

**SEASONS
DECEMBER 2018**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
2860 East Market Street
Warren, OH 44483
330-394-5741**

**Merry
Christmas**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30 AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:30 AM**

CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT 7:00 PM

FROM PASTOR ANN MARIE PERKINS:

Dear Disciples,

I recall someone saying once, “What’s important in life is to keep the main thing – the main thing!” You and I are fortunate to know what the main thing is at Christmas.

God is so great and worthy to be praised! That is the “main thing” that I would like to share this December. Because of his great love, He gave his only Son. Jesus took the lowly form of an infant, a poor one at that. And when the right time came, he died on the cross for the sake of us sinners. Now God has opened the gates of heaven to us!

So many people today don’t know the truth about Jesus and what he has done for us. If you have opportunities to give, to feast, and to celebrate, embrace them. Even more so, if you have even one chance to tell someone this season, “Jesus Christ came for you and he loves you”, you will have observed the main thing, too. I pray that we will all have such opportunities and make them count.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Ann Marie Perkins

CELEBRATE GRAND-FAMILIES: "Celebrate Grand-families" is a new support group for grandparents raising their grandchildren. St. Paul is reaching out to support these families with Christian compassion and a place to meet and discuss their needs. We are starting with the group with five families from the community, and more are welcome, if you know of anyone who would fit in. While the women meet, we will have crafts, games, bible stories, snacks, help with homework, tutoring, and a fun social time for children. Church members are needed to help with the children. Sessions in December will be on **Saturdays, December 8 and 22**, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Please contact Brenda Ceplecci or Pastor Perkins to help.

ADVENT GIVING TREE: In Advent, we turn our hearts to wait for the coming of Jesus, our Lord. We are in a season of repentance, turning to God in humility; and bringing gifts for the poor children in our neighborhood is one way to give alms. Gifts of hats, mittens, underwear, socks, belts, etc., are all welcome. Place them on or under the tree. The Social Concerns Committee will distribute our offerings to local children.

CONGREGATION BUDGET MEETING: **December 9** will be St. Paul’s Congregation Meeting to pass the budget proposed by the Council. Please be in attendance at worship on December 9 for the brief meeting that will follow at 11:30 am. The draft budget for 2019 will be available in the narthex on December 2.

NEW MEMBERS JOINING OUR CHURCH: We are so pleased to welcome five households to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Dawn Dominic (the sister of David and Pastor Perkins) comes to us by affirmation of faith. The households that are transferring their membership are Kristie and Todd Steuer (and daughter Kaitlyn), Danielle Greenhill (with her children, Elijah and Grace), Laurie and Tom Czoka, and the Frazzini family – parents Chris and Jennifer, with Brooke, Dominic, and Giada. Please welcome them and celebrate with our church on **December 16**. A special cake will be enjoyed at the luncheon following worship.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND LUNCHEON: The Family Christmas Program and Luncheon will be held on **December 16** at 11:30 am. “Who is Jesus? And where do I find Him?” will involve our children as well as the adults in the audience who wish to participate. At this joyous time of year, let’s gather to really celebrate our Savior’s coming! This is a covered dish luncheon, so bring out your favorite recipe.

ARTS ON ATLANTIC: The concert series of Christ Episcopal Church presents Festival of Lessons and Carols on **December 16** at 6:00 pm with the Parish Choir, Chamber Orchestra, and James W. Shiell, conductor. Free and open to the public. Christ Episcopal Church, 2677 Atlantic Street, Warren, Ohio.

LESSONS AND CAROLS: You won't want to miss our worship on **December 23**. The Lessons and Carols are written specifically for the "O Antiphons" of Advent. Based on the Hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", each verse of the hymn invokes the Messiah under a different title from the Old Testament – O Wisdom, O Adonai, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, etc. These antiphons form the structure for the service. Advent and Christmas hymns will be sung. This Sunday morning worship will be special – as a crown to Advent and a foretaste of the Christmas celebration.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE: Make your plans now to attend our Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7:00 pm. Organist James Shiell will be playing our pipe organ, Grace Shiau will perform a liturgical dance, and there will be other special music culminating in a candlelit Silent Night. Don't miss it. Bring your neighbors, friends, and family to worship with us.

ST. PAUL NEWS & EVENTS

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Remembering those with medical challenges:

Diana Bartlett, Elaine Benka, Ron Benka, Pastor Richard Bowen, Darrin Chapin, Jerry Groves, Don Hazel, Carol Hipple, Jim Illencik, Carolyn Marsh, Naomi Prox, Roy Seibert, Ken Wareham, April Williams, Andrea Wollam

Remembering those who are home bound:

Shirlee Chambers, Charles English, Harriette Shaffer

Remembering those with special needs:

Lori Akins, Donna Baldwin, Gini Cage, Elizabeth Campbell, Del Cig, Cathie Cimini, Amber Ellis, Connie Fowler, Bryan Giocondi, Debi Houlf, Debbie Merkel, Ann Marie Perkins (David's daughter), Anita Rayburn, Cindy Robinson, Ondine Shiau, Everett Sillies, Diane Tullis Suloit, Bonnie Taylor, Shelley Town, Dean Voye, Mark Voye, Lisa Young

Remembering those in the Military:

Kirk Groves, Michael Maradin

ARC FREE SMOKE ALARMS: The American Red Cross is installing free smoke alarms in homes without working smoke alarms or alarms more than 10 years old. Request forms for this Save-a-Life campaign are on the information table in the narthex.

COFFEE CUP GREETINGS: Held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, December 2 & 16.

SHENANGO VALLEY CHORALE: The Shenango Valley Chorale will present their annual Christmas Concert on **Saturday, December 8**, at 7:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church on State Street in Sharon, PA. If you have any questions, please see Mary Claney.

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM PROJECT: As many people in our congregation are aware, there has been a huge increase in the number of children in Trumbull County who are being placed in foster care. Much of this is due to the opioid crisis and other issues. Lauren Patton has launched a Thrivent Action Team Project in order to alleviate some of the burden that has been placed on Trumbull County Children Services for items that are needed when children and teens must be removed from their homes and placed in foster care. A list of items which are needed follows. If you are able to help by donating any of these items, please bring them to the church and place them in the bin marked “Thrivent Action Team Project” provided in the narthex by **December 10**. Please direct any questions about this project to Lauren Patton or Brenda Ceplecci. “Care Packages” of hygiene items or individual items such as: toothbrush, toothpaste, comb and/or brush, deodorant, plain white T-shirts sizes 6-14 or adult medium for teens, underwear sizes 6-14 or adult medium for teens, socks, slippers, and **NEW** small stuffed animals.

HALL RENTAL: Any member wishing to rent Cassel Hall must call the office to schedule the date to be sure it is not already rented or in use by the church, the Preschool, DAR, the Red Cross, or The Solace Center. There is also paper work which needs to be filled out prior to renting.

FLOWERS AND MEDITATION CANDLES: Weeks are available for purchase, dedicated to your special intentions. The meditation candle is \$5.00 and flowers are \$30.00 for two vases. **Please use an Order Envelope and PREPAY your order at the time that you sign the flower and candle chart. PAYMENT ENVELOPES ARE BY THE FLOWER CHART.** On weeks where there is no paid order, the church will display silk flowers to the Glory of God. Please sign up for your special weeks while they are available.

SPLASH TODAY: Donations are always warmly welcomed, and with your continued support, we will be able to sustain this valuable ministry to young families.

GRIEF MINISTRY: Part of the Social Committee is Grief Ministry. Joyce Osborn (330-372-2136) is spearheading this ministry with Pr. Perkins’ and God’s guidance and help. When a loved one dies, Joyce sends a set of four books called “Journeying through Grief” throughout the first year. Each book describes the issues and feelings that a person tends to encounter at various points of grief and the books offer suggestions on handling them. If Pastor Perkins or Joyce can be of any help or if you have any questions during a time of grief, please contact either of them.

DUE TO GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS: In the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), churches and clergy can no longer make written or oral public announcements of health information regarding our members. Thus, unless specifically requested by a member to share other information, we are only able to indicate where a person is hospitalized or that they have been discharged.

BIRTHDAYS:

2 = Jordan Eaton

5 = Gabriel Baumgartner & Olivia Colarich

8 = Caitlin DeMaska, George Holko, Jr., & Grace Shiau

9 = Don Hazel & David Maurice

12 = Eileen Smith, Renee Stewart, & Sarah Wilson

13 = Liz Chapin & Anna Peterson

14 = Kyle Rhine

15 = David Barbutes & Ellen Trimbur

17 = Terry Ceplecci

18 = Glenn Cary, Roger Peterson, & Harriette Shaffer

20 = Owen Bachinger, Mary Chatfield, Spencer Moorhead, Kristina Truhan, & Taylor Williams

22 = Eric Brown & Dale Whaley

25 = Mary Bittler, Lois Kaye, Susan Pasku, & Joshua Sarko

27 = Robert Lampson

29 = Jessica E. Hipple & Debra Holko

30 = Colleen Aurand & John Lacy

31 = Lisa Thirion

ANNIVERSARIES:

18 = McCleary, William & Teresa

ST. PAUL SERVANTS FOR DECEMBER 2018

Greeters

12/02 Tim & Amy Martin
12/09 Tim & Amy Martin
12/16 The Dodge Family
12/23 The Dodge Family
12/24 Terry & Brenda Ceplecci
12/30 Terry & Brenda Ceplecci

Lectors

12/02 David Maurice
12/09 Kelly Hutchison
12/16 Lorri Baudo
12/23 Kelly Hutchison
12/24 Marty Maurice
12/30 Linda Murray

Flower Delivery

12/02 Judy Muehlbauer
12/09 Joanne Santucci
12/16 June & Kelly Hutchison
12/23 Peggy Skoczylas
12/24 Diana Bauman
12/30 Judy Muehlbauer

Refer to the sheet in the Sacristy for deliveries. Mark the date of delivery opposite the person's name on the sheet. Thank you.

Communion Assistants

12/02 Debbie Groves
12/09 Diana Bauman
12/16 Georgia Mikola

Communion Assistants continued

12/23 Lisa Thirion
12/24 Kay Paajanen
12/30 Debbie Cravotta

Acolytes 10:30 service: (agreed dates by parish youth)

12/02 Ean Dodge
12/09 Ethan Dodge
12/16 Brooke Frazzini
12/23 Drew Thirion
12/24 Brooke Frazzini; Spencer Moorhead - Crucifer
12/30 Dominic Frazzini

Acolytes: Please be present ten minutes before the service begins. **If you are unable to acolyte as scheduled, please trade with one of the other acolytes and notify Christine Mymo – 330-647-2913.** Thank you for your help! We count on you to be here!

Ushers

12/02 Georgia Mikola & Marty Maurice
12/09 Georgia Mikola & Marty Maurice
12/16 Barb Basalyga & Debbie Cravotta
12/23 Barb Basalyga & Debbie Cravotta
12/24 TJ Skoczylas & Kelly Hutchison
12/30 Barb Basalyga & Debbie Cravotta

Church Closing

Ron Wireman

Follow-up, notes, calls

Sarah Wilson