

# ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

DECEMBER 2023

ISSUE 80

VOLUME 11



DECEMBER 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CUMMINGS

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

*Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.  
(Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn ELW 242)*

Thank you for your prayers, kind words, and support as my family grieves and remembers my mom during this holiday season. I am remembering and giving thanks for the promise of eternal life, that we are all children of God, and that we will be reunited in the future.

I'm excited to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons with you this year. You will notice that we are using a new liturgy during Advent with the liturgical music set to popular Christmas tunes. It is Missy and my hope that this will give us more of an opportunity to enjoy some of our favorite Christmas music while being in the midst of the season of Advent, the season of preparation as we await the birth of our Savior.

We will once again offer a Blue Christmas service for those who want to remember a loved one or are struggling to find joy during the holidays. New this year, we are moving the service to the evening. We will gather at 5:30 pm for a soup supper and proceed into the sanctuary at 6:30 pm for the service on December 21. I have invited other churches from the area to attend and encourage you to extend the invitation as well. It is a service of reflection, that includes candle lighting, prayers, and silence, as well as coming together for communion.

Please mark your calendars for our Christmas Eve Worship at 6:00 pm. And our Lessons and Carols service on December 31 during the 10:00 am worship time. If you would like to assist by doing one of the readings, please sign up on the white board.

Wishing you a joyous holiday as you prepare your hearts and homes for the birth of our Savior. May God bless you in this time.

Peace and Blessings,  
The Rev. Elizabeth A Cummings

### Digital Advent Calendar

Pastor Elizabeth has created a daily Bible Reading Advent Calendar. You can even download an app to open a door each day in December. Below is the link to access the calendar:

<https://calendar.myadvent.net/?id=n11q2lqe8p54h57yeek275dpcnqw4yao>

## DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES



DECEMBER 3



DECEMBER 10



DECEMBER 17



DECEMBER 24



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST, Pastor Elizabeth will lead our Blue Christmas Service in the Sanctuary. This service is an opportunity to come together in a quiet and contemplative way and make space during the noisiness of the season and to acknowledge the heaviness we sometimes feel at this time and to know the hope that Jesus brings.

The evening will start at 5:30 pm with a soup supper followed by the service at 6:30 pm. Looking for a few people to make a crockpot soup. Please sign up near the Whiteboard so we can plan for the meal.



DECEMBER 24TH  
6:00 PM



DECEMBER 31st  
10:00 AM

"The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."

## ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT:

We of St. Paul's Lutheran Church believe in God's grace given to us freely. We are called to faithfully follow God's Word, sharing in the good news of this grace. We are to be God's hands helping those in need—those we know, and those we do not know.

When we say, "Here I am Lord," we express our desire to become disciples of Christ, accepting the mission to do what is asked of us. Our prayer on this journey is to walk with faith, to love one another, to share God's love and to be the hands of God.

## DECEMBER GOSPEL READINGS

DECEMBER 3RD: Mark 13:24-37

DECEMBER 10TH: Mark 1:1-8

DECEMBER 17TH: John 1:6-8,19-28

DECEMBER 24TH: Luke 1:26-38

DECEMBER 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE SVC.:  
Luke 2:1-20



*Penrose & Sallyann*



WE WISH YOU A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!  
We have been members of St. Paul's for over 50 years. We have been residents of GA for the past 15 years. It is a blessing to worship with you each Sunday via the internet.

FULLY WRITTEN  
ARTICLES FOR THE  
JANUARY EPISTLE are due  
by **DECEMBER 22nd**. Please  
send your article exactly the  
way you would like it to  
appear to Lorraine at:

[office@stpaulswethersfield.com](mailto:office@stpaulswethersfield.com)

Thank you!





We send our sincere thanks to St. John's Lutheran Church in New Britain. This church recently went through a holy closure and is sharing their much-loved possessions with other congregations. Our connection to this church is through Missy. Her dear friend Martha, who we included on our prayer list, was a member of St. John's. After Martha's passing, Missy kept in touch with Martha's sisters, Annie and Ruthie Detrich, and they contacted Missy to share some of the choir music from the church after the closure. We now have dozens of new choir anthems. In addition, we were given a silver water pitcher (recently used in the baptism of Jonathon) as well as three beautifully carved tables which are already in use around the church. We have been blessed to receive these gifts.



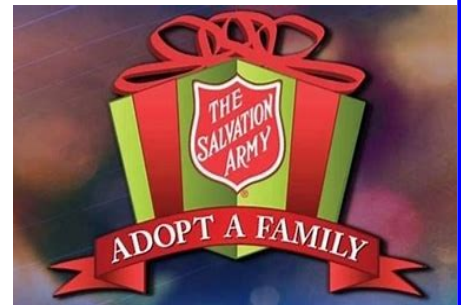
## SUNDAY, DECEMBER REMINDERS!



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET  
MEETING FOLLOWING OUR 10 AM  
WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH.

This Sunday, Dec. 3rd is the deadline for bringing in your gift for the Adopt a Family program. Bring an unwrapped gift with the sales slip attached to it. Thanks for your support in advance for this wonderful program!

Peace!  
Joan Kratzer



December 3rd is the last day to order poinsettia plants for our Christmas Memorial Garden. Plants are \$13 each. (Order forms are available at church. Please contact Deb Howe if you have any questions.)



Advent is just beginning but we are thinking ahead to decorating the sanctuary for Christmas! On December 17<sup>th</sup> (the third Sunday of Advent) following worship, we will get a head start on Christmas decorations by putting up the candelabras on the end of the pews. The candelabras first need to be put together and then attached to the correct pew. On the 24<sup>th</sup> (the fourth Sunday of Advent) following worship, we will complete the Christmas decorating

for the Christmas Eve service in the evening. We hope you can join us to help! Please call Deb Howe if you have any questions.



The Outreach Committee has decided to send a donation of \$500 to Chrysalis Center in Hartford. In addition, we will be collecting items that they have requested for their clients. Chrysalis Center helps individuals and families in the area living in poverty, veterans, and men, women and children struggling with mental health, addiction, HIV/AIDS, those returning from incarceration and homelessness. They need food for their food pantry, socks, gloves along with hats and toiletries. There will be a collection box in the coat rack area.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

Your Outreach Committee



## Holiday Outreach Fair 2023

The 2023 St. Paul's Holiday Outreach Fair netted \$5845.95 that will be distributed between:

Wethersfield Fuel Bank	30%
My Sister's Place	30%
St. Paul's Food Pantry	40%

Congrats and Thank You to all who worked so hard and to all who supported this annual event.

-Outreach Committee



DECEMBER 2023

*AS SEEN RECENTLY AROUND ST. PAUL'S*



**St. Paul's Players shared their talents in a skit on Reformation**





DECEMBER 2023

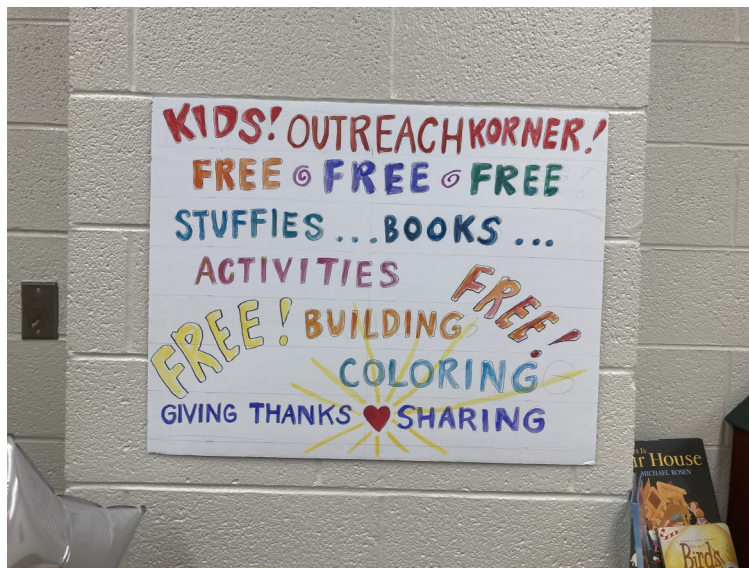
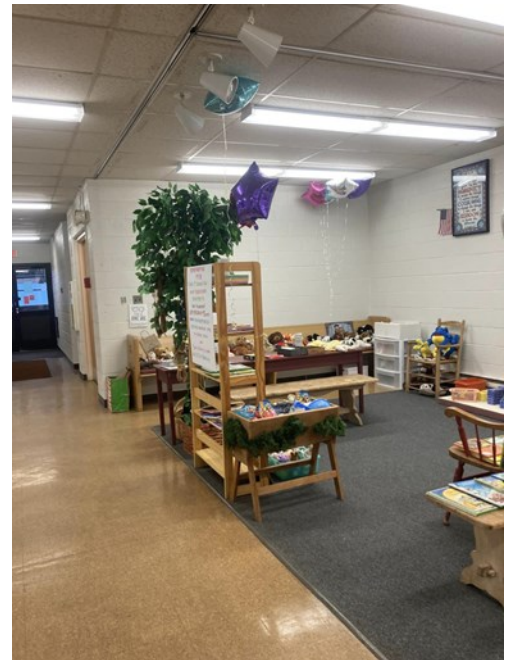
**AS SEEN RECENTLY AROUND ST. PAUL'S**

*On October 22nd, we welcomed Jonathon Wyatt  
as a child of God!*



DECEMBER 2023

AS SEEN RECENTLY AROUND ST. PAUL'S



OUR HOLIDAY  
FAIR  
WAS A  
HUGE  
SUCCESS!

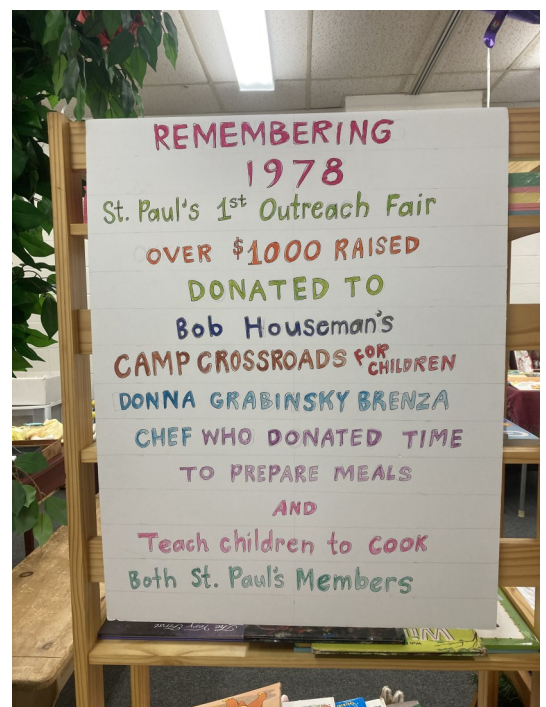
NOVEMBER  
18, 2023





DECEMBER 2023

AS SEEN RECENTLY AROUND ST. PAUL'S





DECEMBER 2023

*AS SEEN RECENTLY AROUND ST. PAUL'S*



DECORATING THE SANCTUARY  
FOR ADVENT

NOVEMBER 26, 2023



# DECEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 SALEM CHURCH
3 10AM WORSHIP  COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	4	5	6 CHOIR 7:30	7 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00	8	9 SALEM CHURCH
10 10:00 AM WORSHIP  11:15 AM 2024 BUDGET MTG  COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	11	12 PARISH ADMIN MTG 6:30 PM	13 CHOIR 7:30	14 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00  COMMUNICA- TIONS MTG. 6:00 PM	15	16 SALEM CHURCH
17 10:00 AM WORSHIP  COFFEE FELLOWSHIP  DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS	18	19 CHURCH COUNCIL MTG 7:00 PM	20 CHOIR 7:30	21 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00  SOUP SUPPER 5:30 PM  BLUE CHRIST- MAS SERVICE	22	23 SALEM CHURCH
24 10:00 AM WORSHIP  COFFEE FELLOWSHIP  DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS  CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6:00 PM	25  Pastor on Vacation	26	27 CHOIR 7:30	28 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00	29	30
31 10:00 AM WORSHIP  COFFEE FELLOWSHIP						

# DECEMBER 2023

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS - NOVEMBER THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

### DECEMBER 3RD

ASSISTING MINISTER: Sue Agne  
READER: Patty Bengtson  
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap & Sophia  
ALTAR: Elaine Strecker  
COUNTER: Mary Procyk  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Jerry Hansen, Judy Lundin

### DECEMBER 10TH

ASSISTING MINISTER: Carol Bruce  
READER: **NEEDED**  
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap & Sophia  
ALTAR: Carol Bruce  
COUNTER: Heather Christensen  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Jerry Hansen, Judy Lundin

### DECEMBER 17TH

ASSISTING MINISTER: **NEEDED**  
READER: **NEEDED**  
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap & Sophia  
ALTAR: Elaine Strecker  
COUNTER: Deb & George Howe  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: jerry Hansen, Judy Lundin

### DECEMBER 24TH

ASSISTING MINISTER: Joy Hansen  
READER: Joy Hansen  
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap & Sophia  
ALTAR: **NEEDED**  
COUNTER: Mary Procyk  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Jerry Hansen, Judy Lundin

### DECEMBER 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - 6:00 PM

ASSISTING MINISTER: Carol Bruce  
READER: Carol Bruce  
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap & Sophia  
ALTAR: Deb & George Howe  
COUNTER: Mary Procyk  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Jerry Hansen & Judy Lundin

### DECEMBER 31ST LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE

ASSISTING MINISTER: Joy Hansen  
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap & Sophia  
ALTAR: Deb & George Howe  
COUNTER: Bob Bowman  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Jerry Hansen & Judy Lundin



DECEMBER 2023

## ***BIBLE VERSE OF THE MONTH***

Every good  
and perfect  
gift comes  
from above

JAMES 1:17

# DECEMBER 2023

**PASTOR:**

The Reverend Elizabeth Cummings  
pastor@stpaulswethersfield.org

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**

Lorraine Gianakos  
office@stpaulswethersfield.org

**MINISTER OF MUSIC:**

Melissa Cheyney

**SUPERINTENDENT OF  
SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL:**

Alice Ruppar

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