

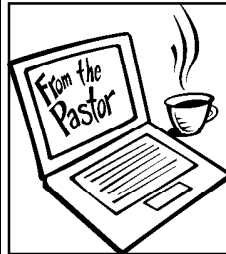
St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 40, Issue 12

December, 2017

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Can you believe it? Another year is nearly gone, but before we say goodbye to 2017, let's look at the Lion and the Lamb. We have been talking about the different names of Jesus and during Advent and we will continue that focus. Lion and Lamb create such contrast in our mind that it is sometimes impossible to believe we are talking about the same God. I hope you will come ready to stretch who you think Jesus is while always remembering His message of salvation available to everyone.

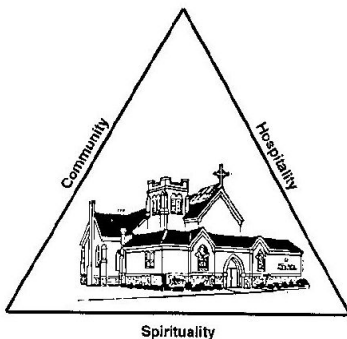
This Advent sermon series is a prelude to our cantata, "Lil' Lion, Lil' Lamb", which will be on the 17th at our regular church service. I encourage you to invite a friend or family member to come and hear the wonderful musical talent of our choir. Christmas Eve will find us having 3 worship services: our 10 am regular service followed by 2 candle light services at 6 and 10 pm. I look forward to seeing you this Christmas season.

We will also be celebrating with a cookie walk following church on the 10th. There is no need to bake all those different types of cookies this Christmas when you can just fill a box with cookie goodness. All the proceeds go to the Crafty Creatures quilt and prayer shawl ministry. Also, if decorations are your joy, the nurture team is sponsoring the Holiday Home Walk which will start at the church with a soup dinner on the 12th.

Before 2017 is gone and we fight the chill of winter, come celebrate the birth of the Christ Child at St. Paul's this advent season.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



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FOR TO US
A SON IS GIVEN

Thought for the Month:

"Those who serve Jesus,
serve others"

**Cookie and Treats Walk
December 10
Following Worship**

All those yummy sweets you think of at Christmastime will be available for you to sample and purchase. Buy some items for yourself, your holiday party, a neighbor, or as a gift exchange item. (Homemade goodies make the best gifts!) All the proceeds from this event will be given to the "Crafty Creatures" small group for quilt supplies.

Cookie and candy donations are needed to make this event successful. Bring your items to the church on Saturday morning, December 9, or early Sunday morning. If you have any tins that could be recycled from last year, place them in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. So, mark your calendar and come downstairs after worship to experience the Christmas spirit at St. Paul's and help continue this mission outreach of our church.



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

**St. Paul's Book Club
Saturday, December 2
9:00 AM**
Book discussion about:
The Christmas Train
By David Baldacci
Bring your own breakfast and
join the discussion group.

December 3
Coins for Communion
to benefit
The Lima Salvation Army

Christian Symbol

St. Paul's Epistle	
is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church	
Subscription Rate: NONE	
Secretary	Gail Fessler
Newsletter	Jone Lane
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker



Branch (Tree) of Jesse
Isaiah used the image of a new tree growing from what appears dead to foretell God's redemption of Israel: "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit" (Isaiah 11:1, NIV). During Advent, this prophecy assures us of the coming of the Messiah, descended from King David, and thus his father, Jesse.

St. Paul's Bi-Annual Holiday Home Walk

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Soup Supper begins at 5:30 PM
in the Fellowship Hall.

We will visit the homes of
Deb Hurd, Anne Laman, Tracy Sdao,
and Margie Best.

A variety of soups are needed.
Contact Sue Theodore 419-979-8002
or ttheodore1@woh.rr.com

Door prizes may be delivered to the
church office by Sunday, December 10.

Hope you can come to join in the
fellowship, food, and fun!



**Seniors Day Out
Tuesday,
December 19, 2017**

**At noon
in the Fellowship Hall**

**A Christmas
Celebration**



Donate GLOVES & Scarves

It is time to start making or buying mittens,
scarves, hats and gloves for our special tree.
The items will be taken to Our Daily Bread,
Samaritan House, and Lima Rescue Mission.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Dedication of new choir
robes on All Saints Sunday,
November 5.

Thank you to Lindy Wilson, guest
soloist on November 19, singing
"Amazing Grace". Lindy is the
granddaughter of Dillon and
Helen Staas and niece of Shara
and Dennis Bowher.



Holiday Worship Schedule



December 3
1st Sunday of Advent



December 17
10:00 AM worship service
"Little Lion, Little Lamb"
A Cantata for Christmas
By Heather Sorenson



December 10
2nd Sunday of Advent



December 17
3rd Sunday of Advent



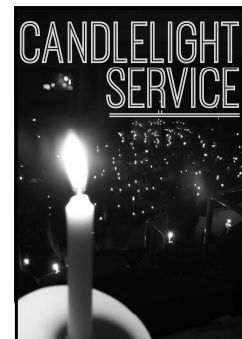
December 24
4th Sunday of Advent

December 24
Christmas Eve
Early Service
6:00 PM



December 24
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
10:00 PM

Jesus took his place in a manger so that
we might have a home in heaven.
—Greg Laurie



Poems

A Season of Joy

By Dillon Staas

*When winter's winds are whistling and the frost is in the air,
The malls are packed with shoppers; happy faces everywhere.
The halls are decked with pretty bows and ribbons, red and green,
And smiles and nods aplenty from some folks we've never seen.*

*The children wait impatiently for Santa to arrive,
The joy of the occasion makes us glad to be alive,
On Christmas day they're off to play at Grandma's house and eat
The cakes and nuts and candies, Grandma's tasty Christmas treats.*

*They all sit down to dinner and it's then it comes to mind
The reason for the season when our cares are left behind.
They stop to ask the blessing and each heart begins to know,
The touch of Jesus' tender hand from which these blessings flow.*

*Then maybe in the morning when the gifts are packed away,
It's back to work and back to school; it's just another day,
But somewhere in our consciousness we'll pause in all our fuss,
And remember to be thankful for what God has given us.*

Christmas Joys

By Dillon Staas

*Half the fun of Christmas is in the songs we sing.
The words just lift our spirits with all the joy they bring.
And half the fun of Christmas is the greetings from our friends.
And still another half is from the presents that they send.*

*Well, let me see, it seems to me, we're having too much fun.
Now if we care then we should share our fun with everyone.
So off we go into the snow, our carols to sing out,
To tell the world of Jesus' birth; what Christmas is about.*



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
October 29, 2017	76
November 5, 2017	116
November 12, 2017	91
November 19, 2017	106
November 26, 2017	94

Financial Giving
 Weekly Need for
 Unified Ministry Budget
 \$3,466.00

	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
October 29, 2017	\$2,234.00	\$1,176.78
November 5, 2017	\$9,712.00	\$4,485.86
November 12, 2017	\$1,996.00	\$293.00
November 19, 2017	\$2,536.00	\$2,879.83
November 26, 2017	\$3,674.00	\$552.00

Sunday School Attendance	
October 29, 2017	0
November 5, 2017	5
November 12, 2017	4
November 19, 2017	10
November 26, 2017	11

Greeters	
December 3, 2017	Marty & A. J. White
December 10, 2017	OPEN
December 17, 2017	Dillon & Helen Staas
December 24, 2017	Marla Scannell
December 31, 2017	OPEN

Flower Calendar	
December 3, 2017	Dan & Margie Best
December 10, 2017	Scott & Beth Warris
December 17, 2017	Dottie Jennell
December 24, 2017	Poinsettias
December 31, 2017	Poinsettias

Hospitality Cart	
December 3, 2017	Deb Hurd
December 10, 2017	Scannell Family
December 17, 2017	OPEN
December 24, 2017	Choir
December 31, 2017	OPEN

Daily Bible Readings

Friday 12/1

Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143
Isaiah 24:14-23
1 Peter 3:13-4:6
Matthew 20:17-28

Saturday 12/2

Psalm 104, 137, 144
Micah 7:11-20
1 Peter 4:7-19, Matthew 20:29-34

Sunday 12/3

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Amos 1:1-2:8
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Luke 21:5-19

Monday 12/4

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, Amos 2:6-16
2 Peter 1:1-11
Matthew 21:1-11

Tuesday 12/5

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11, Amos 3:1-11
2 Peter 1:12-21, Matthew 21:12-22

Wednesday 12/6

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Amos 3:12-4:5
2 Peter 3:1-10, Matthew 21:23-32

Thursday 12/7

Psalm 18, Amos 4:6-13
2 Peter 3:11-18
Matthew 21:33-46

Friday 12/8

Psalm 16, 17, 22 Amos 5:1-17
Jude 1-16, Matthew 22:1-14

Saturday 12/9

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Amos 5:18-27
Jude 17-25, Matthew 22:15-22

Sunday 12/10

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Amos 6:1-14
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Luke 1:57-68

Monday 12/11

Psalm 9, 15, 25, Amos 7:1-9
Revelation 1:1-8
Matthew 22:23-33

Tuesday 12/12

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Amos 7:10-17, 24-25
Revelation 1:9-16
Matthew 22:34-46

Wednesday 12/13

Psalm 38, 119:25-48
Amos 8:1-14
Revelation 1:17-2:7
Matthew 23:1-12

Thursday 12/14

Psalm 37, Amos 9:1-10
Revelation 2:8-17
Matthew 23:13-26

Friday 12/15

Psalm 31, 35, Haggai 1:1-15
Revelation 2:18-29
Matthew 23:27-39

Saturday 12/16

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Haggai 2:1-19
Revelation 3:1-6
Matthew 24:1-14

Sunday 12/17

Psalm 63, 98, 103, Amos 9:11-15
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 13-17
John 5:30-47

Monday 12/18

Psalm 41, 44, 52
Zechariah 1:7-17
Revelation 3:7-13
Matthew 24:15-31

Tuesday 12/19

Psalm 45, 47, 48, Zechariah 2:1-13
Revelation 3:14-22
Matthew 24:32-44

Wednesday 12/20

Psalm 53, 119:49-72
Zechariah 3:1-10
Revelation 4:1-8
Matthew 24:45-51

Thursday 12/21

Psalm 33, 59, 60
Zechariah 4:1-14
Revelation 4:9-5:5
Matthew 25:1-13

Friday 12/22

Psalm 40, 51, 54
Zechariah 7:8-8:8
Revelation 5: 6-14
Matthew 25:14-30

Saturday 12/23

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Zechariah 8:9-17
Revelation 6:1-17
Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday 12/24 - Christmas Eve

Psalm 89:1-29
Isaiah 59:15b-21
Philippians 2:5-11

Monday 12/25 - Christmas Day

Psalm 2, 85, 110, 132
Micah 4:1-5, 5:2-4
1 John 4:7-16
John 3:31-26

Tuesday 12/26

Psalm 66, 67, 116, 117
1 Samuel 2:1b-10
Titus 2:1-10, Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday 12/27

Psalm 72, 111, 113
2 Samuel 7:1-17
Titus 2:11-3:8a
Luke 1:39-48a(48b-56)

Thursday 12/28

Psalm 80, 146, 147
2 Samuel 7:18-29
Galatians 3:1-14, Luke 1:57-66

Friday 12/29

Psalm 93, 96, 148, 150
Galatians 3:15-22, Luke 1:67-80

Saturday 12/30

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
Genesis 3:18-15
Revelations 12:1-10
John 3:16-21

Sunday 12/31 - New Years Eve

Psalm 34, 93, 96
1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 1:18-25

Trick-or-Treat Mission

Thank you to everyone who helped hand out hot chocolate, coffee, pencils and candy at Elida St. Paul's Trick-or-Treat/Trunk-or-Treat night. Over 350 cups of hot chocolate were handed out to little ghosts and goblins and just as many or more visited the trunks in our parking lot to get candy from volunteers. Everyone had a good time! Thanks for all of the help for a safe Trick-or-Treat night!



Church History

St. Paul received a "One Hundred Percent Achiever Church" certificate for paying in full our apportionments, which support United Methodism's Ministries Across the West Ohio Conference and throughout the World. It was signed by Bishop Bruce R. Ough and District Superintendent Philip Brooks. Our members should be proud of accomplishing this.

Rev. James Kuhn was our interim minister for the month of January, 2002. Rev. Larry Snyder, along with his wife, Beth, moved into the parsonage and he became St. Paul's minister in February, 2002.

In June, 2002, the American Cancer Society held its Relay for Life walk at the Elida Middle School. For the first time Elida St. Paul co-sponsored a team with the Regional Transit Authority (RTA). Money raised is used for cancer research. Carole Grapner and Linda Holman were the team captains. The St. Paul/RTA team raised \$1,300.

On August 17, more than 30 volunteers from St. Paul UMC set up the chairs for the grandstand concert at the Allen Co. Fair and took them down after the concert. This is a great money maker for our church.

On September 8, a September 11 Memorial Service was held at Immanuel United Methodist Church in the evening. Pastors Gary Rode and Larry Snyder conducted the worship service.

By December 31, 2002, St. Paul once again received a certificate signed by Bishop Bruce Ough for being a One Hundred Percent Achiever Church. Paying our apportionments in full supports United Methodism's Ministries across the West Ohio Conference and throughout the world. You should be proud!

On April 20, 2003, Rev. Snyder confirmed 5 youth from our church: Megan Bible, Lindsey Reiff, Kayla Stewart, Jenni Theodore, and Kelly Warris.

In June, 2003, St. Paul and RTA again co-sponsored a team for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life walk. This time it was held at the Allen County Fairgrounds. With wonderful support from the people of St. Paul's Church, the team surpassed their goal of \$1,500 by raising \$2,058!

A group of volunteers from St. Paul's build ramps at homes for handicapped persons. In recognition of this, the Allen County Board of MRDD presented St. Paul United Methodist with the Good Neighbor Award plaque, which hangs in the front entrance to the sanctuary, across from the Bride's Room. Thank you to all the people to do this worthwhile project. St. Paul volunteers worked on a house for Habitat for Humanity in the summer.



June, 2003
St. Paul and Immanuel walkers
at Relay for Life Walk



August, 2002
Setting Up Fair Chairs

Remember When...



December, 1991

"Christmas Around the World"
Presented by the youth of St. Paul's,
directed by Janna Thompson,
Jan Wyant, and Lois Cook.



December, 1991

Dan Best comes dressed as Columbo to
the Koinonia New Year's Eve Party.



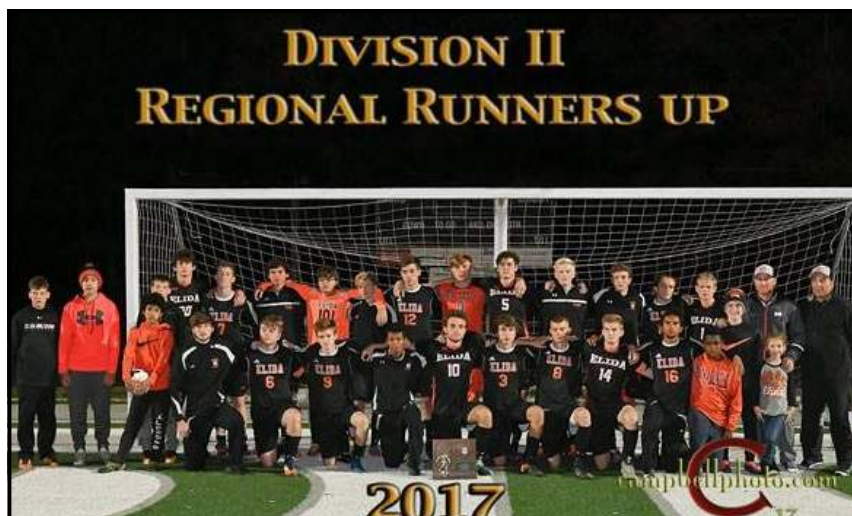
Christmas, 1994
Joy Singers

L-R: David Crates, Erin Peters, Jordan
Wyant, Tara Thompson, Jim Thomas,
Sara Matlock, Todd Chaffins, Jennifer
Wenger, Josh Peters, Adam Crates,
Jonathan Cook



Connecting With ...

Congratulations to Isaac, Brent and Vicki McAdams for Isaac's senior year as quarterback for our Elida Bulldogs! Isaac was named Western Buckeye League Offensive Back of the Year and First team offense All North West Division III. Isaac lead our Dawgs to an 8-2 season, second place in the WBL and a spot in the Division III playoffs! Way to go Isaac!



Congratulations to the Elida boys soccer team and coaches, Tom Thomas and Scott Warris, for earning the WBL title and ending their season as Division II Regional runners up.

Photo courtesy of Campbell photography.



Congratulations to Joshua Guess for being chosen to participate in the Ohio Music Education Association District 3 Honors Band, which will perform January 14th at the Van Wert Niswonger Performing Arts Center. Joshua will play trumpet in their Concert Band.



The People of St. Paul's



Congratulations to Jon and Chelsey Cook on the birth of their daughter, Holly Anne Cook, on Friday, November 3 at 1:09 AM. Holly was 6 lbs. 11 ozs. and 20 1/4 in. Proud grandmother is Lois Cook. Cards may be sent to 3053 Fryer Rd., Elida, OH 45807.

Congratulations to Jim and Phyllis Hines on the birth of their 5th Great Grandchild, Wrenley Lou Dubry.

*To My St. Paul's Family,
Thank you so much for your prayers, cards and phone calls during my recovery from Knee surgery. Special thanks for the beautiful flowers. I so appreciate the congregation of St. Paul's United Methodist Church. You are truly a blessing from God.*

Martha Vazquez

We very much appreciate your support of Lima's Samaritan House. We sincerely thank you.

*God Bless you,
Samaritan House Staff*

Thank You



Remember in Prayer

- Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital
Karen Bible
Mary Irvin
Bill McKinney
Ray Trigg
- Homebound Members
Hazel Dunn
Glenna Kohli
- Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement
Karen Bible
Bill McKinney
Ray and Phyllis Trigg
- In the Military & Missions
Oliver Fessler
Nathan Stewart

Thank you to those who packed a box for Samaritans Purse, Operation Christmas Child. 91 Boxes from St. Paul's are being sent around the world to touch the hearts of many children and their families.

Meetings

December 4, 2017
PPR...7:00 PM

December 5, 2017
Trustees...7:00 PM

December 6, 2017
Worship...6:00 PM

December 11, 2017
Finance Meeting

No Ad Council

TBA
Missions

Sundays
Prayer...8:45 AM
Sunday Sch...9:00 AM
Fellowship...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM

Wednesdays
Chancel Choir...7:00 PM

December 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1 Lena Whetstone A.J. White	2 Michael Craft Lavonne Segovia
3	4	5 Shirley Adams David Segovia	6 Jerry Crates Teresa Grigsby Sue Theodore Lisa Wurster	7	8	9 Brayden Rutter
10	11 John Segovia Phyllis Trigg	12	13	14	15 Taryn Piper	16
17 Audrey Fox	18 Mary Holmes	19	20 Ruth Burgoon Mary Steiner	21	22 Kara Woeller	23
24 Linda Craft	25 Denny Grapner	26	27 Deb Hurd Megan Wyant	28	29 Tiffany Emmons Tammy Segovia	30 Cameron Emmons Tristan Gaghen
31 Jack White						

Anniversaries

<i>Roger & Jackie Henderson December 4; 46 yrs.</i>
<i>Derick & Ashley Edwards December 18</i>
<i>Dennis & Shara Bowsher December 19; 37 yrs.</i>
<i>Larry & Gloria Brunk December 21; 49 yrs.</i>
<i>John & Val Kuenzli December 27</i>
<i>Denny & Janna Thompson December 29; 39 yrs</i>
<i>Ron & Karen Bible December 30</i>
<i>Mike & Kim Crates December 31</i>

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Cheese Ball with Pineapple

By Corinne Piper

Ingredients		Instructions
16 oz.	Cream cheese	Mix cheese, pineapple, salt, onion and 1 cup of pecans. Roll in 1 cup of chopped pecans. Could use a mixture of walnuts and pecans.
8 oz.	Crushed Pineapple, drained	
1 tsp.	Seasoned salt	
2 Tbl.	Onion, crushed	
2 cups	Pecans	



Jezebel Cheese Ball

By Myrna Metzger

Ingredients		Instructions
10 oz.	Apricot preserves	Bring preserves, horseradish and apple jelly to a boil. Cool completely. Serve over cream cheese. Serve with crackers.
5 oz.	Horseradish	
12 oz.	Apple jelly	
8 oz.	Cream Cheese	

Chicken Cheese Ball

By Jan Wyant

Ingredients		Instructions
2 (8oz.)	Cream cheese, softened	Combine all ingredients. Chill. Serve with favorite crackers.
2 cans	Underwood chicken spread	
2 Tbl.	Onion, minced	
2 Tbl.	Worcestershire sauce	

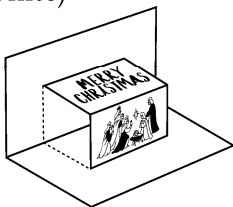
KIDZ KORNER

POP-UP CARD

Share the good news of Jesus' birth with this creative Christmas card.

What you need:

- Construction paper (two pieces, including one white)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Pens
- Glue stick



What you do:

1. Neatly fold the white paper in half, short side to short side.
2. Draw two parallel lines (at least 2 inches apart) from the fold to about halfway to the edge. Cut along the lines.
3. Fold the cut section back and forth so it pops up.
4. Push the section up so it pops up inside the folded paper. Draw a nativity scene on the pop-up box.
5. Fold the colored paper in half, short side to short side. Place the white paper inside it and glue the white paper down, being careful not to glue the pop-up box.
6. Write a Christmas message and give or send the card to someone.



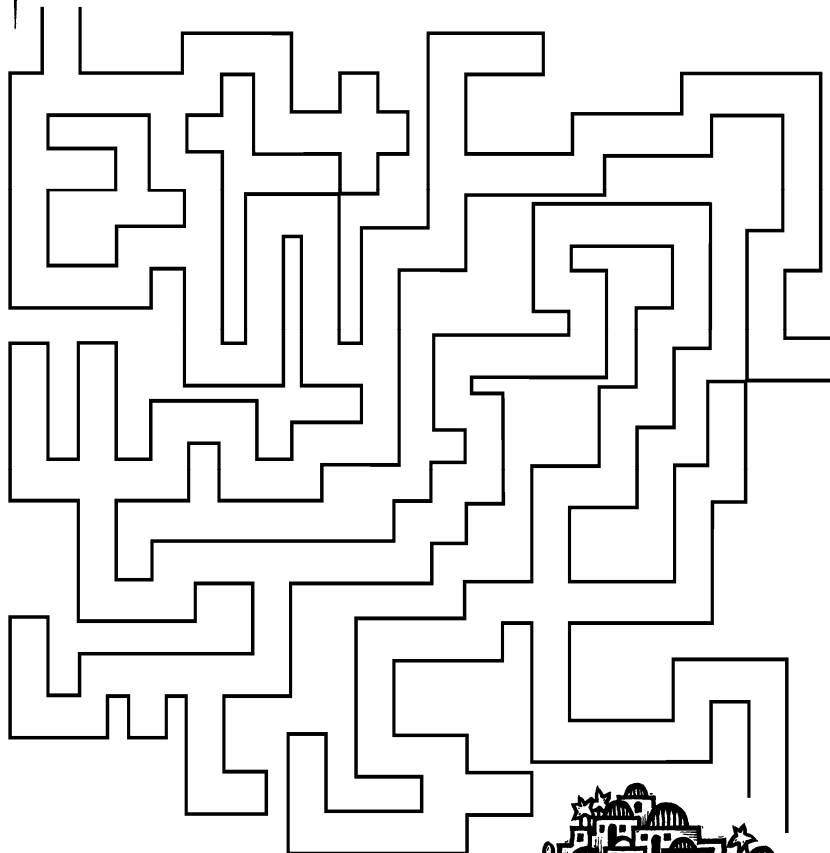
JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.



START

Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.



BETHLEHEM



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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45807
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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCURCH



Living Our Faith

Everlasting Joy

In a *Chicken Soup for the Soul* sampler, Karen Asire tells of a particularly difficult Christmas after her husband left and began divorce proceedings. As Karen and her three young children set up their tree, she fought tears and secretly tucked aside certain ornaments, such as one announcing "Our First Christmas Together."

Several days later, a neighbor stopped by with a gold decoration proclaiming JOY. "We've hung this ornament on our tree for several years," she explained, "but this year we wanted you to have it." When Asire hung it on the tree and stepped back, "all the other ornaments seemed to fade into the background, and all [she] saw was the shimmering gold of the JOY ornament." She allowed herself to cry then, grateful for the reminder that amid grief and heartache, God's love shines.

Pain fades in time, while God's Christmas gift — Jesus — brings joy that lasts forever.

Greatest Worth

He came a babe of lowly birth.
He was God's Son of greatest worth.
We, like the angels, sing with mirth
because God sent his Son to earth
to ransom us and claim our worth.
Praise God this babe of lowly birth!

—MaryAnn Sundby

