



# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2024

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

**From the Pastor...**

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## **Ten Commandments for Christmas and the Greatest Gift**

We are all familiar with the Ten Commandments given to Moses on Mt. Sinai, but have you ever heard of the Ten Commandments for Christmas? The list that follows contains some very important ideas for the Christmas season.

1. Thou shall keep Christ in Christmas
2. Thou Shall prepare thy soul for Christmas
3. Thou shall give Christ the principal room in thy heart
4. Thou shall make Christmas a time for the family
5. Thou shall give generously to the less fortunate
6. Thou shall give the gifts of love and service to those outside thy own circle of family and friends
7. Thou shall sing Christmas hymns in which exalt the Lord Jesus Christ
8. Thou shall remember with great patience and gratitude all who serve thee
9. Thou shall give of thyself not for personal satisfaction but for the simple joy of sharing.
10. Thou shall teach thy children of the Prince of Peace the true meaning of Christmas

### **The Greatest Gift**

God (the greatest lover)  
So loved (the greatest degree)  
The world (the greatest number)  
That He gave (the greatest act)  
His only begotten Son (the greatest gift)  
That whosoever (the greatest invitation)  
Believeth (the greatest simplicity)  
In Him (the greatest Person)  
Should not perish (the greatest deliverance)  
But (the greatest difference)  
Have (the greatest certainty)  
Everlasting life (the greatest possession)

In closing, I invite you to join us for Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm for a candlelight service. Merry Christmas to you and your families and may the Christ Child bless you always.

Soli Deo Gloria!

## MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 2024

DATE	TIME	ASSISTANTS	DATE	TIME	LECTORS
12/1	8:00 am	Steve Maurer	12/1	8:00 am	Olivia Howell
	10:30 am	Terry Tegtmeier		10:30 am	Richard Dudash
12/8	8:00 am	Charlann Young	12/8	8:00 am	Sandy Ritter
	10:30 am	Marcia Howenstine		10:30 am	Gabriel Woods
12/15 One Service	10:30 am	Kim Pohovey	12/15 One Service	10:30 am	Kim Pohovey
12/22	8:00 am	Jim Ward	12/22	8:00 am	Jen Ward
	10:30 am	Randy Simers		10:30 am	Cheryl Simers
12/24 Christmas Eve	7:00 p.m.	Terry Tegtmeier	12/24 Christmas Eve	7:00 p.m.	Richard Dudash
12/29	9:30 am	Marcia Howenstine	12/29	9:30 a.m.	Gabriel Woods
<b>USHERS &amp; GREETERS</b>			<b>SCREEN</b>		
12/1	8:00 am	Byron & Mariann Lautenschleger	12/1	8:00 am	Terri Howell
	10:30 am	Ann Shetler		10:30 am	Sophia Ranta
12/8	8:00 am	Jim & Jen Ward	12/8	8:00 am	Olivia Howell
	10:30 am	Aaron & Meghan Woods		10:30 am	Ted Howenstine
12/15	9:30 am	Tom & Tammy Huggins	12/15	9:30 am	Doug Dix
12/22	8:00 am	John & Sandy Bolitho	12/22	8:00 am	<b>Pam Ward</b>
	10:30 am	Ann Shetler		10:30 am	Dee Garrison
12/24 Christmas Eve	7:00 p.m.	Randy & Cheryl Simers	12/24 Christmas Eve	7:00 p.m.	Doug Dix
12/29	9:30 am	Aaron & Meghan Woods	12/29	9:30 am	Ted Howenstine
<b>Altar Guild</b>			<b>Community Meals</b>		
		<b>Richard &amp; Donna Dudash</b>			<b>Kathy Pozzuto</b>

### Readings

<u>12/1</u> First Sunday of Advent	<u>12/8</u> Second Sunday of Advent	<u>12/15</u> Third Sunday of Advent	<u>12/22</u> Fourth Sunday of Advent	<u>12/24</u> Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve	<u>12/29</u> First Sunday of Christmas
<u>Jeremiah 33:14-16</u>	<u>Malachi 3:1-7</u>	<u>Zephaniah 3:14-20</u>	<u>Micah 5:2-5</u>	<u>Isaiah 9:2-7</u>	<u>Exodus 13:1-3, 11-15</u>
<u>Psalms 25:1-10</u>	<u>Psalms 66:1-12</u>	<u>Psalms 85</u>	<u>Psalms 80:1-7</u>	<u>Psalms 96</u>	<u>Psalms 111</u>
<u>1 Thessalonians 3:9-13</u>	<u>Philippians 1: 2-11</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 3:1-14</u>	<u>Luke 7:18-35</u>	<u>Luke 1:39-</u>	<u>Luke 2:1-20</u>	<u>Luke 2:22-40</u>

### Stewardship Report

2021	2022	2023	2024
\$190,616	\$153,805	\$146,555	\$160,9011

## CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!!



### December Birthdays



### December Anniversaries

<b>Mallory Matthews</b>	<b>12/5</b>
<b>Laura Eberly</b>	<b>12/5</b>
<b>Maxwell Gettan</b>	<b>12/8</b>
<b>Bill Jones</b>	<b>12/13</b>
<b>Holly Matthews</b>	<b>12/14</b>
<b>Hope Mizer</b>	<b>12/14</b>
<b>Karrisa Reeves</b>	<b>12/21</b>
<b>Larry Smerglia</b>	<b>12/23</b>
<b>Jeff Ferguson</b>	<b>12/24</b>
<b>Byron Lautenschleger</b>	<b>12/27</b>

<b>Terry &amp; Brenda Tegtmeier</b>	<b>12/19</b>
<b>Charles &amp; Lauren Seifert</b>	<b>12/19</b>

### SICK AND SHUT-IN LIST

**Shut-ins:** Please see a list of our shut-ins below; they would enjoy hearing from you by visit or card. **Jerry & Carol Hoskinson**, 1970

North Orchard Rd. NE Bolivar, OH 44612 - **John Kienzle** – Hennis Care Center, Bolivar, OH. (Room 206) **Dorothy Garan** –1204 N. Crater Ave. Dover, OH 44622 - **Betty Menapace** – Park Village – 1511 Crater Ave. Room 19 A, Dover OH 44622 and **Alyce Snyder** at Assisted Living at Brewster Park 360 Wabash Avenue (Jefferson Lodge/Inn Bldg.-(Room 608) Brewster OH 44613



### **Prayer Chain - This week remember in your prayers** – Christa Brubaker, Pam Ward, Suzanne Kuntzman, Jennifer Hockenberry, Mary Sanders, Alyce Snyder, Irene Ward, Hunter Renicker, Rosemary Gambaccini, Rita Morrin, Pat Mizer, Netta Strand, Fred Lecce, Patti Rimer, Jacob Walker, Nancy Mahoney, Bill Nelson, Brenda Schreffler, Lissa Johns, Kay Locker, Brock McNutt, Pastor Scott Anderson, David Shetler, James Baltzly, Margret Cox, Pam Miller, Jeff Elliott, Lucie Dillon, Jeff Siegenthaler, Dave Mason, Josh Aubihl, Dominic Manuel, Joanne Simers, Jessica Ditous, Hannah Dragomir, Bob Leffler, Devlin Crist, Gary Smerglia, Lyn Christenson, Lauren Seifert, **Servicemen & Women-** *Seth Hershberger, Abraham Marlowe, Kyle Grieving, Cearra Taylor, Don Scholz, Rob Vitous, Camren Taylor, Trent Garver, Andrea Gibson, Andy Jones, Jordan Ritter, William Robishaw*



### **OUR SAVIOR IS BORN** -

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ... All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David’s ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them. (Luke 2:1–7, NLT

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**Book Club:** The group met on Tuesday, November 26 to discuss the book, “Evangelism for The Rest of Us” by Mike Bechtle. There was a lively conversation on the multitude of ways the we can share the gospel. No book was chosen for January at this time.



**Poinsettia Orders: Deadline to submit orders is Dec. 8.**

**Rebekah’s Sisters, Sonshine Ladies Group:** The Rebekah’s Sisters, Sonshine Ladies met in November to discuss the giving budget to end out the year. The Friends of the Homeless food supply remains the focus, and the ladies will check in regularly for the needs of the house pantry. When needed we will restock the shelves.

Each evening a meal is served to the residents of the shelter. These meals are donated by local churches, individuals, and restaurants. There is a monthly calendar to provide a meal(s) and currently there are 6-8 days each month that do not get signed up. Many thanks to Brenda, Cheryl, and Linda who cook meals every month all year long. The evening meal feeds 60-70 friends, not only the residents, but also for families in the community with food insecurities.

When no one signs up, the house volunteers prepare the meal with food from the pantry. When a family in need shows up hungry and has no ride to the Dover food pantry, the shelter provides food from the pantry. All breakfast and lunches for residents come from the pantry.

Our group has been working with Nicole Hershberger (Huggins) who has kept us up to date on the needs of the shelter, its residents, and families who are out on their own. She is truly a blessing to her clients and to us. Through Nicole we heard of a single mother with 6mo and 16yr old children who were behind on all utilities. The ladies pitched in with all their hearts and were able to pay the water, electricity, and gas bills through January 2025.

Another family with a 10mo, 5yr, and 8yr olds were in urgent need of cold weather clothing. Brenda picked up five outfits each for the older children and the infant was able to get help from Birthright.

As we prepare for the season of giving, let’s be reminded of His love for us, His sacrifice on the cross for us, and how He lives through us every day.

If you are interested in giving:

The Rebekah’s Sisters, Sonshine Ladies of  
St Paul Lutheran Church  
Spread Some Sonshine  
Please see: Pam Ward or Beth Pirillo

Birthright  
Please see: Cheryl Simers

**Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas  
County**  
211 East High Ave, New Philadelphia

Jim’s Place provides free clothing to  
anyone in need. Clothing Drop off  
boxes located at: 228 West High Ave  
New Philadelphia



**Operation Christman Child:** This year St. Paul filled 55 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you for your generosity.

## **PRAYER FOCUS FOR DECEMBER 2024**

Thankfully, the election is over! No more ads on TV, Calls on the phone and signs everywhere. Now that we have done our duty and voted, it is important to remember we need to pray for all who are in positions of authority.

As wonderful as any leader might seem, they are fallible, prime targets for the evil one. Pray for the leaders in your government, workplace and church. Pray that they would recognize God as the source of the wisdom they desperately need to properly guide our country and our church.

The Holy Bible says: Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. 1 Kings 3:9

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men 1 Peter 2:24

In other words, be a good citizen. Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as women and men who must give an account for their work.

Lord Jesus, today we intercede for our leaders – in the home, in our churches and at the local and national levels, and ask that you give them wisdom, integrity and resilience in their work.

**AMEN**

### **St. Paul Lutheran Schedule:** -

Dec 15th Annual meeting after 10:30 service. No 8 am service that day. Sunday School as usual – 9:15 a.m.

-Dec. 22nd will be children's Christmas program at 10:30 service.

-Dec 24th Christmas Eve service at 7 pm

-Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Merry Christmas - -Dec 29<sup>th</sup> One service 9:30 a.m.



SIGN UP SHEET FOR THOSE WHO WILL BE ATTENDING THE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT MASSILLON WOMEN'S CLUB ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 12:00 P.M. The cost will be \$23.00 per person. Payment to be made to Pam Ward. Make checks payable to Massillon Women's Club.

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**Community Meal:** St Paul Lutheran - Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Community Meal 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. Thursday, December 5- Thursday, December 19

**Annual Reports: All committees please have your annual reports for 2024 E-mailed to the church office by January 19 2025.**



**Youth Group** Fellowship, service, faith, and fun were the goals of St. Paul's youth program this year. We had an average attendance of 21 people (children and adults) over eight youth activities. In addition to our youth activities, our community VBS had 82 children registered for the week. Thank you all for your support of the youth program. Here are the highlights from the year:

**January** · Rock Painting Party – We painted school-spirited and inspirational rocks to lift our community. Some of the rocks are still on display in front flower beds of the church.  
Youth Group – We created Valentine's Day cards for the residents of Hennis Care Centre of Bolivar. Approximately 100 cards were delivered to the facility and distributed to the residents.

**February** · Youth Group – We had a fun night of table stations to find some joy in the cold weather. The children were split into small groups and rotated to five stations – Legos, Slime, Play-dog, Crafts, and HedBanz.

**March** · Youth Group – We made an Easter wreath craft and hunted for Easter eggs around the church. The children participated in an interactive lesson using different colored Easter eggs to learn about Jesus' resurrection and the importance of Easter.  
Sunday School – The children sang during the Easter Sunday service.

**May** · Youth Group – We created encouraging cards for the Mercy Hospital Cancer Center patients to assist with Gabe's service project. Approximately 100 cards were made using summer-themed crafting supplies and delivered to the facility.

**July** · VBS was held at Holy Trinity from Sunday, July 28 through Thursday, August 1. The theme was Stellar – Shine Jesus' Light. The children enjoyed music, games, snack, Bible stories, and crafts throughout the week. The week was wrapped up with a foam part. The VBS committee is very grateful for the volunteers and donations from Holy Trinity, St. Paul Lutheran Church, St. John UCC, and Bolivar United Methodist Church to make VBS possible.

**September** · Youth Group – We began the 2024-25 school year with a fall craft and lesson. The children painted pumpkin patch houses and listened to a lesson titled "Be a Spark in the Dark".

**October** · Youth Group – We continued to celebrate the fall season by painting pumpkins, making a fall animal coaster craft, and coloring fall bible verse pages.

**November** · Youth Group – We held our first Friendsgiving in the Fellowship Hall. The food theme was snacks and desserts. We created two Thanksgiving themed crafts and played HedBanz.

**December** · Youth Group – On Friday, December 6, we will be decorating the Fellowship Hall Christmas tree, painting ornaments, and playing Bingo.

12/6 - Youth Group in the Fellowship Hall



12/15 - No youth Sunday School (This day is Rory's Pre-K Christmas Program at BCC during their church service.)

12/22 - Youth Christmas Program 10:30am Service - 12/29 - No youth Sunday School -

*Ashley Beitzel – Youth Coordinator*



## December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>12/1</b>	<b>12/2</b>	<b>12/3</b>	<b>12/4</b>	<b>12/5</b>	<b>12/6</b>	<b>12/7</b>
Worship & Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. <b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	Yoga 9-10 a.m.	Men & Women's Meeting 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	Bible Study 10:15 a.m. COMMUNITY MEAL 11:30 – 1:00 P.M.	Youth Group Fellowship Hall	Pearl Harbor Day
<b>12/8</b>	<b>12/9</b>	<b>12/10</b>	<b>12/11</b>	<b>12/12</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>12/14</b>
Worship & Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Lions Club 6:30 p.m.	Ladies Christmas Lunch 12:00 p.m.				Property 9:00 a.m.
<b>12/15</b>	<b>12/16</b>	<b>12/17</b>	<b>12/18</b>	<b>12/19</b>	<b>12/20</b>	<b>12/21</b>
Worship & Communion 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Congregational Meeting <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Council 7:00 p.m.	Men & Women's Meeting 7:00 p.m. Sonshine Ladies 10:00 a.m.	Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	Bible Study 10:15 a.m. COMMUNITY MEAL 11:30 – 1:00 P.M.		
<b>12/22</b>	<b>12/23</b>	<b>12/24</b>	<b>12/25</b>	<b>12/26</b>	<b>12/27</b>	<b>12/28</b>
Worship & Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Children's Christmas Program <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Lions Club 6:30 p.m.	CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 p.m.	MERRY CHRISTMAS! 			
<b>12/29</b>	<b>12/30</b>	<b>12/31</b>				
Worship 9:30 a.m. First Sunday of Christmas No Communion	Yoga 9-10:00 a.m. Homeless Shelter Meal 5:00 p.m.	NEW YEAR'S EVE 				

### Month To Date Giving

Month to Date Giving Through November - Amount 2024 **\$13,665.00**

Month to Date Giving Through November - Amount 2023 **\$19,205.00**

