

# This Week at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

November 19, 2023

Pastor Stuart Luce

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Church Office: 610.363.6264




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## THIS WEEK (November 19-25, 2023)

<b>Sun, 19:</b>	<b>9:30 am</b> 10:30 11:00 6:00 pm 7:00	<b>Combined Worship Service</b> Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary) Celebration Luncheon (FH) <i>OASIS: Friendsgiving</i> <i>Thanksgiving Interfaith Prayer Service</i>
<b>Mon, 20:</b>	1:00 pm 7:00	Knitters (110) BSA 216 Meeting (FH)
<b>Tue, 21:</b>	10:00 am 6:00 pm	Staff Meeting (110) Cub Scout Den 6-AOL (FH)
<b>Wed, 22:</b>	6:30 pm	Parent Support Group (FH)
<b>Thu, 23:</b>		Church Office Closed 
<b>Fri, 24:</b>		Church Office Closed
<b>Sat, 25:</b>		

## WORSHIP At St. Paul's This Sunday!

Everyone is welcome! If you prefer, worship online at 9:30 am: click on [Worship Online](#) or visit [StPaulsLionville.org](http://StPaulsLionville.org)

**Our Prayer List** We pray for Jeff, Carl, Delores, Melissa, Jim, Maureen, Joanna, Judy, Terri, Bill H., Tom, Stanley, Bill T., Mark, Steven, Sandy L., Mary, Kelly, Rick, William, Brett, Amy, Jan, Pat, Marlene, Nancy, Garnet, Chip, Sandy F., Alice, and Jean. We lift up Daniel, Zach, Alistar, and Chris in the military. Contact the office to add a name to the prayer list.



## Volunteers 9:30 am

*Altar Care:* John Ward  
*Assisting Minister:* Chris Robinson  
*Lector:*  
*Usher/Greeter:* Sue and James McIlvaine  
*Acolyte:* Kara Hillestad  
*Lock-up:* Peter Smith

Visit [StPaulsLionville.org/volunteers](http://StPaulsLionville.org/volunteers) for volunteer schedule.

## St. Paul's 2nd Annual Toys for Tots Toy Drive

We are collecting new, unwrapped toys for children in Chester and Southern Montgomery Counties. Toys for Tots collects toys for children of all ages. However, there is a severe shortage of toys for children under age 2 and above age 8. Toys can be placed in collection boxes in the airlocks and narthex. Financial donations can be provided at [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org). Donations will be collected until Noon on **Sunday, December 3**. Please note that the Toys for Tots drive is replacing Social Ministry's prior toy/gift collection for The Lord's Pantry. Thank you!



**Family Advent Event** On **Sunday, November 26**, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15 am for an hour of food and fun. Make some crafts, create a family Advent wreath to take home, and learn about ways to celebrate the season in the midst of your daily routines. This event is geared toward families with children ages 3 - 11, but all are welcome! No sign up is necessary; just show up ready to have fun!



## Thanksgiving Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace

This year the service will be hosted by the Interfaith Action Community at Beth Israel Synagogue, 385 Pottstown Pike, Chester Springs, on **Sunday, November 19**, at 7:00 pm. It will include a few short meditations on peace from different faith traditions. Please bring a canned or boxed food to contribute to a local food pantry as our "offering". We hope you can attend!

## Combined Service, Meeting, and Luncheon

On **Sunday, November 19**, we will have one combined worship service at 9:30 am followed by a brief congregational meeting and luncheon. This is a celebration of all that St. Paul's has to be thankful for! After some rough years, especially with the pandemic, things are going well! People are gathering back at worship, new folks are joining, and we have a new Vision for the future! God has indeed been good to St. Paul's in the past and we trust God will continue to bless us in the future!



**Winter Coat Drive** Help children and adults stay warm this holiday season and all throughout the winter. Through the end of the year, we will be collecting new and gently used winter coats for the Honey Brook Food Pantry. Look for bins in the narthex to collect your donation.



**Crafters and Knitters** The Crafters will not meet on Wednesday, November 22, and will resume meeting on Wednesday, November 29. The Knitters will meet on Monday, November 20, and will not meet again until Monday, January 8, 2024. New faces welcome at both!

**Free Embroidery Floss** If you use floss with your crafts, call Judy Uhrich at 610-314-8095.

**Early Praise Choir** On [Sunday, December 3](#), a group of early birds will meet at 7:30 am to prepare an anthem to be sung at the 8:00 am Traditional Worship Service that day. This ensemble does not require an ongoing commitment or advance preparation. If you would like to receive reminders and preview the music, please email Director of Music, Lyndsey Holmes ([Lyndsey@StPaulsLionville.org](mailto:Lyndsey@StPaulsLionville.org)).



Dear Members of St. Paul's,

As we approach the Advent and Christmas season, we are reminded of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As in years past, Mutual Ministry will be collecting donations from the congregation for a staff Christmas gift. We invite you to prayerfully consider expressing your gratitude to our staff for their dedication and service over the past year.

We are truly blessed to have a great group of talented staff members who have been instrumental in strengthening our relationship with the Lord. Let us show our appreciation for their hard work and commitment by contributing generously to this gift.

Joel Fabry, Mutual Ministry Chair, will collect your gifts and distribute them to our staff before the New Year. Please send your gift (as a check made payable to Joel Fabry) to Joel at 104 Southside Circle, Downingtown, PA 19335. We request that you send your gift via check, not cash. If you prefer to use Venmo, you can send your gift to @Kathryn-Fabry.



Thank you for your support and generosity,

St. Paul's Mutual Ministry Committee

**Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser Update** We're really sorry that we had to postpone the Spaghetti Dinner last Friday, November 10. As it turned out, the heat went out in the CLC the day before, so we likely would have had to postpone regardless. God works in mysterious ways...

For everyone who purchased tickets in advance, you have three options concerning the money you paid:

1. Request a refund;
2. Roll your reservations over to the new date for the Spaghetti Dinner, likely to be in February or March 2024 (you'll get a new set of tickets); or
3. Simply let the money go as a donation toward the youth ministry's big events this coming summer.

Please contact the church office or Craig Miller ([CraigYouthMin@gmail.com](mailto:CraigYouthMin@gmail.com)) to let us know what you would like us to do.

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

**NEW ST. PAUL'S/ST. MATTHEW'S YOUTH E-ACCESS TO INFO!** We have 2 new ways to stay up-to-date electronically with what's going on in the youth ministry of our two congregations. First, find a comprehensive list of upcoming events, details, and signup links for both MANIA! and High School events on our Youth Ministry webpage at [StPaulsLionville.org/youth](http://StPaulsLionville.org/youth). This page is updated in real time as changes occur, so it will always be the best source for the most current info. Second, follow our new Instagram site, [instagram.com/St.Pauls\\_Matts\\_Youth](https://www.instagram.com/St.Pauls_Matts_Youth), to get updates on what our groups are up to and see all the great stuff that our youth are doing. SNEAK PEEK: We are working on a project to incorporate the Remind platform into the youth ministry, to provide yet another avenue to communicate with youth and parents. Stay tuned!

**YOUTH HELP NEEDED THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19!** We are again helping with St. Paul's Thanksgiving Food Basket distribution at the Care Center Foundation in West Chester. Meet at St. Paul's at 11:45 am to load the food into the trailer, then travel to the Care Center to help unload, set up, and distribute the boxes from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. Sixth through twelfth graders are encouraged to participate, along with parents! Sign up here to help with loading/unloading, distribution, or both: [November 19 Thanksgiving Food Baskets](#).

**THE HIGH SCHOOL OASIS FRIENDSGIVING EVENT** is this coming **Sunday, November 19**, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm (note time change) at the Sanders' home! All 9th - 12th graders are invited to come with a friend to relax and enjoy a meal together. Bring a side dish or dessert to share, too. Unlike other OASIS events, **this one DOES require signup!** Sign up here to save your seat(s) and let us know what you can bring: [November 19 OASIS Friendsgiving](#).

**OUR ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH TRIP TO ELMWOOD PARK ZOO'S "WILD LIGHTS"** with kids from Martin Luther School is on **Sunday, December 3**, from 4:15 to 8:00 pm. Meet at St. Matthew's at 4:15 pm to travel to Elmwood Park Zoo and meet the Martin Luther School kids at 5:00 pm. Walk with them through the zoo's light show and animal exhibits and share some Christmas love with kids who could use extra happiness in their lives. The cost is \$10 per person- if you wish to chip in additional money to help cover admission for our guests, you are welcome to do so. Sign up here to make someone's Christmas a bit brighter: [December 3 Elmwood Zoo Trip with Martin Luther School](#).

*St. Paul's regularly takes pictures and video to share all the great things happening in print and digitally. If you or family have concerns about something being shared in this manner, contact [Pastor Stuart](#).*

## **Christmas Movie Family Event**

On **Sunday, December 3**, at 5:00 pm we'll have a simple dinner, popcorn, and a family movie together. Please bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share with others! You can vote for which [movie we watch here!](#) Also feel free to advertise this on your Facebook and invite friends to come and enjoy! Please [register here](#) or at [StPaulsLionville.org/events](http://StPaulsLionville.org/events) so we have enough food prepared!



## **Downingtown Christmas Parade**

Please join us as we march in the Downingtown Christmas Parade on **Saturday, December 9**. Please plan to arrive at Beaver Creek Elementary at 2:00 pm wearing Christmas pajamas. The parade will begin at 3:00 pm. The parade will end at East Ward Elementary. It is recommended that you park near East Ward and have someone drop you off at Beaver Creek. [Click here](#) to sign up or visit [StPaulsLionville.org/events](http://StPaulsLionville.org/events).



## **Help Improve St. Paul's Reach By Leaving a Review**



We often read online reviews to help select the best place to visit or item to buy. One very significant way you can help spread the word about St. Paul's is to post an online review about our church! It's a very simple and yet powerful way for people to learn that St. Paul's is a great congregation where they would be blessed as well. Simply write out a short review that speaks highly of St. Paul's and post it on these websites: [Google](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Yelp](#). Thanks so much for spreading the word about St. Paul's!

## **Articles for "This Week" and Monthly Newsletter**

Articles submitted by 2:00 pm on Wednesdays will be included in the "This Week" for the following weekend.

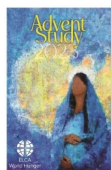
Articles submitted on or before the 24th day of every month will be included in the following month's newsletter.

Every effort will be made to include articles submitted after those deadlines and holidays may impact those deadlines. Questions and articles can be submitted to Marisa via email ([Marisa@StPaulsLionville.org](mailto:Marisa@StPaulsLionville.org)).

**Coffee Fellowship Help** The volunteer list to sign up to provide snacks and prepare coffee on Sundays is in the narthex and online via Signup Genius at [StPaulsLionville.org/hostfellowship](http://StPaulsLionville.org/hostfellowship). Sign up with a friend or with a church group and have some fun!



**Advent Resources** The first Sunday of Advent at St. Paul's will be **Sunday, November 26**. Advent calendars, study guides, and Good Gifts catalogs from ELCA World Hunger are available in the hallway off the narthex. You can download these materials from the [ELCA website](#) as well.



**Bible Apps** One of the very best Bible apps is YouVersion. It's available on the computer, Android, and iPhone and contains multiple Bible versions. It has the ability to read scripture to you and to connect you with friends to see their comments and share your own. You will find multiple reading plans and can view and create Bible images. No wonder it's been loaded on a quarter of a billion devices! You might want to use it as well to bless your growth in Scripture!



## **Shorti Wawa Coupons for Sale!**

We have discount Wawa Shorti hoagie coupons in the office that support St. Paul's Preschool. Cost is \$5 per coupon. Stop by and see Marisa or Cari.



## **Chat and Chews Sunday School Book Club**

meets the second Sunday of each month, after the late service in Room 102. Our next meeting will be on **Sunday, December 10**. It is a "Free Read" month. Select something you really want to read and come ready to share with the group. We selected ahead for January and February due to long holds/waits at the library. They are: "In Five Years," by Rebeccs Serle (January) and "Lesson in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus (February). You do not have to finish the book or even read it to join us in a lively and faithful discussion. Please contact Gwen Werner at 610-823-0244 or at [ggwerner@verizon.net](mailto:ggwerner@verizon.net) for more information. Happy Reading!



**Children's Activity Bags** On the way into church you'll see a refreshed "tree" of children's activity bags for our young worshippers to enjoy. Simply grab a bag on the way in and kids will find fun faith building activities during worship.



**Flannel Sheets Needed** Social Ministry is in need of used or new flannel sheets to make diapers for Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits. Each kit contains four diapers and the quality of purchased diapers has declined while the price has soared. LWR has suggested cutting diapers from flannel sheets. Place your sheets in the bin in the hallway marked Quilts/Sheets.



**"Our Daily Bread" Booklets** contain inspirational daily devotions and are available in the narthex for December-February.



**Sharing St. Paul's Pictures** Many have noted and enjoyed the St. Paul's pictures showing in the narthex. If you take any pictures of a St. Paul's event and would like to share them, you can upload them to [StPaulsLionville.org/sharepictures](http://StPaulsLionville.org/sharepictures). Thanks so much!



**Prayer Team** If you would like to be part of the prayer team who is contacted when immediate prayer is needed, please contact the church office or [PastorStuart@StPaulsLionville.org](mailto:PastorStuart@StPaulsLionville.org). Also, if you have an immediate need for prayer, please don't hesitate to contact the church office or Pastor Stuart!

