

CORNERSTONE

**“THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU
AT ST. PAUL’S
December 2022 Volume 30, Issue 10
& January 2023 Volume 31, Issue 1
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church**

***“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas,
everywhere you go”***

Do you recall this Christmas song? It is a song written by Meredith Wilson in 1951. Popular renditions of this song were recorded by Bing Crosby (1951) and Michael Bublé (2012). It is a song filled with hopeful and whimsical phrases that often put a smile on my face as I listen to it. We hear the writer’s description of Christmas...candy canes, toys in every store, and holly on our doors are just a few images. And while those are apt descriptions, as followers of Christ, Christmas has a deeper meaning for us.

Christmas is a reminder of the amazing gift of a precious baby that would become our king. A gift of a lamb, a precious lamb that would eventually wear the scars of sin and death. It is a reminder that *God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)*. We would call Him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). We would come to know Him as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), Redeemer (Ephesians

1:7), Healer (Isaiah 53:5), Savior (Luke 2:11) and Friend (John 15:12-15). And I am sure you can add many other names.

This precious gift – Jesus, born in a stable as both divine and human, would teach us love is an action word. He would through His ministry model how to care for the widow, the orphan, the sick, and the marginalized. He would model compassion, how to love God (the Father), how to communicate with God through prayer, and to listen to our Advocate (the Holy Spirit). He would encourage us to see the beauty and light in each other – as amazing earthen vessels made in the image of God. And, He would challenge us to move from our comfort zones and step into places yet unknown to bear witness to God’s sustaining love for all.

As we go about the preparation for Advent and Christmas this year, may we see more than the picturesque depiction of snowflakes, lights, hollies, and evergreens. Beautiful as they may be, may we see the face of Jesus in each person we encounter. May we see the Christmas that Jesus has shown us. May we accept the invitation to be active participants and not just bystanders. May we embrace the promise of Jesus to abide in us by abiding in Him and allow our fruit to be witnesses of our commitment to love one another. *May the God of hope fill you [us] with all joy and peace in believing so that you*

[we] may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13).

Happy Advent and Blessed Christmas!

Pr. Brenda



- Masks are now optional at St. Paul's. Masks will not be worn during the service unless someone has any objections. CDC, Synod, & Plum are recommending masks for people that have not been vaccinated.
- PLUM Board made the decision to allow congregations to adjust how we do communion to allow for a return to the communion rail. However, COVID safety protocols remain in place. Councils to determine change in consult with Pastors. St. Paul's will continue with our present process until another decision is made.
- PLUM **Taize service**, January 6, 2023, 7:00 PM, zoom.
- **PLUM Admin/Worship Leaders Luncheon**, December 9, 2022, 11AM, St. Andrews, Carnegie. RSVP no later than November 11, 2022, to Deann, 412-466-7773 or christluthduq@gmail.com.
- **What's Next meeting**, January TBD, 2023, 7PM, zoom.
- **PLUM Worship Committee Meeting**, December 11, 2023, 7PM, zoom.
- **St. Paul's family** cleaning/potluck lunch/What is the Gospel, third chapter,

Bible Study, date TBD. 10AM. Please join us!

- **St. Paul's Council** will meet the 3rd Monday of each month. St. Paul's Council meeting, December 10, 2022, 7PM, zoom and January 16, 2023.
- **Advent** begins November 27, 2022. Council voted to attend the Advent zoom services together, as a family, on November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2022, 7PM
- **PLUM Taize service, Epiphany**, January 6, 2023, 7PM, zoom.
- **PLUM Worship Committee**, January 11, 2023, 7PM, zoom.
- **PLUM Board** meeting, February 27, 2023, 7PM, zoom.
- **Eucharistic Minister Training**, February 11, 2023, St. Andrews, Carnegie, 9AM.
- **2022 Parochial Report** is due March 1, 2023.
- **Camp Agape Maple Festival**, March 18, 2023, 10AM – 3:30PM.
- **PLUM Board**: Each congregation should have four (4) members on this board. Presently, St. Paul's only has three: Milt Stemmler; Shawndel Kelley; Ann Morrocco. Karen Billingham has volunteered to become a PLUM Board Member. Please direct any questions or comments to Nancy Pollo, President, 724-207-0941, email address (nancypollo.research@gmail.com).
- **St. Paul members** cooked 5 turkeys, sliced down and put in pans. Turkeys were delivered to Bethany Ev. Lutheran on November 23, 2022. Your monetary donations, were very appreciated.
- **January** – There will be a Congregation Meeting for St. Paul's, to be determined, to approve the 2023 budget and elect council positions that expire in 2023.

HOW MISSION SUPPORT WORKS



The monthly mission for the month of December for St. Paul's Lutheran Church is Lutheran SeniorLife. The monthly mission for the month of January is Mission Support. All money collected for Advent Folder is divided between Meals on Wheels and the Chaplaincy Program.



Eternal Candle

**December – Ann Morrocco
January – Ruth Latta**

If you would like to sponsor the eternal candle please notify Ann Morrocco, amorrocco1@gmail.com. Donation is \$25.00. Put your name on the envelope along with your check/money in the collection plate.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE 11:15 A.M. -- St Paul's

**December 4 – Pastor Elizabeth Mayforth
December 11 – Pastor Brenda Henry
December 18 – Pastor Alexander Sumo
December 24 – Pastor Brenda Henry (7PM)
December 25 – PLUM zoom service, 10:30AM
December 31 – Carols & Lessons Service (no communion, no pastor)
January 1 – Pastor Sue Devine
January 8 –
January 15 –
January 22 –
January 29 –
PLUM zoom service, every Sunday, 3PM,
<https://zoon.us/j/401596541> or go to
Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries on
internet and hit the click button for the
service.**





Assistants

- December 4 – Carol Ferens
- December 11 – Shawndel Kelley
- December 18 – Karen Billingham
- December 24 – Lee Jones
- January 1 – Scott Latta
- January 8 – Scott Cregut
- January 15 – Carol Ferens
- January 22 – Shawndel Kelley
- January 29 – Laurie Nickels

Lectors

- December 4 – Mark Pollo
- December 11 – Mike Ferens
- December 18 – Corey Ferens
- December 24 – Laurie Nickels
- January 1 – Karen Billingham
- January 8 – Lee Jones
- January 15 – Scott Latta
- January 22 – Marcy Wright
- January 29 – Scott Cregut

Usher: Scott Latta

If you are interested in serving as an assistant/lector/usher, please notify Ann Morrocco; 724-746-5897; email: amorocco1@gmail.com.



Will you please consider saving your pop can rings? These rings are given to Bethany Evangelical Lutheran, Dormont, to help someone with cancer treatments.



DECEMBER & JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Charlotte Stemmler	December 2
Lindsey Nimal	December 3
Ann Morrocco	December 6
Jordyn Porter	December 6
Bridget Layton	December 11
Jonathan Bowland	December 13
Pastor Brenda Henry	December 17
Peter Dibble	December 18**
Aaliyah Gilpin	December 20
Scott Latta	December 31
Adalae Carmichael	January 9
Bernita Porter	January 19





JANUARY FLOWER CHART

January 1
January 8
January 15
January 22
January 29

If you are interested in placing flowers on the altar for a special occasion, please notify Ann Morrocco; 724-746-5897; email: amorrocco1@gmail.com.



FELLOWSHIP

January 1 –
January 8 -
January 15 -
January 22 -
January 29 -

If you are interested in sponsoring Fellowship for one of the Sundays in October, please sign the signup sheets on the bulletin board or notify Ann Morrocco; 724-746-5897; email: amorrocco1@verizon.net.



Will you please consider saving your prescription bottles? These bottles can help people in third world countries.

ST PAUL'S PRAYER LIST

Healing comes in many forms. You graciously offer healing of bodies, souls, and minds, and also healing of relationships, communities, finances, and vocations. Grant healing to all who are in need, (especially) Pastor John Gropp (Advanced Lyme disease), Rick Jones (Lee's brother), Joe Trecki (Jennifer Porter's father, COVID), Charlotte, Milt, Steve, Barbara, Lee, Dom, Barb, Scott Latta (Staph Infection), Pastor Paul (Parkinson's), the Richmond Family, our Bishops, our Synod, our PLUM pastors and our PLUM family. We call on our God,
c: **O come, o come Immanuel.**



God of all good gifts, your Son gathered children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to understand our youth as they grow in years and in knowledge of your world.

Teach us to encourage their search for truth and value in their lives. Protect and bless all of our young people, especially Hazel Julia Mae Cregut, Elleanor Marie Cregut, Logan Billingham, Andrew Cowser, Gina Cowser, Austin Filby, Joelle Filby, Clarke Johnson, Larry Ryan Johnson, Gregory McGrail, Makenna McGrail, Lindsey Nimal, Josh Porter, Jaxon Porter, Jordyn Porter, Aaliyah Gilpin, Adalae Carmichael, Stephanie Richmond, Sydney Richmond, Sammie Jo Richmond, and Skylar Richmond.

Please notify Ann Morrocco, amorocco1@gmail.com if someone should be added or deleted from our prayer lists).



PLUM PASTORS



Rev Sue Devine
Rev Brenda Henry
Rev Alexander Sumo
Rev John Gropp

