

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

The Good News!

Sunday Services

December

- 4 **Advent 2**
Worship & Communion
10:00 am
- 11 **Advent 3**
Worship & Communion
10:00 am
- 18 **Advent 4 with Pageant**
Worship & Communion
10:00 am
- 24 **Christmas Eve Service**
Worship & Communion
4:30 pm *
- 25 **Christmas Day Service**
Worship & Communion
10:00 am
No Sunday School

*corrected time

January

- 1 **1st of Christmas**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
No Sunday School
- 8 **Baptism of Our Lord**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 15 **2 Epiphany**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 22 **3 Epiphany**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 29 **4 Epiphany**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am

Find us on



[facebook.com/StPaulsTorrington](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsTorrington)



www.stpaulstorrington.com

860-482-3555



A Word from Pastor Cady



Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

The moving and powerful seasons of Advent and Christmas have come around again. This is a time of festivity, family, food, and faith. There are beloved carols, candles, religious and secular gatherings, glistening and creative decorations, and reminders of the astonishing grace of a God who would enter our world as a simple infant for our salvation.

There are some common pitfalls this season, too. It is easy to become too frenetic in our preparations for Christmas. It is easy to overspend, overeat, and to hold ourselves or our neighbors to an unrealistic standard of what a "good Christmas" looks like. And, even though this whole set of traditions centers on Christ, it is actually easy to be so wrapped up (pun intended) in our Christmas activities that the central message of the Incarnation might receive less attention than it merits.

Here is my best pastoral advice: Before it all gets out of hand, just take a bit of time to ask yourself which of your past practices are truly joyous witnesses to God's glorious and healing work in the Nativity. And which things you've done in past years have left you feeling weary, disappointed, over stressed, or down. Lift up the joyous activities and eliminate or modify the ones that have not proven to be meaningful. There is no one right way for a person or household to celebrate these days. And in the flow of our lives, events that were once important may have been replaced by other kinds of activities.

The world changed when the Son of God became the Son of Man at Bethlehem. May our hearts and lives continue to be changed for the better as we again surround ourselves with reminders of His life-giving birth.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Scott Cady



What is the Initial Offering?

The initial offering is a gift of money to the Church which is not considered a Christian's payment of his/her tithes.

What does this mean for us? Recently we went through our Stewardship campaign and many of us filled out our pledge sheet for the coming year. We listed how much money we plan to give weekly, monthly or annually. The initial offering is what you decide to give above and beyond this. Some may decide to give 10% of their annual pledge while others may decide to give the equivalent of their monthly offering. This initial offering helps to kick off the upcoming year and is greatly appreciated. Envelopes will be made available in late December/early January.

Whatever you decide, please pray on it.

May our Heavenly Father bless you and Keep you,

The Finance Committee



“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”.

2 Corinthians 9:7



St. Paul's Women of the ELCA wish to thank the entire congregation of your support of our 16th Annual Fall Fair, which was held earlier in November. It was a success in every sense; great vendors (24 in all); tasty soups and sandwiches, exquisite baked goods along with plenty of Scandinavian Almond Cakes; amazing theme baskets that were very well received by everyone participating in the drawing; and beautiful crafts and gifts. Again, this year we were told that we have the best fair around! For those of us involved, it is very humbling. We are blessed, indeed.



Tai Chi Wednesday Mornings
11:00

Drop in whenever the mood strikes. Free to all!
For more information
karen.trippodi@gmail.com



Puppettude gift card season is here!

Puppettude is again selling gift cards.

An order form can be found on the next page of this newsletter. Please fill it out, include your check payable to 'Puppettude' and either place it in the Sunday offering plate, or mail it to the church at 837 Charles St., Torrington, CT 06790. You will be contacted when your order is ready, and arrangements will be made to pick up your cards. It's never too early to start your holiday shopping.



St. Paul's Puppetude

If you have any questions, please contact Judy Ludwig at 860-307-3411. Thank you for your order.

Name	Customer #
Check #	Order Date

Clothing & Accessories			
Product	%	QTY	Total
American Eagle® \$25.00	10%		\$
HomeGoods \$25.00	7%		\$
L.L.Bean \$25.00	16%		\$
Marshalls \$25.00	7%		\$
Old Navy \$25.00	14%		\$
T.J. Maxx \$25.00	7%		\$
T.J. Maxx/ Marshalls/ HomeGoods/ Sierra \$100.00	7%		\$
T.J. Maxx/ Marshalls/ HomeGoods/ Sierra \$25.00	7%		\$
Talbots \$25.00	13%		\$
Department Store			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Kohl's \$100.00	4%		\$
Kohl's \$25.00	4%		\$
Dining - Casual			
Product	%	QTY	Total
99 Restaurants \$25.00	13%		\$
Applebee's \$25.00	8%		\$
Applebee's \$50.00	8%		\$
Chili's Grill & Bar \$25.00	11%		\$
Olive Garden \$25.00	8%		\$
Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	10%		\$
Discount Store & Outlets			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Target \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Target \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Target \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$10.00	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Electronics & Office			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Best Buy \$100.00	4%		\$

Electronics & Office			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Best Buy \$25.00	4%		\$
Staples \$25.00	5%		\$
Entertainment			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Barnes & Noble \$10.00	8%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$25.00	8%		\$
Fast Food			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Chipotle Mexican Grill \$25.00	10%		\$
Dunkin' Donuts \$10.00	3%		\$
Dunkin' Donuts \$25.00	3%		\$
Panera Bread \$10.00	8%		\$
Panera Bread \$25.00	8%		\$
Starbucks \$10.00	4.5%		\$
Starbucks \$25.00	4.5%		\$
Subway Restaurants \$10.00	4.5%		\$
Taco Bell \$10.00	5%		\$
Taco Bell \$25.00	5%		\$
Gas & Auto			
Product	%	QTY	Total
BP \$100.00	1.5%		\$
BP \$50.00	1.5%		\$
Exxon \$50.00	1%		\$
Gulf Oil \$25.00	1.5%		\$
Mobil \$50.00	1%		\$
Shell \$25.00	1.5%		\$
Shell \$50.00	1.5%		\$
Grocery			
Product	%	QTY	Total
ShopRite \$100.00	4%		\$
ShopRite \$25.00	4%		\$
Stop & Shop (NOT TOPS) \$100.00	4%		\$
Stop & Shop (NOT TOPS) \$25.00	4%		\$
Stop & Shop (NOT TOPS) \$50.00	4%		\$

Health & Beauty			
Product	%	QTY	Total
CVS Pharmacy \$10.00	6%		\$
CVS Pharmacy \$25.00	6%		\$
Home Improvement			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Home Depot® \$100.00	4%		\$
Home Depot® \$25.00	4%		\$
Lowe's \$100.00	4%		\$
Lowe's \$25.00	4%		\$
The Home Depot® \$100.00	4%		\$
The Home Depot® \$25.00	4%		\$
Online Shopping			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Amazon \$10.00	1.7%		\$
Amazon \$100.00	1.7%		\$
Amazon \$25.00	1.7%		\$
Apple Store/Apple.com \$25.00	5%		\$
Specialty Retailer			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores \$25.00	6%		\$
Sporting Goods & Outdoors			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Cabela's \$25.00	10%		\$
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%		\$
Travel			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Disney \$25.00	3%		\$
Universal Prepaid Cards			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee \$50.00	1.25%		\$

Make Checks Payable To: *PUPPETUDE*

Total Due All Columns: \$



Soup Kitchen Ministry



To anyone interested in serving on the St. Paul's Soup Kitchen ministry our teams serve the second Sunday of every month from 10:30 to 1:30 at the Torrington Community Soup Kitchen which is located in the basement of Trinity Church. Entrance is on Maiden Lane. We have two teams that serve, each member only serves 6 times a year. **The only requirement is the commitment to serve on your team's specified date.** A list of substitutes will be provided for you to find a sub if you cannot make the Sunday you are assigned. It is important that we have 4 - 5 people serving each time. It is a great ministry to be a part of, I promise when your shift is over you will walk away thankful for your blessings and knowing you helped your neighbors in need.

To join St. Paul's Soup Kitchen team or to be a substitute to please contact Jeanette Richard at jeanetterichard@hotmail.com or 860-489-7140.

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

A lot of emphasis is placed on "giving" during the holidays. It is a time when many folks think of giving to their favorite charity. This year we hope the Twelve Days of Christmas Challenge will be a new beginning for everyone. Each day from Christmas through to the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th you are encouraged to collect something each day that will carry our Community Soup Kitchen into the New Year. For children, it might be a great teaching opportunity. Perhaps you could ask a relative, neighbors, and friends to help you! Useful items would be proteins (peanut butter, nuts, beans, canned meats, etc.), pasta and jarred sauces, canned fruits and veggies, rice, pancake mix and syrup, jelly, and most anything non-perishable. If each person made an effort to collect 12 items, by Sunday, January 8th, St. Paul's Soup Kitchen team would be thrilled to be able to take



these gifts with them. So, are you in...? Place your donations in a sturdy bag and return them to church on January 8th (or before, if you wish). All donations will be taken directly to the Community Soup Kitchen to get them off to a good start to 2023!

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.***

2 Corinthians 9:7

h i l l t o p e l c

Thank you to everyone who purchased from the Spice Fundraiser, which was very successful We are looking forward to a nice restful Christmas Break!

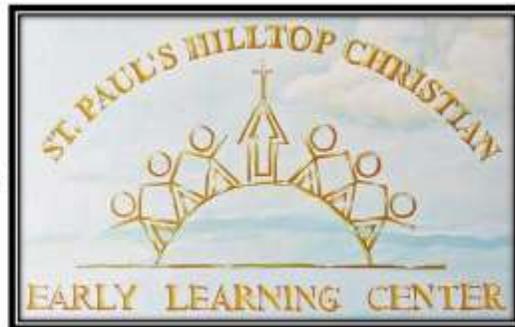


Hoping you and yours enjoy the season.

In His Service,
Barbara Mazzei
Director & Head Teacher



Save the Date!



**Friday
FEB 10th**

BINGO CARDS		KICK Drawing
\$20	Single 1 card/game	\$10 per ticket
\$35	3-Pack 3 cards/game	
\$50	6-Pack 6 cards/game	

6 GAMES
2 PRIZES per GAME
Bingo Winner PICKS
Other Prize KICKS
to the Second Chance Drawing
12 PRIZES
\$100 & Designer
Gift Cards Handbags

B I N G O

@ 7pm

On-Line Event
brought to you via



HOW TO ORDER

On-Line:
Scan this QR Code
using your
smartphone
Camera



Call/Text: 860.550.3249

Bingo Cards/KICK Draw Tickets
are Pre-Sale Only



Music Moment with Marcia



Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your Music Director and for all the positive feedback you have offered thus far! It is a joy and a blessing to be "on the bench" at St. Paul's Lutheran, Torrington, and to be part of such an active and welcoming congregation!

Recently as I left work in Ansonia and turned on my radio (set to Sirius XM's Symphony Hall station #76), I heard the phrases of a somewhat familiar orchestral piece by César Franck, his Symphony in D minor. I hadn't heard it in a very long time, having become acquainted with it my freshman year of college at Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan where I began my pursuit of a degree in interior design. As a fairly good clarinetist in high school (by rural north central Ohio standards), I thought it would be nice to join the Adrian Symphony, which included a combination of area students and musicians. Hearing the feedback after my audition, it was clear that I had opportunity for improvement, and while I was not offered one of the two chairs as clarinetist, the conductor DID offer me the chair for BASS clarinetist, which I had never really played. The fingering is the same, though, so my biggest challenge was the struggle to achieve a good smooth tone on the available instrument. I tried different reeds, practiced by myself for what seemed like hours upon hours (though I am sure I could have done more), and yet I was never fully satisfied with the result. I could not seem to execute at a professional level what the piece required. I did not sign up for the Adrian Symphony for my second semester. I AM thankful for the opportunity to have been a part of the performance of this Symphony which my parents came to hear, and to hear other musicians who were at a higher level than myself. I suppose that my contribution to the performance filled a need which would have otherwise been vacant and, therefore, provided a fuller, richer tone in those passages where the bass clarinetist was featured.

At our recent Community Thanksgiving Service, I was truly blessed to sit back and listen to the wonderful variety of music offered by others. This service was richer and fuller with the participation of many others than it would have been on our own. This sense of teamwork and camaraderie in creating something larger than the sum of its parts is what I really enjoyed about playing in high school concert and marching bands, and our local New Washington Band. Although I also once again experienced a sense of some of the opportunity I have in developing my own ability, I will leave you with the following thought once shared with me. "If only the prettiest-singing birds of the forest sang, it would be a quiet forest indeed."

I invite instrumentalists at any level to participate in making our worship at St. Paul's fuller and richer. Please let me know if you would like to provide special music, whether as a soloist or as part of an ensemble!

Soli Deo Gloria, Marcia



Around the church



HAT & MITTEN TREE

For countless years we have had a Hat and Mitten tree in the Narthex to collect warm hats, gloves, and scarves for those who need to warm their head, hands, and heart this season. Thanks to Greg Weingart and family for placing the tree in loving memory of Louis Mueller who always placed the tree and Gladys Gasser who oversaw the project for many years. There is a nice assortment of hats on the tree as I write but I invite anyone who wants to help to get warm adult warm gloves, mostly for men who dine at the Community Soup Kitchen each day. St. Paul's Soup Kitchen team would be honored to take some adult hats and gloves for mostly men and women when they serve on Sunday, December 11th. Some of our women knit during the year so as to supply lots of children with these gifts of love. Thank you to everyone who helps keep our neighbors in need warm.



THANK YOU, PHILLIP WEINGART!

Phillip Weingart comes from a multiple generation family of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Phillip works full time at his engineering company. Those of you who worship via livestream on Facebook or YouTube, have complained about poor sound, transmission going in and out, etc. Phillip has an engineering degree and has lots of expertise with this sort of thing. Even he has been challenged in troubleshooting. After a full day of his paying job he arrives at church between 4-5pm and begins working on his "other job!" On the weekends his Dad, Greg, often joins him climbing ladders, moving wires, switching cables, etc., etc., etc. Sound was noticeably better these last two weeks! I am going to be sad not to have Phillip around in the evening so much! Our church building can be a big lonely place and the church mice oftentimes can catch you off guard with noises! Please express your thanks to Phillip for his determination to get the job done properly. It isn't often that a 24-year-old man spends the time he has on a project for his church! Well done, good and faithful servant!



Women's Breakfast

Wednesday,
21st of December

George's Restaurant



DECORATE THE CHRISMON TREE, CHRISTMAS PARY, YANKEE SWAP



It's that time of year again! Time to decorate the Chrismon Tree and the Nave as we prepare for the Birth of Our King! St. Paul's Women and the Property Committee and friends invite you to come on Monday evening, December 5th anytime after 5:30pm. The more willing hands makes the entire job go quickly and efficiently. Then it's time to party! We'll head to the fellowship hall for a light supper and goodies. Don't forget to bring a wrapped Yankee Swap gift. Anything is fine with a price tag of \$10-\$15. Please be kind and don't re-gift something that someone who may be in attendance gave you. We want it to be fun, not hurtful! Be creative! It can be funny, useful, edible; or just plain fun!

You are going to absolutely love the new Angel Topper for the Chrismon Tree. June Seiser added a bright piece to the Angel she refurbished a couple of years ago! June does extraordinary work and I know you will love it!

ANGEL PROJECT

Sincere thanks to those who have chosen an angel(s) from the Angel Project table. Just a reminder that donations for fruit baskets are due to be returned by Monday, December 5th. Cash is welcome or checks should be made payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. All other gifts are due to be returned by Sunday, December 11th, when they will be processed and prepared for delivery to recipients. For the 36th year it is a privilege to help members in need. As an update, I am pleased to report that we have been able to remove several names from our list this year due to improved situations. For that I am thankful. The Angel Project is one of the very few projects our church does that supports only members. Needs that arise for people other than members are referred to local social service agencies.

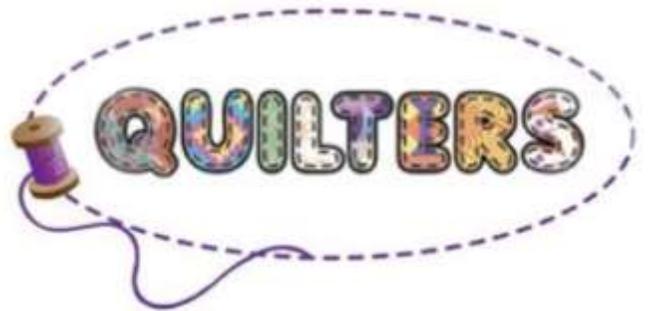


Around the Church



A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. We have a consistent group enjoying the fellowship after service, but few volunteers. As a volunteer you need to set up, make coffee, provide a simple snack and clean up. Please consider this opportunity to serve your fellow members.

With the assistance of the Eucharistic Ministers, we have delivered 40 quilts to our shut-in/ill members and friends. We also made donations to Wolcott Hall and Litchfield Woods. If anyone knows of a member that is ill, please contact Cynthis Rose (860-978-5858) and we will deliver them a quilt.



Quilting class for Teens!

The quilting group is offering a beginner sewing class on December 28th from 1 to 4 pm. We will teach how to thread the machine and proper stitching. Each teen will make a quilted placement of their design. Machines and supplies will be provided. Limited to 6 teens. Call or email the office to sign up.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation Part 1

Sunday December 18th After the service

The budget will be voted on. We urge all people who are interested in the economic well being of their church to attend.



If you have any questions or concerns that you would like addressed, feel free to contact Mark Rose, council president. He can be reached at 860-978-5857 or emailed at markwrose@icloud.com





Chris Ed Save the dates!



Friday, December 16 - 6:00 – 8:00pm

Youth Pageant Rehearsal

Saturday, December 17 – 5:00 – 7:00pm

Youth Pageant Rehearsal (Snow Date)

Sunday, December 18 – 10:00am

Youth Pageant during worship

Sunday, December 25 or January 1

No Sunday School

Sunday, January 8 – 11:00am

Sunday School resumes



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PAGEANT

As in most previous years, the Sunday School/Confirmation students will present their Christmas pageant based on a storybook, *Miracle in the Manger*, on Sunday, December 18th during the 10asm worship service. There will be one rehearsal for all children participating on Friday, December 16th from 6-8pm. Snow date for rehearsal is Saturday, the 17th, from 5-7pm. Parents are asked to please stay with their children. This service is the same day of the Annual Meeting, Part 1 following worship. Sunday School WILL be held that day following worship. (Parents: Please stay tuned for more details as to where classes will be held that day.)

Garden of memories

“A garden is half-made when it is well planned. The best gardener is the best one who does the most gardening by the winter fire.”

— Liberty Hyde Bailey

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





Classifieds



Free Items

Mini Fridge approximately 2 cu.ft.
Pick up in Cornwall
Contact: Pastor Cady 860-672-0143

Shop Vac
Pick up at the church
Contact Pastor Cady 860-672-0143

CLASSIFIEDS PAGE IN THE NEWSLETTER!

Classified ads are due by the 20th of each month and will run for 1 newsletter. If you would like to relist your ad, the form must be submitted again. Please no weapons, alcohol, or inappropriate items. St. Paul's has the right to deny a listing.

Return info to secretary@stpaulstorrington.com

We will only be accepting forms, **no phone calls please**. Forms are done on a typeable Word form. We will take legible hand-written forms. Forms will be accessible on the website under the Newsletter tab, in the Narthex or by contacting the office.

If you have a classified to place, please have the form to the office by December 20th. Thank you!

The image shows a screenshot of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. The spreadsheet has a grid with columns labeled A through H and rows numbered 1 through 14. Every cell in the grid contains the word "Hosanna". The spreadsheet interface includes a ribbon with tabs for File, Home, Insert, Page Layout, Formulas, Data, Review, and View. The Home tab is active, showing options for Cut, Copy, Paste, Font, Paragraph, Styles, Alignment, and Numbers. The spreadsheet title is "Book1 - Microsoft Excel".

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Hosanna							
2	Hosanna							
3	Hosanna							
4	Hosanna							
5	Hosanna							
6	Hosanna							
7	Hosanna							
8	Hosanna							
9	Hosanna							
10	Hosanna							
11	Hosanna							
12	Hosanna							
13	Hosanna							
14	Hosanna							



HOSANNA IN EXCEL SHEETS



December 2nd
David Radzins

December 16th
Abbey McDermott

December 3rd
Diane Boscarino
David Braatz

December 21st
Sandra Heintz

December 5th
Lois Nygren

December 25th
Rachel Takeman

December 6th
Scott Crossman
Mary Boscarino

December 27th
Tom Seleman

December 8th
Cheryl-Ann Bombardier

December 30th
Pamela Ewing

December 11th
Iris Barko



December 12th
Pastor Dwaine Moon

December 13th
Kelli Schaller
Garret Braatz
Juliette Beebe



December 14th
Dana O'Brien
Garrett Grening

December 15th
Cynthia Bielik
Kelly Crossman



Cynthia & Lawrence Bielik	12/03/1977
Kendra & Kyle Campbell	12/07/2001
Mark & Cynthia Rose	12/26/1971
Tom & Leah Seleman	12/31/1991



To the family and friends of

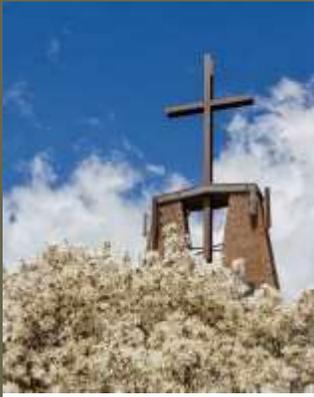
Gretchen Ross



Kids Page!

O COME LET
US ADORE
HIM





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
Lisa Bodnar, Custodian

pastor@stpaulstorrington.com
secretary@stpaulstorrington.com
bookkeeper@stpaulstorrington.com

Hilltop School Staff 860-482-3727

Barbara Mazzei, Director & Head Teacher
Nicole Sears, Teacher
Monica Valente, Teacher
Michelle Miller, Teacher
Christina Brzoska, Teacher
Nicole Waldron, Teacher
Melanie Beebe, Teacher
Teresa Guzman-Sanchez, Assistant Teacher
Shaelynn Holmgren, Custodian

director@hilltopchristianelc.com

www.stpaulstorrington.com
