

St. Paul's Lutheran Church The Good News!

Sunday Services

January

- 5 **2nd of Christmas**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 12 **Baptism of our Lord**
Worship & Communion
10:00 am
- 19 **Epiphany 2**
Worship & Communion
10:00 am
- 26 **Epiphany 3**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am

February

- 2 **Epiphany 4**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 9 **Epiphany 5**
Worship & Communion
10:00 am
- 16 **Epiphany 6**
Worship & Communion
10:00 am
- 25 **Epiphany 7**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am

**Sunday School is after service
September - May**

Find us on  facebook.com/StPaulsTorrington





A Word from Pastor Cady



Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

As we begin 2025, I wanted to lift up one of our most important ministries, but one that some members may not be fully familiar with. I'm referring to Hilltop Christian **Early Learning Center**. Many churches have a pre school or similar organization in their building, but sometimes they are simply renters of space. In the case of Hilltop, the school is St. Paul's own entity. It is one of the most effective ways we interact with the community and prepare young people for success as they grow. As I go about the area meeting people and introduce myself to folks, one of the most frequent responses I hear is some version of "Oh, yes, my kids attended Hilltop." or "I went to Hilltop when I was a child." Hilltop has left a positive and lasting impression on a wide swath of our neighbors over the years.

Established in 1974 by Pastor Porritt and his wife Jean, "Hilltop Nursery" as it was first known, was intended to be a community outreach to children and families in the greater Torrington area. St. Paul's has had many successful ministries that have left a strong sense of our care for our neighbors, but I would submit that Hilltop has, over the course of its extended and well-led history, touched the lives of more households than any other. This congregation, by its support of Hilltop, has helped shape a whole generation with Christian values and intellectual preparation for educational advances beyond its walls. It is a fine example of one of our most central Lutheran principals - that education is crucial, not only to the individuals who pursue it, but to the entire society in which they grow to live and serve.

Hilltop is licensed by the state, and about a decade ago began accepting "School Readiness" students, which also brings in state income. While Hilltop does not conduct specific Christian Education as our Sunday School and Confirmation programs do, they do stress Christian values such as cooperation, mutual respect, kindness, and hospitality. The games, music, stories, and activities all combine to create a learning environment and a curiosity for future learning for our students.

Hilltop is overseen by an Advisory Committee made up of members of the congregation. We are truly blessed to have a high quality staff who make the Hilltop program a valuable ministry. We would love to have anyone who wants to learn more meet with one of the present or past Advisory Committee members to deepen the general membership's support and commitment to Hilltop as one of our premier outreach missions in Christ's name.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Scott Cady



FINANCE

I and the Finance committee pray that you have a joyful and blessed holiday! Here we are, already in the second week of January 2025! We pray this year brings you prosperity, joy, comfort, and peace.

I would like to take this opportunity to review with you how we ended 2024 financially. It is with much gratitude and great pride, I can report that we did not have to withdraw any money from our investments to cover expenses. Our income was up almost \$60,000 from what we budgeted (excluding the Capital campaign) and expenses were down from what we budgeted by just over \$19,000. This is all due to the generosity of you, our members, and the various committees that run fundraisers. Our investments were up approximately \$62,000 or 9% compared to the end of 2023.

As we go into 2025, we are facing a shortfall of \$76,530. In order to cover this shortfall, we will need to improve our weekly giving. One way to do this is to increase our membership. All of us can help with this by inviting someone you know to Sunday worship or one of our events such as a fellowship dinner or concert. We also need to continue to run successful fundraisers and increase the use of our facilities. We need to think outside the box and need all members to help with promoting our events and St. Paul's as a whole.

Your Sister in Christ,
Pamela Little
Treasurer/Finance Committee

"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

**Tai Chi Wednesday
Mornings 11:00**

**Drop in whenever the mood
strikes. Free to all!**



**DONATE BLOOD.
HELP SAVE LIVES.**

Blood Drive

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Held in the Church Hall
837 Charles St.
Torrington, CT 06790

**Thursday, February 6, 2025
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**



This is by no means the first time St. Paul's has been involved in the "Soup"er Bowl of Caring, but for some of you who are new or who have wondered about the history, I have copied the statement below from their website. When Pastor Dwaine Moon came to St. Paul's in December of 1989, he introduced us to this endeavor to eradicate hunger in our own communities, all while focusing on the Big Game!

Again this year, we will be having a non-perishable food drive to benefit clients of Friendly Hands Food Bank. Any non-perishable food items (please, nothing expired!) are acceptable. Pasta, rice, potatoes, proteins such as tuna, chicken, stew, beans, peanut butter, other nut butters, etc., vegetables, fruit, jelly/jam, ramen, hot and cold cereal, hearty soups, crackers, cookies, chips, lunch box snacks, mac & cheese, juices, etc. Please consider adding a few items to your grocery list each week between now and February 9th. Let's see how many items we can collect in the next few weeks to feed neighbors who don't have "enough" of what most of us take for granted.

Simultaneous to the food collection, you will be able to vote for the winner of the Super Bowl with cold hard cash! Once the teams playing the big game are decided, we will place receptacles in the Narthex for you to cast your vote for the winner. The real winners will be the food bank, again, so they can purchase food needed for clients.

WHAT is the Souper Bowl of Caring and WHY it MATTERS!

It's an annual event where communities come together, inspired by the Super Bowl, to tackle hunger locally. For over three decades, the Souper Bowl of Caring has empowered individuals, organizations, and schools to raise food and funds for food banks and community-based charities.

As millions of people tune in to watch the Super Bowl, we're also tuning in to the needs of our neighbors. The Souper Bowl of Caring is about taking action to fight hunger at the local level, ensuring that no one has to go without the food they need. Help us reach our goal of making a difference in our communities. Whether you're a sports fan or not, it's a chance to be part of something bigger. Let's make this year's Souper Bowl of Caring the most successful one yet!

** The campaign kicks off on January 12th, 2025, and runs through February 9th, 2025.
Together, we can tackle hunger—one donation at a time!

Can-Can You Help?



As part of "Soup"er Bowl of Caring Weekend we'd like to collect as many non-perishable food items as possible to support hungry neighbors. Join thousands of other churches, school, and civic organizations as we try to "Tackle Hunger in our Communities."

Collection ends on February 9, 2024

Suggested items include:

	Hot & Cold Cereals	Complete Pancake Mix & Syrup
Peanut Butter & Jelly	Mac & Cheese	Ramen
Proteins – Tuna, Chicken, Beef	Pasta & Sauces	Snack Bars
Stew, Beans	Hearty Soups	Trail Mix
Canned Pasta	Crackers, Cookies, & Snacks	

"Soup"er Bowl of Caring Grinder, Salad, and Chili Sale

Saturday, February 8, 2025

(snow date Sunday, February 9th)

12:00pm – 1:00pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



On day of the pick up we are also collecting non-perishable food items to support the Friendly Hands Food Bank shelves.



837 Charles Street, Torrington, CT 06790
860-482-3555 secretary@stpaulstorrington.com

Detach & Return with Payment (due w/order) to Offering Plate or
St. Paul's Office no later than 2/3/2025

Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

- _____ Grinder, Chili, & Chips (Deluxe) = \$16.00 each
(Circle One) Ham, Turkey, Italian Combo
- _____ Chef Salad, Chili, & Chips (Deluxe) = \$16.00 each
- _____ Grinder & Chips = \$11.00 each (Circle One) Ham, Turkey, Italian Combo
- _____ Chef Salad & Chips = \$11.00 each
- _____ 1-Quart Container Chili = \$16.00 (Grd. Beef, tomatoes, beans, onions, peppers, spices)

Food Allergies? List here

HILLTOP ELC

Registration is now underway for the 2025-2026 school year. Right now, we are accepting registrations from St. Paul's members and current Hilltop families. A date for an Open House has not been set yet. Private tours will be an option. As we have done in the last few years, it is not required for people to show up in person for registrations. Registrations may be dropped off at school or the church office. If your family has a child eligible for our 2-, 3-, or 4-year-old classes, be sure to register early to guarantee a spot! Hilltop has decided to align with the State of CT when it comes to the start date for enrollment. Starting in September of 2025, the child must be of age by September 1 to enter into our classrooms. Example: A child must be 2 yrs by Sept 1 to enter our two-year-old classroom.



We wish to thank everyone who supported us with our Spice Fundraiser. This event helped us to raise over \$1200.00 that we will be able to apply to much needed supplies. We have been making do with what we have, and some teachers have bought supplies with their own money for their classrooms. It will be great to restock our empty shelves!

Our next fundraiser is "BINGO With a Kick!" join us in person for a fun night of BINGO, with amazing prizes! This is run by "Everything Happens for a Reason Fundraising" and will be held in the Fellowship Hall at St. Paul's on Friday, March 7th. Look for the event on Facebook at Everything Happens for a Reason Fundraising. More information on purchasing BINGO cards will be forthcoming. Thank you in advance for your support!

The advisory committee is discussing other fundraising options for Hilltop. We will keep you posted!

We covet your prayers for the Hilltop ministry. We pray that 2025 will bring health, happiness & PEACE!

In His Service,
Barbara J. Mazzei

****FRIDAY - MARCH 7TH****
ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
837 CHARLES ST - TORRINGTON

BINGO NIGHT

FUNDRAISER



6 GAMES - 12 PRIZES
2 Prizes per Game

Designer Handbags and \$100 Gift Cards

7PM
(DOORS OPEN
AT 6PM)

\$35

1 Bingo Card /Game
1 2nd Chance Draw Ticket



**BRING YOUR OWN
SNACKS &
BEVERAGES**
Non-Alcoholic only

TO BENEFIT:



HOW TO ORDER

On-Line:
Scan
Code →



Call/Text: 860.482.3727



ALTAR GUILD



The Altar Guild, who sets up communion for you every week, needs new members. We currently only have 7 volunteers and we need more. All that is required is coming in on a Saturday for about an hour to water the plants, fill the oil candles and set the altar for communion. Then on Sunday after the service it takes less than 15 minutes to clean up. Right now we are on a rotation of every 4 weeks, however, with more people it would be less. Any new volunteers will train with us until they are comfortable to be on their own. Please consider being on this much needed ministry.

Current members are Bonnie Schaff, Lisa Bodnar, Dana O'Brien, Angela DiSefano, Liz Falls, Vinni Carey and Jeanette Richard, Chair.

Please feel free to speak with any of our members to find out more about Altar Guild and contact me if interested in joining us.

Thanks and God Bless,
Jeanette (860-489-7140)



GARDEN OF MEMORIES



In the realm where winter's breath lingers long,
A single snowflake dances to nature's song.
Delicate, unique, a wonder to behold,
Crafted in the clouds, a story untold.

If you would like more information on the Garden of Memories, whether it about interment or to volunteer to help with maintenance, please contact Lisa Bodnar

**860-491-6342 or
bodnar983@gmail.com**



Women of the ELCA

St. Paul's Women Game Night



The winter months tend to be long and dreary and the weeks after Christmas sometimes seem like a let-down. Thus, St. Paul's Women will be hosting a Game Night! Completely casual, with no agenda other than to have fun, we will gather in the hall to play cards, games, fellowship, etc. Friday evening, January 17th at 6:30pm is the time for an evening of fun! Bring a favorite card game, board game, or whatever. Maybe you have a fun winter Mad Lib. Feel free to bring a light snack to share but please, don't go overboard.

At the meeting on February 24th, we will be doing a "Busted Canvas" spring art project. At this writing I don't have a lot of details but Lisa Bodnar is working on it with a woman she knows. All women are invited. We will be accepting a deposit of \$12 per person to register for the event. We will likely gather early for our meeting and then move right into the project.



Ash Wednesday – March 5th – Mid-Week Lenten potluck & services



St. Paul's Quilters will resume their sewing on Wednesday, January 15th after a brief hiatus for the holidays. Experience is not necessary; we have some master quilters who are very willing to lend a hand!

We meet most Wednesdays



Women's Breakfast
Wednesday,
15th of January
19th of February

George's Restaurant
East Main St. Torrington

Men's Breakfast
Wednesday,
15th of January
19th of February

A/C Eatery
South Main St. Torrington

JANUARY



February

2

Cynthia Rose

4

Ron Travis

6

Betty Grunder

8

Cathy Winzler

11

Bill Richards

13

Will Siss

14

Sterling Jones

18

William Hohensee
Curtis Stone

20

Ty Hogan
Colton Wilmot

21

Kathleen Olkowski

22

Renate Higgins

23

Kenneth Muller
Joan Wolfinger
Martin Thompson
Jonathan Magyar

24

Heinz Beier
Isaiah Wesley

27

Maggie Cady

28

Margaret Clavette
Kendra Campbell

29

Sarah Corey



Walter & Liz Emmett
1-19-1991

2

Eileen Schroeder

7

Pamela Little

9

Avery Rosenbeck
Pilar Weingart

10

Gene Schroeder, Sr.
Gabbie Dziedzic
Atlas Muhl

11

Edie Balkun
Dori Wityak
Emily Szabo
Joyce Almstedt

12

Arianna Begey

14

Richard Hanusch
Gianna Begey

20

Rosemary Schibi
Laurel Siss

22

Christine Dickinson

26

David Nygren
Danielle Begey
Juliett Dziedzic

28

Glenn Hornfischer



Dennis & Barbara Nalette
2-14-1976

Mark & Leslie Langenheim
2-27-1988

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Banish Those Winter Blues by Warming Your Poetic Creativity

- Saturday, February 8, 2025 9:30AM 1:30PM
- Wisdom House Retreat & Conference Center 229 East Litchfield Road Litchfield, CT, 06759

Presented by Sandy Carlson

Does winter get you down? Do the cold and dark chill your creativity? If so, this poetry class might offer the antidote. In this poetry-writing workshop, you'll warm up your creativity with writing activities as well as imaginative games. You'll also become familiar with winter-themed poetry that will inspire you to look at this time of year in new ways exercise your poetic hand. "Bring a favorite pen or pencil and a spirit of play, and we'll write our way to a happy winter." *No poetry experience is required.*

<https://www.wisdomhouse.org/program-calendar/winter-blues> 860-567-3163



January 22 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

We are excited to offer an evening zoom gathering about the gift and grace of HOPE. Let's explore the many characteristics and reasons why hope is so essential and life giving for all. In times of discouragement and/or challenge, this gift enables us to be more resilient and positive about the future. **Hope acts!**

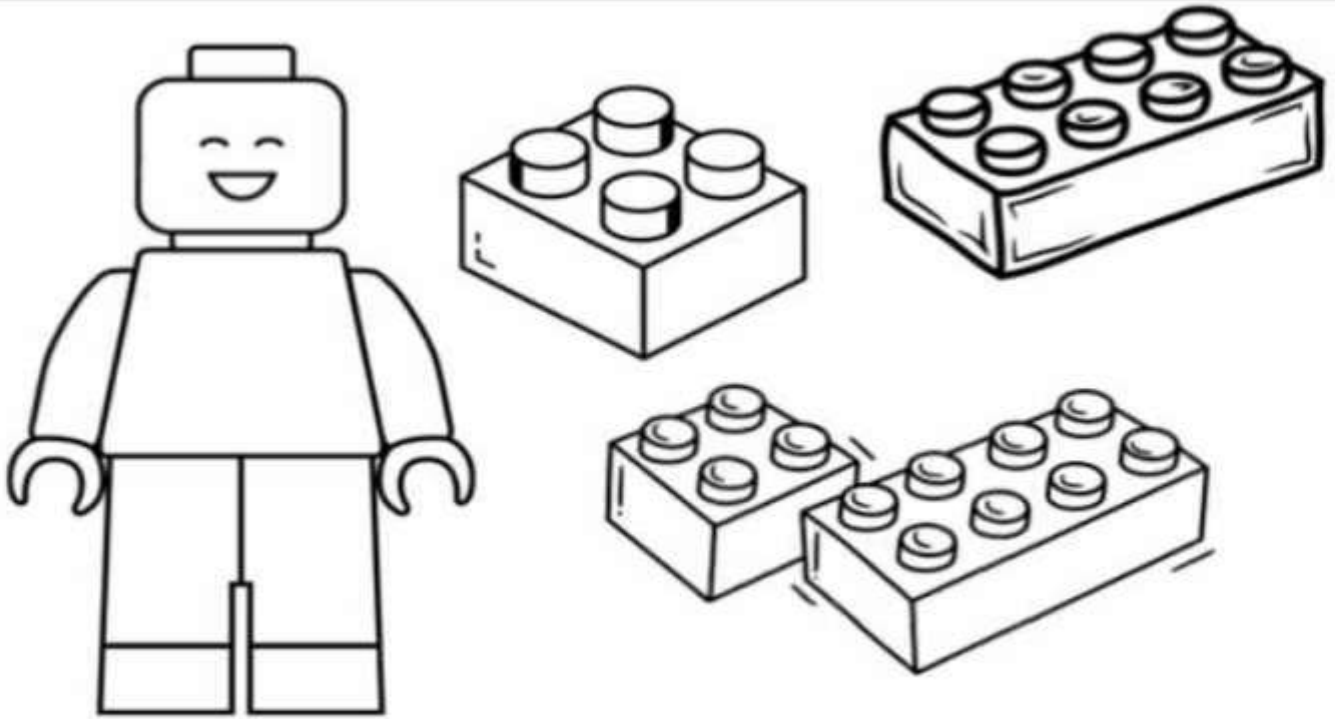
What do you hope for in this new year? How can you continue to be a person of **HOPE** for and with others? What is God hoping for in our world and in our lives? Our evening will include a presentation, with a hope-filled story, and time for reflection and interaction. As a takeaway, you will be guided in designing one positive action that will increase **HOPE** in your life in some real way and enable you to continue to be a **beacon of hope for others and our world**. All are welcomed.

Presenter: Virginia A. Blass, D.Min. – Virginia Blass is an experienced and certified Spiritual Director, preacher, retreat master and author. Virginia has been engaged in ministry for over twenty-five years and offers spiritual direction, guided retreats, parish missions, parish programs, and consultation. She was also a Special Education teacher for many years. An important part of the past twenty years included caregiving and accompaniment for her parents and her sister, Joan.

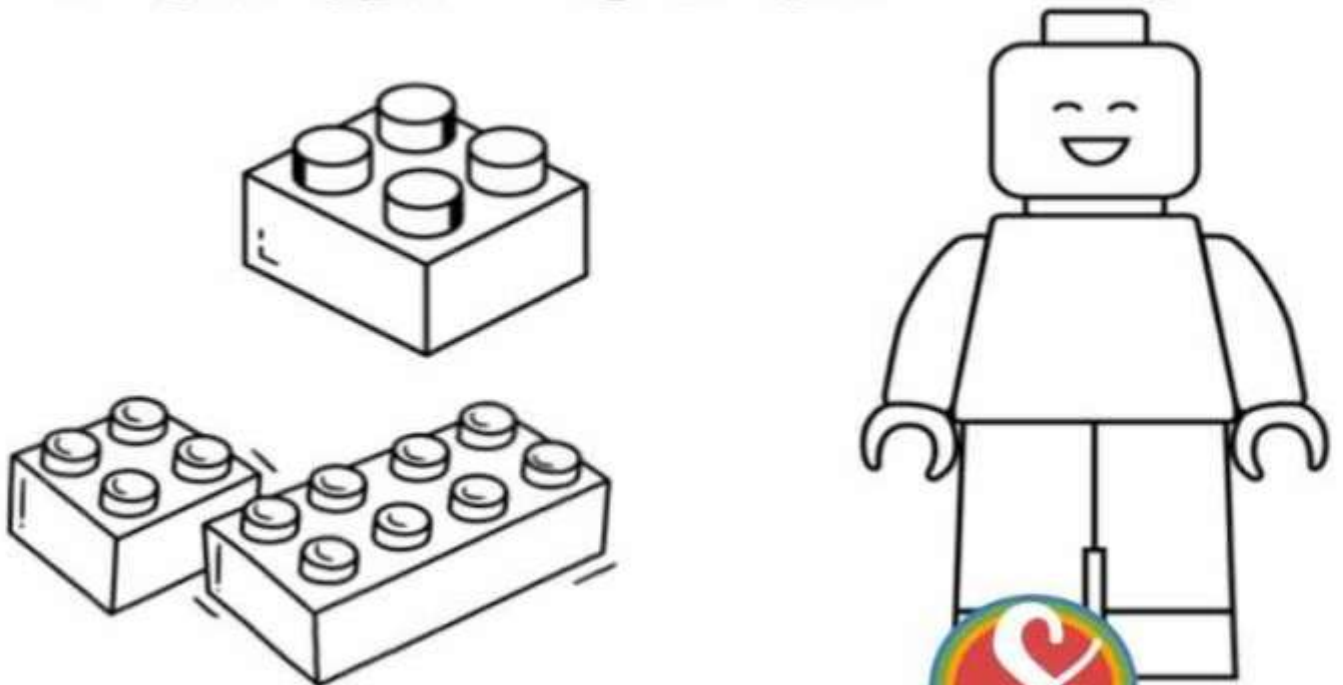
<https://www.ourladyofcalvary.net/event/being-a-beacon-of-hope/> 860-677-8519

Our Lady of Calvary 31 Colton St. Farmington CT 06032

Kids Pages!

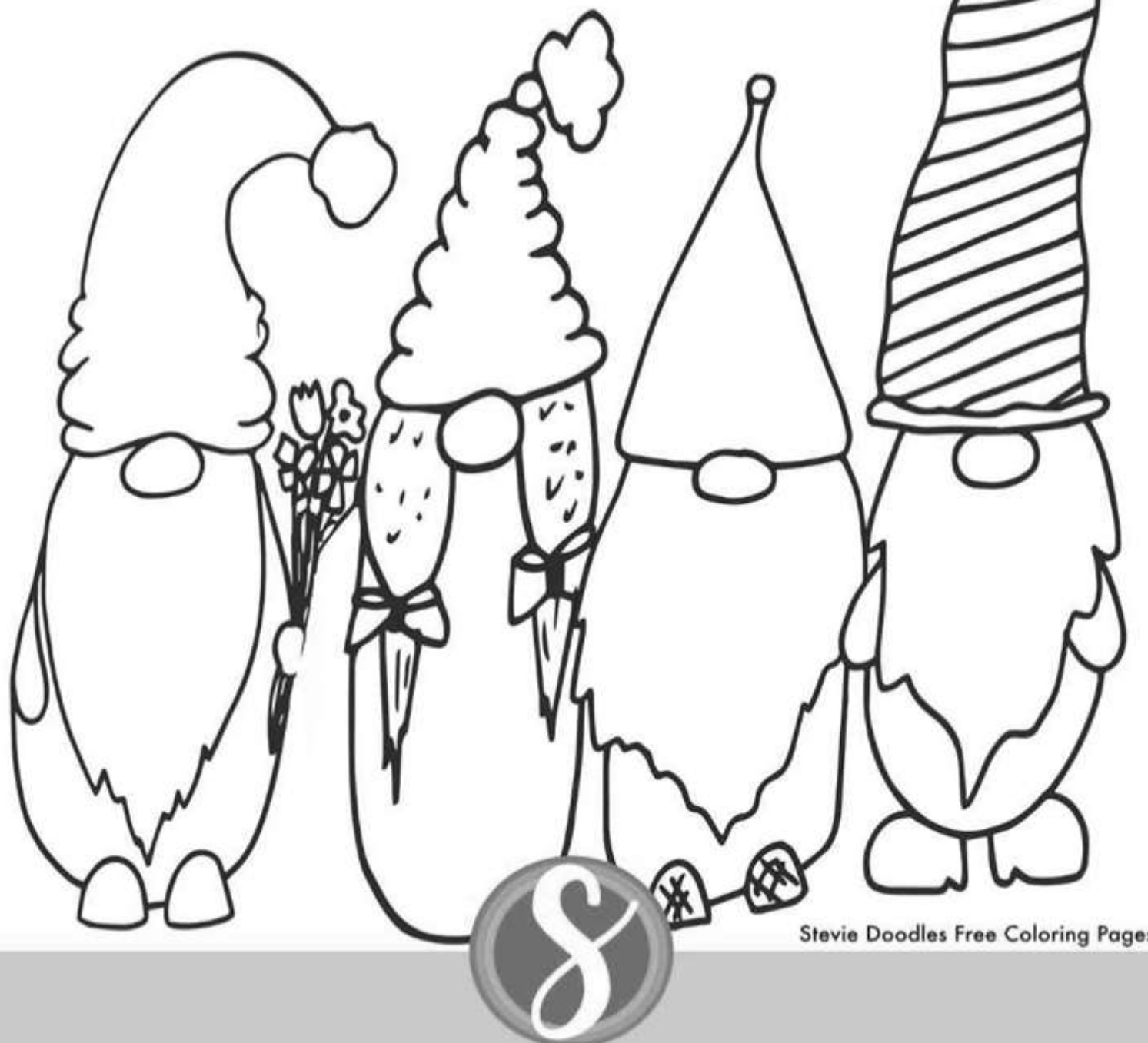


Jesus loves me



Love your neighbor as yourself

Matthew 22:39





837 Charles Street
Torrington, CT
06790

Staff Directory 860-482-3555

The Reverend Dr. G. Scott Cady, Pastor
Rachel Harrel, Secretary
Jean Schlapfer, Bookkeeper
Marcia Newcome, Music Director
Casaundra Abeling, Custodian

gscady@gmail.com
secretary@stpaulstorrington.com
bookkeeper@stpaulstorrington.com

Hilltop School Staff 860-482-3727

Barbara Mazzei, Director & Head Teacher
Nicole Sears, Teacher
Monica Valente, Teacher
Christina Brzoska, Teacher
Nicole Waldron, Teacher
Melanie Beebe, Teacher
Linda Arigoni, Teacher
Teresa Guzman-Sanchez, Assistant Teacher
Tracy Sierdy, Assistant Teacher
Stacey Fitzgerald, Assistant Teacher
Casaundra Abeling, Custodian

director@hilltopchristianelc.com

www.stpaulstorrington.com
