



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2016

St. Paul Lutheran Church, NALC- 156 Poplar St. S.W. Bolivar, Ohio 44612 –
Pastor Mike Pozzuto - E Mail: stpaulbolivarpastor@gmail.com PH: 330-874-4540

From the Pastor...

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

As we begin the Advent season anticipating the joy of Christmas Day, I invite you to participate in various church activities. On Saturday December 10 we are hosting the annual Christmas Giveaway for families in the free and reduced lunch programs from Tusky Valley Schools. Dozens of parents will come to St. Paul to receive presents for their children. Volunteers are always needed to assist that day.

In addition, we are visiting the Friends of the Homeless in New Philadelphia to distribute Christmas gifts to both children and adults on Sunday, December 4 at 6:30 pm. We will sing Christmas carols and share the joy of Christmas with the residents. Everyone is welcome to join us that day as well.

During our worship in Advent we are viewing the DVD series entitled, "Under Wraps." The four part series will cover the following topics: God is Expectant, God is Dangerous, God is Jealous and God is Faithful. I encourage you to embark on this Advent series to truly celebrate the majesty of God on Christmas day.

Speaking of Christmas Day, which comes on a Sunday this year, we are having a service of lessons and carols at 10:30 am. It is a very appropriate time to rejoice in the birth of Jesus. The Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held on Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 pm. I cordially invite you to join us for one or both occasions as we worship the Word made flesh; the incarnate God.

Our annual Christmas program presented by Sunday school youth will be on Sunday, December 18 at the 10:30 am service. I hope that you will be able to attend and enjoy the program that the youth of St. Paul will offer that day.

In closing, I am certain that God will always provide the gift of His Son Jesus to all who come and see the many joys that the Advent and Christmas season holds for us. I wish to you and your families a blessed and joyous Advent and Christmas this month and beyond.



December 24 & 25 we will be accepting donations for the Salvation Army.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

Worship Ministers:

DATE	TIME	ASSISTANTS	DATE	TIME	LECTORS
12/4	8:00 a.m.	Jim Ward	12/4	8:00 a.m.	Sandy Ritter
	10:30 a.m.	Dee Garrison		10:30 a.m.	Sue Bahr
12/11	10:30 a.m.	Randy Simers	12/11	10:30 a.m.	Steve Maurer
12/18	8:00 a.m.	Charlann Young	12/18	8:00 a.m.	Byron Lautenschleger
	10:30 a.m.	Terry Tegtmeier		10:30 a.m.	Richard Dudash
12/24	7:00 p.m.	Marcia Howenstine Rose Harris	12/24	7:00 p.m.	Skip Steward
12/25	10:30 a.m.	Dee Garrison	12/25	10:30 a.m.	Pam Ward
		USHERS			ACOLYTES
12/4	8:00 a.m.	Byron & Marianne Lautenschleger	12/4	8:00 a.m.	Whitney Ward
	10:30 a.m.	Tom & Tammy Huggins		10:30 a.m.	Lizzie Kienzle
12/11	10:30 a.m.	Skip & Jeanie Steward	12/11	10:30 a.m.	Bailey Keane
12/18	8:00 a.m.	John & Sandy Bolitho	12/18	8:00 a.m.	Kayla Majors
	10:30 a.m.	Dave & Linda Clugston		10:30 a.m.	William Sayner
12/24	7:00 p.m.	Randy & Cheryl Simers	12/24	7:00 p.m.	Shawntel Hafer & Tyra Hampton
12/25	10:30 a.m.	Dee Garrison	12/25	10:30 a.m.	Michael Eberly
		Altar Guild Dee Garrison	Fellowship Hour Dee Garrison	Community Meal Rose Harris & Jeannie Steward	
		SCREEN MONITORS			
12/4	8:00 a.m.	Sydney Ward			
	10:30 a.m.	Josh Dix			
12/11	8:00 a.m.				
	10:30 a.m.	Lisa Keane			
12/18	8:00 a.m.	Alexandria Howell			
	10:30 a.m.	Bailey Keane			
12/24	7:00 p.m.	Doug Dix			
12/25	10:30 a.m.	Lisa Keane			

Offering and Attendance

Date	11/6	11/13	11/20	11/27
Offering	\$6,188.00	\$2,218.00	\$3,771.00	\$2,116.00
Attendance	99	86	92	64

Prayer Chain - This week remember in your prayers: William Matthews, Robert Ely, Peggy Dix, Robert Snyder, Dan Cunningham, Dylan King, Imagene McClellan, David Dotson, Oltie Pickens, Jim Bagent, Richard Mahoney, Jennifer Smith, Mark Haueter, Marlene Jisa, Ret Kendrick, John & Jeanette Ziegler, Jack Garrison, Karen Joki, Tia McCoury, Robin Sexton, Melinda Caldwell, Roxann Mizner, Chuck Slaybaugh, Lauren Seifert, Jackson Kuntz, Brad Hannon, Larry Lloyd, Candy Cook, Floyd McBeth, Nan Seng, **Servicemen & Women-** Andrea Gibson, Andy Jones, David Ward, Jordan Ritter, Adam Pohovey, Tony Lehmilller, William Robishaw, Calvin Farmer, Kirk Habrun



Youth News: FROGS (grades PreK - 6) December meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, December 4th 5-7 pm for dinner f/b a lesson / craft and games. Please check the YOUTH ACTIVITIES board for a signup sheet to help plan food and supplies. **GROGS (grades 7 - 12)** Reminder: The 2017 Mission trip meeting was recently held last Sunday evening to discuss proposed destinations. Anyone who was unable to attend who would like information, please see Lisa. We should try to put in for reservations ASAP, so please respond with any questions, concerns, or opinions and number planning to attend if you have not yet done so. Also, GROGS mission trip RADA Cutlery fundraiser is underway. If you need a book / additional order forms, please see Lisa. All orders and \$money are due December 4th and delivery is expected the week of December 12th. GROGS December meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, December 11th 5-8 pm. Please check the YOUTH ACTIVITIES board for a signup sheet to help plan food and supplies.



Christmas Poinsettias: Enclosed is the order form for the poinsettias this year. Please return order by December 11. Cost will remain the same at \$9.00. See form attached; please complete and detach form and return to the church office.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM - From Barbados Florist

Color of Poinsettia: Red 	Given In Memory Of ... Given In Honor Of... Given In Gratitude For Blessings Received...

Total number of Poinsettias ordered; _____ Total Cost @ \$9.00 each: _____

Name _____ Phone: _____

Ordering deadline is Sunday, December 11. Designate payment for Poinsettia(s) In with Sunday offering.



=====



The Christmas luncheon: The ladies Christmas luncheon will be held at the Massillon Women's Club on Tuesday, **December 13th at 12:00 Noon**. A signup sheet will be on the table in the Narthex. The cost is \$16.00 per person. Please give your money to Pam Ward by Sunday, December 11th.



Christmas Blessings Giveaway: The giveaway will be held on Saturday, December 10th. at St. Paul from 9- 11:00 am. There is a signup sheet on the table in the Narthex for those that will be able to help. *The youth from our church and their parents select the toys and wrap them. Several plastic bags will be needed the day of the giveaway.* We would appreciate it if you could bring some in and put them in the Sunday School room closest to the kitchen.

 Birthdays				 Anniversaries	
Laura Eberly	12/5	Austin Norris	12/20	Scott & Jacy Norris	12/6
Mallory Matthews	12/5	Karrisa Reeves	12/21	Rich & Carole Harmon	12/18
Bill Jones	12/13	Larry Smerglia	12/23	Terry & Brenda Tegtmeier	12/19
Holly Matthews	12/14	Nick Barr	12/24	Charles & Lauren Seifert	12/26
Hope Sears	12/14	Byron Lautenschleger	12/27		
Heidi Sanders	12/20	Nancy Seng	12/28		

Readings:

Second Sunday of Advent	Third Sunday of Advent	Fourth Sunday of Advent	The Nativity of our Lord Christmas Eve	The Nativity of our Lord Christmas Day
12/4	12/11	12/18	12/24	12/25
Isaiah 11:1-10	Isaiah 35:1-10	Isaiah 7:10-16	Isaiah 9:2-7	Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Psalm 146: 5-10	salm 80:1-7,17-19	Psalm 96	Psalm 97
Romans 15: 4-13	James 5:7-10	Romans 1:1-7	Titus 2:11-14	Titus 3:4-7
Matthew 3: 1-12	Matthew 11:2-11	Matthew 1:18-25	uke 2:1-14 (15-20)	Luke 2: 1-20

Book Club News: Our next book selection will be **The Grace Effect** by Larry Alex Taunton, with the next discussion scheduled for Tuesday, January 25th at 7:30 pm. Mr. Taunton, a Christian author, apologist, and founder of the Fixed Point Foundation, is most recently known for sponsoring and debating numerous atheists, including Christopher Hitchens. However, this book chronicles the journey of the Taunton family after they discover Sasha, an Ukrainian orphan. Subtitled "How the Power of One Life Can Reverse the Corruption of Unbelief," this is indeed a poignant human-interest tale of how this "grace effect" was demonstrated in their

lives. Described as “Occasionally infuriating, often amusing, but always inspiring,” this book will provoke a range of emotions, with some unexpected turns. *If you’re interested, contact Terry Tegtmeier (\$5 each).*

Evangelism News:

As you’ve heard Pastor Mike over the past several Sundays, we are trying to expand and proceed with the idea of showing 2 to 3 minute videos of church members relating their “Evangelism Experiences or Examples” to help others be more courageous in their everyday life. These can include personal testimony, examples of witnessing to others (friends, family, strangers, etc.), personal experiences (including the Holy Spirit, angelic occurrences, healings, etc.), replying to questions such as “Why do you believe in Jesus?” and “Why should others believe in God?” or any of a number of other examples. We have had a few responders and hope to have more in the near future. Contact Pastor or Terry Tegtmeier if you’re interested in helping.

How Would You Like a FREE Christmas Gift?

In an attempt to improve our evangelistic efforts, the Evangelism Committee will be offering a FREE book to anyone who is committed to reading it. The results of our church poll indicated that many members felt their evangelistic efforts were limited by fear or ignorance. The book “*Evangelism for the Rest of Us*” gives concrete education in these areas, and also emphasizes those of us who consider ourselves to be more introverted. A short book (used), anyone can easily digest it and refer back whenever needed. There are no other strings attached – to order just sign up on the sheet in the entryway sometime in December. Why not guarantee that you’ll get at least one gift this Christmas?

The “Jingle Jar” Returns

We will be getting out the Jingle Jar again this year. The purpose is not to compare ourselves to others, but to be a visual reminder of what we can and should be doing on a regular basis in the area of evangelism. Sometimes visualizing things in a concrete way is helpful, and we hope this will be a kick-start for some. For each interaction you have with someone this Advent, please place a “jingle bell” in the “Jingle Jar” on Sunday. These interactions can range from an invitation to church or Christmas Eve service, to a brief discussion of the meaning of Christmas, and everything in-between. One jingle bell for each person you contact – let’s see if we, as a congregation, can fill us the Jingle Jar several times this Christmas season!

DECEMBER PRAYER FOCUS

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins”. St. Matthew 1:20-21 (KJV)

O Holy Child of Bethlehem

Descend on us we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in,

Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels

The great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide in us,

Our Lord Emmanuel! Amen



Phillip Brooks





Month of DECEMBER 2016



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				12/1	12/2	12/3
				Worship Meeting 6:30 p.m.		
12/4	12/5	12/6	12/7	12/8	12/9	12/10
Worship & Communion 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Friends of the Homeless 6:30 p.m.	Bible Study 7:00 p.m.		Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Vision 6:30 p.m.			Property 9:00 a.m. Christmas Giveaway 9 – 11:00 a.m.
12/11	12/12	12/13	12/14	12/15	12/16	12/17
Worship & Communion 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School 9:15 a.m. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Christmas Luncheon Noon Massillon Women’s Club	Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	Community Meal 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.		
12/18	12/19	12/20	12/21	12/22	12/23	12/24
Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. - Fellowship – Children’s Christmas program	Council 7:00 p.m.		Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.			Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. 
12/25	12/26	12/27	12/28	12/29	12/30	12/31
Worship & Communion 10:30 a.m. Merry Christmas!! 			Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.			

