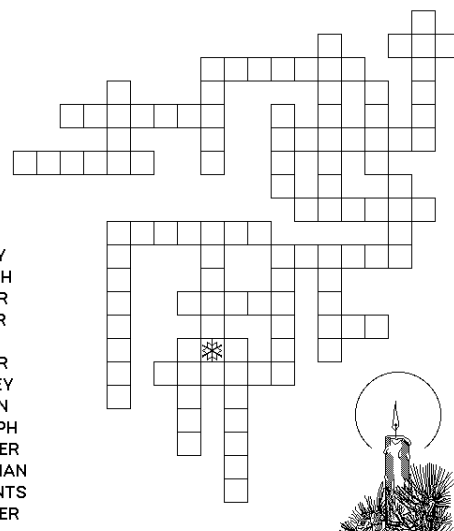
### Stocking Maze



### Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.  
Each word is only used once.

ELF  
TOY  
GIFT  
BELL  
TREE  
STAR  
SANTA  
COMET  
CUPID  
VIXEN  
CANDY  
FROSTY  
WREATH  
DASHER  
DONNER  
SLEIGH  
DANCER  
CHIMNEY  
BLITZEN  
RUDOLPH  
PRANCER  
SNOWMAN  
PRESENTS  
REINDEER



# SCHOOL MINISTRY



## St. Paul Lutheran School

100+ Years of God's Grace

### Our Mission

*"Equip, Support, Serve, Witness Where God Calls Us!"*

### Statement of Purpose

St. Paul Lutheran School equips children for a life of service with a foundation of academic, physical, spiritual, and social maturity centered around Christ Jesus.

Greetings from Principal Margie Baldwin

I have now been at St. Paul Lutheran School for several weeks, and I'm loving it! I was hired as the Principal in November and since that time I have gotten to know the school community (teachers, students, and families), and I really look forward to getting to know the church community. Everyone has been warm and welcoming. I thank the Lord for planting me at St. Paul's.

Most recently, I was the Superintendent of Macomb Christian School located in Center Line. My Doctorate is in Organizational Leadership. I earned it from Indiana Wesleyan University. My husband and I live on Harsens Island which is a unique adventure. Our son works for the Red Wings and Detroit Tigers. Our daughter is a videographer and lives in Newport Beach, CA. We have one grandson and another one on the way. I love the Lord and my passion is to share Him with others through teaching and modeling Christ.

**CHRISTMAS SHOPPE:** On December 13, the students will have an opportunity to do all their Christmas shopping and buy handmade gifts for \$1-\$5. This is an affordable and fun way for the students to get quality gifts for everyone on their list. If you are interested in making a dozen or more items to donate to our Christmas Shoppe, please contact Anne Sagan at 248.546.5228 or [annesagan@yahoo.com](mailto:annesagan@yahoo.com). We need help in the planning of this event and will need help the day of the sale with wrapping the gifts. Thank you!

**PIZZA! PIZZA!** Please save your Little Caesar's proof of purchases. If we collect 400, the entire school can have a pizza party! Please put any proof of purchases in the brown paper bag on bulletin board (lobby) or the Board of Education mailbox (coatroom).

**TEXT MESSAGING SIGN UP** We make use of a group texting program to keep parents in the loop. These messages are reminders of upcoming events, last minute changes, and other updates. PLEASE sign up and join our group. Text @stpaulro to 81010 to join. If you have any questions, please talk to your child's teacher, or the school office. You could miss important information if you do not sign up.

### BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Two easy ways to support St. Paul Lutheran School! Find and clip Box Tops from food packages for St. Paul!! They

are each worth 10 cents. Our coordinator, will send them in and our school gets a check! Your kitchen is full of eligible Box Tops for Education items. Please bring Box Tops for Education to the church or school. Thank you so much for all of your support!



*The Faculty and Staff at St. Paul Lutheran School would like to wish you and yours a Very Merry Christmas!*

### December Calendar:

13	Santa Shoppe
18	Children's Christmas Service
20	1/2 Day School dismissed 12pm
24 - Jan. 3	No School – Christmas Break
Jan. 6	School Resumes

## Church NOTES

### Directory

#### For Pastoral Services

**Pastor Ron Farah**  
(cell) 248-642-3137

**Pastor Jon Reusch**  
248-932-5374

**Pastor Rick VanBriggle**  
586-425-3260

**Church Office**  
248-541-0613

**School Office**  
248-546-6555

**Church Fax**  
248-541-6965

**School Fax**  
248-546-8096

**Church E-Mail:**  
prodway@  
stpaulroyaloak.org

**School E-Mail:**  
slutheranscho113880@  
comcast.net

**Facebook:**  
www.facebook.com/  
stpaulroyaloak

**Web:**  
www.stpaulroyaloak.org

### PRAYERS

#### **Church Boards**

Board of Education  
Board of Elders  
Board of Evangelism  
Parish Fellowship  
Fund Operating  
Music Ministry  
Board of Stewardship

Board of Trustees  
Women's Guild  
Board of Youth

#### **Prayers for our Homebound**

Walter Cole  
Jean Frincke  
Marion Havrilla  
Leona Jackson  
Alan Lacey  
Shirley Lenz  
Donna McMinn  
Laverne Nancarrow  
Betty Saunders  
Jean Schneider  
Charlette Schroeder  
Ralph Schroeder  
Kathleen Ulrich  
Don Whitbeck  
Teri Whitbeck

**Prayer for our Missionary**  
Rachel Meyer in Uganda

#### **Prayers for Military**

Eric Banker  
Mark Bowdich  
Paul Bowdich  
Matthew Canfield  
Sam Eskew  
Brandon Newton  
Brendan Sharp  
Joe VanDamme  
Tirzah VanDamme  
Jason Zuniga  
Gabrielle Zuniga

To Add/Remove a prayer,  
please email the office at prod-  
way@stpaulroyaloak.org.



## MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

### **St. Paul Church**

In memory of *Dolores Gralinski* by Caroline  
Medcoff, M/M Art Peludat

A gift given in memory of *Doris White*, by unknown

In memory of *Richard Brewer* by M/M Richard  
Flynn, M/M Art Peludat

In memory of *Yvonne Marone* by M/M Bob  
Rutledge, M/M Gilbert Kruper

In memory of *Laura Sias* by M/M Art Peludat

In memory of *Mary Lichtenberg* by Roderick Pope

In memory of *Virginia Manteuffel* by Roderick Pope

### **St. Paul School**

In memory of *Yvonne Marone* by Clara Lichtenberg,  
Gay Eskew, M/M Garel Rice

### **School Tuition Fund**

A honorarium given to the school by Lauren Banker



## OFFICIAL ACTS

### MEMBER CHANGES

#### **Transfers:**

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony (Kristy) Hessler, Kaley &  
Jack, Faith, Troy

Mr. & Mrs. James (Cindy) Marrow, Emma,  
Guardian, Dearborn

#### **Funerals:**

Yvonne Marone

#### **Service Date:**

11-09-2019



Follow us on  
FACEBOOK at:  
facebook.com/  
stpaulroyaloak

### **Church & School News**

**"The Masthead" &  
"The Viking"**

Visit our website  
[www.stpaulroyaloak.org](http://www.stpaulroyaloak.org)





# DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

If we've missed listing your birthday, please contact  
the church office 248-541-0613

<b>Steven Snell</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>Brynn Cunningham</b>	<b>17</b>
		<b>Lacey Lefere</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Lyra Bowdich</b>	<b>02</b>		
		<b>Kurt Ulrich</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Tiffany Jackson</b>	<b>04</b>		
<b>Sally Wright</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>Nannette Edgil</b>	<b>21</b>
		<b>Patrick Petersen</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Lukas Snell</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>Marcus Schroeder</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Bryan Harris</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>Daniel Pyykkonen</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Stanley, II Harris</b>	<b>06</b>		
<b>Anya McNeal</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>Ross Pierce</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Pamela Rodway</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>Jack Wendland</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Megan Schultz</b>	<b>06</b>		
<b>Nigel Smith</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>Taylor Fixler</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Mariah Olsen</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>Ronald Thies</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Belle Sawyers</b>	<b>07</b>		
		<b>Kyle Lefere</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Tony Valdes</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Maureen Walsh</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Scott Manteuffel</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Ella Guilmette</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Brittany Patterson</b>	<b>15</b>		
		<b>Rose Pomroy</b>	<b>31</b>