



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2018

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...

NO LOVE FOR ADVENT OR WAITING

It seems that every year more and more people begin to celebrate the season of Christmas long before December 25. There are, of course, many reasons for rushing the season. The obvious one is that stores can begin selling Christmas items earlier with the expectation of greater profits. It is well known that most businesses make more sales in the latter part of the year just in time for Christmas.

Another more subtle reason for hurrying the Christmas season is our inability to wait for something good to come our way. Instant gratification is the product of living in the computer age. We don't like to wait and hence the motto of a successful business today is to provide quick and courteous customer service. In other words, waiting is something many people abhor and detest.

The church provides us with an opportunity to wait with the season of Advent. Advent means coming so we are getting ready for the coming of Christmas and anticipating the joy that accompanies it. As Tom Petty once sang, "The waiting is the hardest part." It is difficult because waiting involves something that is beyond our control. We can't make it happen so we must prepare for the event and enjoy the benefits that will follow.

I can remember as a child, one of greatest thrills associated with Christmas was the anticipation of gifts that would be found under the tree. Looking forward to something special made the days of waiting all the more lengthy. As an adult, I now see that patience comes with the ability to expect and anticipate God's blessing every day. I can wait now because I know that God will always bless those who love and serve Him both now and always.

In closing, I hope that you and your family will join us for Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 7:00 pm. Most of all, I hope and pray that you will always wait and see the goodness of the Lord in the New Year and beyond.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

Worship Ministers

DATE	TIME	ASSISTANTS	DATE	TIME	LECTORS
12/2	8:00 am	Pam Ward	12/2	8:00 am	Steve Maurer
	10:30 am	Terry Tegtmeier		10:30 am	Cheryl Simers
12/9	10:30 am	Randy Simers	12/9	10:30 am	Richard Dudash
12/16	8:00 am	Jim Ward	12/16		Sandy Ritter
	10:30 am	Marcia Howenstine		10:30 am	Skip Steward
12/23	8:00 am	Charlann Young	12/23	8:00 am	Jen Ward
	10:30 am	Mark Cunningham		10:30 am	Byron Lautenschleger
12/24	7:00 pm	Dee Garrison	12/24	7:00 am	Tammy Huggins
12/30	10:30 am	Terry Tegtmeier	12/30	10:30 am	Marcia Howenstine
USHERS & GREETERS			ACOLYTES		
12/2	8:00 am	John & Sandy Bolitho	12/2	8:00 am	Shawntel Hafer
	10:30 am	Lisa & Bailey Keane		10:30 am	Michael Eberly
12/9	10:30 am	Tom & Tammy Huggins	12/9	10:30 am	Bailey Keane
12/16	8:00 am 10:30 am	Greg & Julie Majors Randy & Cheryl Simers	12/16	8:00 am 10:30 am	Whitney Ward Tripp Fabianich
12/23	8:00 am	Jim & Jen Ward	12/23	8:00 am	Kayla Majors
	10:30 am	Skip & Jeanie Steward		10:30 am	Vivianne Eberly
12/24	7:00 pm	Kevin Kienzle	12/24	7:00 pm	Tyra Hampton & Shawntel Hafer
12/30	10:30 a.m.	Dee Garrison	12/30	10:30 am	Izaak Matthews
		<u>Altar Guild</u> Dee Garrison			<u>Fellowship</u> Kathy Pozzuto
					<u>Community Meal</u> Rose Harris
Screen Monitor			Nursery		
12/2	8:00 am	Austin Ward	12/2	8:00 am	Linda Blazina
	10:30 am	Rick Caughey		10:30 am	Karen Marlowe
12/9	10:30 am	Doug Dix	12/9	10:30 am	Barb Shine
12/16	8:00 am	Cameron Majors	12/16	8:00 am	Jim Ward Family
	10:30 am	Dee Garrison		10:30 am	Lisa Keane
12/23	8:00 am	Whitney Ward	12/23	8:00 am	Majors Family
	10:30 am	Lisa Keane		10:30 am	Hope Sears
12/24	7:00 pm	Doug Dix	12/24	7:00 pm	--
12/30	10:30 am	Lisa Keane	12/30	10:30 am	Deanna McMaken

Offering and Attendance

Date	11/4	11/11	11/18	11/25
Offering	\$3,377.50	\$3,306.50	\$2,413.00	
Attendance	78	93	90	66

Readings:

12/2	12/9	12/16	12/23	12/24	12/30
First Sunday of Advent	Second Sunday of Advent	Third Sunday of Advent	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Nativity Of Our Lord	First Sunday of Christmas
<u>Jeremiah 33:14-16</u>	<u>Malachi 3:1-4</u>	<u>Zephaniah 3:14-20</u>	<u>Micah 5:2-5</u>	<u>Isaiah 9:2-7</u>	<u>1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26</u>
<u>Psalm 25:1-10</u>	<u>Luke 1:68-79</u>	<u>Isaiah 12:2-6</u>	<u>Psalm 80:1-7</u>	<u>Psalm 96</u>	<u>Psalm 148</u>
<u>1 Thessalonians 3:9-13</u>	<u>Philippians 1:3-11</u>	<u>Philippians 4:4-7</u>	<u>Hebrews 10:5-10</u>	<u>Titus 2:11-14</u>	<u>Colossians 3:12-17</u>
<u>Luke 21:25-36</u>	<u>Luke 3:1-6</u>	<u>Luke 3:7-18</u>	<u>Luke 1:39-45</u>	<u>Luke 2:1-14</u>	<u>Luke 2:41-52</u>



Prayer Chain - This week remember in your prayers – David McMaken, Joe Harris, Dottie Eitel, Diane Clugston, Susan Tiller, Linda Beachy, Charles Brown, Pat Sundheimer, Louise Harris, Maddy Russell, Corinne Haney, Debbie Neorr, Peggy Keck, Paul Gosselin, Mary Pickens, Tom Bitticker, Dan Levesseur, Danny Fisher, Judy Berger, Herb Siefert, Molly Bauer, Kelly McDaniel, Floyd McBeth, Jackson Kinsey, Jean Baker, Bill Tait, Ret Kendrick, Chuck Slaybaugh, Lauren Seifert, **Servicemen & Women**-Camren Taylor, Scott Fout, Jeremy Warfield, Gray Ashworth, Trent Garver, Andrea Gibson, Andy Jones, David Ward, Jordan Ritter, Adam Pohovey, William Robishaw, Paul Roley, Kyle Greiving

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Laura Eberly	12/5	Larry Smerglia	12/23
Mallory Matthews	12/5	Byron Lautenschleger	12/27
Kimberly Morrin	12/7		
Maxwell Gettan	12/8		
Bill Jones	12/13		
Holly Matthews	12/14		
Hope Sears	12/14		
Heidi Sanders	12/20		
Austin Norris	12/20		
Karrisa Reeves	12/21		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Scott & Jacy Norris	12/6
Rich & Carole Harmon	12/18
Terry & Brenda Tegtmeier	12/19
Charles & Lauren Seifert	12/26



Christmas Blessings Giveaway: The Christmas Blessing Giveaway is on December 8th at 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.





The "Jingle Jar" Returns - We will be using the "Jingle Jar" again this Advent season. For those not familiar with the "Jingle Jar," this is a tool we use to help us contact others and spread the Good News. For each religious interaction that you have with a neighbor, friend, or stranger, we'd like you to place one jingle bell in the "Jingle Jar" that will be in church throughout this Christmas Season. There is no limit to the number of jingle bells you can place in the Jar - the more the better! An interaction can take many forms, such as inviting someone to church, Sunday school, or the Christmas Eve Candlelight service. It might involve some type of discussion, perhaps about some recent news you've seen, or maybe something deeper like "why you're a Christian." I've asked my nephews/nieces "What do you think is the biggest reason that keeps people from accepting Christianity?" and that usually starts a good discussion. There is no limit to the ways you can approach others.

So why are we doing this? We're hoping it will be a visual stimulus to remind and encourage everyone that we ALL have the privilege and responsibility to share the Gospel with others. We also hope it will serve as an encouragement to others in the church that everyone can contribute. It only requires a willingness to share our faith in some small way with others. Let's fill the "Jingle Jar" several times this year!

Christian Book Club The next selection for the book club is "*When Is It Right to Die*" by Joni Eareckson Tada. This is an updated edition that reexamines several issues, such as assisted suicide, which are hot topics in our country and around the world. As someone with serious health challenges who has been in a wheelchair for over fifty years, she has a unique viewpoint that needs to be heard. This is a tough, but important topic that she presents in a clear, concise, and compelling manner. I anticipate a lively discussion in December. Please note that the meeting time for discussing the book will be at **7:00 pm** (30 minutes earlier than prior meetings) on Tuesday, **December 4th** If you would like a copy (\$ 8 each), contact Terry Tegtmeier.

Annual Meeting: The church annual meeting will follow the 10:30 a.m. service on December 9, 2018.

Youth Activities December 15: TADPOLES / FROGS / GROGS - open to all ages Pre K - 12th grades. We are also inviting all past graduates to join us and our VIP guest Terry Tegtmeier for this special holiday gathering December 15.

The youth will serve a "SOUP KETTLE" luncheon with a free will offering to benefit the Salvation Army Kettle. The menu will include chili, cole slaw, scalloped corn, corn bread and dessert. The youth decided that we would also like to offer a "DRIVE THROUGH" option for those who would like to donate but do not wish to stay for a meal. Immediately following the luncheon, we will travel as a group to the North Canton Skate and Entertainment Center for our Youth Christmas Party from 1:00PM - 4:00PM. - 5475 Whipple Ave. NW -North Canton. Attractions include *roller skating, *laser tag, *rock wall, *bumper cars, *jump shot basketball, *laser maze, and *arcade games (bring your own \$ for the arcade if you wish to play video games)

***Saturday, December 22nd 8:00AM 5K Race** - TADPOLES / FROGS / GROGS - open to all ages Pre K - 12th grade AND their parents / guardians - As a follow up service activity, the youth will be supporting the Akron Canton Food Bank in their final fundraiser of the year...

THE SELFLESS ELF 5K RUN / WALK - This will be an exciting way to embrace the season and wrap up their Holiday Campaign! Dress in your favorite festive holiday-themed costumes or running gear and run or walk the 3.1-mile course, beginning and ending at the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. 350 Opportunity Pkwy, Akron OH 44307 - There are 3 ways to participate in this event...

1. Run / Walk the Selfless Elf 5K - Please contact Lisa to register for the race

2. Event Volunteer: Volunteers are needed to help with various tasks on race day, such as: assisting with runner registration, t-shirt sales, Santa's helpers, serving refreshments, etc. Tasks will be assigned by a Foodbank staff member in the Volunteer Lounge, upon arrival. Volunteers will also be needed for clean-up after the event (10:00-10:30am). YOU MUST REGISTER ONLINE THROUGH THE AKRON CANTON FOOD BANK WEBSITE TO VOLUNTEER!

3. Parking Volunteer: Volunteers are needed in parking areas to help direct runners to the Foodbank for the race. **This is an outdoor volunteer opportunity.**Please dress for the weather conditions on event day.). YOU MUST REGISTER ONLINE THROUGH THE AKRON CANTON FOOD BANK WEBSITE TO VOLUNTEER!

Prayer Focus for December 2018 -

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRISTMAS - 1 John 1:1-4

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard,
which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked
at and our hands have touched---this we proclaim concerning
the Word of life.*

*The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we
proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father
and has appeared to us.*

*We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that
you may have fellowship with us.*

*And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son,
Jesus Christ.*

We write to make our joy complete.

*In this passage, John is not recounting these events;
He is giving us a wonderfully concise explanation of what the nativity means.*



Christmas Children's program will be held December 16th at the 10:30 service



Christmas Eve

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Monday, December 24, Worship &
Communion 7:00 p.m.**

(The Salvation Army Kettle will be available from December 23-30th.)



Month of December 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						12/1
12/2	12/3	12/4	12/5	12/6	12/7	12/8
Worship & Communion 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School 9:15 a.m.	Yoga Class 9-10:00 a.m.	Ladies Luncheon 12:00 p.m. Book Club 7:00 p.m.	Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.			Christmas Giveaway 9-11:00 p.m. 
12/9	12/10	12/11	12/12	12/13	12/14	12/15
Worship & Communion 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Annual Church Meeting..	Yoga Class 9-10:00 a.m.		Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.			Chili Luncheon 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. Youth go to North Canton Skate
12/16	12/17	12/18	12/19	12/20	12/21	12/22
Worship & Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School 9:15 a.m Fellowship Children's Christmas Program at 10:30 service	Yoga Class 9-10:00 a.m. Council 7:00 p.m	Prayer Chain update due Newsletter Deadline	Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	Community Meal 5-6:30 p.m. 		Youth 5K run for Food Pantry 8:00 a.m.,
12/23	12/24	12/25	12/26	12/27	12/28	12/29
Worship & Communion 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. — Sunday School 9:15 a.m.	Yoga Class 9-10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.	Merry Christmas				
12/30	12/31					
Worship - Adult Sunday School 9:15 a.m.	New Year's Eve					

