



The Epistle December 2022

Waiting with Isaiah

"But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:31)

Advent is a season of the church year where we are asked to do something we are not accustomed to doing, and that is wait. To wait on the Lord is not an aimless kind of waiting, but rather a life that focuses on the past, present, and future promises of our Lord. Each Wednesday during Advent, area Lutheran pastors will be leading us in messages that stem from Isaiah, a book written some 600 plus years before the birth of Christ. It is my hope and prayer that these services along with the advent devotionals will give members and friends of St. Paul's the resources needed to confidently wait on the Lord and all the good things He has in store for His people.

Blessings in Christ, Pastor Krenz



December Worship & Advent Themes

December 4th & 5th (Sun 8 & 10:30/Mon 6:30 pm)
 "Kingdom of God" Matthew 3:1-12
December 11th & 12 (Sun 8 & 10:30/Mon 6:30 pm)
 "Patient Anticipation" James 5:7-11
December 18th & 19th (Sun 8 & 10:30/Mon 6:30 pm)
 "A most unlikely Sign" Matthew 1:18-25
December 24th (Christmas Eve) (Sat 3 & 6:30 pm)
 He Came for You Isaiah 9:2-7
December 25th (Christmas Day) (Sun 9 am)
 "It's time to sing" Luke 2:14
December 31st (New Year's Eve) (Sat 5 pm)
 "Reflecting on the Church Year"
January 1st New Year's Day (Sun 9 am)
 "It's all in the name" Luke 2:21

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Pastor Stephen Krenz
 618-363-0121
 DCE Intern Sam Wegner
 920-530-8638

"Waiting with Isaiah"

November 30th (Thurs 4 & 6:30 pm)
 Pastor Peter Ill

"Waiting with Prayer"

December 7 (Thurs 4 & 6:30 pm)
 Pastor Bruce Keseman

"Waiting with Joy"

December 14 (Thurs 4 & 6:30 pm)
 Pastor Kirk Clayton

"Waiting with Peace"

December 21 (Thurs 4 & 6:30 pm)
 Pastor Stephen Krenz

"Waiting with Comfort"

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Mission Statement:
 Our mission is to Proclaim Christ,
 Teach Christ's Word and Reflect Christ's Love to all!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 227 Goodhaven Street,
 Columbia, IL 62236 618.281.4600 stpauls-lcms.org
 facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiaill



Saturday, December 3, from 9 to 11 AM **Breakfast with Mary and Joseph**

For all the pre-schoolers thru 4th graders in our church family and community.

Free (monetary gift to the Food Pantry suggested) All children must be accompanied by a parent/adult.

Pre-registration Slips can be found in the church Narthex or thru a **link on the church website**.

Stations concept with registration, breakfast, and crafts in the basement fellowship hall, the Christmas story and pictures with Mary and Joseph in the church proper, dress up in the narthex, and songs in the Little Lambs room.

Come and go, stay as long as you like, must arrive by 11 a.m.



Something from Sam



It's beginning to look a lot like... advent! With Christmas fast approaching, the church

enters the historic season of advent, when we wait and prepare for the coming of Jesus – both his coming as a baby in Bethlehem and his second coming on the last day. One of the most recognizable signs of this season is the advent wreath that sits at the front of church. The Advent wreath has five candles on it, and all of them have special significance. The first candle we light is a symbol of hope. Jesus, the Savior who had been promised to come all the way back since the garden of Eden, is finally drawing near, and because of it, we have hope. The second candle stands for peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and through his life and death, he reconciles us to the Father and brings peace to our relationship with God. The third candle of advent symbolizes love – the love of God that would give us his only Son to live among us and die in our place. The candle for the fourth week of advent is a symbol of joy. Jesus's coming is "good news of great joy" both for us, and for all people as we share about the Savior's arrival. The final candle is lit on Christmas and symbolizes Jesus's birth. As John tells us, Jesus is, "the true light, which gives light to everyone" (John 1:9). He comes and shines even in the midst of our darkness and sin, to forgive us, make us new, and fill us with the hope, peace, love, and joy of his presence!

Sunday Mornings Adult Education

Large Group Bible Study

November 27 - December 4 | Pastor Krenz
We the Church: LCMS History Video Series

December 11-18 | Pastor Krenz
Joseph: Carpenter of Steel Video Series

Confirmation Friends

A big thank you goes out to members of our Ladies League who are serving as "Confirmation Friends" this year. Each of the confirmation students has a friend praying for them and encouraging them throughout the year. In November, these Confirmation friends joined us in class and spent some time getting to know their students better!

Newsletter Deadline is the third Monday of most months. Please send articles, photos, etc. to secretary@stpauls-lcms.org Thank you for your help!

December 12th
****Early Deadline due to Holiday**
January 16th





LWML/LADIES LEAGUE DECEMBER 2022

Our November meeting opened in a Thanksgiving Day decorative setting. Vice President, Nancy Radentz led with a devotion entitled "Our Father's Care" followed by lunch. Desserts were provided by Marilyn M., Nancy R., and Doris M. Before the regular meeting agenda, we planned 2023 for hostess and topic volunteers.

We are happy to have ten Mailbox Members now! Our members are as follows: Brenda Appel, Willa Bates, Amanda Douglas, Donna Frederich, Bethany Grant, Julie Greatting, Chloe Hrabusicky, Lisa Krenz, Karen Mueller, and Carleigh Ottwell.

We met with our new Confirmation Prayer friends on Nov. 9th with a little get-together and snacks. It is an honor for our Ladies League members to serve our Confirmation class students as part of our mission to our congregation.

Our Christmas Party/Luncheon will take place on December 1st beginning at 11:30 a.m. with a catered lunch. Stefani N. and Sandy R. will be our hostesses providing dessert and decorations. Marilyn S. will order food and Helen and Wanda will plan games. Please remember your gift for your new Ladies League prayer friend!

Please visit or join us anytime! Call Wanda for more information at 618-281-4691.

LWML News

Thanksgiving for 80 years (1942-2022) of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

Our Ladies League will have met all of our goals for the "What's Your 80" (anniversary of the LWML) by the end of December. We have delivered 800+ masks to Unity Lutheran School. We plan to deliver 80 "Comforts of Love" quilts and 80 personal kits to Camp Wartburg for Lutheran World Relief. We will continue to send birthday cards to congregation members who are over 80. Thanks to all who have donated and worked so diligently to meet the goals!

Metro South Zone Fall Workshop at Zion Lutheran Church in Mascoutah, IL took place on Nov. 5. Thirty LWML members assembled 140 personal kits to be delivered to the Interfaith Food Pantry in Belleville. Additional loose items will be donated to Concordia Seminary students. Thank you for your donations!

LWML Mission Statement

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.



LWML 2022

LWML Zone Service Project

Thirty LWML Metro Zone members gathered at Zion Lutheran Church in Mascoutah. They assembled 140 personal kits to be delivered to the Interfaith Food Pantry in Belleville. Additional items will be donated to Concordia Seminary Students. Thank you to all who donated items!



OOPS – Christmas Body Language

By just watching your BODY LANGUAGE—your posture, your facial expressions, the tone of your voice, your gait, your eyes—those around you can sense what's happening inside of you. With that important truth in mind, your Board of Christian Outreach would challenge you to exhibit your CHRISTMAS BODY LANGUAGE often throughout the happy days of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. We'll leave it up to you, and the Spirit in you, to decide what your best CHRISTMAS BODY LANGUAGE ought to look like and how and when you choose to express it, but a few extra worship trips, daily personal and/or family devotions, the humming Christmas carols or listening to them on the

radio, wishing both friends and strangers alike a "BLESSED CHRISTMAS" every chance you get, and waiting patiently in all those shopping lines are sure to help you celebrate your Savior's Birth in a wonderful way this year. Let's hear your body talk this Christmas!



WISHING YOU
AN ABUNDANTLY
BLESSED HOLIDAY
SEASON!

FROM THE FULLNESS OF
GRACE WE HAVE ALL
RECEIVED ONE BLESSING
AFTER ANOTHER.
JOHN 1:16

Just another "ah-ha" OOPS
(Outreach Opportunity Praying Suggestion)
from your Board of Christian Outreach.

The **WOMEN's Ministry** generally meets on
the **third Monday of each month.**

Please join us at **6:30 in the Fellowship Hall.**

*****December Meeting will be *2nd Monday**

**December
12th**

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Comforts of Love Quilters—Tuesdays

Quilters are taking a break and will resume sewing in January. Thank you for all your support! Remember us w/ **Queen Sized sheets, Large table clothes and embroidery thread!**

Food Pantry News... Our Food Pantry is open the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 1:30-3:00pm AND the second Wednesday from 4 - 6 pm.

Call 281-4600 for assistance on all other days.

December Dates:

12/7 12/14 12/21

**FOOD
pantry**



**A very special Thank You to
everyone that helped with the
Katie Luther Dinner Event.
A fun evening, and \$1238
was given for the Free Will offering.**

**Youth Christmas Caroling**

On **Sunday, December 11th, members**

and friends will join the youth for Christmas caroling at some of the nursing homes in our community. Meet at church from **5:00pm**, following Confirmation classes. Youth: Dinner will be served before we head out. We will return between 6:30pm - 7:00pm after caroling! Let Sam know if you can make it at crf_wegnersm@cuchicago.edu or (920) 530-8638.

Youth Ministry Update**The Sunday School Corner:**

The **Sunday school Christmas Program** is scheduled for **Sunday, December 18th during the 10:30am Service**. Practices will take place each Sunday during the Sunday School hour (from 9:15-10:15am) from November 25 through December 18. Please let Karen Mueller know if you would like to participate. Her number is (618) 806-4369.



In December, we will be celebrating Christmas through many activities. In addition to our regular Bible lessons, we will also be learning about different Christmas symbols & their meanings, with our main focus being the true meaning of Christmas--the birth of Jesus. The month will conclude with a Christmas Celebration for our students and their families.

Special Thanks to the following:

- Our Preschool families who have donated items to St. Paul's Food Pantry.
- Our Preschool parents who have volunteered to help with our Christmas Party.
- Thrivent members for the donations of Action Team Gift Cards to the Preschool.
- The members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and the Board of Education for their continued support of our Preschool.

**Our Jesus Lessons for December:**

- **Jesus is Born**
- **Angels Tell the Shepherds**
- **Shepherds Worship Jesus**

~We
Thank
You~

We will be closed for Christmas Break

from December 21 through January 4, 2023.

**We Wish you Peace & Joy this Christmas Season
and Blessings for a Healthy & Happy New Year!**

Shelly Augustin, Director/Teacher

For unto us,
a Child is born....
Isaiah 9:6

**2023 Church Officers & Terms****PRESIDENT** (2-year term)

2022 Kevin Koenigstein

VICE-PRESIDENT (2-year term)

2022 Toby Search

SECRETARY (2-year term)

2022 Emily Pruden

BOARD OF ELDERS (3-year term)

2024 Scott Moeslein

2024 Bob Thoma

2024 _____

2023 Roger Stechmesser

2023 Patrick Grandt

2023 Toby Search

2022 Levi Ottwell

2022 David Greatting (Chairman)

2022 Charlie Consolino

2022 Mark Eisner

BOARD OF FINANCE (3-year term)

2024 Denise Nowak

2024 Lisa Schmidt (Chairman)

2024 Mike Roediger

2023 Wanda Gross

2023 Roger Stechmesser

2023 Trey Search

2022 Sandy Roessler

2022 Joe Rahn

2022 Mitch Essert

BOARD OF EDUCATION (3-year term)

2024 Carole Hancock

2023 Karen Mueller (Chairman)

2023 Scott Moeslein

2023 Bethany Niehaus

2022 Mary Clyde

BD OF CHRISTIAN CARING (3-year term)

2024 Carol Ericson (Co-Chair)

2023 _____ (Co-Chairman)

2023 Susan Stemler

2023 Carol Essert

2022 Stephanie Newbill

BD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

2024 Dianne Bierman

2024 Ruth Nelson

2023 Jamie Moeslein

2022 Pastor Ken Sievers

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (3-year term)

2024 Mike Arras

2024 Steve Ottwell

2023 Helen Nowak (Co-Chair)

2023 Don Radentz (Co-Chair)

2023 Steve Lake

2022 Terry Aldridge

2022 Kevin Miller

2022 Rex Hancock

2025 Luci Washburn

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP (3-year term)

2024 _____

2024 Steve Howell

2023 Stephanie Newbill

2022 Debbie Aldridge

2022 Rose Anne Bense

BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS

2024 Robin Lacefield

2022 Julie Greatting

2022 Jennifer Krick

CEMETERY BOARD (3-year term)

2024 Gina Search (Chairman)

2023 Mel Stuckmeyer

2022 Randy Moeckel

YOUTH MINISTRY COMMITTEE (3-yr term)

2024 Chloe Hrabusicky

2023 _____

2022 Robin Phelps

2022 Erin Stamm

APPOINTED OFFICERS FOR 2022

2022 Karen Mueller Co- SS Supts.

2022 Rev Ray Holman Co- SS Supts.

CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

2024 Mike Louis

2023 Mel Stuckmeyer

2022 Charlie Consolino

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Bob Thoma (Chairman)

Kevin Koenigstein

Voter's Meeting Highlights (Oct. 25):

On October 25th, 26 members of the congregation met to approve the new board and committee members for next year.

- We are still looking for an additional elder, youth committee member, and stewardship member.

- A budget of \$374,640 was presented to the congregation and will await final approval at the January Voter's meeting.

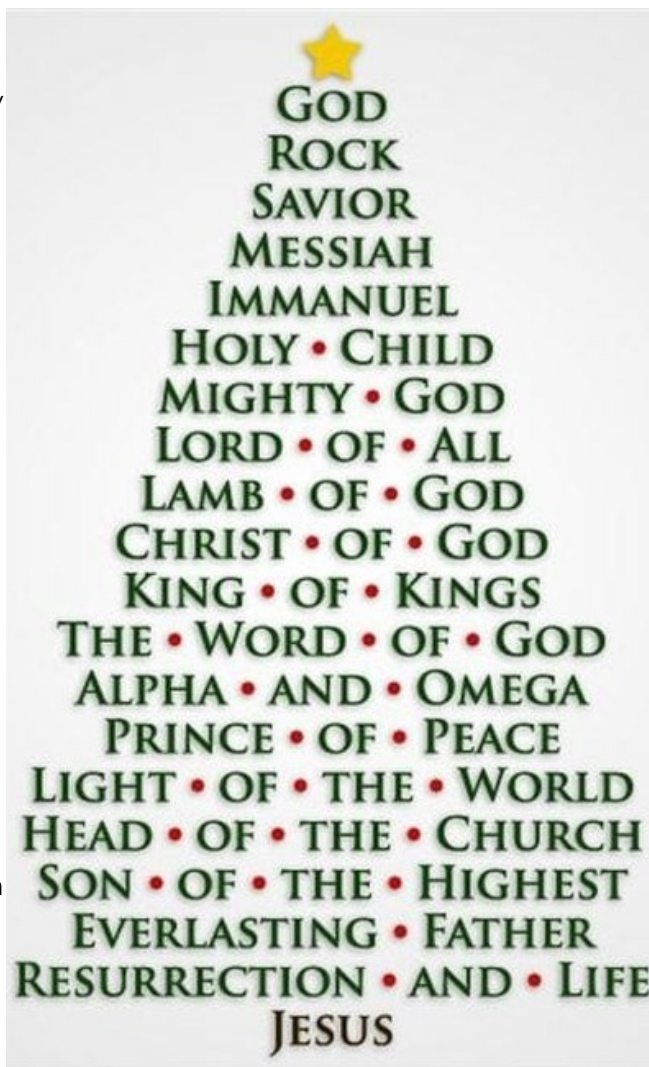
- It is hoped to have the lift installed by Thanksgiving, but due to supply issues this may be installed at a later date.

- A church emergency plan (Tornado, fire, intruder) was presented by Mike Roediger.

- A list of congregational medical personnel will soon be assembled and placed in the ushers room so that if a health issue arises during a church event they can be easily notified.

- It was decided that an application will be made for another DCE Intern in 2022-23.

- Updates were given on Breakfast with Mary and Joseph, A night with Katie Luther, and on the possibility of a women's residential home to assist women whose children are in foster care.

**Donations Toward***the lift project*

Thank you for your continued giving. Please make checks out to the congregation and mark "lift donation" in the memo.

Update- Goal:**\$15,000****Given to date:****\$ 2285****Notes on Church Budget**

* The 2023 proposed budget is \$374,640 which is an increase over last years budget of \$360,486.

* The funds to pay for the Director of Christian Education intern is covered 1/2 by general offerings and 1/2 by our Estate Funds. If we get an intern for 2023 the same approach will be used to cover the cost for this program.

* If we are led to call a full time DCE or another church worker after a few years of having interns the potential increase in our budget to staff this position would go from \$30,000—\$70,000. To help the congregation ease into this budget increase supplemental gifts from the estate program are being accessed. The present plan is to have these yearly subsidies decrease over time.

* If your circumstances allow, please consider increasing your regular giving amounts. If enough members can increase their gifts, future ministry in the congregation can be enhanced.

* If you receive income from IRA's, know that the IRS allows you to use required minimum distributions from your IRA as qualified charitable distributions on a tax-free basis. Please talk to your tax accountant to see how you might set this up for congregational and other charitable giving.

* Our 2023 congregational budget includes \$26,000 to the Southern Illinois District of the LCMS, and over \$9,000 to seven different state, national, and international ministries.



Do we have a free will?

When it comes to salvation the short answer is no.

Since humanities fall into sin, we are by nature dead in sin and cannot receive the things of God. ***14The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.***

(1 Corinthians 2:14) And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1)

We also know that without the Holy Spirit we cannot confess Christ. ***"No one can say that Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit"***

(1 Corinthians 12:3)

Salvation is a free gift of God obtained by His grace without any merit or worthiness or will on our part. ***"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."*** (Ephesians 2:8-9)

When it comes to earthly matters, we do have some measure of free will. That is, we can choose where to live, who to marry, remain single, what career to take, and a myriad of other daily decisions. The Augsburg Confession, a Lutheran document from the 16th century, in article 18 sums it up in this way.

It is also taught among us that man possesses some measure of freedom of the will which enables him to live an outwardly honorable life and to make choices among the things that reason comprehends. But without the grace, help, and activity of the Holy Spirit man is not capable of making himself acceptable to God, of fearing God and believing in God with his whole heart, or of expelling inborn evil lusts from his heart.

If you have a question that you would like addressed by Pastor Krenz in future newsletter articles, please send it to Pastork@splcolumbia.com.



Christ Memorial Productions Presents...

A SONG FOR CHRISTMAS

Friday & Saturday, Dec 2 & 3 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, Dec. 4 at 2:30 pm

Christ Memorial Lutheran Church

5252 S. Lindberg Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63126

Details at CMPShows.org

Free General Admission with Freewill offering

26th Annual

Boar's Head

Christmas Festival

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday,

Dec 1, 2 & 3 7:30 pm

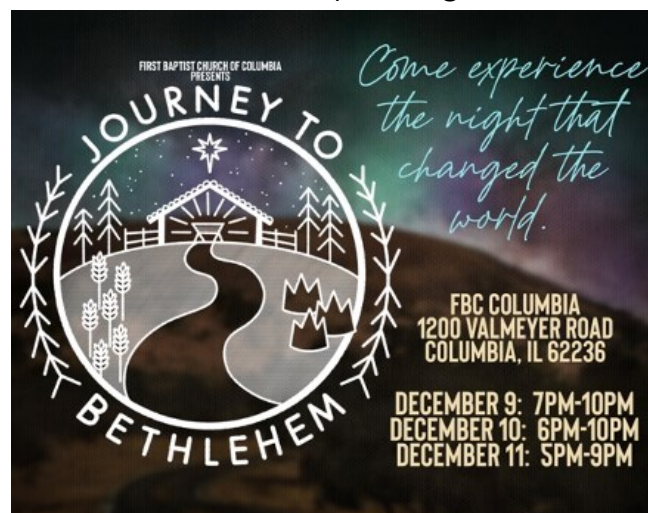
Sunday, Dec 4 2:30 & 6 pm

Peace Lutheran Church

737 Barracksview Road, St. Louis, MO 63125

Details at www.peaceboarshead.org

Free tickets available by calling 314-892-5610



Music in a Sacred Space 2022-2023

Sunday, December 18

4:00 PM

Christmas Concert

Gateway Ringers

Handbell Choir

Hope Evangelical
Lutheran Church
5218 Neosho
St. Louis, MO 63109
hopelutheranstl.org



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

8

December



♥ Anniversary

4 Leroy Kiso Jamie Moeslein	5 Melissa Roessler Don & Corla Greer ♥	6 Burt Fulk Jordan Holten	7 Gianni Glasco Ray & Susan Champion ♥	8 Jacob & Allison Ramsey ♥	9 Bill Luther, Jr. Sandy Roessler	10 Stephanie Holten Douglas & Michele Nelson ♥
11 Dylan Ray	12 Carole Hancock Sue Housewright Ruth Nelson Gale Toolen John Wallace Jack & Carol Wayland ♥	13 Samantha Mueller	14 Bohdon Lubenda	15 Allison Ramsey	16 Aaron Essert Martin Mueller	17 Danielle Arras Jana Eytchison Erwin Hofstetter Derek Niehaus
18 Dan Elbrecht Brianna Elms Robert Tauh	19 Judy Ostendorf	20 Denise Nowak Dean Schorr Joshua & Samantha Mueller ♥	21 Reid Glaenzer Lloyd & Patty Pulcher ♥	22 Hezekiah Douglas Kyle Kremmel Gregory Woolley Sarah Zavadi	23 Ruth Camp Anna Earl	24 Erin Glaenzer Sherry Smith
25 	26 Joshua Thompson	27 Doug & Donna Tolbird ♥	28 Beckett Grider Oliver Kremmel	29	30 Debbie Caldwell Cayden Kritz	31 Molly Dietz Jonathan Duvall



it's the most
DECEMBER
wonderful time of the year

***Dates, times, & locations subject to change.
Additional activities may be added at a later date.
For the most up-to-date calendar listing, go to:
stpauls-lcms.org then click on the "calendar" tab. ***

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Divine Service 8 am (Sanctuary) Adult Bible Class 9:15 am Fellowship Hall Youth Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Rm Sunday School 9:15 am SS Wing Divine Service 10:30 am (Sanctuary) Junior Confirmation 4 pm	5 Financial Count (Team 2) 5:30 pm Board of Outreach 6:30 pm Divine Service	6 Men's Bible Study 7:15 am (Narthex)	7 Food Pantry Open 1:30 - 3 pm Advent Service 4 pm Handbells 5 - 6 pm Advent Service 6:30 pm	8 6:15 pm Daisy Scouts	9 Adult Bible Study/Pastor Slevers Group Christmas Party	10
11 Divine Service 8 am (Sanctuary) Adult Bible Class 9:15 am Fellowship Hall Youth Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Rm Sunday School 9:15 am SS Wing Divine Service 10:30 am (Sanctuary) 11 am - 4 pm Fellowship Hall Rental—Schickedanz Junior Confirmation 4 pm + Youth Dinner 5 pm Congregational Christmas Caroling 5:30 pm	12 Financial Count (Team 3) Women's Ministry 6:30 pm Newsletter Articles Due Divine Service 6:30 pm	13 Men's Bible Study 7:15 am (Narthex) Circuit Mtg in Renault 9 am 5:15 pm Board of Trustees 6 pm Board of Elders Dinner Mtg	14 Reflections Memory Care Bible Stories 1 pm Food Pantry Open 4-6 pm Advent Service 4 pm Handbells 5 - 6 pm Advent Service 6:30 pm	15 9 am Newsletter Folders Pre-School Chapel 11:15 Piano Recital in Sanctuary 6-8 pm	16 Integrity Worship 2 pm	17
18 Divine Service 8 am (Sanctuary) Adult Bible Class 9:15 am Youth Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Rm Sunday School 9:15 am SS Wing Divine Service 10:30 am (Sanctuary) Children's Christmas Program Junior Confirmation 4 pm	19 Financial Count (Team 1) Divine Service 6:30 pm	20 Men's Bible Study 7:15 am (Narthex)	21 Food Pantry Open 1:30 - 3 pm Advent Service 4 pm Handbells 5-6 pm Advent Service 6:30 pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 3 pm and 6:30 pm
25 Christmas Day Divine Service 9 am (Sanctuary)  January 1, 2023 New Year's Day 9 am Service	26 Financial Count (Team 2) No Service	27	28	29	30 	31 New Year's Eve 2023 5 pm Service



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

**227 N. Goodhaven Drive
Columbia, IL 62236**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Bulk Mailing

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Columbia, Illinois

Permit No. 15



December 24 (Saturday)

3 pm & 6:30 pm (Christmas Eve)

December 25 (Sunday)

9 am (Christmas Day)

December 31 (Saturday)

5 pm (New Year's Eve)

January 1, 2023 (Sunday)

9 am (New Year's Day)

Worship with Us...

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
227 Goodhaven Street,
Columbia, IL 62236**

**618.281.4600 stpauls-lcms.org
facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiail**

Sundays 8 am & 10:30 am Mondays—6:30 pm



The Epistle

December.2022