

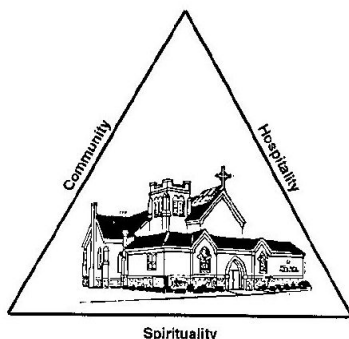
St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 42, Issue 12

December, 2019

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Preparation for the coming of the King is the reason we celebrate the Advent Season, but we are going to look at things a little differently this year. As we prepare for the birth of our Savior, I want to look at some of the events that followed His birth and "Find Christ in Christmas". We will be looking at 4 events in the life of the young Messiah and how we find Christ in Christmas through each encounter. I want to share with you the story of a man so jealous and afraid for his kingdom that he searched through out his kingdom for young Jesus to murder him. Not finding him, he was infuriated to the point of genocide of a generation of young boys to protect his reign.

We will look at the men who watched the stars in the sky and knew that the world was changing. I will wonder with you what drove men to seek the King in the west, and how that same search for knowledge and truth drives us to seek Christ today. We seek knowing that whatever gift we bring will never be enough, but assured that just a glimpse at Jesus' greatness will cause us to fall on our knees to worship Him.

Next, the wisdom of the age will bring us to a deeper understanding of how Jesus frees us to explore new areas of our life. How 2 people of great faith give us the courage to never give up on God, who will appear to us if we are only faithful. Simeon and Anna prayed to see the Savior before their end and how their bold faith led them to see the infant King in the temple just 8 days after His birth.

Finally, we will wrap up the advent journey with the most common people of all, but also the most important people who God chose first to declare that the Messiah was born in Bethlehem. People like you and I, hard at work, living their everyday life. Who, when they heard the news, had to go see for themselves what the angels had declared to them in the fields as they watched their flocks. Be amazed at what they heard and who they saw that night and know God's love will always be made known to us, the ordinary people of the world.

Join me, won't you? Experience Advent with new eyes and an open heart. Also, come out on Christmas Eve to either the 6 or 10 pm candlelight services to celebrate Jesus' birth. Be on the look out for the Cookie Walk, the Christmas Home Walk, Dish it Out Café and as always, I'll see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

Music acts like a magic key, to which the most tightly closed heart opens.

—Maria Augusta von Trapp

Cookie and Treats Walk Sunday, December 8

Buy some items for yourself, your holiday party, a neighbor, or as a gift exchange item. 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 7, 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 join us after worship to experience the Christmas spirit at St. Paul's and help continue this mission outreach of our church.



St. Paul's Bi-Annual Holiday Home Walk

Tuesday, December 10

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

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 8.

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



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Newsletter
deadline:
the **16th**
of each month

Christian Symbol

HOLLY



Holly was first used by pagans to decorate for the festival of Saturnalia. When Christians began celebrating Christmas in honor of Christ, they adapted that decorating practice to reflect Jesus' life and death. Holly's pointed leaves symbolize the crown of thorns and its red berries symbolize Christ's blood shed on the cross. Because holly thrives and its berries retain their brilliance even in harsh winter conditions, non-Christians saw it as a symbol of eternity — which is fitting for Christians as well.

St. Paul's Epistle

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Subscription Rate: NONE

Secretary	Gail Fessler
Newsletter	Jone Lane
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker

December 1
Coins for Communion
 to benefit the Lima Salvation Army.



Dish-It-Out Café
Tuesday, December 17
 at noon
 in the Fellowship Hall
 Bring a Manger Scene



December 15
Food Pantry
 Bring non-perishable food items
 for the 5 Loaves food pantry

December 31
New Year's Eve



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Hat and Mitten Christmas Tree.

St. Paul's special Christmas tree for hats, mittens and scarves will help to keep those less fortunate stay warm this winter. Consider buying Children's, men's and women's sized gloves for the tree to compliment the many knitted scarves and hats that are donated.



Thank you, to those who packed a box for Samaritans Purse, Operation Christmas Child. 95 Boxes from St. Paul's are being sent around the world to touch the hearts of many children and their families.



Christmas Worship Schedule



December 1
1st Sunday of Advent



December 8
2nd Sunday of Advent



December 15
3rd Sunday of Advent



December 22
4th Sunday of Advent



Christmas Schedule

December 24
Christmas Eve
Early Service
6:00 PM



December 24
Christmas Eve
Gathering Music
9:30 PM
Candlelight Service
10:00 PM

The St. Paul's Special Christmas Offering
will be designated for the following missions:
1/3 to UMCOR, U. S. Disaster Response
1/3 to Samaritan House
1/3 to Lima Rescue Mission



Grandma's Apron

Grandma's Apron

A little history about grandma and her apron

The principle use of grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a holder for removing hot pans from the oven; it was wonderful for drying children's tears.

From the chicken-coop the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids; and when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled it carried out the hulls. In the fall the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields for dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that old-time apron that served so many purposes.

Remember this!! Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the windowsill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the windowsill to thaw.



Joyce Nichols wearing her
"Grandma Fills the world with Love"
Apron that has her grandchildren's
names on it.

The Theme for the November Dish-It-out Café
was to bring an Apron and share it's story.



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
November 3, 2019	105
November 10, 2019	81
November 17, 2019	84
November 24, 2019	89

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

	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
November 3, 2019	\$4,353.00	\$214.50
November 10, 2019	\$7,163.02	\$2,735.07
November 17, 2019	\$2,607.00	\$416.94
November 24, 2019	\$9,313.50	\$1,552.87

Sunday School Attendance	
November 3, 2019	5
November 10, 2019	5
November 17, 2019	2
November 24, 2019	5

Greeters	
December 1, 2019	Virginia Hollar
December 8, 2019	Denny & Carole Grapner
December 15, 2019	Margie Best & Jone Lane
December 22, 2019	Marty & Kathy White
December 29, 2019	OPEN

Flower Calendar	
December 1, 2019	Dan & Margie Best
December 8, 2019	Mike & Kim Crates
December 15, 2019	Jack & Cindy Swihart
December 22, 2019	POINSETTIAS
December 29, 2019	POINSETTIAS

Hospitality Cart	
December 1, 2019	Book Club/ Deb Hurd
December 8, 2019	OPEN
December 15, 2019	OPEN
December 22, 2019	Choir/ Judy Chaffins
December 29, 2019	OPEN

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday 12/1

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Amos 1:1-5, 13-2:8
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Luke 21:5-19

Monday 12/2

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, Amos 2:6-12
2 Peter 1:1-11, Matthew 21:1-11

Tuesday 12/3

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

Wednesday 12/4

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

Thursday 12/5

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

Friday 12/6

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

Saturday 12/7

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

Sunday 12/8

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

Monday 12/9

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

Tuesday 12/10

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

Wednesday 12/11

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

Thursday 12/12

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

Friday 12/13

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

Saturday 12/14

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

Sunday 12/15

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

Monday 12/16

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

Tuesday 12/17

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

Wednesday 12/18

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

Thursday 12/19

Psalm 33, 50, Zechariah 4:1-14
Revelation 4:9-5:5
Matthew 25:1-13

Friday 12/20

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

Saturday 12/21

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

Sunday 12/22

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

Monday 12/23

Psalm 61, 62, 112, 115
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Titus 1:1-16, Luke 1:1-25

Tuesday 12/24 - Christmas Eve

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

Wednesday 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

Thursday 12/26

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

Friday 12/27

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

Saturday 12/28

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

Sunday 12/29

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

Monday 12/30

Psalm 18, 2 Samuel 23:13-17b
Revelation 1:1-8, John 7:37-52

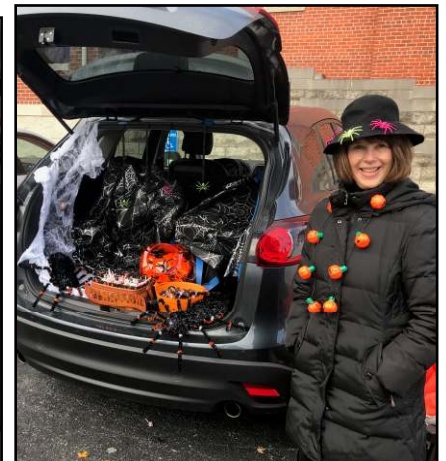
Tuesday 12/31 - New Years Eve

Psalm 20, 21, 23, 27
1 Kings 17:17-24
Revelation 1:9-20
John 7:53-8:11



Trick-or-Treat Mission

St. Paul's hot chocolate mission and trunk-or-treat mission on Halloween, was a success! Thanks to everyone who worked for these missions and for everyone who donated their trunks and their candy! We had a great time! Praise God for seeing old friends and the cute ghosts and goblins who visited us! Special thanks to Pastor Paul for slaving in the kitchen to heat water and mix the hot chocolate!



Church History

May 24, 2015, St. Paul's celebrated Memorial Day and Pentecost Sunday. The beautiful altar was done by Kathy White.

The Koinonia Class gathered at Jone Lane's house for "Movie Night," hosted by Lois Cook and Jone. There was a business meeting and then the showing of the movie, "Koinonia Through the Years," which chronicled the events of the Koinonia Class in years past. After the movie, movie "snacks" were served: popcorn, soda pop and various boxed candy found at a movie theater.

Another Blessing of the Quilts occurred on May 31st. The 30 quilts were taken to Van Crest, Sarah Jane Living, and the Orchards the following week.

A new heater was installed in the library and the library was renovated and newly painted. It is a very nice place to sit and visit with other parishioners on Sunday morning when visiting the hospitality cart.

Two groups provided special music in the summer of 2015. The women's Ensemble sang "The Gift of Love" by Hal Hopson on June 21st. Judy Chaffins, Linda Craft, Lynda Evans, Nancy Gesler, Linda Holman, Maedene Holmes, Anne Laman, Myrna Metzger and Jan Wyant made up the ensemble. On August 23, the trio of Linda Holman, Anne Laman and Jan Wyant sang "The Majesty of Creation" arr. by T. Fettke.

The Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing was held July 11, 2015. St. Paul's golfers this year were Denny Bowsher, Larry Moser, Tim Theodore and Denny Thompson. Elida St. Paul's UMC sponsored a hole and St. Paul's golf team received the plaque for being the first place team. Scott Fessler, Norm Grigsby, Tim Piper, Sue Theodore and Jamie Wyant were volunteers from St. Paul's.

July 15, 2015
Volunteers for Brad Joseph
Memorial Golf Outing



June 21, 2015
Women's Ensemble

Remember When...



December, 1990
Cherub Choir



December 30, 2001
Honoring Rev. Terry
Heck on her last Sunday



December, 2011
Choir dinner before
Kenny G concert

Connecting With ...

All Saints Sunday, November 3
The candles on the altar are in memory of loved ones.



Lena Whetstone serving as acolyte for
the first time on Sunday, November 17



Deb and Gary Hurd greet George Wooley at the
Columbus airport as he returns from the Honor
Flight trip to Washington D. C.



Children's class
sang Sunday,
November 24.



Making the Grades:

Elida High School

Makayla Bok - Junior
Honor Roll I

Elida Middle School

Savannah Emmons - 8th Grade
Honor Roll I

Cameron Emmons - 6th Grade
Honor Roll II

Congratulations to Jon and Chelsey Cook, on
the birth of their daughter, Audrey Jo Cook, on
Tuesday, November 19. Audrey was 7 lbs. 11 ozs.
and 21 in. Proud big sister is Holly. Grandmother
is Lois Cook. Cards may be sent to the Cook
family at 3053 Freyer Rd., Elida, OH 45807.



The People of St. Paul's

Come Join Us In Prayer

One of a church family's greatest powers is to support each other by prayer.

For many years a dedicated group of people in our congregation have prayed for those persons who have requested prayers during our service, who have been listed on the pew pads or who have placed calls to the church. This prayer group meets at 9:30 A.M. on Sundays in the "Bride's Room" to lift up to God each person on the prayer list by name. This time isn't long (20 minutes) or difficult, but it is heartfelt.

We invite anyone in our congregation to join us in this time of prayer. As we go around the group, we prayerfully say the name of everyone on our prayer list. You will not be asked to lead prayer unless you feel led to do so. We welcome you to join us whenever you can come and we encourage your prayers at home as well.

Prayer can change a person, a situation, a family, a congregation, a country or our world. Join us as we work to bring the power of the Holy Spirit to all our activities here at St. Paul's Church. Stay tuned for upcoming ideas to invite Jesus into our presence at home, church, and community.

For more information talk with Tim (419.230.2666) or Corinne (419.236.2320) Piper.



Thank You

I'm so sorry I missed having this published in the November Newsletter. Hazel and my sincere "thank you" to all of you in celebration of our 100th birthdays - Hazel on 13th and mine on the 16th of October. It was awesome and greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Judy Chaffins and her helpers in organizing it.

My wish is that you all can experience what we did - a wonderful and blessed 100 enjoyable years.

God Bless you all!
Evelyn Sarber



Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or
in the Hospital

Jerry Crates

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Glenna Kohli

Those in Need of Healing,
Support, Strength &
Encouragement

Ray and Phyllis Trigg

In the Military & Missions

Oliver Fessler
Nathan Stewart

Meetings

No PPR

December 3, 2019
Trustees...7:00 PM

December 4, 2019
Worship Mtg...10:00 AM

No Finance Meeting

December 9, 2019
Ad Council...7:00 PM

December 19, 2019
Missions...7:00 PM

Sundays
Prayer...9:30 AM
Fellowship...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM

Wednesdays
Chancel Choir...7:00 PM

December 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 Lena Whetstone A. J. White	2 Michael Craft Lavonne Segovia	3	4 Carl Miller	5 Shirley Adams	6 Jerry Crates Teresa Grigsby Sue Theodore Lisa Wurster	7
8	9 Brayden Rutter	10	11 Phyllis Trigg	12	13	14
15 Taryn Piper	16	17 Audrey Fox	18 Mary Holmes Pam Moser	19	20 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 Tristin Gaghen	31 Jack White				

Anniversaries

- Roger & Jackie Henderson
December 4; 48 yrs.*
- Derick & Ashley Edwards
December 18*
- Dennis & Shara Bowsher
December 19; 39 yrs.*
- Larry & Gloria Brunk
December 21; 51 yrs.*
- John & Val Kuenzli
December 27*
- Denny & Janna Thompson
December 29; 41 yrs*
- Ron & Karen Bible
December 30*
- Mike & Kim Crates
December 31*

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Scalloped Chicken (Turkey) Casserole

*By Linda Holman
Served at Dish-It-Out Café*

Ingredients		Instructions
1 cup	Green onions, chopped	Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
1 cup	Celery, chopped	
1 small	Pepper, green or sweet red, chopped	In a skillet, saute onions, green peppers, carrots and garlic in oil until crisp-tender. Transfer to a large bowl.
1/2 cup	Carrots, shredded	
2	Garlic cloves, minced	Add chicken, cheeses, mayonnaise and parsley.
2 Tbl.	Vegetable oil	Place 1/2 of bread cubes in greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Top with chicken mixture and remaining bread.
2 cups	Chicken, cooked, cubed	
1 cup	Cheddar cheese, shredded	In a bowl, beat eggs; add milk, soup and Worcestershire sauce, pour over casserole. Sprinkle with paprika.
1 cup	Mozzarella cheese, part skim, shredded	
1/2 cup	Mayonnaise	Bake uncovered for 1 hour and 10 minutes or until a knife inserted comes out clean.
1 Tbl. or 1 tsp.	Parsley, minced fresh or Dried parsley flakes	
14 slices	Whole wheat bread, day old, cubed	
4	Eggs, large	
2 cups	Milk, whole	
1 can 10-3/4 oz.	Cream of chicken soup, condensed undiluted	
1 Tbl.	Worcestershire sauce	
Sprinkle over top	Paprika	

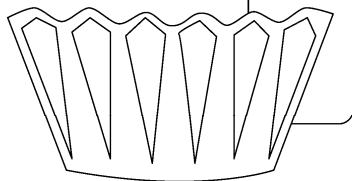


KIDZ KORNER

Light the way



Make some Christmas candles to remember Jesus, the Light of the world.

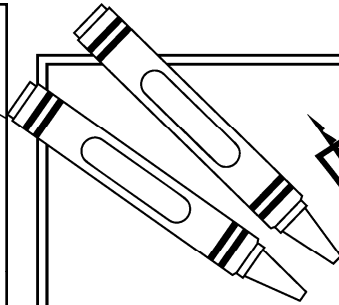


What you need:

- Unlined white notecards
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Yellow tissue paper
- Mini muffin liners
- Clothespins

What you do:

1. Roll a notecard from side to side into a "candle" tube. Secure with glue.
2. Insert a piece of tissue paper "flame" in one end.
3. Glue the other end to a muffin liner. Then glue the liner to a clothespin.
4. Repeat to make many paper candles. Pin them to the branches of a Christmas tree.



PUZZLE

Symbols of the *season*

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.



shepherd's staff _ _ _ _

tree that keeps its leaves _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

shines to lead the way _ _ _ _

green for eternal life, red for Jesus' blood _ _ _ _ & _ _ _ _ _ _

sounds to announce good news _ _ _ _

has no beginning or end _ _ _ _ _

Th ks b to od fo is
indesc ba le gif !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

Answer: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
 105 E. Main St.
 Elida, OH 45807

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Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church
Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org
Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Be Born In Us Today

In 1865, Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal preacher from Boston, went on a Holy Land pilgrimage. Riding horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem for Christmas Eve worship at the Church of the Nativity was so moving that he wrote "O Little Town of Bethlehem." The hymn's final stanza addresses the town's most famous newborn.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us,
 we pray;
 Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in
 us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels the great
 glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us, our Lord
 Emmanuel!

Coming Attraction



Advent, which marks the beginning of the church year, is "the first gleam of Christmas," writes W.E. Sangster. "It heralds the entrance of the Divine into human history; it is heaven descending to earth; it is a great event casting its brilliance before it." Sangster adds: "It is as though a trumpeter had taken his stand upon the turrets of time and announced the coming of the King. 'Get ready,' he seems to say. 'Get ready. He is coming!'"