



The Epistle

Hope, Peace, Joy, Love This Christmas

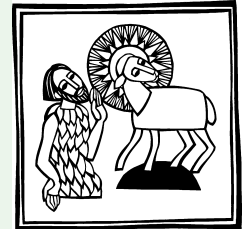


There is so much happening in the world that is distressing and cause for fear and despair. From the wars in Ukraine and Israel-Palestine to mass shootings here in the United States, it may sometimes seem like there is more to grieve than to celebrate this Christmas.

This darkness in the world is precisely why the Light of the World became incarnate. The depth of human brokenness and the magnitude of evil is precisely why Jesus Christ was born, died on the cross, and raised again: to rescue this world which God so loves.

During Advent, we light the candles on the Advent wreath; in the Protestant tradition, these candles are called the Hope, Peace, Joy, and love candles. Each candle reminds us that

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**CONGREGATIONS WITH MORNING WORSHIP
DEC. 24**

All Saints' Lutheran, Eastgate @ 10:30 am:

Ascension Lutheran @ 10:15: 7333 Pfeiffer Rd., Cincinnati, 45242

Good Shepherd Lutheran @ 10 am: 7701 Kenwood Rd., Cincinnati, 45236

Hope Lutheran Church @ 10 am: 4695 Blue Rock Rd, Cincinnati, 45247

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish, @ 9 am: 330 W Vine St, Reading, 45215

Peace Lutheran Church, Arnheim @ 10 am: 10581 Day Hill-Arnheim Rd, Georgetown, 45121

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Hope, Peace, Joy, Love This Christmas

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Jesus Christ has born hope, peace, joy and love into the world and because of the Holy Spirit's presence throughout the world and God's work, there is still reason to cling to hope, peace, joy, and love this Christmas Season.

Advent means "coming." As we light the advent wreath candles, we celebrate the coming of Christmas and how God kept his promise to save people from their sins through the savior; we also are reminded that Christ will come again when God determines the time is right to make everything right.

Until then, let us be vigilant in living righteously and in holding on to the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ brings.

Please note that we will not have worship on Sunday morning, December 24th, but will gather for Christmas Eve worship at 7 pm. If you are in need of a ride to worship that night, please sign up the sign up sheet in the narthex or email Pastor Emily at pastor@stpaulreading.org.

If you would like to attend a worship service on Sunday morning of December 24th, consider worshipping with sisters and brothers in Christ at the locations at left.

In the sure and certain hope and peace of Jesus Christ,
Pastor Emily Beckering

Christmas Play During Worship Dec. 17



The Sunday School will present their Christmas Pageant during the Children's Sermon on Sunday, December 17th. There will also be special guests (St. Nicholas and

St. Lucia) during the Children's Sermons on December 3 and 10. We will be practicing during Sunday school time until the performance. Anyone is welcome to join in the fun and help with preparing and performing.

Christmas Luncheon Dec. 17

All are invited to a Christmas luncheon following worship on December 17th, especially those who are companionless and compassionate for the holidays. The meal will be provided. People can expect a nice, warm lunch, featuring a Christmas Turkey, sides, and dessert as well as Christmas carols, and a short devotional reflection before eating to uplift those who are grieving, lonely, or struggling to find joy during the Christmas season. If one is worried about driving or simply can not, don't be afraid to send a holler to Pastor Emily via stpaulpastor@gmail.com or sign the sign up list in the narthex, and someone will be able to carpool you down to the church for worship and the Christmas luncheon.

Matthew Lawson

(Continued from page 2)

CONGREGATIONS WITH MORNING WORSHIP DEC. 24 CONT'D

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lynchburg @ 10:30 am 502 Pearl St, Lynchburg, 45142

FREE BAND CONCERT DEC. 9

All are invited to the free New Horizons Band Christmas concert at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 10345 Montgomery Rd., Montgomery. The concert is at 2 pm on December 9. Carolyn Koehl will be playing percussion.

Council Corner

The Finance report revealed that operating expenses exceeded income by ~\$7400 in October. A great deal of the November Council meeting was used to discuss this recurring trend and potential options/strategies to sustain the church. It is hoped that members of the congregations will participate in joint activities with other small congregations to learn from each other and perhaps consolidate resources for Fellowship activities.

Council approved a request to host an event and brunch for the Cincinnati Conference Southern Ohio WELCA (men invited too!) Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 13, 2024 @ 11AM. Pastor Emily informally surveyed members who responded favorably and are willing to help with the event. It was also approved to offer a Thrivent card to help defray the expenses

for the speaker: Elva Hurst (Chalk artist/ Devotional Reflection). More information about her is at elvaschalkart.com.

Our AED in the Narthex needs to be checked routinely to make sure it will work if needed. We will be developing a written procedure and are looking for volunteers to do this (simple) check. You do not have to be a medical professional.

Council Members were requested to work with their respective Committees to complete the annual review and update of Committee Descriptions and Responsibilities/Expectations in addition to the Annual Report to the Congregation. Both are due by January 15, 2024.

Many thanks to Becky Betsch for donating a fan to be installed on the wall in the Nursery. It will be greatly appreciated once the warm weather returns.

Intergenerational Sunday School: Wooden Creches

On Intergenerational Sunday in November, we created Holy Family Creche scenes to give to homebound members. Come at 9 am on Sunday, Dec. 10 to create Christmas ornaments.



Celebrations in December



- 2 Alanna Cathcart
3 Larry Huber
8 Freda Faulkner
13 Olivia Lohmeier, Amy
 Flege Lorenz, Sarah Papin
14 Rachel Dean
15 Donny Cathcart
- 18 Linda Lawson,
 Robert Portmann, Jr.
21 Barbara Moorhouse,
 Debra Roell
23 Chelsea King
27 Jean Nolte, Shaun Seals
27 Eric & Susan Bardes
28 Henry Beckering
30 Jason Hirt
31 Rhonda Kreiner

Support St. Paul at Kroger!

Did you know that St. Paul benefits from the Kroger Community Rewards Program? Just follow the directions below to increase your church offering at no cost to yourself!

One-time step: Link your Kroger Plus Card to St. Paul.

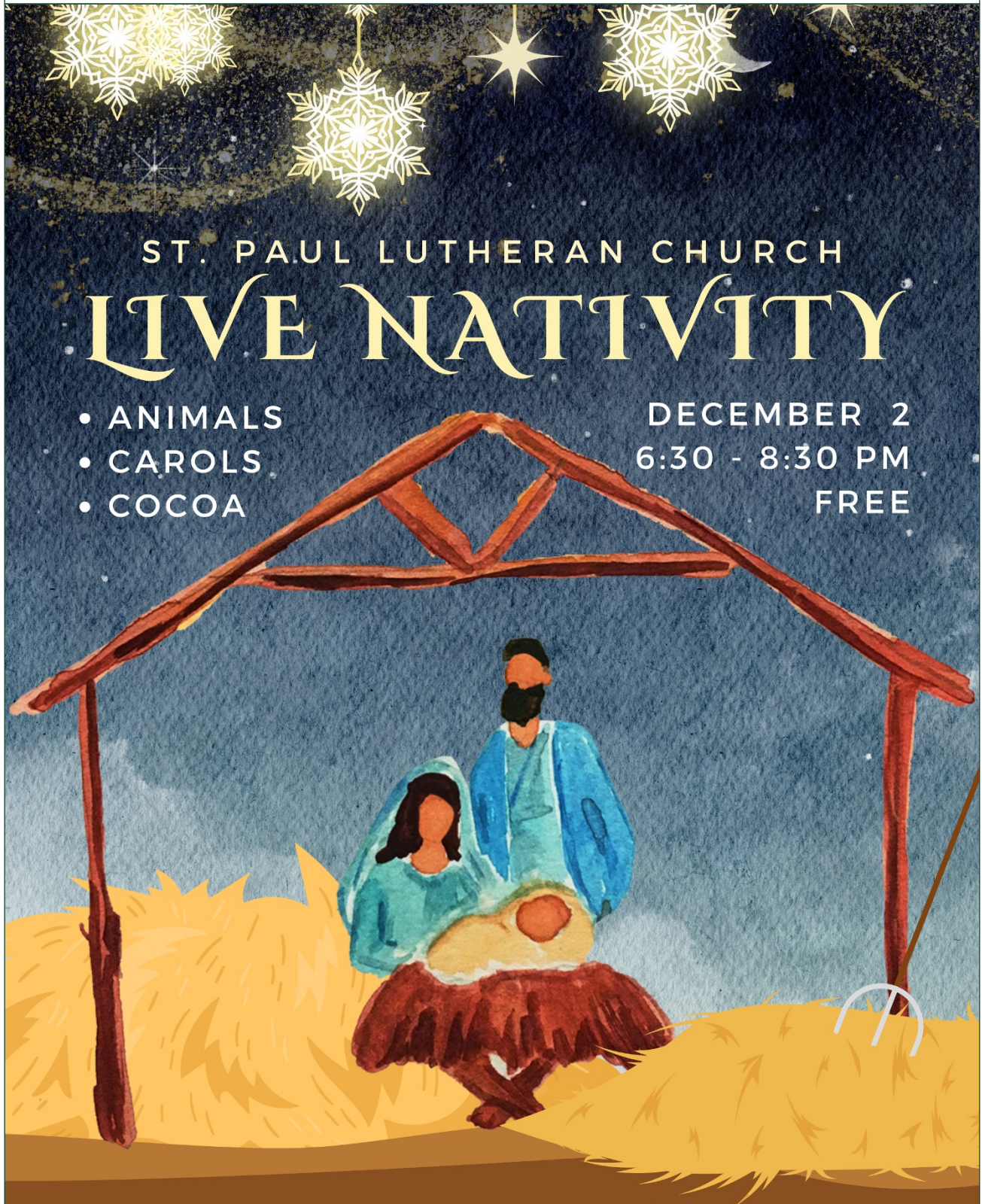
- Visit [kroger.com/account/communityrewards](https://www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards) and log in with your Kroger account. (Kroger customer service can help with this.)
- Search for “St. Paul Lutheran Church” or organization number TG880.
- Click the ENROLL button under St. Paul’s name & address.
- After this, each purchase with your Plus card will generate donations to St. Paul!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD— THANK YOU

Thank you to all who donated shoeboxes of gifts to the Operation Christmas Child project! This year St. Paul delivered 54 shoeboxes to Samaritan’s Purse for distribution around the world.

Join us for the annual Live Nativity! Assistance is needed with setup, serving cocoa and cookies, acting, and cleaning up after the event. We also need cookies to hand out. You can drop cookies off at church prior to Dec. 2.



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LIVE NATIVITY

- ANIMALS
- CAROLS
- COCOA

DECEMBER 2
6:30 - 8:30 PM
FREE

106 Maple St., Reading | 513-821-0987 | stpaulreading.org

St. Paul Lutheran Church

LOCATION KEY

L = library

S = sanctuary FH = fellowship hall

N = narthex

US = upstairs

Mission Statement

Growing a Christian community where each is valued, accepted, and loved.

513-821-0987 | mail@stpaulreading.org

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov. 26 Christ the King **No Sunday School / Adult Forum** 10:30 am Worship (S)	Nov. 27	Nov. 28	Nov. 29 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	Nov. 30	Dec. 1	2 6:30 pm Live Nativity and Reading Christmas Walk
3 Advent 1 9 am Sunday School (ages 3-18) (US) 9 am Adult Forum (FH) 10:30 am Worship (S) After Worship: Evangelism Committee (L)	4	5	6 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	7	8	9
10 Advent 2 9 am Intergenerational Sunday School—Making Christmas Orna- ments (N) 10:30 am Worship (S)	11	12	13 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	14 6 pm Confirmation Class	15	16 11:30 am Church re- served for cleaning
17 Advent 3 9 am Sunday School (ages 3-18) (US) 9 am Adult Forum (FH) 10:30 am Worship (S) & Sunday School Christmas Pageant After worship: Christmas Luncheon	18 7 pm Council Meeting (FH) **Epistle Articles Due**	19	20 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	21	22	23 11:30 am Church re- served for cleaning
24 Christmas Eve **No Sunday School or Morning Wor- ship Service** 7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Ser- vice	25 Christmas Day	26	27 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	28	29	30 11:30 am Church re- served for cleaning
31 1 Christmas **No Sunday School / Adult Forum** 10:30 am Worship (S)	January 1	January 2	January 3 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	January 4	Jan. 5	January 6 11:30 am Church re- served for cleaning

Our Life Together

To reach Pastor directly, please call the pastoral line at 513-760-5884.

If you have requests for the Prayer Chain, or to remove a person from the list, please contact the office at 513-821-0987 or mail@stpaulreading.org.

We pray for **Samantha Asbrock** (Marie Calhoun's friend); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Jeannie Allen** (Faith Eckerle's friend); **Teresa Bell** (former member); **Chrissi Bergt** (Kate Wollenburg's cousin); **Stephen Black** (Kim Coulehan's nephew); **Nancy Boone** (Gary Gries' sister); **Brett** (Kings' step-nephew); **Natalie Burroughs**; **Jodie Calhoun**; **Casey** (Cindy Sieckman's niece); **John Cathcart**; **Christy** (Terri DeAngelis' daughter); **Pat Coldiron**; **Sandy Cordes**; **Kathy Curless**; **David** (Cindy Sieckman's cousin); **Rebecka DeLeon** (daughter of Holly Ford's co-worker); **Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Sara Eble** (Portmanns' friend); **Jane Erbeck**; **Nancy Erbeck**; **Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Cindy Flege**; **Lee Frank** (Barbara Moorhouse's niece's husband); **Darrell Frasure** (St. Paul neighbor); **Jeanne Fuller**; **Clara Garcia** (Cindy Mayhugh's sister); **Lena Gibson** (Pirrmanns' stepsister); **Nathaniel Gibson** (Les Eckerle's step-nephew); **Janie Grandy** (in-law of DeAngelis-Willet family); **Don Grau Jr.**; **Jim Hammerling** (Portmanns' son-in-law); **Ron Harbaugh**; **Chrissy Harris**; **Sandy Hatcher** (Linda Holt's sister); **Elain Heskamp**; **Ed Hirt**; **Betty**

Hoffmann; **Andrew Horton**; **Penny and Larry Huber**; **Ellen Hunter** (Jeni Cathcart's grandmother); **Kate** (granddaughter of Dennis King's friend); **Mike Keefe** (Millers' neighbor); **Ken and Kathy Keith** (Kris Keith's dad and stepmom); **Chelsea King**; **Dennis King**; **Jackie King**; **Janet King**; **Earl (Buddy) King** (Dennis's brother); **Marilyn Kline** (Cindy Sieckman's neighbor); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Tom and Mike Kozee and family** (friends of Faith Eckerle); **Kelsee Lainhart** (friend of Kings); **Nelson Langefeld**; **Yvonne Lowery** (St. Paul Players); **Brad Majewski**; **Carroll Mayhugh Sr.** (Carroll Mayhugh's father); **Cindy Mayhugh**; **Jessica Mayhugh & family** (Mayhughs' niece-in-law); **Samantha Mersch** (Mayhughs' daughter, Sarah Papin's sister); **Jack Miller** (Becky Betsch's uncle); **Linda Miller**; **Mary Mills** (St. Paul Players); **Jessica Mink** (Donald Harris's cousin); **Barbara Moorhouse**; **Charlie Myers** (Coulehans' family friend); **Jean Nolte**; **Ann Ohr** (Barbara Moorhouse's cousin); **Eric Papin**; **LaCartha Pate** (Jeanne Wagner's friend); **Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Nick Pirrmann**; **Bob Price** (Kings' friend); **Barry Prince**; **Everett Prudhomme** (Beckerings' nephew); **Denise Rankin**; **Cynthia Reed**; **Dick Replogle** (Linda Miller's brother); **Christopher Rolfes** (Anne's son); **Mike and Judy Ryan** (friends of the Kings); **Sara and Evan** (Barbara Moorhouse's cousins); **Scott Schadel** (friend of McDowell's); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills' cousin); **Shannon and Dane** (friends of Riddle family); **Knox Shepherd** (grandson of Pr. Vicki Garber); **Kate**

Our Life Together

Sheridan (Kings' family friend); **Kim Sieckman**; **Dave Speed** (Hirts' friend); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Kathy Spelman and family** (Joyce's sister-in-law); **Michael Steele** (Mayhughs' nephew); **Frank Sturgill** (Jim's dad); **Geri Toland** (Carole Replogle's neighbor); **Sharon Touchton** (Portmanns' friend); **Lish Trasser** (friend of DeAngelis-Willet family); **Treasure** (Les Eckler's cousin); **Ralph Turner** (friend of Dennis King); **Gayle Underwood** (Kris Keith's mom); **Jeanne Wagner**; **Melinda Wakefield** (Sherry Bronner's friend); **Pr. George Wilch**; **Leslie Willet**; **Kate Wollenburg and family**; **Judy Young** (Janet King's sister); **Barb Zeh** (Jeni Cathcart's mom).

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every

week: **Betty Hoffmann, Betty Kline, Shirley Lathrop, Barbara Moorhouse, Jean Nolte.**

We pray for our armed forces members: **Graham Barton** (Fords' neighbor); **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman's grandson); **Victoria Derry** (Elinor Schieman's great-granddaughter); **Jared Forst** (Loretta's grandson); **Beau Glenn** (Karen Koehl's son-in-law); **Kylie Hahn** (Gretta Hahn's granddaughter); **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl's son); **Samuel McLoughlin** (friend of Cindy Sieckman); **Scott Minton** (Becky Betsch's brother); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Dustin Silvey**; **Alex Wisecup** (son of Nadine and Barry Wisecup).

December Ministry Schedule

Date	Feast / Fast	Assisting Minister	Lesson Reader	Livestreamers
Dec. 3	1 Advent	Chet Laine	Kathy Hirt	TBA
Dec. 10	2 Advent	TBA	Kathy Crosby	Noah Moorhouse
Dec. 17	3 Advent	Noah Moorhouse	Carroll Mayhugh	Becky Betsch
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	Nancy Erbeck	TBA	Noah Moorhouse
Dec. 31	1 Christmas	TBA	TBA	Nick Huitger, Chet Laine

**St. Paul
Lutheran Church**

***Mission
Statement:***

Growing a Christian
community where
each is valued, ac-
cepted, and loved.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:00 pm | Sunday, Dec. 24

(No morning worship or activities on Dec. 24)

**St. Paul
Lutheran Church**

106 Maple St.
Reading, OH 45215

Phone: 513-821-0987

E-mail:

mail@stpaulreading.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

