



Saint Paul's

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2024

VOLUME 12



DECEMBER 2024

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CUMMINGS

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

I'm looking forward to the Advent and Christmas seasons this year. During Advent, you will notice that the liturgical music is set to popular Christmas tunes. Missy and I enjoyed using it last year and hope that you will enjoy it this year as well. The liturgical music is set to some of our favorite Christmas tunes and is a great way to welcome 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 are remembering a loved one or are struggling to find joy during the holidays. This will be a joint service with Our Savior's, Newington on December 21, the longest day of the year. We will gather at 4:30 pm in the sanctuary followed by a soup supper. This is a quiet service of reflection, that includes candle lighting, prayers, and silence, as well as coming together for communion.

Our Savior's has invited us to join them following worship on December 22 for Christmas Caroling. If you are interested in participating, please sign up on the white board and we can coordinate carpooling.

Please mark your calendars for our Christmas Eve Worship at 6:00 pm. And our Lessons and Carols service on December 29th 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.

Wishing you Peace and Blessings,
The Rev. Elizabeth A Cummings

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES



DECEMBER 1



DECEMBER 8



DECEMBER 15



DECEMBER 22



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST,
Pastor Elizabeth will lead our joint Blue Christmas Service with Our Savior's Church, Newington in the Sanctuary at 4:30 pm followed by a soup supper. 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.

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 29TH, 10 AM
PLEASE WEAR YOUR
CHRISTMAS SWEATER

"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."

DECEMBER 2024

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



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

Thank you!



Digital Advent Devotions

Pastor Elizabeth has created daily Digital Advent Devotions that you can even download to open a door each day in December. Click on the QR Code to access them.



CAN YOU HELP??



The team of counters has been steadily decreasing. We need your help!

As the saying goes “Many hands make light work.” If you are looking for a way that you can help at St. Paul’s, please consider counting the offering. If you can do arithmetic (a little addition and subtraction), you qualify.

Please consider volunteering to join the team of counters. We will give you all of the help necessary. There are written detailed instructions, and many people available to answer any questions. It requires about two hours on the assigned Sunday and each person is scheduled approximately five or six Sundays a year (provided we have enough volunteers).

I am making up the schedule for **2025**, so please contact me soon if you are willing to give it a try.

THANK YOU so much to those who have been faithful counters in past years.

Mary Procyk, Financial Secretary

860-257-4793

mprocyk.shopping@gmail.com

St. Paul's Welcomes the Lois Woy Memorial Organ

It's been long journey, but the installation of the new St. Paul's Organ is complete. We are deeply grateful for the generous donations from Lois Woy, Louise Lostocco, Salem Church, and our friends, family and neighbors which enabled us to purchase the organ.

With the assistance of a consultant, the new organ committee gathered bids from Arizona, Minnesota, New York and Poland. St. Paul's Church members approved the purchase of the new organ on September 10, 2023. We went with the newest technology, "Hauptwerk," which uses digital samples of recordings from renowned organs from around the world.



The organ company we selected was Arnold Organs, of Barnum Minnesota. We moved our 37 year old Allen organ from the sanctuary into the narthex on Sunday, May 19, with a lot of help from friends and parishioners:

Matthew Arnold of Arnold Organs, left on Wednesday May 30, 2024 driving a minivan from Minnesota containing our new organ. He arrived at St. Paul's Church at 9:15 Friday May 31. He unloaded and assembled the organ, and I was able to play it at 6:00 that night. Patty and Russ Bengtson were there as well, and we were thrilled to hear the beautiful sounds.



The new organ was first played on Sunday June 2, 2024. The recorded digital sample set came from the William Hill organ, built in the 1860's in England, recently moved to Berlin, Germany.

William Hill Organ:



The English organs were designed to accompany choirs, liturgy and hymns. This is a particularly versatile and beautiful instrument. We used the digitally recorded sounds from this organ through the end of September.

The digital samples of the remaining organs were installed on Thursday October 3. Including the William Hill organ, we now have four different types of organ sounds to use.

St. Martini Organ, the Netherlands

The St. Martini Church organ, in Groningen, the Netherlands, was originally placed in the church in 1450. The famous organbuilder, Arp Schnitger, completed work in 1691. This organ is considered a baroque organ, although work continued on it through the 19th century. This organ has a North German baroque sound, suitable for works by Bach, Buxtehude and Pachelbel.



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Silbermann Organ, Wasselonne, France

The organ of Wasselonne was built by a very famous organ building family, Andre and Jean-Andre Silbermann. This organ is built in the French Classic (18th century) style. Work initially began in 1734 and continued through the 19th century. The organ we have is suitable for works by French composers Daquin and Balbastre. Many French Noels will sound beautiful with this sample set.



Organ of the St. Etienne Abbey, Caen France – Organ Builder Cavaillé-Coll

The Cavaillé-Coll organ was completed in 1885. The organ builder Cavaillé-Coll sound is famous for its French symphonic style, which includes lush romantic strings, and melodious and sumptuous sounds. There is an entire school of French composers who wrote music for this type of organ including Vierne, Widor, Dupre.

It is an absolute privilege and pleasure to play the new organ, using the sounds from these spectacular instruments every week. If you ever have any questions, or want to know which instrument I was using, please come up to me after the worship service and I will be happy to explain. We are planning to hold an installation concert in March, 2025 as well as an open house for local organists to come, listen, and

try out the new instrument. But wait, what happened to our old organ? After faithfully serving our church for 37 years, our Allen organ was stored in the Narthex over the summer. St. John's Lutheran Church in Stamford has both a large sanctuary with a pipe organ, as well as a smaller chapel which seats about 50 people. They hold services in both locations. They needed an organ for the chapel, and were thrilled to receive our Allen organ. They came to St. Paul's on October 11 with a pick-up truck, trailer and SUV to bring our Allen to its new home.



Here is the Thank You we received from St John's Cantor and Ministry associate, Nathan Lively-Greyling

"Thank you all so much for this amazing gift to our chapel congregation. They are often overlooked by the choral service in the Nave. The Allen played for the first time on Reformation Sunday. It rumbled out "A Mighty Fortress" for the congregation. My friend from Allen Organs sent us all the wires and connectors and talked me through the voicing process. Full organ is just a soft purr in the small space, which is great. Otherwise, it's in great shape. "

Pastor Elizabeth and I attended the dedication of the new organ at St. John's Evensong service on Sunday evening, 11/17. So many old electronic organs are being thrown out now. We are very happy that our reliable Allen organ has a new church home.

We will never forget the people whose generous stewardship made our new organ possible!



"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."
- Martin Luther



SUNDAY, DECEMBER REMINDERS!



**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET
MEETING FOLLOWING OUR 10 AM
WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH.**



The poinsettia orders for the Christmas Memorial Garden can be dropped off at the church office **on or before December 12th**. It is important that you let us know ahead of time whether you will be taking a plant. All remaining plants will be delivered to our homebound members. The poinsettias will be ordered from The Flower Box in Wethersfield. The cost will be **\$13.00** per plant.

Order forms will be on the table outside the Sanctuary!



Advent is just beginning but we are thinking ahead to decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas! On December 7th at 10 am, we will finish advent decorations by putting up the candelabras on the end of the pews.

DECEMBER 2024

OUR CHURCH FAIR WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

November 23rd started off as a cold rainy day and that weather lasted into the afternoon. Fortunately, that did not deter the 350 plus people that came to our fair! From the large crowd waiting (some for over an hour!) for the doors to open to the last people through at 1:45, everyone was anxious to shop and buy at every booth. **We are proud to report that \$7500 was raised! Those funds will be split 80/20 between our Food Pantry and ELCA World Hunger.**

We want to thank everyone who contributed to filling the booths with beautiful handmadecrafts and holiday decorations, baking amazingly delicious treats, donating jewelry and Dept. 56 houses, our bracelet makers, the wide variety of the fabric in the vintage room, tag sale items, kids toys, the variety of items at the country store, all who made soups, chili and sandwiches for the kitchen café and the helpers that kept the kitchen humming, the seven unique quilts that were in our raffle as well as our publicity team, furniture movers, parking lot attendants and greeter, our popcorn maker, cashiers, the finance team that collected, counted and balanced the money throughout the day and the community service school kids that gave their time. We appreciate the extra work done by our booth captains for their countless hours of set-up and clean-up.

We thank you for your support of us as chairpersons! We'll leave a binder full of facts and tips that we learned along the way to guide next year's leaders - November 2025 is only 11 months away!

*Love,
Patty and Sue*



DECEMBER 2024

AS SEEN RECENTLY AROUND ST. PAUL'S

VETERAN'S DAY PICTURE ON NOV. 24TH



THANKS TO OUR VETERANS: CHUCK, RORY, BOB, BOB B. GARY,
CARL, BILL AND JERRY (MISSING FROM PIC)

DECEMBER 2024

AS SEEN RECENTLY AROUND ST. PAUL'S

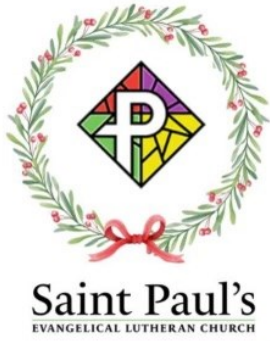


**OUR NEW FRONT
LANDSCAPING
BEFORE AND AFTER**



**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 24, 2024**

DECEMBER 2024



SOME PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR'S FAIR



DECEMBER 2024



A FEW MORE
FROM
THIS YEAR'S
FAIR



DECEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10AM WORSHIP COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	2	3	4 CHOIR 7:30	5 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00	6	7 DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS 10 AM
8 10:00 AM WORSHIP COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	9	10 PARISH ADMIN MTG 6:30 PM	11 CHOIR 7:30	12 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00 COMMUNICA- TIONS MTG. 6:00 PM	13	14
15 10:00 AM WORSHIP COFFEE FELLOWSHIP 11:15 AM BUDGET 2025 MTG.	16	17 CHURCH COUNCIL MTG 7:00 PM	18 CHOIR 7:30	19 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00	20	21 BLUE CHRIST- MAS SERVICE 4:30 PM WITH OUR SAVIORS CHURCH SOUP SUPPER 530 PM
22 10:00 AM WORSHIP COFFEE FELLOWSHIP Secret Ornament Exchange CHRISTMAS CAROLLING AT OUR SAVIORS CHURCH AFTER WORSHIP	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6:00 PM	25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00	27	28
29 10:00 AM WORSHIP WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS SWEATERS COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	30	31				

DECEMBER 2024

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS - DECEMBER THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

DECEMBER 1ST

ASSISTING MINISTER: Joy Hansen
READER: Joy Hansen
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap , Martial Roy & Sophia
ALTAR: Patty Bengtson
COUNTER: Heather Christense
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Patty Bengtson

DECEMBER 8TH

ASSISTING MINISTER: Patty Bengtson
READER: Rory Cummings
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap , Martial Roy & Sophia
ALTAR: Elaine Strecker
COUNTER: Dave Hourigan
FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

DECEMBER 15TH

ASSISTING MINISTER:
READER: Joan Kratzer
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap , Martial Roy & Sophia
ALTAR: Elaine Strecker
COUNTER: Deb & George Howe
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Rory Cummings

DECEMBER 22ND

ASSISTING MINISTER: Joy Hansen
READER: Joy Hansen
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap , Martial Roy & Sophia
ALTAR: Patty Bengtson
COUNTER: Mary Procyk
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Jerry Hansen, Judy Lundin

DECEMBER 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - 6:00 PM

ASSISTING MINISTER: Patty Bengtson
READER: Patty Bengtson
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap , Martial Roy & Sophia
ALTAR: Patty Bengtson
COUNTER: Mary Procyk
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Jerry Hansen & Judy Lundin

DECEMBER 29TH LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE

ASSISTING MINISTER: Carol Bruce
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap , Martial Roy & Sophia
ALTAR: Carol Bruce
COUNTER: Mary Procyk
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Jerry Hansen & Judy Lundin

DECEMBER 2024

BIBLE VERSE OF THE MONTH

Every good
and perfect
gift comes
from above

JAMES 1:17

DECEMBER 2024

PASTOR:

The Reverend Elizabeth Cummings
pastor@stpaulswethersfield.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Lorraine Gianakos
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MINISTER OF MUSIC:

Melissa Cheyney
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**SUPERINTENDENT OF
SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL:**

Alice Ruppap
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**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Tuesday — Friday

9am — 1 pm

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