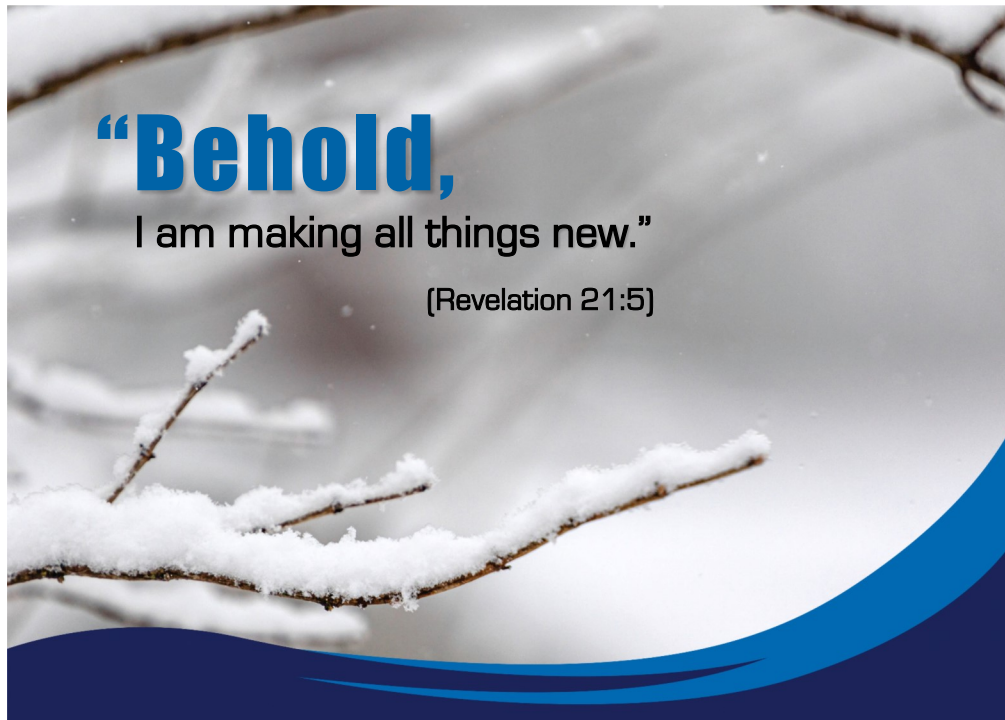


Flock Talk

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

December 2024 & January 2025



hearts + doors *wide open*

A MESSAGE *from the Pastor*



Photo: Pastor Stefan as a child, excited about new toys for Christmas

Everything New?!

Merry Advent! Yes, by the time you get this newsletter it will be a different church season. Finally? The beginning of a new church year. Really? And the beginning of getting closer to Christmas. Only four more weeks (or so)!

As I write this message, I am feeling a bit confused about what season we are in. The weather outside is finally turning colder like it should be in fall, whether we like it or not. We are getting close to the Thanksgiving holiday, which in the US is rather late for a harvest celebration. But then I've already heard Christmas music, seen store shelves change with the latest season's decorations, and homes are aglow with lights.

I don't know about you, sometimes it can seem like the church is out of sync with the world, but then I think it's a good thing that the church offers an alternative perspective that's more timeless than what's trending around us.

The recent election outcome showed that popular opinion can sway rather quickly and in ways that may or may not be good for us (all of us, not just for those whose candidate won). And I had to be reminded that God, our Christian faith, and the church offer us something that goes beyond individual preferences, political programs, or majority rule. It's the timeless message that God loves everyone, that Christ died for everyone, that the Spirit gives hope for the present and future to everyone.

We read in the letter to the Hebrew Christians who needed some faith reminders: *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Don't be misled by the many strange teachings out there."* (Hebrews 13:8-9, CEB)

As we are approaching the end of the year 2024 and the coming of the new year, let's not forget that the good news of Jesus is more dependable than a lot of other messages out there. And while our faith may seem strange to people, it is what can keep us steady in the midst of changes.

- + What do you enjoy about the different holidays? What do you wish could stay the same? And what would you like to change in your life, in the church, and in our world? May Jesus, whose birth made everything new, grant us serenity to accept what cannot be changed, courage to work for changing the things we can, and the wisdom of knowing the difference.

Yours today, through the holiday season, and into the New Year,
Pastor Stefan

SERVING THIS MONTH

COUNTER (*December*) — Charles Moody

ALTAR GUILD (*December*)

1 — Lori Evans
8 — Anita Swick
15 — Sharol Hayes
22 — Carolyn Meier
24^(PM) — Liz Allen
29 — Lori Evans

COMMUNION ASSISTANT (*December*)

1 — Mike Plunkett
8 — John Gibb
15 — Carolyn Meier
22 — Donna Wille
29 — Liz Allen

LECTOR (*December*)

1 — Pam Schaefer
8 — Charles Moody
15 — Anita Swick
22 — Diane Singler
24^(PM) — Sandra Moody
29 — Brenda Gibb

USHERS (*December*)

1 — Greg & Sharon Schoen
8 — Gail & Ken Schaal
15 — Charles & Sandra Moody
22 — John Gibb and Bill Hamilton
24^(PM) — Carolyn & Earl Meier
29 — Heather & Mike Plunkett

VIDEO & AUDIO (*December*)

1 — August Plunkett
8 — Merle Imler
15 — Liz Allen
22 — August Plunkett
24^(PM) — Merle Imler
29 — August Plunkett

FLOWERS (*December*)

1 — Elizabeth Dowalder
8 — Ken & Marcia Sandlin
15 — Pam Schaefer
22 — Charles & Sandra Moody
24^(PM) — Kendra Finley
29 — Anita Swick

COUNTER (*January*) — Sandra Moody

ALTAR GUILD (*January*)

5 — Anita Swick
12 — Sharol Hayes
19 — Carol Booher
26 — Lori Evans

COMMUNION ASSISTANT (*January*)

5 — John Gibb
12 — Mike Plunkett
19 — Carolyn Meier
26 — Sandra Moody

LECTOR (*January*)

5 — Lori Evans
12 — Carolyn Meier
19 — Ken Schaal
26 — Mike Plunkett

USHERS (*January*)

5 — Greg & Sharon Schoen
12 — Gail & Ken Schaal
19 — Charles & Sandra Moody
26 — Liz Allen & Maribeth Rahe

VIDEO & AUDIO (*January*)

5 — August Plunkett
12 — Merle Imler
19 — Liz Allen
26 — August Plunkett



Through “**Beyond Our Walls**” we contribute each month to support ministries in our local community and around the world. As we share our gifts with those beyond our walls, we are reminded of the many ways that God touches our lives each day. Thank you for your generosity.

The recipient of our donations for *December* is Ronald McDonald House in Springfield. They provide a supportive place for families to stay while their child is receiving medical care, and support programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children.

In *January*, we will support the Imagine Hillsboro Free Clothing Store for school district students in kindergarten through 12th grade. In addition to clothing, the “free store” provides a new pair of shoes, backpack, school supplies, and hygiene items to about 200 children served each year. Lunches and haircuts are also provided.

Please give generously in the big jug, or a “noisy offering” during worship. Thank you, in advance, for contributing whatever you can to these very worthy campaigns, and for extending the reach of St. Paul’s mission beyond the walls of our church.



The office will be closed December 24-25 and January 1. Please watch announcements for other possible dates.



Sunday School **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Please join us on Sunday, December 15 at St. Paul’s for our annual Christmas program. Our Sunday School students in kindergarten-6th grade will present “A Candy Cane Christmas” during worship at 10:15am.

All are invited to enjoy fellowship time with wassail and sweets directly after the service.



Christmas Eve **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

Our candlelight Christmas Eve service will take place on Tuesday, December 24 at 8pm, with special music from our vocal and handbell choirs. It will be a royal celebration of a “*Royal Birth*” for common people like us living ordinary lives (albeit in extraordinary times).

Other Worship HIGHLIGHTS

Additional HIGHLIGHTS IN WORSHIP

The season of **Advent** includes four Sundays and is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ. During that period, we learn and practice how to welcome our saving Lord in our lives today but also at the end of time when he will make everything new in his kingdom of eternal peace.

- + The season of *Advent* begins on Sunday, December 1 and continues through the 22nd until Christmas Eve. We light an additional candle each Sunday on a wreath to indicate the coming of the light of the world on Christmas Day.
 - At home you might light your wreath or simply light a candle while you use or share a weekly devotion provided by Global Health Ministries this year. It is emailed to members and available on paper upon request.

In the meantime, **Christmas** helps us to celebrate that Jesus' birth already brought us forgiveness and hope of new beginnings each day through his death and resurrection.

- + On the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Eve, December 29, we'll be reminded that Christ is always with us in Spirit, and learn how prayer can help us renew our *Christian Discipleship* when faith and its practice has become worn out.

After the short 12-day season of Christmas, we join the shepherds and wise men (and women?!) after the **Epiphany** in bringing the good news of God's gift of salvation with our neighbors near and far through personal witness and church ministries for relief, development, and advocacy.

- + Our celebration of *Epiphany Sunday*, on January 5 (the actual day is always the 6th), is a reminder that Christ was born to bring the good news of God's reign of justice and peace for everyone in the whole world.
 - During the following season of mission emphasis, we are all sent anew to bless others and invite them to join our community of faith, hope, and love.
- + On Sunday, January 12, the church celebrates the *Baptism of our Lord* as God's confirmation of Jesus' beginning of his ministry. We will affirm our own baptism with a commitment to discipleship and mission.



Your Personal ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

This year, we are sharing a weekly Advent Devotional from Global Health Ministries for your personal use. "*Christmas in the Neighborhood*" offers Scripture reflections written by Bible scholar Walter Brueggemann, who invites us to see with God's eyes. Each week provides a prayer and includes an example of neighborly care provided by compassionate Christians.

- + You'll get a copy by email or can pick up a paper version at church upon request.

PEACE *Full*

wellness ministry

Pop-Up WELLNESS MINISTRY

The PEACE *Full* wellness ministry celebrates community in wholesome, healthy, and mindful activities for all ages. Our intent is to invite greater peace and health into our lives through meditation, movement, and mindfulness.

- + Sunday, December 8, 4:30-6pm: Starry Night Chair Yoga + Meditation
Embrace the symbolism of the Star of Bethlehem in this gentle flow and inspiring meditation.
- + Sunday, January 5, 4:30-6pm: Mindfulness Workshop
Learn the core principles of mindfulness and how to cultivate a healthy mindset daily. Engage in mindful breathing, body scanning and learn powerful tools to manage stress, anxiety, and negative thought patterns
- + Sunday, January 19, 4:30-6pm: Speaking Truth Chair Yoga + Meditation
Lean into the grace of expressing, let go of being restrictive and critical. Discover how to eradicate harshness and embrace ease. This class will show you how to release the shoulders, jaw, and throat and bring more kindness to yourself and others.

All classes and workshops are suitable for all ages, abilities and complete beginners! Classes are fun, encouraging and are designed to reduce tension, increase energy levels and improve mobility and sleep.

Duration: 60-90 minutes of gentle movement and sitting on a chair in meditation

What to bring: please wear comfortable clothing, a water bottle and an open heart! Whether you are seeking a gentle way to stay physically active or a peaceful moment of mindfulness our classes offer a balanced blend of movement and relaxation.

Events have been planned through March 2025, and announcements will be shared as they come up. You can always look ahead to at the full list of wellness ministry activities planned so far, and check for new ones being added, on our church website at www.wideopen.church.



MEALS ON WHEELS

Thank you to all who help to deliver **Meals on Wheels** each month.

Our next scheduled week is December 23-27 (no meal delivery on Wednesday, December 25 due to the holiday). Contact Carolyn Meier for more details or to volunteer.



Sunday School will take a break after our Christmas program on December 15, and return to weekly classes again on Sunday, January 12.



BINGO Outreach

St. Paul's members are reaching out to residents in our local care facilities through games like Bingo and other activities.

The next outreach events will be at 9am on Wednesday, December 11 at Montgomery Nursing & Rehab, and then at 9am on Tuesday, December 17 at Tremont Ridge.

Please sign up on the bulletin board or contact Mary Martin if you are able to help out. Thank you!



BIBLE Study

In the new year we will resume reading, discussing, and praying together over God's Word for our daily discipleship and mission. Please join when you can on most Mondays, 4:30-about 6pm. Beginning again on January 6, Pastor Stefan will continue an overview of "Beloved and Obscure" passages in the Bible. No experience necessary!

+ We enjoy snacks and fellowship, and will have a special Epiphany treat on January 6.



Tree of Lights CAMPAIGN 2024

GHMF Assistance Fund Appeal

This season of giving, you can make a difference in our area communities. Donations for the "Tree of Lights" annual campaign brightens lives of people in their darkest times. The needs have sadly only increased.

Please help the Greater Hillsboro Ministerial Fellowship of churches raise funds for financial assistance to our neighbors with emergency needs.

Money raised is used to provide food, clothing, transportation, and lodging throughout the entire year. Our churches are no longer able to utilize the traditional bell ringing kettles which used to provide funds and assistance in the past.

+ Put a light on the Tree of Lights to give help and hope: Share a gift by check made out to "Greater Hillsboro Ministerial Fellowship" with "Tree of Lights" in the memo through St. Paul's or mail to: GHMF Treasurer, c/o St. Paul's Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 266, Hillsboro, IL 62049.



ELCA Good Gifts

Once again, we are offering the opportunity to support projects of the ELCA World Hunger ministry through unique gift donations. Ornaments representing development projects of our churchwide partners will be displayed on a tree at our church.

Simply take an ornament, make a donation to ELCA World Hunger, and give the ornament to someone in place of a gift from the brick or online stores. You are doing good by helping transform lives impacted by poverty and hunger, and you show others that you care about the well-being of people in need. It's a win-win approach to gift giving.

+ Want to get someone a great gift, but have no ideas or know they already have everything? Look no further than ornaments from ELCA World Hunger on our tree at St. Paul's, in one of the Good Gifts catalogues, or online at www.elca.org/goodgifts.



PARISH NURSE Ministry

Blood Pressure Checks and Wellness Information

Lew McDonald takes blood pressures and provides information at church before and after worship, usually on the first Sunday of each month. Check in with Lew on Dec. 1 and Jan. 5, and thank him for his ministry. This month, Lew shares How to Understand the Bible (adapted from *The Good News at UCG.org*):

- Pray for understanding. (Luke 24:44-45)
- Keep an open mind. (Acts 17:11)
- Humbly seek instruction and correction. (Isaiah 66:2)
- Accept the inspiration of the Bible. (2 Peter 1:21)
- Plan time for regular study. (Ephesians 5:15-17)
- Let the Bible interpret itself. (Isaiah 28:10)
- Study all topics. Concentrate on one subject, doctrine, or book at a time.
- Read the whole Bible. Ensure seeing all of the Bible, often.
- Compare different translations - many.
- Use study aids. Caution, they are not Scripture, and can be wrong.
- Ask for guidance from God's church. (Romans: 10:14-15)
- Take notes, to help you remember.
- Review and meditate. (Psalm 2)
- Obey God's Word and prove it true. His Word endures forever.
- Hold fast. (1 Thessalonians 5:21)



Those serving in worship in Altar Guild, Communion Assistant, Lector, Usher, or Video/Audio capacities will be receiving **2025 Schedules** in the coming weeks. Thank you for serving in worship at St. Paul's!

Budget Meeting

Mark your calendars; we need your vote. St. Paul's annual **Budget Meeting** has been set for January 19. Following our Sunday morning worship, voting members will be asked to approve and support our financial plans for St. Paul's ministries and missions in the coming year. Copies of the council's proposed budget will be provided in advance so you can ask questions ahead of the meeting.



COFFEE & CONVERSATION

We continue our regular **Coffee and Conversation** fellowship most second Sundays of each month. As in the past, this fellowship time will fall on a different week for certain months due to special holidays or events.

We'll enjoy wassail and treats after the Sunday School Christmas program on December 15. All are invited to join us for Coffee and Conversation following our worship service on January 12.



Offering Envelopes will soon be mailed out for the first quarter of 2025. If you do not receive envelopes by the end of January and would like some, please contact Marina in the office. Thank you for your support of our mission to share the good news of Jesus! The initial offering envelope suggests a \$9.00 donation to help defray the cost of purchasing the envelopes. The true cost is higher.



We are inviting every member to prayerfully consider God's call and their gifts, and offer themselves for being nominated to serve Christ and his church on St. Paul's **Church Council**. We are seeking members to fill the Stewardship position for which the term is soon expiring, as well as the vacant Fellowship and Youth Representative positions. Please contact council president Mike Plunkett or Pastor Stefan if you are interested in serving in one of these roles.



All articles for the **February Newsletter** are due to the church office by Wednesday, January 22. *Please* be sure to submit any information that should be included to the office on time. Thank you.



Annual **Contribution Statements** will be available at church in January. Those not picked up by Jan 23 will be sent out in the mail. Please contact Gail Schaal with any questions.



SYNOD FAITH FORMATION: *Understanding the Hebrew Bible*

Learn about the connection between Israel's story and Israel's theology as recorded in the Hebrew Bible ("Old Testament"), with an eye toward interpreting both Hebrew and Christian scriptures and theology today.

This Adult Faith Formation class will be led by Rev. Dr. Fred Neidner and will be held via Zoom from 9am-noon on January 18 and 25, February 8 and 22, and March 8 and 22. The cost is \$25. For more information and online registration go to www.csis-elca.org/news/understanding-the-hebrew-bible.



New Mission, Vision, and Shared Support from Our **CENTRAL/SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD**

A year-long process produced new synod goals based on input from all our faith communities. The synod's new mission statement is very similar to that of St. Paul's fall kick-off theme. Our bishop is filled with hope about lots of ministry happening in our 110 faith communities. Plans for new and strengthened initiatives will support all of us in discipleship, service, and evangelism. Look for more information and announcements of resources and activities in January.



Please Update Your **CONTACT INFORMATION**

We are in the process of updating our congregation's records and transferring data to a new system. Please let the church office know if your mailing address, email, or phone information has changed since the last directory (2017), unless you have already notified us.

Once we are set up with the new database, we hope to produce our own new directory, and begin using new features such as texts for important announcements. We'll share more as we make progress.

+ *Thank you* for being a part of St. Paul's. Please let us know if you would like to know more about our communications or are no longer interested in receiving them.



The men's **Coffee & Faith** group meets on 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 9am, usually at Black Rabbit. Let Charles Moody know if you would like to get reminders for upcoming meeting dates and location.



Forward in **MISSION**

We're just getting started!



- + What makes St. Paul's special and important to you?
- + What could our congregation do to be attractive and supportive?

St. Paul's forward movement depends on disciples like you who value our church's worship, learning, and service activities. And our congregation needs to find out what people are looking for or need from a church like ours, so we can bless them, share God's grace, and thrive together.

Christ's mission for us is to make disciples and bless our community. During the year ahead of us, we will need to follow through to our commitments made in November.

1. Please **pray** for our congregation, its members, our ministries, and our mission to others.
2. Please **participate** in existing and new activities to renew, deepen, or begin following Jesus as a disciple who worships regularly, learns about practicing faith from the Bible and other learning opportunities, shares caring friendship with others in our congregation and beyond, serves by using spiritual gifts and practical talents, and reaches out to our neighbors by getting to know them, loving them, and inviting them.
3. And please **provide** the financial and other material or immaterial resources for our church so that we can fulfill Christ's purpose and grow both spiritually and missionally.

Everyone is invited and important. If you did not get to participate in the Forward in Mission celebration in November or return a commitment card, you can still fill one out and share it. We are not asking for a financial pledge, but want to know who we can count on for support. By the way, as long as supplies last, we have "Blessed to Be a Blessing" bracelets as a gift and encouragement for all committed supporters.

St. Paul's is at a pivotal moment for changing our past trajectory. Let's follow Jesus with commitment in 2025. Let's go, make disciples, baptize, and teach all nations - in Hillsboro and beyond. Thanks for joining!



The women's **Sewing & Fellowship** group welcomes everyone on most Monday mornings, 9am at church. We make quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and take on a variety of other projects. Check with Paula Kopper about group meetings on or near upcoming holidays.



Faithful Innovation

1. Listening to God

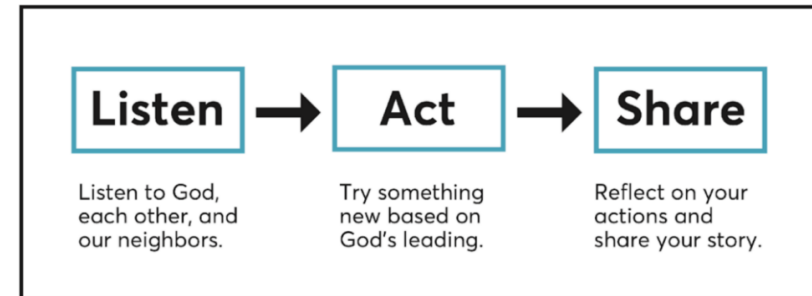
Our Faithful Innovation team is learning to listen to God and our community in order to help our entire congregation learn how to share our faith and explore opportunities for outreach for service and invitation.

The first step is regular practice of **Dwelling in the Word**. The first Bible passage we are invited to hear is *Acts 16:6-15*. (Use the NIV translation or any that's available to you). Read the text out loud and slowly once, and after pausing, a second time. Then, discern three questions by yourself or share reflections with others:

- + What caught my attention?
- + What question would I want to ask?
- + What am I hearing God say (what might the Spirit nudge me/us to)?

Repeat this practice with the same text once a week or so, and use it with others at church, in your home, or good friends.

The **Guiding Team** of Pastor Stefan, Lori Evans, Erin Landers, and Diane Singler is practicing the listening and community survey step together and with a synod mentor. On December 7, the team will attend the second of three day-long training sessions to learn about the second step of trying out new things. Stay tuned as we will share experiences and invite you to learn for discipleship and mission with us.



Free Lunches from **LADLES OF LOVE**



Each week from 11am-12noon on Wednesdays, St. Paul's serves a free meal to the community, including a main dish, side dish, and dessert. Check with Paula about donating desserts, and sign up in the kitchen to help prepare food, serve the meal, or clean up.

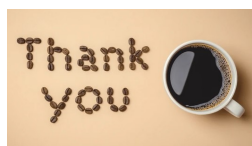
- + Ladles of Love will not be serving on Wednesdays, December 25 or January 1.



Special Care MEMBERS

Members who aren't able to join us at church for worship or have special circumstances always appreciate it when we remember them in our prayers or show other signs of care like a visit, call, or card.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Betty Bledsaw | Lyn Lingle |
| Judie Donham | Ken Meade |
| Sue Duzan | Bob Mulch, Sr. |
| Doris Enochs | Pat Osborn |
| Joyce Gooding | Delores Plunkett |
| Robin Houser | Wayne Rhoades |



As managing barista of St. Paul's Community Café I want to express my gratitude to Karen McCaffrey and Jack and Lori Evans for subbing when I am not able to open and host free coffee, cookies, and conversation.

— Barista Stefan



We owe Mark Rudis a big thanks for being available and for using his background for looking into electrical issues, making repairs, and working with professionals on our aging equipment.



COMMUNITY Café

at St. Paul's

The Community Café at St. Paul's is a place to relax and connect with free refreshments and a dose of God's love. Open (most) Thursdays, 9-11am.

The Café will be closed on December 26 and January 2.

- + Look for special *presentations or activities* on Thursday mornings or other days and times in the new year!



Thank you, Diane Singler, for organizing a fall Art Show at our church with many beautiful, interesting, and inspiring works. We appreciate all the artists who lend us their creations, and express special thanks to those who donated their sales proceeds to St. Paul's.



We are saying thank you to several "secret" givers of prize donations for Bingo and other outreach activities. You know who you are. And we know that those who benefit from your generosity can see and feel God's gift of love.



I want to invite our members to join me in expressing a huge thank you to our Administrative Assistant Marina who with help from Stewardship chair Lori Evans worked on all the many communications pieces of our recent Forward in Mission campaign.

It would not have been possible without you to share such important information to invite everyone's commitment to support St. Paul's with prayer, through participation, and by providing offerings.

— Pastor Stefan



Thanks to Angela Kaculi for organizing a crew of handy helpers who replaced ceiling tiles in the whole main area and south hallway of the old basement during a full Saturday morning. Everyone's time and expertise are appreciated in helping us finish the renovation.



Calvary Baptist Church will once again be putting on a Living Nativity in the evenings from Thursday, December 19 through Monday, December 24.



Thank you to all members and guests who completed the recent survey as part of the Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations (EPIC) project and Faith Communities Today (FACT) research initiative which our church has been participating in for the last few years.

We appreciate your understanding of our repeated requests and reminders to take the survey, and are grateful for your participation to ensure the input from St. Paul's was as thorough as possible.



We appreciate all the time and effort that has already been done and is still being done to decorate St. Paul's for upcoming events and the holiday season at our church. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in making our worship space especially beautiful for this time of year.



The Hillsboro Free Methodist Church will present the musical "The Christmas Post" at 7pm on Friday, December 13 and Saturday, December 14.



THANK YOU *for Your Gifts*

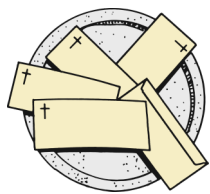
Everything we have comes from an abundant God and from generous people like you at St. Paul's.

Year-to-date, January to October:

Operating Income -	\$133,901
Actual Expenses -	\$155,004
Current Deficit -	\$ (21,103)
<u>Building Fund:</u>	\$ 841

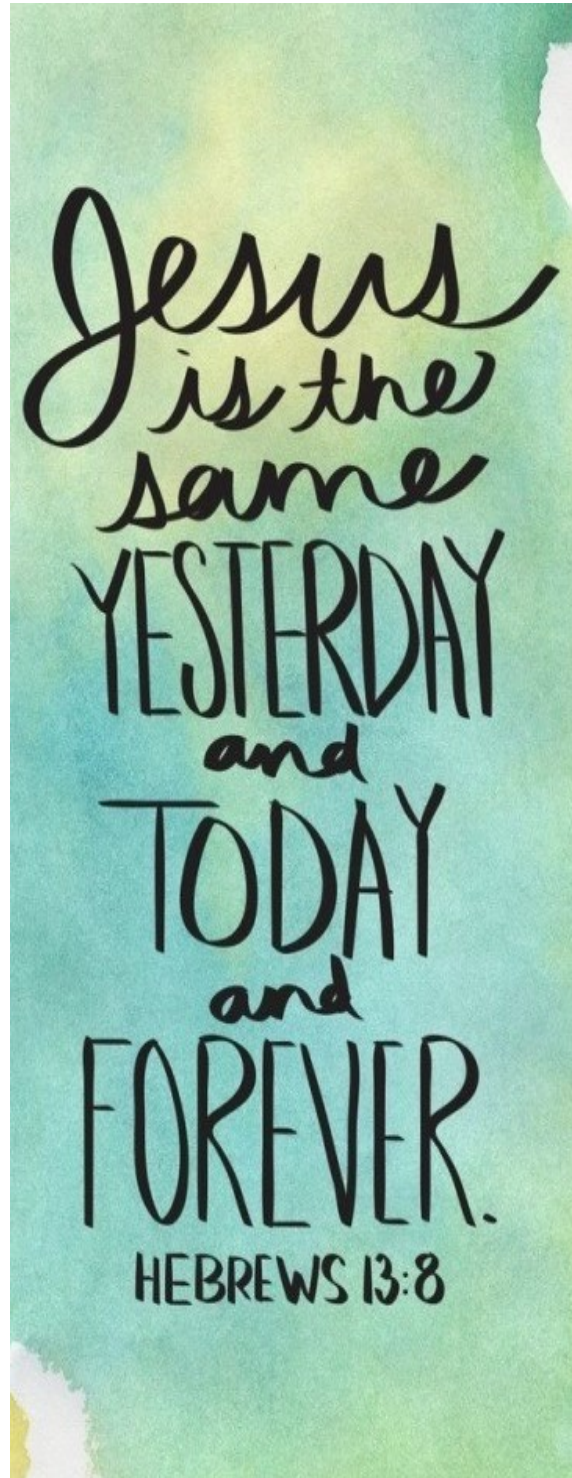
Your generous **Christmas and Year-End Gifts** are much appreciated for covering shortfall between our budgeted expenses and offerings throughout the past year, and they will help St. Paul's start off financially sound and strong in providing basic ministries and salaries but also expand our mission with new activities to reach more people with the good news of God's gift of saving grace.

Thank you for sharing your blessings to bless our community!



There are several options for how you can support St. Paul's ministries and mission partnerships:

- + **Give** an offering when attending services at church
- + **Mail** checks to P.O. Box 266 when you miss a Sunday
- + Set up automatic transfers through your **bank**
- + Give **online** using Tithe.ly on our website: www.wideopen.church








12/3	Danny Patton, Beth Wille
12/8	Angela Priewe
12/10	Jaxon Gibb, Olivia Gibb
12/11	Shelley Kolb
12/14	Jenny Dunn
12/16	Earl Meier
12/19	Saylor Stewart
12/22	Ariana Patton
12/25	Bill Jurgena
12/29	Julia Gunn
12/30	Zachary Rahe, Jeff Sandlin
1/1	Carol Calvert
1/2	Susan Pollard, Robert Wessell
1/3	Kent Stewart
1/4	Bruce Gunn, Kate Wheeler, Olivia Whitley
1/6	Sharol Hayes, Angela Kaculi, Russell Whitlow
1/7	Jacob Fenton
1/9	Ryder Hoover, David Justison, Sarah McHenry
1/17	Donna Wille
1/19	Jack Evans
1/24	Chloe Brinkman, Jacob Mutchler
1/25	Reagan Lentz, Eleanor Rahe
1/26	Shawn Hogue
1/28	Makenna Zanni
1/29	Kay Neely
1/30	Stephanie Ellis, Amanda Ott, Diane Singler

Church Council: **President** – Mike Plunkett | **Vice President** – Charles Moody | **Finance** – Brenda Gibb | **Secretary** – Ken Schaal | **Christian Education** – Angela Kaculi | **Church in Society** – Merle Imler | **Evangelism** – Carolyn Meier | **Fellowship** – (Vacant) | **Property** – Greg Schoen | **Stewardship** – Lori Evans | **Worship and Music** – Liz Allen | **Youth** – Sandra Moody | **Youth Representative** – (Vacant)



December 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:15am Worship 1pm Historical Society Tour BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS  FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	2 9am Sewing and Fellowship 9am Men's Coffee & Faith (Black Rabbit)	3	4 11am-Noon Ladles of Love 5pm Vocal Choir 6pm Bell Choir	5 9-11am Community Café	6	7
8 9am Sunday School and Confirmation 10:15am Worship 4:30pm Chair Yoga and Meditation  SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9 9am Sewing and Fellowship COUNCIL REPORTS DUE	10	11 9am Bingo at Montgomery Nursing & Rehab 11am-Noon Ladles of Love 5pm Vocal Choir 6pm Bell Choir	12 9-11am Community Café	13	14
15 9am Sunday School and Confirmation 10:15am Worship with Christmas Program 11:15am Fellowship with Wassail & Treats  THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	16 9am Men's Coffee & Faith (Black Rabbit) 9am Sewing and Fellowship	17 9am Bingo at Tremont Ridge 7pm Council Meeting	18 11am-Noon Ladles of Love 5pm Vocal Choir 6pm Bell Choir	19 9-11am Community Café	20	21
22 10:15am Worship  FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	23 9am Sewing and Fellowship	24 8pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service OFFICE CLOSED	25  CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	26	27	28
MEALS ON WHEELS — DECEMBER 23-24, 26-27 (none Christmas Day)						
29 10:15am Worship	30 9am Sewing and Fellowship	31				

January 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5pm Vocal Choir 6pm Bell Choir OFFICE CLOSED <i>Next Year's Day</i>	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4
5 10:15am Worship 4:30pm Mindfulness Workshop BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS  EPIPHANY Sunday	6 9am Men's Coffee & Faith (Black Rabbit) 9am Sewing and Fellowship 4:30pm Bible Study	7	8 11am-Noon Ladles of Love 5pm Vocal Choir 6pm Bell Choir	9 9-11am Community Café	10	11
12 9am Sunday School and Confirmation 10:15am Worship 11:15am Coffee & Conversation	13 9am Sewing and Fellowship 4:30pm Bible Study	14	15 11am-Noon Ladles of Love 5pm Vocal Choir 6pm Bell Choir	16 9-11am Community Café	17	18
19 9am Sunday School and Confirmation 10:15am Worship 11:15am Budget Meeting 4:30pm Chair Yoga and Meditation	20 9am Sewing and Fellowship 9am Men's Coffee & Faith (Black Rabbit) 4:30pm Bible Study COUNCIL REPORTS DUE  MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY	21	22 11am-Noon Ladles of Love 5pm Vocal Choir 6pm Bell Choir FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 9-11am Community Café	24	25
26 9am Sunday School and Confirmation 10:15am Worship	27 9am Sewing and Fellowship 4:30pm Bible Study	28 7pm Council Meeting	29 11am-Noon Ladles of Love 5pm Vocal Choir 6pm Bell Choir	30 9-11am Community Café	31	Feb 1

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:15-11:45am. The office is closed on Fridays.



Flowers may be placed on the altar in honor of some event or family celebration, or in memory of a loved one. The cost for altar flowers is \$22.50 per week. If you would like to reserve a date, please complete the form below and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate during Sunday worship.

The following dates are open for 2025. Please circle the dates you would like and fill out details on bottom portion of form.

January	5 • 12 • 19 • 26	July	6 • • 20 • 27
February	2 • 9 • 16 • 23	August	• 10 • 17 • • 31
March	2 • • • •	September	7 • 14 • • 28
April	• • • 27	October	• 12 • 19 •
May	• 11 • 18 •	November	• 9 • 16 • 23 •
June	1 • 8 • 15 • 22 • 29	December	• 14 • 21 • 28

Name: _____

Date: _____ In memory/honor of: _____
(circle one)

Date: _____ In memory/honor of: _____
(circle one)

Please wait to pay for flowers until 2025. This helps immensely with keeping church flower payments organized in the office. *After* the new year, you may pay for your flowers at any time. If you have not paid for them before your date, then you will be contacted by phone or mail. Thank you.

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Pastor Stefan Munker | Cell Phone:

| Email:



Pastor Stefan and St. Paul's staff are wishing all member disciples, guests, and extended friends of our congregation
a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

