

December 2024

St. Paul's Community Church

Website: stpaulsfamily.org

St. Paul's Newsletter

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

John Chapter 1

"The Word became flesh." The Word becoming human sounds simple enough, until we know who the Word is. John tells us the "Word" is Jesus! That's amazing, even astonishing.

John fills in the blanks for us. He begins his gospel with, "In the beginning was the Word." Next, he connects the timeless Word with God: "The Word was with God, and the Word was God." John relates the divine Word to creation: "Through him all things were made." But that's not all, John also adds, "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind."

"When the Word becomes flesh, the glory of God becomes visible in a new way. That's the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. That's Christmas.

Pastor Kim



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December Red Hats

Games and Book Exchange with Pot-luck Lunch!

Date: Monday, December 9

Time: 11am at the Church

We are going to play Pokeno at the church! This game is similar to bingo. It is easy to learn and fun to play!

Bring a nice, used book that you have enjoyed to use as a prize!

Win a game - select a book!

Bring along a lunch dish or game snacks to share while we are playing.



Christian Women of Faith



December is our Women of Faith Christmas Party!

The party will be at Bette and Katie's place at 6:00pm on **Wednesday, December 4th. This is a pot-luck!** Bette is providing the ham and we are bringing everything else. If you are not already signed up to bring something, see Bette for the list!

We are doing something a little different for the gift exchange this year. Instead of buying gifts for each other, we are buying a toy for the Toys for Tots program! Bette and Katie's place is an official Toys for Tots collection site.

We all enjoy the Christmas game of passing the gifts around in a circle then opening the one we receive! This works well with the Toys for Tots requirement of donating unwrapped toys. Each of us will **buy a toy (new toys only) and wrap it!** Then we will play the Christmas game and pass them around as usual. We will all have the joy of unwrapping our new toy, then donating it to Toys for Tots on the way out! All the Christmas joy of receiving and unwrapping a gift with the added joy of giving to kids in need!

Please RSVP to Bette or Katie by Sunday, December 1st. All ladies of the church (and their friends) are welcome!

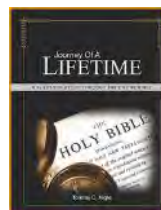
Candlelight Service



We will celebrate our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Tuesday December 24 at 5 pm this year. Our Candlelight is always a special service, so I encourage you to come and enjoy as we prepare for Christmas.

December Bible Studies

There will be no Bible Studies the last two weeks of December: Tuesday December 24 & 31 and Thursday December 26 & January 2. Enjoy your Christmas Vacation!



Noon Year's Eve Party



Happy Noon Year's Eve!

As we get older, including me, it becomes harder to stay up till midnight to usher in the New Year. In lieu of a late-night party, we will celebrate ushering in 2025 with a game/party/celebration beginning at **11 am December 31**. We will watch the ball drop and toot our horns as we enjoy a new beginning, a new year.

Texas Roadhouse Gift Cards

Thank you for all of your orders for Texas Roadhouse Gift Cards. Cards will arrive in time for Christmas!



Lessons From a Christmas Tree



-  **Be a light in the darkness**
-  **We all fall over sometimes**
-  **You can never wear too much glitter**
-  **Bring joy to others**
-  **Sparkle and Twinkle as often as possible**
-  **It's OK to be a little tilted!**

SERMONS AND SCRIPTURE



December 1

"Jesus Is Coming"

Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
*Luke 21:25-36

December 8

"Be Prepared"

Malachi 3:1-4
Philippians 1:3-11
*Luke 3:1-6

December 15

"What To Do"

Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
*Luke 3:7-18

December 22

"God In the Flesh"

Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
*John 1:1-14

December 29

"Hide and Seek"

Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
*Luke 2:41-52

*Message Scripture



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

10 Michelle J

23 Peggy T

1 Gary and Pennyrae J

18 Keith A


31 Susan J

23 Shirley S



St. Paul's WiFi Password: community

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Team 5 First Week of Advent 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship after Worship	2 6:30pm Choir and Praise Practice 	3 10:00am Quilters 6:30pm Tuesday Evening Bible Study	4 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 6pm Women of Faith Christmas Party!	5 10:00am Thursday Morning Bible Study	6	7 
8 Team 6 Second Week of Advent 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship after Worship	9 11am Red Hats Potluck, Games and Book Exchange at the Church! 6:30pm Choir and Praise Practice	10 10:00am Quilters 6:30pm Tuesday Evening Bible Study	11 6:30pm Church Council	12 10:00am Thursday Morning Bible Study	13	14
15 Team 1 Third Week of Advent 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship after Worship	16 	17 10:00am Quilters 6:30pm Tuesday Evening Bible Study	18	19 10:00am Thursday Morning Bible Study	20	21
22 Team 2 Fourth Week of Advent 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship after Worship	23	24 5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 	26 No Bible Study	27	28 
29 Team 3 10:00am Worship Service Fellowship after Worship Newsletter Items Due	30	31 11:00am Noon Year's Eve Party! 	1 January 2025! 	2 No Bible Study	3	4

November Attendance

Worship Service	Tuesday Bible Study	Thursday Bible Study
November 3: 69	November 5: 10	November 7: ❄️ cancelled
November 10: 65	November 12: 12	November 14: 20
November 17: 55	November 19: 15	November 21: 21
November 24: 68	November 26: 12	November 28: Thanksgiving!
Red Hats November 4: ❄️ 9		
Men's Prayer Breakfast November 6: ❄️ 2		
Olive Garden November 18 39		
Women of Faith November 18: 17		
Christmas Decorating November 30: 12		



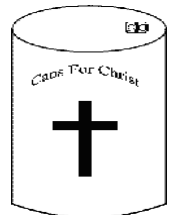
jesus
 is the

reason
 for the season



Cans for Christ (Shauna)

Starting Balance 11/1/2024	\$ 0.60
Income	\$ 22.47
Outgoing (The Action Center)	\$ <u>-23.00</u>
Ending Balance 11/30/2024	\$ 0.07



Church Council (Clark)

Brothers and Sisters,

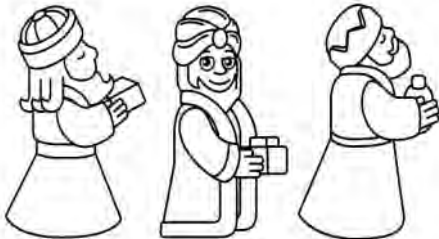
Ho, ho, ho! Merry Christmas! The Christmas holiday is my favorite time of year. People are more friendly toward each other and the music of the season fills my heart with joy.

I am so glad that Linda and I joined St. Paul's. Pastor Kim, Sharon, and all the parishioners made us feel at home. That feeling is even stronger at the holidays when we assemble together for all the festivities - one of those being to decorate the church. It reminds me of being back home in West Virginia - our church did the same.

To mention a few things we worked on this past month: Mike made repairs to the ice maker in the large refrigerator. Gary and Mike built a façade above the outside staircase leading to the basement (the Garden Level room). This will prevent snow and ice buildup on the staircase. Gary also put poles along the edge of the grass so the snowplow driver will know the limits of where to plow the parking lot. Many thanks to you both for making our church safer.

Please be safe this holiday season, count your blessings, and enjoy the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. In Christ, Clark

Christmas is a
baby shower
That went totally
overboard!



The Christmas Story (Leanne Guenther)



**Once upon a time,
A long, long time ago,
Begins the story of a baby,
That most of you should know.**



**His daddy's name was Joseph
And Mary was His mom.
This babe was very special.
He was God's only Son.**



**Some angels came from heaven
And they began to sing
To the shepherds in the fields below
"Glad tidings we do bring!"**



**A bright star lit the heavens
To light the magi's way
To the baby in the manger
Who was born on Christmas Day.**



**And all who gathered round Him
Rejoiced and praised His birth.
For the babe, the King, named Jesus
Is our Savior here on earth!**



The Legend of the Poinsettia



Poinsettia plants are native to Central America, especially an area of southern Mexico known as 'Taxco del Alarcon' where they flower during the winter.

The poinsettia was made widely known because of a man called Joel Roberts Poinsett (that's why we call them Poinsettia!). He was the first Ambassador from the USA to Mexico in 1825.

Poinsett had some greenhouses on his plantations in South Carolina, and while visiting the Taxco area in 1828, he became very interested in the plants. He immediately sent some of the plants back to South Carolina, where he began growing the plants and sending them to friends and botanical gardens.



The Legend of the Poinsettia

There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up.

'Pepita', he said "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus Happy."

Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.



The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

St. Paul's Community Church
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MISSION MOMENT (PASTOR KIM)

Helping Slater Elementary

For the first 3 Sundays of December, December 1, 8, and 15, our mission will be to help families of students attending Slater Elementary for Christmas. With your offerings, we will purchase gift cards, allowing the families to purchase gifts and food. We are hoping to provide several families with \$100-\$150 gift cards. Let's see how many families we can help.

For the last two weeks of December we will collect for our Compassion Fund. The Compassion Fund is available for our own church family members who may need emergency assistance. Thank you for all of your constant support of these missions!



Missions