



**The Third Sunday/Monday in Advent  
December 15<sup>th</sup> & December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
*Our Mission: God's Love Shining through Us..  
...Opening doors and changing lives!*

**+ ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK AT St. Paul Lutheran +**

(leb=lower education bldg., ueb=upper education bldg., ufh=upper fellowship hall, lfh=lower fellowship hall, cr=conference room, tgp=the gathering place klgr = KREW large group room next to library in leb, dchr=downstairs choir room, ofa=Office Annex)

<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:30 AM	Bible Study - The Chosen (ueb)
	9:30 AM	Krew and HSBC (leb/lfh)
	10:45 AM	KREW Christmas program (ufh)
	6:00 PM	Youth Night
<b>Monday</b>	7:00 PM	Worship
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 AM	Women's Bible class (cr)
	3:00 PM	Bell Choir rehearsal
<b>Wednesday</b>	11:00 AM	Bible Study – The Chosen (ueb)
	5:30 PM	Advent BBQ sausage sandwiches and Greek pasta salad dinner hosted by Youth
	7:00 PM	Advent Worship Service
<b>Thursday</b>	6:00 PM	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Confirmation class (leb)
	7:00 PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Confirmation class (leb)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Boy Scouts
<b>Friday</b>	8:45 AM	Bible Class studying Matthew (ueb)
<b>Saturday</b>	9:00 AM	Cookie Walk

**ATTENTION ALL GROUPS/MINISTRIES:** If you have an event, meeting, function, etc., please send that information to Carolyn at [stpaulnt@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulnt@gmail.com), so she can list it in the above "ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK" calendar. Thank you!

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Website: [www.stpaulnt.com](http://www.stpaulnt.com) E-mail: [stpaulnt@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulnt@gmail.com)

Phone number: 716-692-3255 Fax number: 716-692-3643

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday – Wednesday, 8:00am to 4:00pm, Thursday & Friday, 8am - Noon, Noon - 4:00pm Carolyn remote.

**BULLETIN ARTICLES** must be in no later than **TUESDAY at noon** to be include in the following Sunday. Please email them to [stpaulnt@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulnt@gmail.com)

**GREETINGS from St. Paul:** All first-time visitors should stop at The Information Center in The Gathering Place (TGP) for a special gift.

**+ ASSISTANCE DURING our Worship Services +**

**FAMILIES:** - **Nursery Care** is available upon request. Please speak with an usher if you would like to use the nursery. We also have a **Cry Room**, if you would like to sit with your restless child there. It is at the rear of the sanctuary and has a speaker, so you can listen to the worship service.

**PERSONAL ASSIST HEARING DEVICES** are available for use during the worship services. We also have **LARGE PRINT ORDER OF WORSHIP** (with copies of hymns attached). Both items are located on the windowsill, as you enter the sanctuary from The Gathering Place.

**+ PRAYER CONCERNS for our St. Paul Family +**

**The names of our St. Paul family that are in need of prayers, are now listed on the back inside cover of the Bulletin. Please keep this handy during our Worship prayer time so these people can be lifted up in prayer in our hearts during that time. Thank you.**

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** If you have a prayer request for our prayer chain, please contact Tom Dreier at [herrdreier@gmail.com](mailto:herrdreier@gmail.com) or call the church office.

**BULLETIN PRAYER LIST:** If you or a loved one are in need of prayers and would like your name or theirs to be listed in the bulletin - Prayer Concerns for our St. Paul Family – HEALING, now located on the back inside cover of the bulletin, please call the church office. We will keep your name on the list for 3 months unless we know that healing is still needed or unless you call us sooner to let us know of answered prayers.

**IF YOUR LOVED ONE IS HOSPITALIZED,** please call the church office to let us know so Pastor Green and Pastor Bill can pray for them and visit them. The hospital personnel can no longer inform us due to privacy laws.

***We pray that you find God's love for you at St. Paul!***

**CHILDRENS' MESSAGES** - if you would be interested in giving Childrens' messages, please talk with Pastor Green.

**CHURCH BULLETINS** - please remember to take your bulletin home each week to read about what is going on at St. Paul and find something which you can be involved in or to bring to a friend.

**CHRISTMAS TAKE DOWN DAY** is Sat. January 11, 2025 beginning at 9:00am. Yes, we just put up decorations on Saturday, but please sign up on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs to help take them down in January.

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS** - this week we will view the second half of episode 7 in Season 3 of THE CHOSEN, "Ears to Hear". Bible class will take a break until the week of January 12 when we will study episode 8 of Season 3. When Season 3 is completed, we will begin Season 4.

**GIFT CARDS** - if you forgot to order gift cards for your shopping or to give as gifts, please stop at the gift card table where many cards are available for immediate purchase. If you need digital gift cards or have questions please contact Sue Eckstein at 716-471-2301.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday - Wednesday, 8:00am to 4:00pm. Thursdays and Fridays: office is open 8:00am to 12:00noon and Carolyn working remotely from home noon to 4:00pm. If you need to reach Carolyn during the times she is working remotely, please leave a message on the church voicemail or send an email to [stpaulnt@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulnt@gmail.com). If there is an emergency during that time, you can reach Pastor Green at his home at 716-693-7044.

**WORSHIP ANEW** is a weekly Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) worship service that is broadcast on WNYB every Sunday at 11:30am (local channel 26, Spectrum Channel 12 or DirectTV channel 377 (TCT)). You can also view the worship service on their phone app or website [worshipanew.org](http://worshipanew.org), any time along with finding other information. Copies of their magazine "The Broadcaster" are available on the Family Ministry Table.

**BREAKFAST ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025** - between services on January 5 we will have a breakfast for everyone. Please sign up on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs and let us know what you can bring to share.

**RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS CARDS** are available at the Information Center. Please take a card or two to bless someone anonymously during this season of giving.

**DISCRETIONARY FUNDS AND DONATED GIFT CARDS** - thanks to the generosity of many, we have resources to help people in need. If you or someone you know is in need, please contact Pastor Green.

**NO MEETING FOR THE WOMEN OF ST. PAUL** on Wednesday, December 18. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 10:00 am** in the Conference Room.

**THE WOMEN OF ST. PAUL HAVE PREPARED GIFT BOXES** for our elderly or homebound members who no longer can or do attend church services on a regular basis. Please check in The Gathering Place to see if there is a gift box for that relative or friend. Also, if anyone could volunteer to deliver a gift box it would be greatly appreciated.

**2025 MAGNETIC CALENDARS** - we have 2025 magnetic calendars with St. Paul's contact information on them, available at the Family Ministry table. Please take one for you and one to give to a friend!

**HOMEBOUND MEMBERS' BIRTHDAY LIST** - A list has been compiled with all of the names, addresses and birthdates of our shut-in, homebound and nursing home members. If you would like a copy, please call the church office. Prayers, notes of encouragement and phone calls are greatly appreciated.

**THE BOOK CLUB:** Maybe you would like to know some facts about the Great Depression of the early 1930's. Join us on Thursday, Dec.12, at 11:00am in the Conference Room off The Gathering Place when we we'll review THE SECRET GIFT by Ted Gup. How one man's kindness and collection of letters revealed the hidden history of the Great Depression. We meet the second Thursday of each month. Come and enjoy a light snack while we discuss the book. Call Jackie Brodfuehrer at 716-692-0826 if you have any questions. We'd love to have you join us! All are welcome!

**YOUTH FUNDRAISER: Meat Sticks** are still available and will be sold on the honor system for \$2.00 each. They are located on the Information Desk. Please place your money in the wooden For Office Box. Thank you for your support for our youth to attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2025.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS & WREATHS:** If you would like to donate a Poinsettia in memory of a loved one or in celebration of Christ's birth, order forms are in the Gathering Place on the credenza. The price is \$8.00 each. If you would like to donate a 12" Door Wreath, the price is \$18.00 each, please contact Ruth (694-4958) or Bonnie (622-9040). **ALL ORDERS NEED TO BE IN BY DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.** Please make checks out to St. Paul Lutheran Church.

**ST. PAUL COOKIE WALK** will be held on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM until cookies are gone. We need donations of cookies! As many as you can bake will be appreciated! Cookies can be dropped off in the kitchen December 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM, or December 21<sup>st</sup> before 8:30 AM. We will be plating cookies starting at 1 PM on December 20<sup>th</sup>. We have a lot of fun, so join us if you can! **Please label containers with cookie type and if they contain nuts.** Please see the back of today's bulletin for more details. If you have any questions, please call Sue Eckstein at 471-2301 or Darlene Felbinger at 691-8930.

**COUNT ME IN!** A couple weeks ago we handed out a copy of the new "Count me in!" booklets and the coordinating survey form (on green paper) in the church bulletin. After you have prayerfully considered where you are interested in serving here at St. Paul, please put your completed survey in the gold box that is in The Gathering Place. You can also put your commitment cards in the gold box. This box will be available in The Gathering Place through December 31. If you did not receive a copy of the Count Me In! booklet and survey, extra copies are available next to the gold box.

**REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR HANDOUT** - this handout at the Family Ministry table gives ideas for gathering an item of food each day to donate to our local food pantry. Please take a copy and bring your donations back later in December.

**+ SERVING our Lord week of December 15 & 16 +**

**ALTAR GUILD COMMITTEE: December:** Ruth Stolzenburg  
Bonnie Urban

**FLOWER COMMITTEE: December:** Bonnie Urban – 622-9040  
Nancy Klepp – 523-0656, Ruth Stolzenburg – 694-4958

**WEEKLY**

**ELDERS:** 8:00 AM – Dennis Gurnett  
10:45 AM – John Chimino  
Monday, 7:00 PM – Jon Brauer  
Wednesday Advent, 7:00 PM – Marc Manth

**LAY READERS:** 8:00 AM - Mary Hirner  
10:45 AM –  
Monday, 7:00 PM – Jon Brauer

**USHERS:** 8:00 AM – Mike Kijowski, John Urban  
Jim Behnke, Dan Schuler

10:45 AM -

**GREETERS:** 8:00 AM – Kurt & Nancy Klepp  
10:45 AM – Desirea Mojica  
Monday, 7:00 PM – Holly Dawson  
Wednesday Advent, 7:00 PM – Marge Stoelting

**ACOLYTES:** 8:00 AM –  
10:45 AM – Zachary Lapp  
Monday 7:00 PM –

**WEEK OF 12/8/2024**

Offerings given for weekly operating expenses:

**\$26,914.00 ~Thank you!!**

Average needed weekly- **\$12,160.00**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED WEEKLY GIVING!**

**ATTENDANCE WEEK OF 12/8/24:**

8:00am – 165 10:45am – 94 Monday – 41

**MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH CAMPAIGN SUCCESS!**

The LCEF loan has been paid in Full! Thank you to all for your continued support and donations. Working together we accomplished this in 4.5 years!

**Thank you for your support as we.....**

**CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD IN FAITH!**

**LAY READERS NEEDED** for both the First and Second Readings during the Sunday church services. For more information, please contact Dennis Gurnett.

**UPDATE: GREETERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY:** Your help with this important ministry of handing out bulletins and greeting people as they enter the sanctuary for services is appreciated! Please sign up on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs.

**YOUTH:** Marc and Storm hope to see you all at our upcoming Youth events. Youth in grades 5 through 12 are invited to come! Bring a friend or two!  
**UPCOMING DATES:** TODAY, December 15, 6-8pm – Upper Fellowship Hall  
December 29, 2-4pm Kid's Fun Afternoon! – Upper Fellowship Hall All kids in 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome!! Bring a friend, or two!

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING UPDATE:** we still need candle lighters for Monday, December 23 at 7:00pm, Christmas Eve at 2:00pm and 10:00pm. Thank you to all who volunteered to serve our church in this way.

**FAMILY MINISTRY TABLE** - Advent devotional materials for all ages are available at this table.

**TABLES FOR SALE** - we are selling our 8 foot formica-topped metal leg tables for \$20 each. Please contact the office if you would like to purchase one or more.

**COMMON THREADS** - We have decorated a Christmas tree in The Gathering Place with hand made hats, mittens and scarves. If in need, please take one for your family or to share with someone else in need this holiday season. We want to share the warmth of God's love to all in need. Please drop the clothespin in the basket by the tree.

**USHERS ARE NEEDED** for all four Christmas Eve services and the Christmas morning service. If you can help, please sign up on the Bulletin board at the top of the stairs. Men and women are both welcome to help. Thank you!

**ANGEL TREE** - every year we collect gift cards that can be given to people in need. On the side aisle of the church sanctuary we have the Angel Tree with a box beside it where you can place your donated gift cards. When you donate a gift card, place an angel from the basket on the tree. NOTE: gift cards are especially useful from places like Walmart, Tops, Target and other large stores. Please be sure that you indicate the value of your donated gift cards, if it is not apparent on the card. Thank you for sharing!

**2024 OFFERINGS:** Any offerings that you would like recorded on your 2024 Year End Statement, must be submitted no later than December 31, 2024. Thank you!

**FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED:** The North Tonawanda Inter-Church Food Pantry can always use donations. Some items to consider donating are: personal care products, cleaning supplies, canned fruit and meats, condiments, quick meals/side dishes (such as hamburger helper, tuna helper, rice a roni), pancake mix, syrup, cereal, jello, pudding, hot chocolate, coffee, tea bags and "fixins" for turkey dinner. You can place your donations in the bin by the little library just off The Gathering Place. Thank you!!

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY** ("Ministry Meals") to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ. Do you enjoy cooking or baking for others? There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs for anyone that would be interested in making a meal or dessert for a family at St. Paul that might be experiencing a serious injury, a death, sickness, caring for a loved one in Hospice, or a recent surgery. When the office receives word of a church family who is currently experiencing one of the above and would like to receive help with meals, our coordinator will then contact one or more of you who have signed up to schedule the making and delivering of meals. Please prayerfully consider joining this ministry and help us serve others at St. Paul. Thank you!

**USED CLOTHING SHEDS IN OUR AREA** - As you drive around town, you may pass by other churches' parking lots hosting sheds designated for used clothing drop off. These sheds are owned by St. Pauly Textile in Rochester, who partner with local churches or community centers to collect used clothing. Donations are collected and used regionally, domestically and in international markets for textiles. Hosting sites also have "first dibs" on donations to distribute locally to people in need. St. Pauly pays hosting sites \$40 per 1,000lbs of clothing collected, which can easily amount to \$100-\$300 per month to a struggling church host site. Our elders looked into hosting a clothing shed here, but determined there are ample sheds in our community where the clothing and resultant funds can do much good. When you do your spring cleaning this year, consider your old clothing to go to one of these drop off sheds. St. Matthew, St. Mark and Redeemer Lutheran Churches all have sheds in their parking lots and would appreciate your donations.