

9801 Olive Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63141
(314) 993-0015
stpaulseffree.org

Advent & Christmas Services

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Slow down your regular schedule to experience the hope, beauty, and wonder of Jesus Christ this Christmas.



Advent

SUNDAYS, NOV. 27 & DEC. 4 & 18, 9:30AM
Wait expectantly to celebrate Christ's birth and his return with hopeful sermons, praise, and fellowship.



Christmas Cantata

SUNDAY, DEC. 11, 9:30AM
Experience the overwhelming beauty of Jesus' story at this special, musical service.



Christmas Eve

SATURDAY, DEC. 24, 5:00PM
Enjoy the wonder of a candlelight service while anticipating the morning's excitement.



Christmas Day

SUNDAY, DEC. 25, 9:30AM
Celebrate as we remember how hope came down from heaven as a baby and will return again soon.

In This Issue

From Pastor Don	2	Poinsettias	4	Town Hall	6
Adopt-a-Family	2	Missions News	5	End of Year Giving	6
From Pastor Daniel	3	Birthdays/Anniversaries	6	Cultivate Kids	7
Cards for Shut-ins	4	Cookies for Cantata	6	Calendar	8

FROM PASTOR DON'S DESK

Julie joins me in prayer that our Lord and our King Jesus will favor you and your families with a healthy, happy, and joy-filled Christmas celebration. May joy be your gift this Christmas and may faith, hope, and love be your treasures in the New Year. May you be renewed in every way as we celebrate His birth this month. He came to bring us life and forgiveness and the power to live above every challenge and disappointment we face in this world.

Joy, peace, and love;

Don and Julie



The families that we are providing gifts for are through the *Tabernacle Community Development Corporation*. Their mission is to assist communities by building people. The objective is to help eliminate poverty as well as social exclusion by improving the social, educational and economic infrastructure which will lead to self-sufficiency. They offer numerous programs to help empower families.

Some of the families have specific requests. Others would like Walmart gift cards to make their own purchases. We are also collecting general items of gloves, hats, scarfs, and socks, as well as games, puzzles, cards and other kids activities for families to choose from. Look for the display in the Welcome Center for more information on how we can bless others this Christmas season.

Thoughts from Pastor Daniel

As we enter into the last month of this year, I just want to take some time to highlight some of the incredible people that have been working hard to make Cultivate Kids and Family ministries happen here at St. Paul's. Each of these individuals deserves a huge "thank you" from everyone at St. Paul's for their dedication and service, especially this past year.

Lisa Stalhut – Lisa is involved in all facets of family ministry here at St. Paul's. She helps lead Sunday School for elementary age kids on Sunday mornings, is part of the Children and Family Ministries Team (CFM), organizes and leads VBS, put together incredible gift bags for kids each month during covid, and is generally always on the lookout for ways to make our church meet the needs of the next generation. When she isn't here, she's teaching first grade in the Pattonville school district.

Don Andrews – Don serves as the head of our CFM team, is an elder, helps with Cultivate Kids, Sunday School for elementary students, and love each and every one of the kids God brings through our doors. He also teaches kids for Adult Bible Fellowship and is ever-present talking to families and getting people registered each week.

Kari Van Raalten – Kari leads our Children's Church program, is part of our CFM team and is ever ready to help wherever needed with kids and students at St. Paul's. She is also a teaching assistant in the Parkway school district and mother of two of our middle school students.

Lynn May & Jody Graeler – Lynn and Jody have been leading our kitchen crew on Wednesday nights for Cultivate Kids, making sure we are a well-oiled machine every week and that our meals are kid-friendly. Each week a group of 3-5 volunteers come a couple of hours before Cultivate Kids begins, prep and cook the food, prepare the tables, serve the food and clean up after dinner. Often Lynn will be here for five hours, the first one here and the last one to leave.

If you see any of these individuals in the next month, be sure to tell them thank you for all of their hard work and dedication. There are tons of other volunteers that deserve mention and appreciation but this article cannot become the entire newsletter. Needless to say, I am grateful and thankful for the leadership these individuals have provided. Whether you are part of the Cultivate Kids or Cultivate Students team or not, I also appreciate the many people I know who are praying for us and seeking to support these important ministries in other ways. Thank you all and especially thanks to our incredible leaders!

Christmas Cards for Shut--Ins

Help Spread Christmas cheer!

Bring 36 signed cards by December 11
Place in the designated box
in the Welcome Center



Order your poinsettia

to honor a loved one
(will be placed in the sanctuary before Christmas)

\$10 each

Orders due Dec 11

- Your name and number that you would like, with:
"in memory of, in honor of, gratitude to God for,
Merry Christmas to"

Christmas in October

We want to share with you the joy we feel and the joy our missionary families are feeling as, because of your generosity through the Christmas in October offering, each of our supported missionary families is receiving \$250 as a special Christmas gift. We are already receiving thank you's. So – thank you from the missions team and from our missionary families!! Some of the notes are below:

- Thank you so much for this very generous gift! We really appreciate it as we have had a lot of extra expenses with Hannah living with us! We really are thankful for the generosity of the church. May God continue to bless the ministry of St. Paul's there in the St. Louis area. (Paul and Shari Salzman)
- Thank you so much for your generous gift! The people of St. Paul's are a continuous blessing to me. (Todd Brooks)
- Thank you so much! It is indeed a blessing, as the four kids hope to go to a retreat with other kids from International Teams/ One Collective this winter. This will help. So grateful for the St. Paul's church family. We'll be home for six months, from July 2023 until January 2024, for our next Totalization Agreement fulfillment. Look forward to seeing you and the church then. (Nate and Faith Walter)
- I wanted to let you know that the Christmas gift from St. Paul's arrived safely today. We are grateful for the generous gift and will use it to travel and be with our children to celebrate Christmas together. We treasure the times we have together with them. (Mark and Mary Esther Penner)



While we seldom bring back-to-back requests to the congregation, we knew you would want to know the challenging situation one of home-grown St. Paul's missionaries is experiencing. Many of you will remember Melissa Knappenberger Shehan, daughter of Jim and Joan Knappen-

berger. Melissa and her husband, John, have served for the last four years in Pemba, Mozambique in the southeastern corner of Africa next to South Africa. Melissa and John have servants' hearts and have done whatever their mission has asked of them, from construction to farming, technical help, women's Bible studies, teaching women to make jewelry as a path out of poverty – and then – oh, my – they were asked to take in six teen boys who had no place to go. The terrorists have been attacking closer and closer to their city of Pemba, and almost every Mozambican they know has either lost someone or has taken in family members fleeing the violence. One family of six took in 15 additional family members. Recently, the administrators and the Shehans decided it is no longer safe for them to be in Pemba, so they have recently moved to Nacala, which is 234 dangerous road miles or 110 air miles south of Pemba. Because they flew, they could take only what fit into their suitcases. They will need to re-

place almost all of their belongings and are hopeful of buying a vehicle. Because their mission does not provide housing in Nacala, they will also be building a small house near the mission's property.

In Nacala, Melissa and John will be helping to develop a safe place for missionaries to come to rest and recharge. The property will also be used for training new local pastors and organizing and leading discipleship groups as the churches in Nacala spread. The churches are already growing, especially since the distribution of solar audio Bibles has helped energize curiosity and interest in Jesus.

The missions team would like to help Melissa and John settle into Nacala. If you would like to help them personally, too, please put a check or cash in an envelope and mark it SHEHAN by December 4 so we can get the funds to the Shehans as quickly as possible. Oh, and if you are curious about more information about Mozambique, and, like me, you don't know, Google knows!

Melissa and John will be in St. Louis over the holidays and we are looking forward to a personal update.

Thank you so very much for your generosity.

Happy Anniversary!

Terry & Mary McDannold	33	12/2
David & Lisa Oliver	35	12/12
William & Nancy Mueller	48	12/14
Leland & Eileen Carlson	62	12/19
Ken & Cara Russell	32	12/21



Happy Birthday!

Elsie Owens	12/2	Donna Rosenfelder	12/19
Mike Kolmer	12/4	Judy Graeler	12/20
Anna Hellebusch	12/5	Ken Broky	12/22
Zachary Pfeiffer	12/5	Susan Harrod	12/22
Ann Kallemeier	12/6	Janet Barzoff	12/23
Kristine Williamson	12/6	Jeanne Speroulias	12/23
Kari van Raalten	12/7	Carol Craig	12/25
Hunter Hohmann	12/9	Carol Grater	12/26
Becky Daniel	12/10	Julie Price	12/27
James Standing	12/11	Fred Robinson	12/28
Susan Musselman	12/15	Karen Tucker	12/28
Susan Pollmann	12/17	Tammy Davis	12/29
Michael McGauly	12/18	Scott Schurwan	12/29
Judy Pfeiffer	12/19	Marilla Gemignani	12/30
		Samantha Immekus	12/30



**Cookies Needed for
Cantata Fellowship**

We will have a special fellowship time to celebrate the season, following the Cantata service on December 11. Please bring a dozen or two of your favorite cookies to share.



Sunday, December 18 // 10:45am

The Elders and Deacons will be giving an update on the transition process and next steps in the pastor search.

End of Year Giving Reminder

2022 giving needs to be postmarked by December 31 in order to qualify for 2022 giving. This applies to giving to St. Paul's, as well as, Gateway Metro. Thank you for supporting your church, as we minister to our community.

Cultivate Kids has been a great time this Fall. They will finish the season with a Christmas party on December 14, with some extra-special activities planned. They will resume on Wednesdays on January 18, 5:45-7:30pm, with free family dinner, kids program, and crafts in a fun environments with fun people!



St. Paul's Evangelical Church
9801 Olive Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63141



Sundays

Worship Service	9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time	10:30 a.m.
Cultivate Teens	6:30 p.m.

Tuesdays

Quilters and Project Linus	9:30 a.m.
Prayer & Care Meeting	1:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Women's Bible Study	9:00 p.m.
Cultivate Kids	5:45 p.m.

Thursdays

Praise Ringers	6:00 p.m.
Chorale	7:00 p.m.

12/4 Communion
Elder Listening Session // 10:30am

12/5 Missions Team // 7pm

12/7 Moms Group // 9:30am

12/11 Cantata Service // 9:30am
Holiday Fellowship Time // 10:45am

12/12 Deacons // 5:30pm
Elders // 7pm

12/18 Town Hall Meeting // 10:45a

12/24 Worship Service // 5:00pm

12/26-27 Church Office Closed