

Celebrating Our Savior's Birth



Please join us in celebrating throughout the month of December:

- December 2 @ 10 AM - Women's Glow Brunch
- December 10 @ 9:30 AM - Christmas Cantata followed by a Cookie Reception
- December 13 @ 5:30 PM - Family Christmas Party
- December 16 - Youth Group Christmas Party (see article on p. 5)
- December 24 @ 5 PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 31 @ 9:30 AM - New Year's Eve Worship Service

In This Issue

Castro Installation	2	Women's Ministry	4	Anniversaries/Birthdays	7
Elder / Deacon News	2	Christmas Decorating	4	Memorials	7
Christmas Cantata	2	Children & Family	5	Mission News	7
Pastor Terry's Farewell	3	Honoring Our Veterans	6	Calendar	8

PASTOR MARC'S INSTALLATION

Pastor Marc Castro will be installed as Lead Pastor at St. Paul's on **December 3, 2023, 9:30 a.m.** Following the worship/installation service, a celebratory luncheon will be served. All are welcome even if you didn't turn in an RSVP. We look forward to welcoming Pastor Marc and his family to St. Louis.



ELDER / DEACON NEWS

• Children and Family Ministry Update

Lisa Stahlhut met with the Elders to present an update. She reported the one-room schoolhouse approach on Sunday mornings seems to be working well. A Family Christmas Party, including dinner, will be offered on December 13 at 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. Lisa will begin to recruit volunteers soon. A Google Form sign-up will again be used, with a limit of 125-150 participants. Wednesday night children's ministry will be delayed until January 2024 and Lisa will be recruiting volunteers and kitchen help. Trunk or Treat, held this year on Sunday, October 29, was reported to be very successful, in spite of rain forcing everything to move inside.

• Personnel Committee Update

Joyce Lindstrom, on behalf of the Personnel Team, presented several documents for Elder Board approval: an updated St. Paul's Evangelical Church - Creve Coeur - Personnel Policy; an Employment Agreement Between St. Paul's Evangelical Church and Pastor Mark Castro; and a Lead Pastor Job Description. All were approved by the Elders.

• Women's Ministry Update

The Elder Board received an offer from Elizabeth Thomas to serve as St. Paul's Women's Ministry Coordinator. The Board agreed to this, beginning January 2024, contingent upon Elizabeth forming a committee to serve with her. Initially this group will report directly to Pastor Marc.

• Christmas Update

The Elder Board will reach out to Pastor Marc and Larry Smith about plans for the Christmas Eve service.

• Questions, Concerns, Recommendations?

Please do not hesitate to contact the Elders at elders@stpaulsefree.org.

CANTATA SUNDAY

Join us for a Cantata and Cookie Reception on **December 10, 9:30 a.m.** Not only will we have a delightful range of Christmas music and singing but afterward we will celebrate in the multipurpose room with coffee and cookies. Please bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share.



PASTOR TERRY'S FAREWELL

To Our Dear St. Paul's Family,

It seems as if we were just beginning to say "Hello!" when we find ourselves saying "Goodbye!" Such is the nature of our interim work. We can't begin to express what a blessing you have been to us. It has been such a pleasure to get to know you, to preach The Word to you, to pray for God's plan to unfold, and for healing and unity to progress. We want you to know that we are committed to pray for God's perfect plan for St. Paul's – that you would bring Him glory by continuing to grow in maturity and in His likeness. We are also committed to pray for Pastor Marc as he comes to lead you in God's Truth and for his family as they settle in and become 'part of this local family of God.' May you be both encouraged *by* them and encouragers *to* them.

We thank you for your kindness and generosity to us from the very beginning of these last six months. You could not have been more open with your love and friendship, and generous with the flowers, cards, and gifts for clergy appreciation month. God has truly implanted you into our hearts and we look forward to the future of eternal fellowship with all of you! We are so thankful to God that we WILL see you again!

Pastor Terry & Karol Schoenfeld



A while back we took a picture of this tree in the parsonage backyard. It is one of several trees that make it such a lovely, shaded oasis.

When our sister-in-law was here, she took another picture of it . . . with Karol standing beside it. We were astounded by how much larger it seemed with just a change in perspective - a 'human comparison!'

These pictures brought three things to mind:

1. How puny **WE ARE** in our abilities to make eternal changes in the little 'piece of geography' that God gives us.
2. How immense and unfathomable **GOD IS** to replace our weaknesses with HIS strength, lovingkindness, and encouragement.
3. How generous **HE IS** with the transformative resources of His Spirit and His Word for His children, the Church.

"Remember this and stand firm . . . I am God and there is none like me . . . My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose." Isaiah 46:8-10

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Fellowship Our next meeting is December 13. Bring your own lunch - dessert/drinks provided.



Glow Brunch

Come start the Christmas season on Saturday December 2, at 10 a.m. at the Women's Fellowship Glow Brunch. Our theme is "A Taste of Christmas." Tickets are \$15. If you have questions, contact Grace Koewing 314-429-2740.

Christmas Craft Sessions December 7, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.

Ladies, please join us in the multipurpose room for either of these sessions. Bring your own bowl or basket and we will provide the flowers and ribbons to craft beautiful Christmas arrangements for the holidays. Materials for your arrangement are free, but there will be a minimal charge if you wish to add battery powered lights. Contact Elizabeth Thomas for more information.



CHRISTMAS DECORATING



Thank-you to all the volunteers who helped decorate the church for Christmas. It was a great time of fun and fellowship!



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY



Family Christmas Party

Invite your neighbors and friends to come join us for a Community Family Christmas Party. Registration is required.

We're looking for people to help with the party. Sign-up at the big desk in the Welcome Center.

Contact Lisa Stahlhut at lisa@stpaulsefree.org if you have any questions.

Plans are being made for a new Wednesday evening kids program, **JAM**, to launch in January. More information will be coming later in December.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lisa Stahlhut.



ST. PAUL'S YOUTH GROUP

As you pull into the church parking lot on Sunday evening you may notice over a dozen cars. As you enter the building, you will see and hear teens having a fun time participating in a game with the Youth Group. Youth leader David Pollmann is encouraged that the youth group has been growing, and that Conway & Letitia Wong are now helping to lead this group. This is surely an answer to prayer.

The youth will be having a Christmas Party on Saturday, December 16th. If you or another teen you know is interested in joining, contact David Pollmann 314-517-4848.

HONORING OUR VETERANS



Quilts of Valor

This November, the Quilts of Valor team had the privilege to present quilts that they made to some of our veterans. Jerry Eicholtz served in the U.S. Army Headquarters Europe in Heidelberg, Germany. Leland Carlson served in the Army at the Walter Reed Medical and Dental Clinic in Washington D.C. Charlie Eschenbrenner served in the Army as a field communication radio repair specialist. Charlie was presented with his quilt at home so his wife and daughter could be present.

Flight of Honor

On November 7, Robert Schnellbacher was chosen to participate in a Flight of Honor. The St. Louis Chapter gets requests and then selects veterans to fly to Washington D.C. along with a guardian. On the flight they had a mail call with letters from family and friends. While in D.C. they toured the war monuments and Arlington Cemetery and were acknowledged for their service to our country. Back in St. Louis, they received a military welcome with bagpipes and a parade. Robert served in the Army during the Vietnam era. While he was stationed in Europe he met his wife, Sieglinde.



Happy Anniversary!

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

Terry & Mary McDannold	12/02	34 years	Bill & Nancy Mueller	12/14	49 years
Jackson & Leslie Browning	12/08	5 years	Leland & Eileen Carlson	12/19	63 years
David & Lisa Oliver	12/12	36 years	Ken & Cara Russell	12/21	33 years

Happy Birthday!

Elsie Owens	12/02	Rebecca Daniel	12/10	Janet Barzoff	12/23
Mike Kolmer	12/04	Susan Musselman	12/15	Jeanne Speroulis	12/23
Zachary Pfeiffer	12/05	Susan Pollmann	12/17	Carol Craig	12/25
Ann Kallemeyer	12/06	Michael McGaully	12/18	Carol Grater	12/26
Kristine Williamson	12/06	Judy Pfeiffer	12/19	Fred Robinson	12/28
Kari Van Raalten	12/09	Donna Rosenfelder	12/19	Karen Tucker	12/28
Hunter Hohmann	12/09	Judy Graeler	12/20	Tammy Davis	12/29
Jeff Stahlhut	12/09	Ken Broky	12/22	Scott Schurwan	12/29
		Susan Harrod	12/22	Marilla Gemignani	12/30

MEMORIALS

Lois Droste Trowbridge, passed away on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at the age of 92. She was the beloved mother of William Todd Trowbridge and Jill (fiancé Stephen Zerdelian) Zunshine; grandmother of Alana (fiancé Nicolas Reed) Trowbridge; dear sister of the late Louis Victor Droste, Jr., and dear sister-in-law of Nancy Droste (néé Winters); dear aunt of Louis Neal Droste and Deborah Lynn Droste; and dear cousin and friend of many. Lois was known for her devotion to family and love for cooking, plus she had a knack for business and math. She attended Stephens College, earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Washington University in St. Louis, and took continuing education courses in accounting at night. Her successful career spanned 50 years in the family business, initially in accounting and finance, and ultimately as a business owner and de facto Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operations Officer. Despite her busy career, she was always there for her family and friends. Lois also traveled the world. She loved drawing and watercolors, and her favorite subject was flowers. Lois had a sunny, optimistic personality, and was a woman of faith.

MISSIONS NEWS

Jonathan Friz (Wisdom Way / 10 Days of Prayer) Jonathan Friz' new book, *10 Days: The Unlikely Story of a Global Movement Mourning for the Return of Jesus*, is now available!

Starting in 2004 with a visionary experience, this account tells both the good and the bad of a journey with God to see a seemingly impossible vision come to pass. The book highlights not only supernatural signs but also tragic mistakes, painful trials, and bewildering pitfalls that lead to what looks like complete failure. Through it all, the incredible faithfulness and miraculous provision of God are on display in some of the least likely situations. This book will be especially helpful for those who have experienced a deep passion and love for God as well as significant setbacks that have left them perplexed. It shows how God's faithfulness can operate through human weakness, but also how our growth in wisdom, discernment, and spiritual maturity is essential if God is to fulfill His great and precious promises in us. In a larger sense, it also paints the picture of the growth of a global movement that is filled with longing and expectation for the fulfillment of God's prophetic promises and, ultimately, the return of Jesus to rule and reign!

You can buy your own copy at <https://www.10days.net/book> or on Amazon.com. There will be a copy available in the St. Paul's library later in December.

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



Sundays

Worship Service	9:30 a.m.
Sunday School	11:00 a.m.

Mondays - Church Office Closed

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

Women's Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
---------------------	-----------

Thursdays

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

12/02 Pray with the Elders 9am

12/02 Women's Glow Brunch 10am

12/03 Pastor Marc Castro Installation

12/07 Christmas Crafting 10am / 1pm

12/10 Choir Cantata / Reception 9:30am

12/11 Deacons 5:30 pm / Elders 7pm

12/13 Women's Fellowship 11:30am

12/13 Family Christmas Party 6pm

12/16 Youth Group Christmas Party

12/24 Christmas Eve Service 5pm

12/26 Church Office Closed