

SAINT PAUL'S Epistle

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JESUS, THE ANCHOR OF OUR SOUL

It is clear from the recent turn in our economy, that life can seem very chaotic and uncertain at times. When life feels like a storm that tosses us all about, where are we to turn? For people of faith, the answer is “God.” Throughout the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, we find numerous references to the peace, security or comfort promised to those who place their trust in God. Psalm 23 famously records:

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4)

In Luke 8, and elsewhere in the Gospels, we find Jesus asleep in a boat in the midst of a violent storm. His disciples cry out to him to help them, for “we are perishing!” they plead. “And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and *there was a calm.*” (Luke 8:24, emphasis added.) More than a mere miracle story, this is a promise that faith and trust in Jesus will bring us “calm” from the storms that threaten our lives.

Christians have symbolized this promise in many ways. In the center window in our balcony, we find this promise in the form of an anchor. From the earliest days of the Church, when Christians gathered in catacombs for worship, the anchor was used as a symbol of faith. Its shape reminds us of the cross. Its nautical origins reminds us of other nautical symbols used by Christians. For early Christians the fish sign symbolized the central promise of Christ. In Greek the word fish was ICHTHUS (ΙΧΘΥΣ) which was used by early Christians as an acronym (a word formed by the first letters of other words) for “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior.” In Greek it reads, Ιησους Χριστος Θεου Υιου Σωτηρ (Iēsous Khristos Theou Huios, Sōtēr).

The anchor as a symbol for Christians not only comes from the nautical origins of Jesus’ followers—Peter, Andrew, James and John all starting off as fish-

ermen—but from a passage in Hebrews 6:19 where we read, “[In Jesus] we have this hope, a sure and steadfast *anchor* of the soul.” The anchor took on more symbolic potency when one of the early Church leaders, Clement of Rome, was martyred by being tied to an anchor and thrown into the sea where he drowned.

Just as an anchor gives a ship stability and security in the midst of a storm, so the anchor symbolizes the stability and security that our Lord promises us in the midst of our life storms. The cross shape in the anchor reminds us that it is through the cross of Jesus that we have *eternal* security.

No one knows what the future holds. We wish things would always be calm and secure. But we all know that despite our best plans, things happen in an instant that can change life as we know it. Our faith in Jesus doesn’t insulate us from storms, but offers us the security to navigate our way through them. And when we rest in the Lord, we can experience the peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding—and, like Jesus before being awoken, sleep like a baby.

Pastor Hugh Haffenreffer



DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**December 14: “Star of Love” Christmas Pageant:
10:30AM**

No 8AM Service on the 14th

December 21 at 3PM: Christmas Caroling followed by Pizza!

December 24: Christmas Eve! Special Christmas Liturgy and Candlelight: 6 and 10:30PM

December 28: One Service at 9:30AM



Star of Love

A Christmas Service
for the Congregation and its Children

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 14, 2008

10:30AM

On Sunday, December 14, at 10:30AM, the Sunday Church School will present "Star of Love," a Christmas pageant for the whole congregation. This new Christmas Pageant was introduced two years ago and is quite different from the Nativity Festival of past years. It will involve **the whole congregation** as we, together, celebrate in story and song the birth of our Lord, Jesus.

Please plan to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to this special Christmas treat!

Please note: There will be no 8:00 service on the 14th.

Altar Flowers

The *Flower Chart for 2009* is up in the hall leading into church. If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar for a worship service, please designate the Sunday of your choice by writing your name and the accompanying words that you would like to have printed in the bulletin for that day. Donors may have one or both bouquets following the Sunday services. Available flowers are delivered to those members who are ill or shut-in or who are celebrating special times of joy. Altar Flowers are ordered from Dillon-Chapin Florist, 161 White Street, Hartford, for a cost of \$35.00 (two bouquets), but donors may use a florist of their own choosing. Two families may agree to sign up for the same week and share the expense of the flowers if they wish to. If you wish to contribute for Eternal Candle inserts, a \$10 donation will provide inserts for one month.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

On Christmas Eve, St. Paul's will celebrate Jesus' birth with a setting based on the *St. James Christmas Service*. This is the same setting that we used last year. The *St. James Christmas Service* has set the words of the traditional liturgy to familiar Christmas carols.

Our 6PM service will be geared a bit more toward children and families including a special Christmas message with Marvin. The choir will present festive Christmas anthems to further set the tone.

At 10:30, we turn the lights down a bit lower and have a more reflective service.

Both services will include Holy Communion.

PLANT SALE NEWS



On Saturday, October 4th, the Youth Group had a plant sale to raise money for the National Youth Gathering. Ten of our young adults will be traveling to New

Orleans for a week of service, worship & fun in July 2009.

Thank you to all who came & bought plants. We are especially grateful for **Bob Prill's** generous donation of all the beautiful mums!

The youth group made \$1,492!! This definitely gets us closer to our goal of fund raising the entire trip.

Thanks Bob, for supporting the kids!

PASTORAL ACTS DURING NOVEMBER

Baptized

Charlotte Brooke Preuss

Daughter of Sara and Federico Preuss
Sunday, November 2, 2008

Olivia Rae DiBiase

Daughter of Nino and Karen DiBiase
Sunday, November 16, 2008



TREASURER'S REPORT

We are beginning the 2009 budget process which depends on all our pledges. If you were unable to submit your pledge card for 2009, please visit the office to submit or fill-out your pledge card.

The Finance Committee recently met with our Investment Advisor to review the status of our investment portfolio, which as you can imagine was not a fun meeting. Although our investment portfolios are down dramatically in value, we are confident that our investments are in solid companies and in well managed mutual funds. The recommendation of our advisor which has been accepted by the Finance Committee is to not contribute any more to the portfolio or withdraw funds.

One final note, through October 31, 2008, we remain behind in the collection of our 2008 contributions by \$2,339 or 2%. Please make every effort to catch-up your 2008 contributions.

Many Thanks!

Tom Grottke, Treasurer



**CHRISTMAS CAROLING AND PIZZA
SUNDAY, DEC. 21ST, 2008 AT 3 PM**

It is that glorious time of the year again when we get to do for others by living our faith. It is a chance for us to share our Lord's message through song. On Sunday December 21st, 2008 we will go Christmas Caroling together to our shut-ins in the Cromwell, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield areas. Whether or not you can sing, join us. I promise you that this is going to be the gift you receive this Christmas that will blow the socks off all of your other presents because this gift is the gift of love that we will share with others! Afterwards, our celebration will continue with a Pizza at Vito's.

The festivities will begin around 2:45 PM with us meeting at the PE building to gather, organizing our caravans and heading out to both convalescent centers and friends homes for the caroling. That's right - friends homes too! If you have someone that you would like us to sing for please let me know. We will leave the church by 3:00 PM and return back to Vito's on the Silas Deane Highway by 6:00 PM

I'm so excited already - can you feel it too? Hope you can join us and Merry Christmas! For more information call me, Jim Newmark at (860) 231-2769 or email me at james.newmark@goodrich.com.

Jim Newmark

TO PASTOR & MY CHURCH FAMILY

I would like to thank you all for the prayers, telephone calls, and cards during my knee surgery. Also I would like to thank Elie B. for the delicious casserole she sent over. You are all the greatest bunch of friends and I Love You all. I'm doing well and pain free, I'm happy I went through with the surgery.

With Gods Blessings and Love,
Helen Peterson



CHOIR NEWS

As we do each year, the choir invites singers to join us for the 6 PM Christmas Eve service. Men, women, and youth are encouraged to help make a special musical service that evening.

Please plan to rehearse on each Wednesday evening during December at 7:30 PM at the church.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Charlotte Homick | 16 Dot Matteson |
| 4 Carolyn Champagne | 17 Ursula Barr |
| 5 Kenneth Baumgartel | 18 Julie Perry |
| 7 Carole Hughes | 18 Bethann Vogt |
| 11 Christine Wittkop | 19 Helen Kanupka |
| 11 Serge DeBlois | 20 Mary Baumgartel |
| 13 William Fischer, Jr. | 22 Kyla Anderson |
| 15 Edith Anderson | 26 Peter Vanturas |
| 15 Brian Beckwith | 28 Charles Bengtson |
| 15 Jim Newmark | 30 Timothy Rupparr |

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

Thank you for the kind gifts and cake in honor of my 10 years at St. Paul's and 20 years of ministry. The framed photographs will be a cherished reminder of the many wonderful times I've had with you over these years. It will also be a reminder not only of our beloved children, but how fast they all grow up!

I am honored and thankful for our partnership in ministry at St. Paul's and am looking forward to many more years where we can grow in faith and mission together.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Hugh

CHRISTMAS CARD TREE

Rather than spend lots of money each year on tasteful but expensive Christmas cards for members of St. Paul's, we have used our Christmas card tree to send season's greetings to each other. The money saved has gone to the Wethersfield Fuel Bank to help pay the winter heating bills of our needy neighbors.



This year the Outreach Committee has expanded upon this plan. We have determined that Outreach Funds will be used to match the amount contributed by the congregation. This matched money

will be maintained here at church to be used by any needy families within the congregation. If no need is brought to our attention, this additional money will be given to the Wethersfield Fuel Bank at some point in the future. When we think of the word *home*, we automatically think of *warmth*. For some people these words don't go together during the winter. We can help.

Thank you,

Outreach Committee



OUTREACH FAIR NEWS

THANK YOU to all who helped with the Outreach Fair, because of your efforts we raised over \$5,000. There will be a Pot Luck lunch Sunday December 7th after the 10:30 service for everyone who helped out with the fair in anyway. Please bring your favorite dish to share.

Christmas Poinsettias

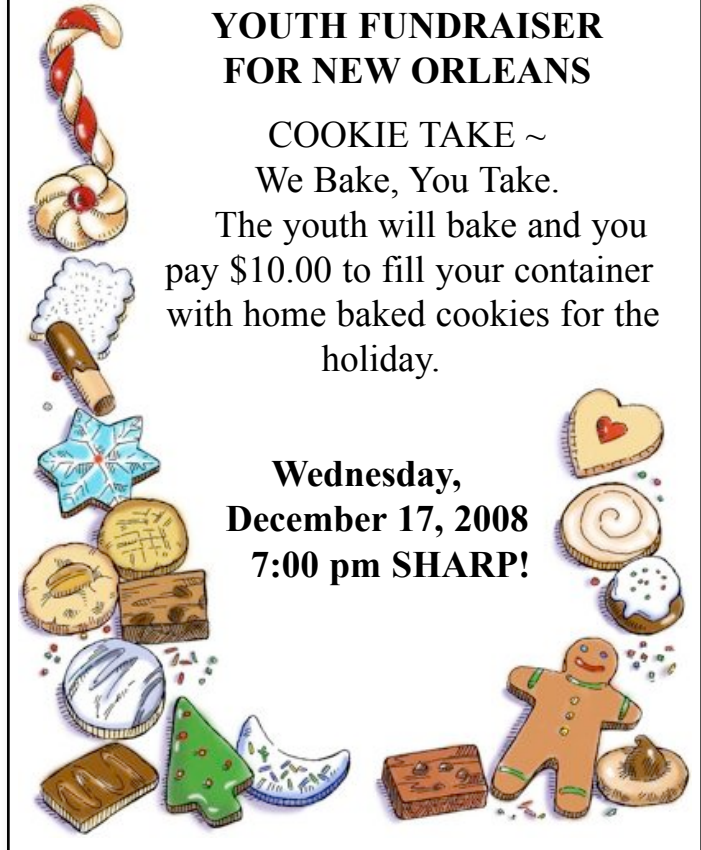
Once again we will be creating a "Memorial Garden" for Christmas Eve. If you would like to have a poinsettia plant included in the "garden", please make sure your name and the names of those you wish to remember are listed clearly on an envelope (either the one enclosed or one of your own). Also please indicate on the envelope whether you wish to take your plant following the late service on Christmas Eve or have it donated to one of our homebound members. It is most important that you let us know ahead of time whether or not you are taking a plant since all remaining plants will be delivered to our shut-ins. The cost will be \$12 per plant. Please have your Christmas envelope into the Church Office by December 15.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER FOR NEW ORLEANS

COOKIE TAKE ~
We Bake, You Take.

The youth will bake and you pay \$10.00 to fill your container with home baked cookies for the holiday.

Wednesday,
December 17, 2008
7:00 pm SHARP!



THE CHILDREN ARE
BUSY REHEARSING THE
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.

Saturday, Dec. 13th
MANDATORY DRESS
REHEARSAL
9 AM - 12 PM.

Sunday Dec. 14th: Pageant 10:30 AM

***NO Sunday School December 28th.**



ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR December 2008

ACOLYTES:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Dec 7 - Katie Grottke
- 14 - Pageant Nativity
- 21 - ***Volunteer Needed***
- 24 - Kaitlin Anderson (6 PM)
- ***Volunteer Needed*** (10:30 PM)
- 28 - Jay Viola

ALTAR GUILD:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Dec 7 - Ann French & Winnie Sawrun
- 14 - Nativity Pageant
- 21 - Anderson
- 24 - Ann French & Winnie Sawrun
- 28 - Jennie Dotts & Betty Lamo

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983

- Dec 7 - Emily Lourigan - 8:00
Patty Bengtson - 10:30
- 14 - Nativity Pageant - 8:00
- 21 - Jim Newmark - 8:00
- Kathy Coyle - 10:30
- 24 - Mike Coyle - 6 PM
Jim Newmark - 10:30 PM
- 28 - Jerry Vaillancourt - 9:30

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776

- Dec 7 - Judy Gerken
- 14 - Patty Bengtson
- 21 - Sue Agne
- 24 - Mike Coyle
- 28 - Mary Procyk

TAPING MINISTRY:

WANTED: TAPING COORDINATOR

PLEASE TALK TO PASTOR!

- Dec 7 - Walter Ruppap
- 14 - Nativity Pageant
- 24 - ***Volunteer Needed***
- 21 - Debbie Howe
- 28 - Ellie Bengtson

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 529-7588

- Dec 7 - Pam & Jody DiNatalie
- 14 - Nativity Pageant
- 21 - Kathy & Mike Coyle
- 28 - Debbie & Amanda Viola

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793

- Dec 7 - Cindy Seip
- 14 - Bob Bowman
- 21 - Lillian Doerschler
- 24 - Helen Peterson
- 28 - George Howe

LECTORS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939

- Dec 7 - Jeanette Serafine
- 14 - Nativity Pageant
- 21 - George Howe
- 24 - Vicki Anderson 6 PM
- ***Volunteer Needed*** 10:30 PM
- 28 - David Bayek 9:30 AM

NURSERY:

Ann French, Coordinator, 529-3245

- Dec 7 - Rachel & Pam DiNatalie
- 14 - Nativity Pageant
- 21 - ***Volunteer Needed***
- 24 - Nursery Closed
- 28 - ***Volunteer Needed***

USHERS:

Brian Beckwith, Coordinator, 8AM, 563-4066


Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30AM, 529-3079

- Dec - Emily & Les Lourigan - 8:00
- Bill Caughman &
Mary Ann Meade - 10:30

EUCHARISTIC MINISTER:

Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983

December 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Outreach Comm. 7 PM OA 7:30 PM	3 Bible Study 10:30 AM Grtr. Harifd Conf. Lunch 12 PM Conf. Pot Luck 5:30PM Conf. Class 6:15 AA 7 PM Choir 7:30	4 Thur. Grp. 10 AM	5 AA 10 AM	6 AA 7:30 PM
7 Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Pot Luck Luncheon after 10:30 service for anyone who helped with the fair.	8 Scouts 6-8 PM	9 OA 7:30 PM	10 Bible Study 10:30 AM Scouts 6-8 PM Confirmation 6:15 AA 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM	11 Thur. Grp. 10 AM	12 AA 10 AM	13 Mand. Dress Rehearsal 9 AM - 12 PM AA 7:30 PM
14 No 8 AM service Star of Love Christmas pageant 10:30	15 Epistle Deadline (Articles for Jan. Epistle will not be accepted after this date)	16 OA 7:30 PM	17 Bible Study 10:30 AM Youth. Pizza and Christmas Party 5:30PM Youth Cookie Swap 7 PM AA 7 PM Choir 7:30PM	18 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast Thur. Grp. 10 AM	19 AA 10 AM	20 AA 7:30 PM
21 Holy Comm. 8:00 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM Caroling and Pizza 3 PM	22 Scouts 6-8 PM	23 Par. Admin 6:30 PM Council 7:30 PM OA 7:30 PM	24 Christmas Eve Service 6 PM & 10:30 PM AA 7PM	25 Christmas Day	26 AA 10 AM	27 AA 7:30 PM
28 Holy Comm. 9:30 AM NO Sunday School	29	30 OA 7:30 PM	31 New Year's Eve AA 7 PM			

SAINT
PAUL'S **Epistle**

SAINT PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

371 Wolcott Hill Road

Wethersfield, CT 06109

www.stpaulswethersfield.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:00 and 10:30AM

Sunday Church School

9:00AM

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Rev. Hugh R. B. Haffenreffer, Pastor.....Office: (860) 529-5397
Cell Phone: (860) 966-7360
pastorh@stpaulswethersfield.org
Office ManagerJanet Vasel: *janet@stpaulswethersfield.org*
Council President.....Linda Anderson
TreasurerTom Grottke
Financial Sect'y.....Mary Procyk
Minister of MusicMelissa Cheyney
Superintendent of Sunday Church School.....Alice Rupparr

REMINDERS:

“Star of Love” Christmas Pageant! Sunday, December 14 at 10:30AM

NO 8:00AM service on the 14th

Christmas Caroling on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 3PM

Christmas Eve Services: 6 and 10:30PM

One service on December 28 at 9:30AM

December 2008