



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2017

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-GOD IS NEAR

Advent is the season that begins the new church year and ushers in the joy of Christmas. As a child, I often viewed Advent as the preview before the main feature. Advent tends to lose some of its significance as a result of that perspective. In the larger context, however, Advent is a season that invites us to wait for the coming of the Savior each and every day. It is not so much a season but a constant reminder that God is always coming nearer to us daily. Unfortunately, with the pace of today's world we are far too busy to wait for the Lord. Instead, we busy ourselves with so many activities during Advent that we are actually rushing to meet Jesus at Bethlehem.

During the month of December as we wait the coming of the Lord, there are several important services that will help us to be attentive and look for the God who comes to us every day. I invite you to join us on three consecutive Wednesdays beginning on December 6 with a light meal at 6:00 pm followed by evening prayer at 7:00 pm. There will be DVD presentation entitled "Because of Bethlehem" on each of the four Sundays in Advent. Max Lucado will narrate this series.

On Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm, Chris Hart will join us once again to portray a shepherd who was present at the birth of Jesus. You may recall that Chris did a characterization of Martin Luther at St. Paul as part of the anniversary of the Reformation.

In addition, the youth of the church will present their Christmas program on Sunday, December 17 during the 10:30 service. It promises to be an enriching and rewarding experience for all.

I strongly encourage you to participate in these services and come to discover the nearness of God in your life. My prayer is that all of you will grow in your love for God as you recognize the glory of the Lord that came forth on that first Christmas night and continues to fill the world with hope and joy. I hope you have a Merry Christmas and especially a holy and memorable Advent that lasts long into the New Year.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

December Worship Ministers:

DATE	TIME	ASSISTANTS	DATE	TIME	LECTORS
12/3	8:00 A.M.	Charlann Young	12/3	8:00 A.M.	Pam Ward
	10:30 A.M.	Steve Maurer		10:30 A.M.	Sue Bahr
12/10	8:00 A.M.	Pam Ward	12/10	8:00 A.M.	Jen Ward
	10:30 A.M.	Dee Garrison		10:30 A.M.	Donna Dudash
12/17	8:00 A.M.	Jim Ward	12/17	8:00 A.M.	Sandy Ritter
	10:30 A.M.	Randy Simers		10:30 A.M.	Steve Maurer
12/24	9:30 A.M.	Terry Tegtmeier	12/24	9:30 A.M.	Marcia Howenstine
	7:00 P.M	Marcia Howenstine & Rose Harris		7:00 P.M	Richard Dudash
12/31	8:00 A.M.	Pam Ward	12/31	8:00 A.M.	Pam Ward
	10:30 A.M.	Steve Maurer		10:30 A.M.	Byron Lautenschleger
USHERS			ACOLYTES		
12/3	8:00 A.M.	Greg & Julie Majors	12/3	8:00 A.M.	Whitney Ward
	10:30 A.M.	Rick & Lori Caughey		10:30 A.M.	Lizzie Kienzle
12/10	8:00 A.M.	Jim & Jen Ward	12/10	8:00 A.M.	Carson Majors
	10:30 A.M.	Skip & Jeanie Steward		10:30 A.M.	Michael Eberly
12/17	8:00 A.M.	Dave & Charlann Young	12/17	8:00 A.M.	Kayla Majors
	10:30 A.M.	Marianne & Byron Lautenschleger		10:30 A.M.	Bailey Keane
12/24	9:30 A.M.	Lisa & Bailey Keane	12/24	9:30 A.M.	Lizzie Kienzle
	7:00 P.M	Randy & Cheryl Simers		7:00 P.M	Tyra Hampton, Shawntel Hafer
12/31	8:00 A.M.	Jim & Jen Ward	12/31	8:00 A.M.	Whitney Ward
	10:30 A.M.	Dee Garrison		10:30 A.M.	Michael Eberly
		<u>Altar Guild</u> Marcia Howenstine	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>Community Meal</u> Rose Harris	
Screen Monitor					
12/3	8:00 A.M.	Cameron Majors			
	10:30 A.M.	Dee Garrison			
12/10	8:00 A.M.	Whitney Ward			
	10:30 A.M.	Rick Caughey			
12/17	8:00 A.M.	Julie Majors			
	10:30 A.M.	Lisa Keane			
12/24	9:30 A.M.	Josh Dix			
	7:00 P.M	Doug Dix			
12/31	8:00 A.M.	Austin Ward			
	10:30 A.M.	Lisa Keane			

Offering and Attendance

Date	11/5	11/12	11/19	11/26
Offering	\$9,550.00	\$2,687.00	\$3,414.00	\$3,999.00
Attendance	77	82	83	73

Readings:

<u>First Sunday of Advent</u>	<u>Second Sunday of Advent</u>	<u>Third Sunday of Advent</u>	<u>Fourth Sunday of Advent</u>	<u>New Year's Eve First Sunday after Christmas</u>
12/3	12/10	12/17	12/24	12/31
<u>Isaiah 64:1-9</u> <u>Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19</u>	<u>Isaiah 40:1-11</u> <u>Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13</u>	<u>Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11</u> <u>Psalm 126</u>	<u>2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16</u> <u>Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26</u>	<u>Isaiah 9:2-7</u> <u>Psalm 96</u>
<u>1 Corinthians 1:3-9</u> <u>Mark 13:24-37</u>	<u>2 Peter 3:8-15</u> <u>Mark 1:1-8</u>	<u>1 Thessalonians 5:16-24</u> <u>John 1:6-8, 16-24</u>	<u>Romans 16:25-27</u> <u>Luke 1:26-38</u>	<u>Titus 2:11-14</u> <u>Luke 2:1-14</u>

Prayer Chain - This week remember in your prayers: Richard Neice, Mary Pickens, Judy Berger, Herb Siefert, Bob Leffler, Lorna Sarto, Molly Bauer, Claudia Winrod, Jac Harker, Tim Robb, Kelly McDaniel, Sal De Ruggiero, Kitty McBeth, Floyd McBeth, Jackson Kinsey, Jean Baker, Imogene McClellan, Bill Tait, Marlene Jisa, Ret Kendrick, Chuck Slaybaugh, Lauren Seifert, **Servicemen & Women-** Andrea Gibson, Andy Jones, David Ward, Jordan Ritter, Adam Pohovey, William Robishaw, Paul Roley, Kyle Greiving



Christmas Giveaway: The Christmas Giveaway will be held on **Saturday, December 9, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.** The Youth has been asked to partner with Rebekah's Sisters in the Community Christmas give away this year.

Organ Committee: A Proposal to Immediately Establish a Contributory Fund for Purchase of a New Organ for the Sanctuary in anticipation of the Congregation Approving said Purchase at the next Congregational Meeting. The organ selected by a committee formed to research and select a new organ will cost roughly \$30,000. An ad hoc committee (named below) met on November 6, 2017, to discuss funding options for the purchase of a new organ.

There was much discussion as there are multiple options to consider. One such option is to see if there are those in the congregation, whether individuals or family units, who may desire to contribute significantly toward the purchase. If so, we ask that those persons discuss their thoughts or desires with any member of Council before the December Congregational Meeting.

For information, the church has several investment funds (savings) from which we can make up the amount needed in the event that funds contributed between now and the end of December 2017 (or such time as established during the Congregational Meeting) are not sufficient to pay for the organ. –

{Dave Garan-Doug Dix-Marcia Howenstine-Randy Simers}



Poinsettia Orders: Please see enclosed the order form for your Christmas poinsettias. All flowers will be red this year – **deadline to order is December 10. (See attached)**

BIRTHDAYS				ANNIVERSARIES	
Laura Eberly	12/5	Heidi Sanders	12/20	Scott & Jacy Norris	12/6
Mallory Matthews	12/5	Austin Norris	12/20	Terry & Brenda Tegtmeier	12/19
Maxwell Gettan	12/8	Karrisa Reeves	12/21	Charles & Lauren Seifert	12/26
Bill Jones	12/13	Larry Smerglia	12/23		
Holly Matthews	12/14	Nick Barr	12/24		
Hope Sears	12/14	Byron Lautenschleger	12/27		



Christmas Luncheon

LADIES: Save the date Tuesday, **December 12th** for the annual Christmas luncheon held at the Massillon Women's Club at 12:30 PM. The cost will be \$17.50 per person. Please Pay Pam Ward for you lunch.

All Youth (K-12) have been invited to participate in the 175th Anniversary Celebration starting in January 2018 and running through October 2018. The Anniversary Committee has encouraged us to come up with our own unique ideas to celebrate the occasion with our church, family, and friends. Please see Lisa with ANY AND ALL suggestions! We can do more than one activity and may also need ideas for fundraisers. We are currently working on a YOUTH SUNDAY plan where the youth would be responsible for the entire Sunday church service. One option is to schedule this for after our summer mission trip and the sermon can be based on our experiences.

Christmas program will be held December 17th. This is the same date as the congregational meeting and there will be only one service that day. Also, anyone participating in the Rada Cutlery fund raiser to benefit the summer mission trip, please make sure that your orders and money are turned into Peggy Dix no later than December 3rd. If you need additional books / order forms, please see Peggy.

Book Club News: We discussed "**Same Kind of Different as Me,**" by Ron Hall and Denver Moore, on Tuesday, November 28th. We hope to show the movie here at St. Paul after the DVD becomes available, perhaps in Jan or Feb, 2018 (with popcorn?).

Our next selection will be "**Hidden Christmas,**" by Timothy Keller. With Christmas just around the corner, this is a very timely and "illuminating journey into the surprising background of the nativity." It is designed to help readers "experience the redeeming power of God's grace in a deeper and more meaningful way." Though only 140 pages, it should be read slowly while reflecting on the message of Christmas in ways that you may have forgotten, or never realized. Highly recommended for all, it has a purchase price of \$13. Contact Terry Tegtmeier if interested.

Evangelism Notes: This is a busy time of year, as we often rush out of church and dash to various meals, meetings, or family outings. During this Christmas season, I'd like to remind everyone about something we've discussed previously. We all have people, friends, or family with which we're comfortable and at ease. Before or after church, we usually greet and chat with them, which is great. However, I would hope that we first look for others with whom we're not as familiar – visitors or members, whom we might recognize, yet not even know their names. Can

we make an effort through this Advent season (and beyond) to make an extra effort to introduce ourselves and greet those with whom we're not as acquainted? What a wonderful way to strengthen our Christian family – welcoming others and becoming friendlier ourselves! Make this a Christmas “gift” that only costs you a few minutes each Sunday, requires just a bit of effort, and yet may be magnified many times over.

DECEMBER 2017 PRAYER FOCUS - Psalm 144:3

We yearn, O Father, for the simple beauty of Christmas--
for all the old familiar melodies and words that remind us of the great
miracle when He who had made all things was one night to come as a
babe, to lie in the crook of a woman's arm.

Before such mystery we kneel, as we follow the shepherds and Wise Men
to bring Thee the gift of our love---a love we confess has not always been
as warm or sincere or real as it should have been. But now, on this
Christmas Day, that love would find its Beloved, and from Thee receive
the grace to make it pure again, warm and real.

May the loving-kindness of Christmas not only creep into our hearts,
but there abide, so that not even the return to earthly cares and
responsibilities, not all the festivities of our own devising may cause it
to creep away weeping.

May the joy and spirit of Christmas stay with us now and forever.

By Peter Marshall



PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

Annual Congregational Meeting – December 17 after the 10:30 service – No 8:00 service. There will be Sunday School.

Christmas Schedule: Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 24, Worship & Communion - 9:30 a.m.





Christmas Eve Candle Lite Service – December 24, Worship & Communion 7:00 p.m.





Month of DECEMBER 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					12/1	12/2
12/3	12/4	12/5	12/6	12/7	12/8	12/9
Worship & Communion 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School 9:15 a.m.	Yoga Class 9-10:00 a.m.		Light Meal 6:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	Friends of the Homeless 6:30 P.M.		Christmas Giveaway 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Property 9:00 a.m.
12/10	12/11	12/12	12/13	12/14	12/15	12/16
Worship & Communion 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School 9:15 a.m	Yoga Class 9-10:00 a.m.		Light Meal 6:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.	Caroling for Shut – ins 7:00 p.m.		
12/17	12/18	12/19	12/20	12/21	12/22	12/23
Worship 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Fellowship. Annual Church Meeting	Yoga Class 9-10:00 a.m. Council 7:00 p.m.		Light Meal 6:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE..	Community Meal 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Newsletter Deadline 	
12/24	12/25	12/26	12/27	12/28	12/29	12/30
Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:00 P.M. No Sunday School	 OFFICE CLOSED					
12/31						
NEW YEAR'S EVE	HAPPY NEW YEAR - OFFICE CLOSED 					