



December 2023



The Disciple's Connection

On To Christmas?



Thanksgiving has come and gone, so I guess it's on to Christmas full steam ahead. To me, [and maybe you as well] it's sad to see people jump right from Thanksgiving & the end of the church year immediately into Christmas. Some radio stations have gone all Christmas music all the time already. Even Christian radio is guilty of skipping Advent. Z88.3 from Orlando, which I listen to online while at my desk, began sprinkling in Christmas music on their airwaves some days before Thanksgiving. The good news for me is they have streaming options. You can stream the Christmas music they are playing over the air, or you can stream non-Christmas favorites. Can you guess which stream I'm listening to right now? I wonder, has Advent disappeared? It sure seems like it has, right? No, it hasn't. Advent still serves a purpose in the life of the church. It is a preparatory season. It gets us ready in mind, body, & soul to celebrate Christmas & Jesus' birth, while at the same time reminding us, He will return. In our Lutheran worship, there are many wonderful hymns that aid our preparations in Advent. I want to share some of these wonderful words with you. Read them, look them up in the hymnal, sing them if you want to, and reflect on them this Advent.

*The Advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy*

*The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on To set His servants free. [LSB 331 "The Advent Of Our King]*

It is wonderful to remember the King of Glory, our Lord Jesus, desired to be servant to all to set His Chosen people free. During Advent we prepare ourselves to welcome Him again with wonderful, joyful hymns.

*O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly All that may please you best. [LSB 334 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"]*

We cannot welcome the Christ Child without being filled with the Spirit. He creates in us the fire and desire to welcome baby Jesus with open arms and hearts. We pray that the Spirit will kindle in us that desire.

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold the King of Glory waits.
The King of Kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation he doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise. [LSB 341 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates]*

ON TO CHRISTMAS! continued

The Psalmist writes: *“Lift up your heads, O You gates, be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of Glory may come in.”* May the King of Glory enter your heart as you prepare to celebrate His birth once again

In Christ

Pastor Sundbom

Why December 25?

By Ronald A. Stephens

Andy Williams famously sang, “It’s the most wonderful time of the year!” Ironically, even as we hear that song everywhere this time of year, we are also inundated, on TV and online, in magazines and newspapers, with the “shocking” idea that, while we don’t really know when Jesus was born, it definitely wasn’t December 25.



There are three popular objections to the traditional date of Jesus’ birth: the Bible doesn’t say December 25, the shepherds wouldn’t have been out at night in late December, and the church simply took over and Christianized a preexisting pagan festival. This third objection has been repeated so often and in so many ways that even many pious, conservative, Bible-believing Christians have accepted it.

However, what if I told you that December 25 probably was the day on which the Lord Jesus was born? What if I told you that the evidence actually does point to December 25?

Objection 1: The Bible doesn’t specify December 25

True enough. It doesn’t. But St. Luke *is* a historian. He tells us he interviewed eyewitnesses and researched the facts (Luke 1:1–4). He records that Zechariah, father of St. John the Baptist, was a priest “of the division of Abijah” (Luke 1:5). In 1 Chronicles 24, we read that David organized the divisions of priests and assigned times for their service. Each division would have served twice a year in the temple for about a week at a time. The division of Abijah was assigned the 8th and 32nd rotations.

This would put Zechariah’s group on duty around the Day of Atonement (Sept. 22–30). During this week, the angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah, and when he returned home from the temple, John the Baptist was conceived (Luke 1:24). That would put John’s birth in late June — and from time immemorial, the church has celebrated John’s birth on June 24.

But St. Luke’s chronology doesn’t stop there. Six months after Gabriel appeared to Zechariah in the temple, Gabriel was sent to the Virgin Mary in Nazareth (Luke 1:26). Six months after late September would be late

WHY DECEMBER 25? continued

March. March 25 has always been the date celebrating Christ's conception in the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary. (We'll come back to that date in a bit.) Nine months from March 25 brings you to late December ... December 25.

Objection 2: The shepherds wouldn't have had flocks out at night in the winter

If you lived in the climate of northern Europe or the American Midwest, that would be obvious. However, the climate of the Middle East is more similar to the American Southwest. It can get cool and chilly in the winter, but usually not downright freezing.

A look at the breed of sheep indigenous to the Middle East, the Awassi sheep, gives us further clues. These sheep were raised primarily for milk, meat and wool. In Judea, they would have been used for sacrifice as well; males without mark or blemish would have been the paschal lambs. In the land of Israel, their breeding season runs from June to September, with lambing season coming in December to mid-January. Were those shepherds "keeping watch over their flocks by night" (Luke 2:8) in late December because the ewes were giving birth? It certainly seems so.

Objection 3: The church just picked December 25 in the late fourth century to take over a popular pagan festival

This is the most popular and widely accepted criticism of December 25 as the date of Jesus' birth, but it is also the weakest. It's surprising how many Christians accept it at face value.

Yes, there was a festival of *Sol Invictus* (the Unconquered Sun), established in Rome by the emperor Aurelian, but it wasn't anything major or ancient to the Romans. The so-called Saturnalia was simply a general solar cult to which Aurelian attached his name (from the Latin *aurora*, meaning "sunrise") in A.D. 274, long after many Christians had already been celebrating Christmas on December 25. On top of that, Saturnalia ran from December 17–23, not the 25.

But why would the church, which for centuries had stood against pagan festivals and idol worship and exhorted her members not to participate in such, suddenly allow one to stand, simply Christianizing some of its elements?

Rather, the church had been speaking of December 25 as the date of the birth of the Lord Jesus for at least 150 years *prior* to Aurelian. Theophilus (115–181), bishop of Caesarea, said: "We ought to celebrate the birthday of Our Lord on whatsoever day the twenty-fifth of December shall happen." St. Telesphorus, bishop of Rome from 126–137, established the custom of the Midnight Mass — the celebration of the Divine Service in honor of the birth of Christ at midnight on December 25. St. Hippolytus (170–240), another prominent member of the Roman church, calculated the birth of Christ to December 25, (which he said was a Wednesday), based on His death on March 25 (a Friday). We'll come back to the further significance of these two dates.

In the year 354, Julian the Apostate, a pagan emperor who apostatized or rejected the Christian faith, established the *Natalis Sol Invictus* (the Birth of the Unconquered Sun) on December 25. This was simply an attempt to reestablish "classic" Roman paganism and suppress the church. Interestingly, prior to Julian the

WHY DECEMBER 25? continued

Apostate, there *is* a reference to “Thirty games ordered for the Nativity of the Unconquered,” but no mention of the sun. Was this, perhaps, a Christian emperor’s attempt to celebrate the birth of Christ with games and festivities?

December 25: A theological calculation

The calculations and research of St. Hippolytus give us a final, theological reason for celebrating the birth of Jesus on December 25.

In the ancient world, even in Judaism and in the early church, it was thought that a person lived a complete “cycle.” This means that on whatever date he was conceived (the beginning of his life), he would later die (the end of his life). This was held to be especially true for important persons.

Hippolytus calculates from the Scriptures March 25 as the date of Jesus’ death, the first Good Friday. So, the reasoning goes, if Jesus died on March 25, He was conceived on March 25. Nine months from March 25 brings you to December 25. For Hippolytus, Jesus *had* to be born on December 25 because He died on March 25 — the two must be intimately and inexorably connected. The date of Jesus’ birth is based on the reason for His Incarnation: His death.

Why we celebrate

Jesus did not take on flesh of your flesh and bone of your bone to simply to be adored as the babe in the manger. God does not become man simply to walk around and live as a man. The Word is made flesh, God becomes man and is born, in order to die. Jesus comes to die for *you*. This is the heart of all celebration on December 25: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for sinners, to redeem you from sin, death and the devil.

The Child lying in the manger comes to be your sacrifice and ransom. He comes to appease His Father’s wrath, to answer the Law’s accusations, and crush the serpent’s head for you. The Son of Mary is wrapped in swaddling clothes that He may leave the grave linens empty and useless. God is born to die that He may raise you from the grave. He lies in a feeding trough to give Himself as food for the life of the world, to satisfy your hunger and slake your thirst. Jesus comes for you to exalt you to Heaven.

Thus we celebrate the birth of Him whose coming again on the clouds of heaven we eagerly await by receiving Him in the Holy Sacrament. For the One born of Mary and laid in a manger in Bethlehem (which, by no coincidence, means “House of Bread”), continues to come to you now, *today*, in His body and blood. I can say with all the confidence in the world that the *greatest* gift you will receive this Christmas season is the Holy Communion, given to you by your Savior in love that your joy may be full.

Merry Christmas, indeed!

About The Author

The Rev. Ronald A. Stephens Sr. serves as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Aurora, Ind.



December Life Quotes

December 3 "In view of God's display of love in Advent and Christmas, we gladly unite to praise Him. Christmas brings out that unity as we join with Mary and Joseph and shepherds and angels to glorify our Savior as one united family. For this reason, we pray as Paul did, 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.'" *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota* – [A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)

December 10 "You might not be impressive by the world's standards. You might be a third-shift worker, a nameless neighbor, or a sinner who messed up in very public ways. But the angel declared good news for all people, which logically must include you. So, rejoice today! A Savior was born to you!" *Pastor Mike Novotny, Time of Grace* – [A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)

December 17 "I don't know what exactly you expect this Christmas. But I can tell you to set your expectations high as you listen to God's Advent call. Listen to His promises. Look in the manger. And you'll find hope and unity now and into eternity." *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota* – [A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)

December 24 "This time of the year always fills us with cheer | But the reason we celebrate is not always clear | The cookies, the lights, the presents, the tree | The carols, the decorations, the family parties | But all of the delight and all of the fun | Does not mean a thing if we don't know God's Son | The tiny baby that was born to die | Can sometimes cause us to stop and ask why | Do we really deserve the sacrifice He made? | Are we worth the offering and the price that was paid? | In His eyes, we are, because He made us His own | And on the cross, the ultimate love was shown | So take joy in the season and spread His true love | But always remember the gift from above!" *Jerrod Nelson* – [A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)

December 31 "While it is true that we need to be good stewards of God's earthly gifts, it is sinful to think that we are in full control of preserving this world. It is sinful to fret about the destruction of this world before the Last Day. This world will not run out of natural resources. We will not be wiped out by climate change, a worldwide pandemic, or a meteor shower if and when those things happen. God says that as long as this earth endures—until Judgment Day—seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. God is in control. God will protect, provide, and preserve this world. Trust in God and see His grace and mercy, especially when sin affects this world. Trust that He gives you what you don't deserve and more than you could imagine." *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota* – [A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)

Announcements



St. Paul's Celebration Choir

We would like to welcome the congregation to join us on Christmas Eve to sing in the Celebration Choir! We will perform a song at the beginning of the 5:30 pm service as we await the coming of Christ. All ages are welcome, no music experience required! Rehearsals will be held shortly after the 9:30 service on Sundays for 20-25 minutes. Our first rehearsal will be Sunday December 3rd. Any questions please see Matt Chaffe. Happy singing!

Oh Deer Adopt-a-Family is Here

St. Paul's will once again be adopting families for Christmas. The Adopt-A-Family Donation board is located by the coat racks as you enter the church. Just select the ornament or ornaments off the board that has the item(s) you would like to purchase. The items you purchase will need to be brought back to the church **unwrapped** by Sunday the **10th of December**. These donations go to families in need, given to us by University Hospitals Family Services or are Project Hope residents.



Home Baked Cookies to Fire and Sheriff

Outreach is looking for volunteers to help bake cookies for the Lake County Sheriff's office and each of our three Fire Department locations. We will be baking for upwards of 225 people total. Sergeant Jerrold Infalvi with the Sheriff's office said to "not feel the need to overwork or go to extremes," and "that any gesture is incredible to us". Let's see if we can reach the goal of 18 to 20 dozen cookies! The signup sheet is located at the back of the sanctuary. When you sign up please indicate the type of cookie(s) you plan on baking. Cookies can be dropped off at the church on Thursday, Dec 7th from 2 pm to 7 pm. Friday the 8th we will bag, assemble, and wrap the trays. On Saturday the 9th the cookies will be deliver. Please call Ken Chaffe at (216) 538-4666 if you need someone to pick up and deliver your cookies to the church for you. Thank you in advance and HAPPY BAKING!!



St. Paul's Giving Tree

It's hard to believe, but Christmas is right around the corner. Once again, we are putting up a giving tree and collecting new and gently-used clothing items for the charities listed below. Items will be collect from now until **January 6th, 2024**. Please review the lists below and prayerfully consider making donations to the giving tree. The charities we are supporting are asking for the following items....

Christ Child Western Reserve

Please make sure that your donations are clean for immediate resale, hangers not necessary. They are asking for clothing, shoes, jewelry, purses, accessories for men, women & children.

Salvation Army

Please make sure that your donations are clean for immediate resale, hangers not necessary. They are asking for clothing, shoes, jewelry, purses, accessories for men, women & children.

Kitchen and Household items will also be accepted.

Project Hope

CLOTHING-*NEW ONLY Please*

- Men's short sleeve T-shirts (L, XL, 2XL, 3XL)
- Women's T-shirts & long-sleeves L/XL/XXL
- Long sleeve thermal undershirts (large and XL)
- Long sleeve thermal underwear (large and XL)
- Sweatpants & Sweatshirts (all sizes, men & women)
- Athletic shorts
- Pajama/scrub pants
- Men's boxers (L, XL, 2XL+)
- Women's Clothing 3X
- Women's & Men's Underwear L/XL/XXL

GIFT CARDS

- Giant Eagle
- Meijer's Store gift cards
- Home Depot (for critical shelter repair needs)
- Sam's Club
- Walmart
- Gas cards (\$25 or less)
- Subway
- Local restaurants
- Office Supply Stores
- Fast Food Places (\$10-NO McDonald's)
- Pizza Places
- Laketran Bus Tokens



Christmas Eve Service

Please join us for our Christmas Eve services at 5:00 pm or 7:30 pm on Sunday, December 24th. The Celebration Choir will be singing at the beginning of the 5:00 pm service. Hope to see you there!!

St. Paul's Continues to Support:



Hearts of Mercy & Compassion (HMC), Crosses for Losses provides a physical and spiritual symbol through the giving of hearts and crosses to families and friends who have suffered a loss or are experiencing the illness of a loved one. An HMC can also be given to celebrate a victory, honor service, as an expression of love, or to be an encouragement in the face of adversity. Given as a gift, each HMC provides the love and hope of Jesus through presence and prayer.

Romans 12:15, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."

The heart itself is universal and conveys love. The color blue is the color of hope and the fish a symbol of God's saving grace.

Toys for God's Kids is a Christian charitable organization that provides sturdy, attractive, handmade wooden cars and trucks FREE to God's children around the world. Why make and give these toys? First of all, it's fun and easy to do. More importantly, many needy children have never had a toy like this that can help them develop socially and creatively. If this small gift puts a smile on the face of a child, it makes all our efforts worthwhile for us.

St. Paul's Outreach Committee is sponsoring a small group of our congregants who are building for and supplying these two organizations. If you know of someone who would benefit from either of these missions or if you would like more information, contact Ken Chaffe or any of the outreach committee members.

Christmas Card Sets are Here!!!



All boxed sets \$8 each

Christmas cards are located next to the Friendship Circle table. Please use the offering envelopes available on the display stand and place it in the offering plate during church service. Proceeds will be used for Outreach events throughout the year.



Don't forget to support the other greeting cards available. There are Birthday, Anniversary, Get Well, Sympathy, Blank Inside and many others to purchasing for friends or family members who are having a special event. Or need encouragement Each individual card is 75¢ a piece.

Food & Fellowship Friday



October was the last luncheon of next year until March. We had 13 friends at Redhawk Grille and we all had a great time. We invite anyone who is available on a Friday afternoon to join us in 2024!!!

Mite Giving for November

Mite giving for the month of November was \$195.44. To God be the Glory!

Please remember to feed your mite box or use the donate button at <http://lwml ohio.org> to continue to support the mission work of the LWML. Just follow the directions on the page remembering to list St. Paul's, Painesville as your church and Northeast as your zone.



Altar Flowers



A great way to remember any occasion is with Altar Flowers. The Altar Flower Chart is located on the double doors at the back of the Sanctuary. Just sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Clearly print the occasion being remembered, who the flowers are for and who they're from. Altar flowers are \$40.00. Please place the monies in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" with the date of the weekend and put it in the collection plate.





November Meeting Minutes

- 1) Pastor's Report: Pastor reported making 12 calls, 2 shut-in and 1 hospital visits, and said Wes & Jill Schubert transferred from Faith, Mentor. He and 4 others attended District Regional Summit in Hudson that discussed areas of focus in these changing times and culture.
- 2) President's Report: Dennis reported on District Summit that our focus would be to make the Preschool and OSLs our outreach priority. He asked members to review their duties as listed in Officers' Manual. He has also worked with Billie on finalizing our list of items to apply for LWML grant.
- 3) Vice President's Report: Eric Said Morley Mowers will again do snowplowing this year with an increase of \$25/month.
- 4) Treasurer's Report: Russ reported our cash position has improved \$25,181.75 over 2022, in large part due to Preschool grant transfers. Offerings are down \$917.42 (total income down \$1,462) while expenses are up \$718.46 for a net income gain of \$3,171.14. He expects changes in our insurance policy will lower our cost there by around \$2,000.
- 5) Education Report: Erin reported Sunday school and Adult Bible study attendance averages 18 weekly. She and Star will start work on Adopt-a-Family project for needy families, and will reach out to Lake/University Hospital about handing out handmade Christmas cards to hospital workers.
- 6) Preschool report: Star reported Preschool enrollment is 34, staff attended Lutheran Education Conference, 20 Bibles (from Bible Buddies donations) were handed out to new students, took walking field trip to Bowhall Fire Dept. and park, bolt locks were installed on interior classroom doors, and that the Popcorn Fundraiser and Donation Board were successful. She also reported work on NLSA accreditation nearly complete.
- 7) Elders' Report: Dale reported that Elders have been assigned to new members.
- 8) Stewardship Report: Kristi reported 31 Time & Talent surveys have been returned and info will be given to boards, Pastor, and council, Giving Tree will collect items for Christ Child Western Reserve, Salvation Army, and Project Hope, Nov. 4 thru Jan. 6.
- 9) Financial Secretary Report: Jenn said she will soon post Counters' schedule for 2024.
- 10) Outreach Report: Ken reported there 34 volunteers from church and Preschool staff who greeted 121 kids and their parents for 5th Annual Trunk-or-Treat on Oct. 15, has cancelled Movie Night cancelled due to licensing permit costs, reviewing and updating welcome flyers and brochures and website continues, and a ValPak ad will be sent out for Advent. He also reported on District Summit and need to refocus our outreach missions.
- 11) Building & Grounds Report: Craig reported making Several light replacements, locking door bolts are all installed, work on parsonage outlets in kitchen continues, striping on parking lot nearly done, 2 water fountains have been adjusted, thanks to Chuck Atwell for pushing back accumulated brush piles into the woods, and a section of parsonage furnace plenum needs replacing.
- 12) Contribution Secretary Report: Billie reported contributions for October were \$20,756.50 up from \$17,702.62 last year and average number of donors was 28 vs. 23 in Oct. 2022.

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES continued**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1) Pastor reported the font on large edition of bulletin has been reduced with a savings of 2 pages per copy every week.
- 2) Church Council Manual review was again postponed due to time spent on other matters.
- 3) Safety & Security Team: lock bolts have been installed, Amy has installed numbers & letters on outside window (need white background to show up better) and has given Preschool emergency plans for review, Gloria Dei's, Hudson safety/security plan will be reviewed, handheld radios have been purchased, videos from "Safe & Secure Church" training kit were viewed and discussed, and Chuck Atwell will join team.
- 4) Constitution and By-Law revision will be brought up and voted on at Semi-Annual meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) LWML Grant: Billie and Dennis have worked on items to be included on grant: microphone headset for Pastor, active listening device, video recording camera, handheld radios. Billie has submitted application to LWML for grant of \$2500--will know if application is accepted in February, and if it is, vote for approval will be at June's Convention.
- 2) Office copier/printer: Lake Business Products notified us that effective Jan. 1, 2024 they will no longer service the copier due to parts availability. They and LEX Imaging have presented several options for new machines. After discussion and analysis of costs of machines and operation, Billie made a motion to purchase Canon C39261i copier from Lake Business Products for \$11,572.85 with a total estimated cost of \$16,548 over 5 years, at present level of operation. Jenn 2nd. Motion passed. Dennis, Russ, Terry will look into borrowing from Endowment Fund for purchase price.
- 3) Cleaning contract: Eric will look into writing and having Julie sign this year's contract.
- 4) Alarm System: Dennis reported there have been several false trips of our alarm system the past several months. Gilmore Security wants to install upgraded system. Dennis suggested we ask Scott Shaw of Spectrum to look into doing in-house service/updating.
- 5) Semi-Annual Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 19 following 9:45 service. Reports into Peggy.
- 6) Thanksgiving Eve service Wednesday, Nov. 22 @ 7pm, with Communion.
- 7) Christmas Eve services Sunday, Dec. 24 @ 5 & 7:30 pm with communion.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, Dec. 6 @ 6:30pm.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING (Nov. 19) NOTES:

There were 30 members in attendance. Minutes from May's meeting and reports were read, presented, and approved. Old Business: District approved our By-Law changes and Safety/Security Team update was presented. New Business: Proposed Constitution addition concerning dissolution was approved, purchase of copier was presented, and discussion of transferring dormant unused funds to general fund was deferred to Council for further consideration. Pastor will lead Bible Study instead of Advent services if there is interest. Annual Meeting will be May 19, 2024 following worship service.



From the Preschool

Preschool Christmas Program

It's that time of year again! The children are full of excitement. Christmas is a time of joy and celebration and the preschool would like to invite you to our Christmas Program. The children are working hard to learn their lines and the songs. If you are able, please join us on **Thursday, December 14th at 9:00 am**. The program will be about 30 minutes.



All of the staff at St. Paul's Preschool wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!



Pre-K Gallon Jug Igloo

Once again St. Paul's Pre-K class will be building an igloo out of gallon jugs and they need your help.

Please bring your clean empty gallon milk and/or water jugs with lids to church and place them in the kitchen. **Thank you for your help!!**

December Birthdays

Henry West	Dec 4th
Diana Kiel	Dec 5th
Dale Kerver	Dec 7th
Charles Atwell	Dec 13th
Kathy Emrich	Dec 20th
Jacob Chaffe	Dec 21st
Russ Walton	Dec 24th



December Anniversaries



Jay and Laura Harris	32 years on Dec 7
Matthew and Madeline West	9 years on Dec 28

November Baptisms, Weddings, New Members, Funerals

Baptisms
None this month

New Members
None this month

Weddings
None this month

Funerals
JoAnne Lefelhoc Oct 24



Those Who Serve: December 2023

ELDERS:

6:00 P Saturday Aaron Lindrose
9:30 A Sunday Jeff Troutman

COUNTERS:

Jenn Drake, Billie Lelle

LECTORS:

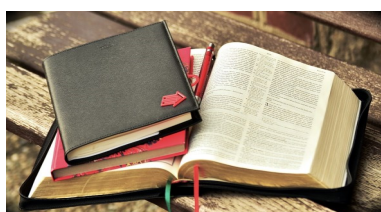
12-02-23	6:00 P	Saturday	Dave Murphy
12-03-23	9:30 A	Sunday	Jennifer Drake
12-09-23	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
12-10-23	9:30 A	Sunday	Eric West
12-16-23	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
12-17-23	9:30 A	Sunday	Terry Wakelee
12-23-23	6:00 P	Saturday	Dave Murphy
12-24-23	9:30 A	Sunday	Dennis Concoby
12-24-23	5:00 P	Christmas Eve	TBD
12-24-23	7:30 P	Christmas Eve	TBD
12-30-23	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
12-31-23	9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell

GREETERS:

6:00 P Saturday
9:30 A Sunday

SIGN UP IN DECEMBER TO
GREET YOUR FELLOW DISCIPLES.

Sign-up sheet located on the
double doors at the back of the
Sanctuary.



Scripture Readings for December

December 2/3

Isaiah 64:1-9
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

December 9/10

Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

December 30/31

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

December 23/24

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December Word Search-December/Christmas

L	C	S	T	A	R	B	A	G	B	R	S	C	Y
F	R	E	T	N	I	W	Y	I	E	M	S	R	T
R	J	O	Y	F	U	L	M	N	T	H	Y	L	I
A	S	T	M	Y	R	R	H	G	H	T	T	I	V
K	S	M	H	S	P	G	H	E	L	A	L	C	I
I	H	E	W	N	O	C	B	R	E	E	E	H	T
N	O	A	T	O	I	W	E	B	H	R	N	R	A
C	W	A	R	W	N	W	L	R	E	W	A	I	N
E	M	N	E	F	S	F	L	E	M	F	C	S	E
N	A	G	G	L	E	G	S	A	E	H	Y	T	M
S	N	E	N	A	T	L	O	D	N	T	D	M	E
E	L	L	A	K	T	B	C	L	M	R	N	A	S
E	T	N	M	E	I	F	D	N	D	I	A	S	I
H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	I	D	N	B	C	L	W

WREATH
CANDYCANE
POINSETTIA
MYRRH
NATIVITY
ANGEL
SHOWMAN
GINGERBREAD
BETHLEHEM
CHRISTMAS
STAR
SNOWFLAKE
MANGER
JOYFUL
GOLD
FRANKINCENSE
BELLS
WISEMEN
WINTER
HOLIDAY
BIRTH

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/6356382/>

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Preschool

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(440)354-3000 | www.splcpainesville.org | office@splcpainesville.org

Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor
Matt Chaffe, Organist
Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

Worship Services

Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:30 am

Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:30am & 10:45 am
Children 10:45 am

St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director
preschool@splcpainesville.org
www.stpaulspainesville.com

Also Supporting



December 2023

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
	 COMMUNION SERVICE		WORSHIP SCHEDULE Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study—8:30am & 10:45am		Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm	Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays	1	2
3 Advent Begins	4 National Cookie Day	5 Preschool Chapel	6	7	8	9 		
10 	11	12 9:30 am Circuit Meeting	13 6:30 pm Elder's Meeting ? National Cocoa Day	14 Preschool Christmas Program and Class Parties	15	16		
17	18 Preschool Christmas Break—No School	19 Preschool Christmas Break—No School	20 Preschool Christmas Break—No School	21  Preschool Christmas Break—No School	22 Preschool Christmas Break—No School	23 		
24  Candlelight Service 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm	25  Church Office Closed Preschool Christmas Break—No School	26 Church Office Closed Preschool Christmas Break—No School	27 Preschool Christmas Break—No School	28 Preschool Christmas Break—No School	29 Preschool Christmas Break—No School	30		
31 	Preschool Christmas Break—No School							