


**'Tis the Season**

Hope  
Love  
Joy  
Peace

We celebrate the Advent season with the symbolic Advent wreath. That the wreath is a circle with no end or beginning is a symbol in itself of the eternal nature of God. The colored candles represent hope, love, joy, and peace, the very virtues Jesus brings us.

The first candle is symbolic of repentance and contemplation of our sins. Purple is a liturgical color also a symbol of hope. This candle is also known as the "Prophecy Candle."

The second candle represents the Holy Family's experience also known as the "Bethlehem Candle." This candle is also purple, a color of royalty. It reminds us that we await Christ the "King of Kings."

The third candle, the pink one, symbolizes joy. This pivotal candle turns our attention from repentance to the joy associated with a savior coming. Also called the "Shepherd's Candle," it represents the news of great joy that the angel of the Lord came to tell them.

The fourth purple candle is the candle of peace, or the "Angel's Candle." This candle marks the final week of Advent and it is a week of prayer.

Last of all is the white "Christ Candle" lit on Christmas day representing the purity of Jesus Christ. Let us reflect on these symbols; on hope, love, joy, and peace as we navigate the Advent Season.

**In this Issue:**

Elder / Deacon News	2	Youth News	5	Anniversaries/Birthdays	7
Pastor Marc's Desk	2	Christmas Decorating	6	In Thanks	7
Women's Ministry	3	December Highlights	7	Calendar	8
Children and Family	4				

## ELDER & DEACON NEWS

**Elder Nomination** - Continue to pray for the process of nominating, electing, and installing new Elder Board members.

**Monthly Prayer Guide** - The December prayer emphasis is "Advent" Prayer guides may be found in each Sunday bulletin.



## FROM PASTOR MARC'S DESK

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7.*

Stewardship Sunday is the one week a year that St. Paul's focuses on giving/money. St. Paul's is a generous church that has provided for the needs of our congregation, community and the world. We have a long heritage of generosity as demonstrated by our focus on Missions giving. We have many examples of members who have given generously to support the church legacy and ministries long after they passed away. Additionally, St. Paul's has been blessed by leaders who take seriously the stewardship of God's money. They sweat the details as to costs, salaries, and investments. Currently the Deacons are working hard to manage the dramatic rising costs of our insurance over the last two years. This involves countless hours of review and analysis, discerning our needs, and assuring we are adequately protected. Budgeting is a monumental task that requires the wisdom of Solomon. Investing assets for a rainy day also takes real effort and attention. We have been blessed by God for giving us wise leaders in all of these areas.

The Hard Facts:

In 2023 St. Paul's ended the year \$13,933 over income to expenses YTD 2024 vs 2023 expenses are down \$24,629 meaning we have cut costs again this year. YTD 2024 vs 2023 receipts from regular giving are down \$35,481 meaning giving is down year over year. Actual shortfall YTD 2024 vs 2023 (61,000) vs (84,672) meaning we improved over 2023 but we are still negative and falling behind.

Stewardship Sunday is a time when we should seek God's guidance. The Bible gives us many verses about money, many of which we are familiar with including: Honor God with our giving: Proverbs 3:9, Give Generously: 2 Corinthians 9:6, Proverbs 11:25, Deuteronomy 16: 16-17. Give Sacrificially: Luke 3:10, 2 Corinthians 8:3, Parable of the Widow's mite Luke 21. Give Willingly: Deuteronomy 15:10, 2 Corinthians 9:7

St. Paul's has weathered much over the last few years, but here we are with a church family who loves God, loves each other, and loves the lost. We must acknowledge our budget realities above and commit to supporting our church sacrificially. We have been solvent because others before us gave memorials for a rainy day. We are now benefiting from their generosity, but we cannot continue indefinitely on this path. We must take time to seek God's will as to how we individually are called to support our church. We ask that you prayerfully consider your situation and God's leading, to make a commitment and provide direction to church leadership as we budget and plan for 2025. Stewardship Sunday is December 1, 2024. Commitment cards can be sent to church during the first two weeks of December.

With gratitude and appreciation,  
Marc Castro  
Lead Pastor



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY



### Gather the Gals for the Christmas Glow Brunch

Saturday, December  
7, 10:00 a.m.

Tickets available up  
to December 1 after  
church service in  
the Welcome  
Center, or call Judy  
Pfeiffer  
314-255-8837.



### YarnWorks

The yarn workers  
meet every second Thursday.  
This month on November 14,  
1-3 pm. at the Schnellbacher's  
home at 2619 White Manor Ct.  
If you would like to participate  
knitting and crocheting prayer  
shawls, baby blankets and more,  
you may attend or work from  
home. Please call Sieglinde at  
314-210-0065.



### Christmas Cards for Shut-Ins

We have begun collecting Christmas cards for our Shut-ins to enjoy and will continue through December 8 with delivery beginning December 15. There are 28 folks to spread joy to with these cards this year. We hope you can help. Anyone wanting to help deliver the cards please let Jody Graeler @ 314-568-5745 or Judy Pfeiffer @ 314-255-8837 know. This would be a great help and we know you would be blessed. There will be a basket in the Welcome Center in which to place your 28 signed cards.

### Women's Fellowship Last Month

In November the ladies of Women's Fellowship had a ton of fun making Christmas themed stencils on interesting surfaces like plaques and cutting boards. Lots of lucky relatives will be on the receiving end of those hand made crafts this Christmas.

Because of the Glow Brunch the ladies will not be meeting in December, Regular meetings will resume January 8.



## CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

By Lisa Stahlhut

Preparations for our Christmas Program are in full swing! Please plan to attend the worship service on Sunday, December 15. You will have the opportunity to see our children and youth share a great Christmas story through song, readings, acting, etc. Following the church service, we will be having a luncheon with a candy bar and hot chocolate bar for all to enjoy. We will have ornaments that can be personalized, fun at the tables, and even a visit from a special guest! It's going to be a wonderful fellowship time for everyone of any age.

Our last Wednesday JAM session for the calendar year will be Wednesday, December 18. We will start again on Wednesday, January 8 with our theme "Camp Believe It." This theme will center around Jesus' early life as told from the Gospels. It's never too late to encourage a neighborhood child or family member to join us!



### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, DECEMBER 15 WORSHIP SERVICE

LUNCH, CANDY BAR  
& HOT CHOCOLATE  
BAR TO FOLLOW





## YOUTH NEWS

The youth have remained active this fall. In August we had our weekend at the lake. We spent a lot of time swimming, tubing and water skiing. Several students were able to water ski for the first time. During the weekend we completed our 6 part study of the book of John.

One of the encouraging activities for this year was the start of our youth Sunday School class. This class is being taught by Andrew Roby and Letitia Wong. They are using the book “The Universe Next Door” A basic worldview catalog. This book covers theism, deism, naturalism, Marxism, nihilism, existentialism, Eastern monism, New Age philosophy, postmodernism and Islam all compared and contrasted to our Christian worldview.

We have maintained a bi-weekly meeting schedule. Pastor Marc has been teaching a series on Jesus. Isabella del Cid has been leading. It is great to have her here and involved. One meeting we worshiped at the Ukrainian Baptist Church. That was a great experience to worship with this community of believers.

The youth schedule thru the end of 2024 is as follows:

- 17 Nov 2024, 6 pm. Meeting at church
- 1 Dec 2024, 6 pm Meeting at church
- 15 Dec 2024, Christmas party, details TBD

There will be some type of get together over Christmas break, details TBD. Presidents Day weekend retreat – This is happening so stay tuned for details. Work Camp 2025 will be 20-25 July in Pewaukee WI. Need to get a registration commitment of \$100 from the youth who want to attend.





## CHRISTMAS DECORATING



Thanks to the many people who so lovingly decorated the church the week of Thanksgiving. Getting in the Christmas Spirit will not be difficult when you walk in the doors of St. Paul's.





## DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



### Anniversaries

12/02 MCDANNOLD, Terry & Mary  
12/12 OLIVER, David & Lisa

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

12/14 MUELLER, William & Nancy  
12/21 RUSSELL, Kenneth & Cara

### Birthdays

12/04 KOLMER, Michael	12/15 MUSSELMAN, Susan	12/23 SPEROULIAS, Jeanne
12/05 PFEIFFER, Zachary	12/17 POLLMANN, Susan	12/25 CRAIG, Carol
12/06 KALLEMEIER, Ann	12/18 MCGAULY, Michael	12/26 GRATER, Carol
12/06 WILLIAMSON, Kristine	12/19 PFEIFFER, Judy	12/28 ROBINSON, Fred
12/07 VAN RAALTEN, Kari	12/19 ROSENFELDER, Donna	12/28 TUCKER, Karen
12/09 HOHMANN, Hunter	12/20 GRAELER, Judith	01/02 KEELY, Betty
12/10 DANIEL, Rebecca	12/22 BROKY, Kenneth	01/04 DEL CID, Camila
12/11 STANDING, James	12/22 HARROD, Susan	01/04 KNAPPENBERGER, Joan
	12/23 BARZOFF, Janet	

# Many Thanks

It is with much gratitude and love in my heart for the wonderful cards and flowers given to us as well as the memorials given to St. Paul's and Living Water International in honor of my husband Walter. It is greatly appreciated. The luncheon prepared and served by the Crusaders and so many others was delicious and so helpful. What a wonderful ministry that is. Thank you all for everything that was done and given to us as a family

In Christ's love and ours  
Jody Graeler and Family



**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.  
Martial Arts 6 and 7 p.m.

**Wednesdays**

Women's Bible Study 9:00 a.m.  
JAM Jesus and me 5:30 p.m.

**Thursdays**

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

**Fridays**

Martial Arts 6 and 7 p.m.

12/1 First Sunday in Advent  
12/7 Glow Brunch 10 am  
12/12 YarnWorks 1 pm  
12/9 Deacons 5:30 pm  
12/9 Elders 7 pm  
12/15 Kid's Pageant 9:30 am  
12/15 Lunch, Cocoa & Candy Bar 11 am  
12/15 Youth Christmas Party 6 pm  
12/22 Cantata Sunday 9:30 am  
12/24 Christmas Eve Service 5 pm  
12/26 Office Closed  
12/28 Pray with the Elders 9am