

The Chimes

December 2023



Sunday Worship

9:00 am Sunday school for Children and Adults

*10:00 am Worship service
(also livestreamed)*

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve services at 5:00, 7:00 & 10:00 pm

Live stream:

www.facebook.com/stpaulsardmore

&

www.youtube.com/stpaulslutheranchurchardmore

*Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
415 E. Athens Ave., Ardmore, PA 19003
The Rev. Laura Tancredi, Pastor
The Rev. Timothy Ness, Youth & Family Minister
610-642-3211
www.stpaulsardmore.org*



Sunday, December 10
5:00 pm

Our annual tradition of presenting Lessons and Carols continues on Sunday, December 10 at 5:00 pm. As in past years we will be reading from the prophecy of Christmas scriptures and singing Advent and Christmas Carols.

The Children's, Youth, Adult and Handbell choirs will all be participating, as well as an instrumental ensemble.

An offering will be received, and a cookie reception will follow. Please join us for this festive service.

Andy Heller
Director of Music

**Chimes publication
information**

The Chimes, the newsletter of Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, is published for the inspiration, education and entertainment of its members and friends. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Just mail, e-mail or deliver them to the church office.

The next issue of The Chimes will be published on Thursday, January 11.
Your articles are due in the office no later than Thursday, January 4.

Pastor's Letter



Dear siblings in Christ,

Happy and blessed Advent! These four weeks have always been my favorite season of the church year. Perhaps at first it was simply because I grew up attending Advent Lutheran Church, and as a small child it always felt like a special time just for our church. But I've also come to love the ways the church as a whole says, "Not just yet," to Christmas. We're not ready...you need to wait just a little longer, because there are other things to be done first.

Christmas, and the holidays in general, can be all-consuming in our culture. Calendars fill up quickly with extra events; the pressure is on for the season to be extra special and magical. Of course, church is not immune from this—we have some extra events of our own this time of year! But still, as a church, we hold off on the full joy of Christmas until we've had at least a little time to consider what God's coming—or advent—into this world means. To consider what God's arrival in our own lives might mean—and what it might change.

I think it's important for us to examine and question cultural expectations around Christmas. Not for the sake of being scrooges or killjoys, but to come to our own understandings of what matters most to us this season. What are the things that we would miss dearly if we didn't do them, and what are the things we're just doing because we feel like we have to?

A balance that's always difficult for me to find is how I participate in the honestly joyous occasion of gift-giving without getting caught up in the consumerism and materialism that seem so rampant this time of year. I love giving gifts and receiving them in turn, but I'm also wary of focusing on and accumulating too much "stuff."

That's one of the reasons I'm excited about the return of St. Paul's Alternative Gifts Fair. On December 17, following worship, the Social Ministry committee is organizing an event where you can pick up some Christmas gifts that support great causes *and* don't result in more stuff!

There will be options from God's Global Barnyard, where you can "buy" an animal to be given to families around the world, Lutheran Settlement House's kitchen kits, where you can buy cookware or accessories for a family from Philadelphia moving from a shelter into permanent housing, Lutheran World Relief's baby care kits, and Fair Trade coffee,

tea, and chocolate (that one you do get to take home!). Our Green Team will also be sharing some eco-friendly gift swaps and ideas.

I hope that you'll be able to be there and consider some of these alternative gifts, and I pray that this Advent season will be a meaningful one for you as we prepare for the indwelling of joy at Christmas.

In Christ,

Laura M. Tancredi

Pastor Laura

Prayers

Please pray for our men and women in the armed services, Shane Boston, Army, (son of Kim Boston); and Sean Hopkins (son of Terry Hopkins).

Prayers are also requested for: Miranda Bagnet (friend of Beth McElvenney); Tina Brady (friend of Dottie Buchanan); Nick Belvick (friend of Bob Burns); Dottie Buchanan, Charlotte Conybear, Carl DellaBadia (brother-in-law of Judi DellaBadia); Mary Devereaux (niece of Boofie Younkin); Theresa Dry (sister of Dan Dry); Diane Duane (friend of Hazel Pelletreau); Bill Egan (friend of Bob Burns); Jo Fenstermacher (cousin of Bob Burns); Pat Fenstermacher (cousin of Bob Burns); Gunda Grabowski (aunt of Mark Muller); Rev. Arlene Greenwald (friend of Kris Peterson); Jim Kamerdze (cousin of Bob Burns); Beth Kane, Tom Keyser, Kathleen Martini (friend of Laurie DeWarf); Andy McGhee (friend of Bill Henderson); Lynda McNab, David Miller, Jim & Char Morrow (friends of Belle Miller); Irma Payan, Allie Puccio (friend of Judi DellaBadia); Johnathan Richards (friend of Pastor Tim); Claire Robinson; Bob Rogers (brother of Lynda McNab); Dorothy Schulz (sister of Carol Hammarberg); Skylar Seeley (friend of Spencer Schumacher); Joel Wilkins (friend of Louise Pierce); Andy (nephew of Linda & Bob Burns); Alyson (cousin of Jane Downing); Bart (brother of Gail Feustel); Jenn Phelps, Betty (aunt of Liz Cassidy) and Colleen (friend of Mark Muller).

Attention Chimes readers: The next issue of *The Chimes* will be a combined January/February issue and will be published on Thursday, January 11. The deadline for articles will be Thursday, January 4.

Alternative Gift Fair

December 17th, 11 am
following service

This Sunday! **Ingathering of Christmas Gifts**

Dear members of St. Paul's. As you take time to give thanks this season, please consider making a purchase for our annual Ingathering of Gifts.

St. Paul's will again be supporting the **KenCrest Rev. Harvey Davis Family Fund**.

All gifts will be delivered to children aged newborn-5 years. Educational toys, books, pajamas, winter gear or gift cards (Walmart, Target, grocery stores or gas stations) are requested by KenCrest staff.

Our price limit remains \$25 per gift but you may purchase multiple gifts. Our goal is to provide 100 gifts.

Gifts are due this Sunday, December 3. They will be brought to the altar for a blessing and will be delivered immediately after services end.

Gifts may be dropped off in the church office. Ideally, all gifts will be dropped off prior to service on December 4th. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Hammarberg or the church office.



Decorating for Christmas

Sunday, December 3

Following worship

Come and be part of the festivities as we decorate the church for Christmas! Especially needed—those comfortable climbing ladders!

All volunteers welcome.



**Calling all girls of
any age...**

Come join us

**Monday,
December 4th at
5:30 pm**

Christmas Women's Gathering

**We will have a catered dinner from Colonial Village
(\$15 per person)**

Wine will be available too.



It was so much fun last year,
we are doing it again ...
Christmas Sock Exchange
Buy a pair of Socks and fill them with your
favorite goodies (no more than \$10, then we
will exchange them on Monday, Dec. 4)

Socks can be plain or fuzzy, fancy, frilly, Christmassy, or not,
your choice.

You can fill them with candy, goodies, nail polish, lotion,
stickers, gift cards or whatever you might like to find in a pair
of socks!

All are welcome, including friends, but we ask that you RSVP to Aimee
(office@stpauls.org) or Beth McElvenney (bethmcelvenney@gmail.com)

We want to make sure we have enough food for all.

Ardmore Food Pantry Social Ministry Challenge Protein

We're asking folks to continue to bring in donations of canned meat,
chicken, tuna/fish, or beans. If we're able to collect 200+ cans, we'll
host a **COOKIE DECORATING treat on Dec. 17** for Coffee hour.

Thank you for your generosity – St. Paul's Social Ministry Committee



Families with Young Children Christmas

What: Breakfast, Christmas activities, and a visit from Santa!

Where: Fellowship Hall at St. Paul's

When: Saturday, December 9th from 8:30-10:30 am

Here is some more helpful info...

- Breakfast this year will be provided (bagels w/ spreads, fruit, and juices)
-
- Please RSVP to the Aimee (office@stpaulsardmore.org) by Monday, 12/4

A lot has changed since we last helped IHN in 2019. They have changed their name to Family Promise. What hasn't changed is the work they do: provide a caring and positive environment for homeless families while they design and implement a plan to break the cycle of homelessness in their lives.

<https://fpmainline.org/>

On Wednesday, Dec. 13th members of St. Paul's will provide dinner at St. Mary's in Ardmore for the parents and children in the program.

If you'd like to help with hosting or dinner, we'd love to have your assistance. Many hands make light work.

6:00 – 6:15 We need people to bring dinner (beverages, salad, dessert, side dish, main dish)

6:15 – 8:30 Hosting (just a responsible adult to be there till the overnight person comes in.

Contact Beth McElvenney
(610-853-2444 or bethmcelvenney@gmail.com)

for more info or to be put on the sign-up email list.

Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 17

This year's Sunday school Christmas Pageant will take place on Sunday, December 17 during the **10:00 am service**.



Thank You

Dear congregation of St. Paul's,

Thank you for the wonderful farewell on November 12. It meant so much to be with all of you and celebrate my time at St. Paul's. Thank you also for your generous gift. St. Paul's is such a caring community, and I will miss you all!

Carisa Cantor,
Parish Administrator



To the Homebound

Sunday, December 17
2:00 pm

Join us as we sing to many of our homebound members. All are welcome! No choir membership is required. We will meet at the church at 2:00 pm, split into groups, and carpool and caravan to the different residences.

RSVP to the church office by
Wednesday, December 13, to allow for route planning.

Can you help lead a group instrumentally?
(guitar or other)
Let Joy Baxter know as soon as possible
(610-789-2408).

Pub Theology

Monday, December 18
Sam's Brick Oven Pizza, County Line Road

6 pm for those ordering dinner, 7 pm discussion begins

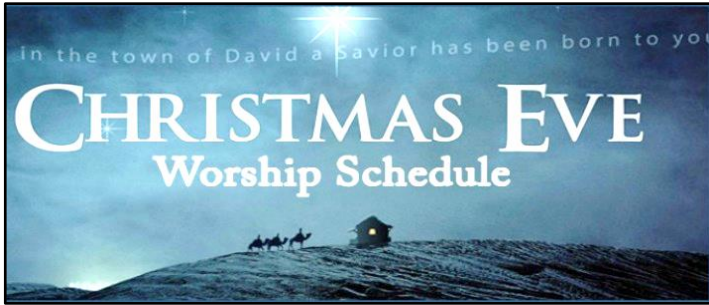
Red Cross Blood Drive
Monday, December 18
Fellowship Hall 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Sign up at redcrossblood.org search sponsor code:
StPaulArdmore, or contact Christina Wagner
cmwagner97@gmail.com

December Birthdays

- 1 Trisha Christian, Runa Kennedy
- 2 Jack Johnson, Adelaide Joyce, Al Luistro
- 4 Brandyn Cronin, Oliver Quick
- 5 Michael Brophy, Erik Iverson, Diane Zimmer
- 6 Archer Quick
- 9 Taryn Riggs, Bob Williams
- 10 Brianna Riggs, Heather Shaw
- 11 Spencer Groff
- 12 Renate Dietzschold, Cynthia McGeever
- 13 Sydney Allman, Dylan Curtis
- 14 Amy Bashore, Caroline Hampson, Robert Hampson
- 15 Sophia Harkins, Lilia Legreid
- 16 Pam Marlin, Stephanie O'Mara, Meghan Presley
- 17 Joy Baxter, Anita Engh, Alexia Gibb, Rolando Luistro
- 18 John Lieb
- 19 Jonathan Memmel
- 21 Noelle Streube-Eden
- 22 Stu Krissinger, Cady Schimpff
- 23 Jennifer Lyons
- 24 Will Bozman
- 25 Michael Aleardi, Hazel Pelletreau
- 26 Liz Cassidy
- 27 Barb Keyser
- 28 Gillian Dry, Andrew Vickrey
- 29 Finnegan Annunzio, Fiona Annunzio, Barbara Erickson, Chase Horn
- 30 Jim Perry, Laura Tancredi
- 31 Kenya Kistler





5:00 pm – Candlelight Communion Service
(prepared especially with families in mind.)

7:00 pm – Traditional Candlelight Communion Service
with Brass Ensemble (music prelude begins at 6:45 pm)

10:00 pm – Traditional Candlelight Communion Service
with Arioso String Quartet (music prelude begins at
9:45 pm)

2023 Contributions Reminder

All contributions for 2023 must be in the office or
postmarked by December 31, 2023 in order to be counted
for this year's donation. No exceptions.



Caring for Friends has evolved and expanded over the 48 years since it began. It began with one woman and her decision to provide friendship and home cooked meals to those living in poverty and isolation. It has grown to 10,000 volunteers and 200 food pantries in the five-county area. CFF is the most comprehensive free senior meal delivery program and one of the largest food banks in greater Philadelphia. Though 75% of CFF clients are seniors, 25% are under age 60 and homebound because of illness or disabilities.

What can you do to help? CFF needs volunteers and donors. Needs are larger than ever as costs of materials and deliveries have leapt ever higher. Their mission has expanded to provide meals to those facing homelessness and additional foods on top of a hearty frozen dinner each day. CFF delivers sandwiches, soups, snack bags, and non-perishable goods to support adequate and much needed nutrition during the whole day for those who cannot access food sources.

Please visit caringforfriends.org to read more about the history of CFF, its mission, and personal testimonials of the impact these programs have on individuals.

We continue to humbly ask that you make meals for our freezer this winter, consider becoming a volunteer, host a cooking program with friends or family, and donate much needed food items or money.

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. Isaiah 58:10

Gathering the Graces
End of Year Labyrinth Retreat
December 30, 9 am-noon



Our life is a journey. We are always “on the road.” The end of another year provides an opportunity to pause and reflect on our personal road map. As we look back over the year, it is helpful to identify the places that blessed us, affirmed us, enlivened us, and enriched us. We also are invited to reflect on the situations that challenged us, tested us, discouraged us, or disappointed us. In all these experiences our gracious God has companioned us on every step.

On Saturday, December 30, there will be an opportunity to participate in a labyrinth retreat, “Gathering the Graces.” The retreat will be facilitated by Kris Peterson. We will be walking the labyrinth to reflect on the many ways God has been present to us in the past year.

We will be meeting in the Kugler room for coffee at 8:45 am. **The retreat will begin at 9 am and end at noon.** Because of the size of the labyrinth, participants are limited to 8. To register please contact the church office. Any questions please contact Kris Peterson.



Coming in January

Saturday, January 6

Epiphany Open House at Parsonage, 4-6:00 pm

Sunday, January 7

Winter Rally Day

Monday, January 15

St. Paul's Youth

MLK Day of Service. More info to follow.

Attention Committee Chairpersons

Annual reports on all activities for the year 2023 are due in the office by Thursday, January 11, 2024.

Please note that reports are expected from all committees, subcommittees and groups.

Christmas Decorations & Music



I/We would like to share in decorating St. Paul's for Christmas by donating the following:

In loving memory of _____

In honor of _____

Name(s) of donor(s): _____

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| _____ Poinsettias @ \$12.50 per plant | = \$ _____ enclosed |
| _____ Wreaths @ \$25.00 each | = \$ _____ enclosed |
| Contribution toward pine roping | = \$ _____ enclosed |
| Contribution toward cemetery decorations | = \$ _____ enclosed |
| Total = | \$ _____ enclosed |



I/We would like to sponsor a musician for the Christmas Eve services:

In loving memory of _____

In honor of _____

Name(s) of donor(s): _____

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| _____ Brass instrumentalist(s) @ \$250.00 | = \$ _____ enclosed |
| Entire string quartet @ \$1,000.00 | = \$ _____ enclosed |
| Donation in any amount | = \$ _____ enclosed |
| Total = | \$ _____ enclosed |

Any funds received in excess of the actual cost of the Christmas musicians will be used to support the music program at Saint Paul's. Names of all contributors will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



The church office must receive your completed form and check payable to *St. Paul's Lutheran Church* **no later than Monday, December 18**, to include your information in the bulletin.

Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
415 East Athens Avenue
Ardmore, Pennsylvania 19003-3197

Change Service Requested
Time Dated Material