

December

2023

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

## The Good News!

Sunday Services

### December

- 3 **Advent I**  
Worship and Communion  
10:00 am
- 10 **Advent II**  
Worship and Communion  
10:00 am
- 17 **Advent III**  
Worship and Communion  
10:00 am
- 24 **Advent IV**  
Worship and Communion  
10:00 am
- Christmas Eve Service**  
4:00 pm
- 31 **1st of Christmas**  
Worship and Communion  
10:00 am

### January

- 7 **Baptism of Our Lord**  
Worship and Communion  
10:00 am
- 14 **Epiphany 2**  
Worship & Communion  
10:00 am
- 21 **Epiphany 3**  
Worship & Communion  
10:00 am
- 28 **Epiphany 4**  
Worship and Communion  
10:00 am



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[www.stpaulstorrington.com](http://www.stpaulstorrington.com)

860-482-3555



# A Word from Pastor Cady



Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

A Blessed Christmas and a festive New Year to you all!

We enter the season marked with both memories and mystery – a time of joy, devotion, merriment, and reflection. May all of you reading this experience these weeks in ways that lift up our hopes and delights, as well as open us to fresh ways to understand God's presence in our lives.

Christmas and the weeks surrounding it are filled with at least two overall experiences for Christians. One is the whole interlaced set of events that revolve around family, food, music, decorations, and gifts. Shared by people of faith and our secular neighbors, our American version of Christmas is a glittering time of festivities and celebrations. It is intended to interrupt our normal routines with cheer and wonderment. Even in the face of an almost oppressive commercialism, most of us find some parts of this time to be lovely and heartwarming.

For faithful Christians, there is a second (not secondary!) theme, of course. This is the powerful and very mysterious theological meaning of the season. It is the time to reflect on the Incarnation. We Christians make a profound, and profoundly unusual, claim about the events on which our traditions are based. We claim that the God who created the world, the eternal deity, the invisible, spiritual, and eternal divine One, entered our world in the flesh of an infant in Bethlehem some two Millenia ago. We believe that the fullness of the one who made and rules the universe humbly took on our human nature in order to bring forgiveness and salvation to all. We teach that in the person of Jesus, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Son of God, became fully human in order to restore and transform our broken world and our broken lives.

Taken together, these twin aspects of the holiday season can truly enrich our lives. We tend to be very busy people. So much so that we can miss opportunities to share good times with those who are close to us. The traditions of Christmas provide us an important time to spend with those we love. Not only one or two days, but often life-long memories are formed and valued family traditions are passed on. And to add even more meaning to these very rich human moments we have the promises of grace, mercy, love and hope from the Babe in the manger. As close as we come to each other around a tree or table, God comes even closer, entering our lives in the sweetest and simplest way – in the face of the Child of Bethlehem.

May these two blessings be full for each of you, and may they usher in a New Year of faithfulness, peace, and joy.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Scott Cady

 **Greetings from Finance** 

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

In just a few weeks, we will be approving our 2024 budget. Your church committees, council, and finance team, along with our bookkeeper, Jean Schlapfer, have worked very hard to present to you a realistic budget. Finance and Council will also be presenting a second budget that we are referring to as “bare bones”. The congregation will decide which one we use, and any adjustments that need to be made to either one or both.

I pray that everyone eligible to vote will be present on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Your input and participation in finalizing our budget is crucial to the welfare of our congregation. You will see that instead of using funds from our investments to balance the budget, we plan to kick off a capital campaign in January, with your approval. This campaign will be to raise money to cover our shortfall and hopefully raise enough funds to start some much-needed repairs to our building.

We have struggled here at St. Paul’s when it comes to increasing our weekly giving (Sunday envelopes). However, there is no more giving congregation when it comes to helping others within our walls or beyond. We are asking that each of us look closely at what our commitment to our congregation is. We must either see a sharp increase in weekly offerings or raise the money via a campaign if we hope to keep our doors open and maintain our various ministries. I pray that as a congregation, we all lift our congregation to the Lord, and pray mightily, for what we can do to improve our financial stability.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Pamela Little  
Treasurer/Finance Committee



**Electronic Giving is Simple Giving**

Electronic giving gives you a reliable, safe way to move your stewardship plan into action. Your donation is given consistently and your church benefits from a steady and more predictably revenue. It’s convenient and saves you time. Electronic giving also saves the church money because those using it no longer need weekly envelopes. Currently we spend approximately \$800 dollars a year sending these envelopes to church members.

You determine when your payment is made, the frequency, how it is to be distributed (i.e. – Operation, World Hunger, Repair & Restoration, Pastor’s Discretionary, etc.) and whether it comes out of your bank account (Checking or Savings) or charged to a credit card.

To set up electronic giving all you need to do is call the office and request a Simple Giving authorization form. Fill it out and return it to the office. It’s that simple.

## Around the church

We would love to have some more women of the congregation join our Altar Guild teams. Right now, we have only 4 teams that rotate setting up the altar for communion every week. The more women we have the fewer weeks we would have to serve. Liz Falls has recently joined our team and is currently training with Bonnie and me. If you are interested, please talk to me or any other team member. They could explain what we do.

Current teams: Lisa Bodnar and Renate Higgins, Sandy Heinz and Karen Trippodi, Dana O'Brien and Angela DiStefano, Bonnie Schaff and me, and Liz Falls.

Please consider joining our team.

God Bless,  
Jeanette Richard



### From Deidre DiCara from FISH

My heart overflows with gratitude to all who helped make our 9th FISH Rally Day to End Hunger and Homelessness in NWCT Coat Giveaway a success for those in need - with 600 finding over 1400 warm items to choose from! Great thanks to our volunteers for both sorting day and event day, our wonderful sandwich makers (350+) - arriving at 8am, our super "shopper mentors" - both English and Spanish speaking, coat donors, fabulous knitters - 4 tables worth, sock donors, our pre drop off sites, ..... Imagine attendees started lining up before 8am. The line went around the corner for the first two hours. It was truly a feel good day, we hope, for everyone! We had volunteering students from the NCCC Criminal Justice Club and from the St. John Paul the Great Confirmation Class, as well as Girl Scouts of NWCT friends for over 50 years, New Opportunities and FISH staff, as well as many friends of FISH. Next year - please think about more donations for children of all ages.



### Save the Date!

Annual Meeting of the  
Congregation I

December 10, 2023

11: 15 am



Women's Breakfast  
Wednesday,  
December 20th 8:30 am  
George's Restaurant  
East Main St. Torrington

Men's Breakfast  
Wednesday,  
December 20th 8:30 am  
A/C Eatery  
South Main St.  
Torrington



**Anyone interested in serving on the St. Paul's Soup Kitchen team** or to be a substitute to please contact Jeanette Richard at [jeanetterichard@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanetterichard@hotmail.com) or 860-489-7140. The 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 which serve either on the even months or odd months, each member only serves 6 times a year. The only requirement is for your 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.



As our National day of Thanksgiving fast approaches, I want all of the wonderful people at St. Paul Lutheran, Torrington to know what a blessing you are to me and how thankful I am that God led me to you! It has been a true joy to serve as your Music Director over the course of this past year plus, and I look forward to many more years of Ministry together!

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions for hymns you'd like to sing and other music you'd like to hear. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement!

Sincerely,

Marcia C. Newcome  
Music Director



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](mailto:markwrose@icloud.com)



Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Come join St. Paul's choir. We rehearse at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning in the choir room across from the parlor. It is not necessary to be able to read music. Each part to every piece is recorded individually and emailed to every choir member to aid in learning. If you like to sing, please give us a try.



# A r o u n d t h e c h u r c h



**First Sunday in Advent**  
**December 3, 2023 @ 11am**



We will have a congregation wide celebration on the First Sunday in Advent. After church families and individuals (of course, including all SS and Confirmation families!) will gather in the Fellowship Hall to make a Family Advent Wreath. You will be able to take home a reminder of the season when you leave. Rather than classes being held that day the wreath workshop will be for everyone – the young, the old, and everyone in between! Please come!!



## **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 and things are also collecting on the floor around the tree! 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.

## G a r d e n o f M e m o r i e s



Our friend the bear was cleaning up the garden recently. He was enjoying the Dogwood berries as a late afternoon snack. He is definitely getting ready for his long winter's nap!

If you visit the garden, make sure you are bear aware!

God Bless,  
**Garden of Memories Committee**  
Lisa Bodnar, Jeanette Richard, Beth Brower,  
and Howard Kreidwise, member emeritus





In the blink of an eye, it's December already! Hilltop is preparing for new enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year. Pre-enrollment is open to existing families at Hilltop and to our St. Paul's church families beginning December 18th. If you are interested or know of anyone in the church family who is interested, please give me a call and I will be happy to send out an enrollment form. Registration opens to the public on January 24th.

We held a "Paint Night" fundraiser and had a great time. Made a little money too. Thank you to everyone who either bought and/or sold the Nutmeg Spices for our fundraiser. We had orders totaling 301 spice bottles! We are happy to report a profit of \$1,183.00 for our classroom supplies.

We enjoyed a Thankful/Grateful Feast on Monday, Nov 13. We had lots of parent helpers and lots of families attending. We served about 100 children and adults. Thanks to everyone who helped out!



Holiday Celebrations will be held on December 22 during the regular school hours. Families are invited to attend and sing along our favorite Christmas songs!

I have the opportunity to write a grant for upgrades to our facility. Things I'm working on upgrading are the floors, the outdoor classroom, and a new outdoor play area for our two-year-olds.

We continue to ask for your prayers and support as we prepare for the new year.

In His Service,  
Barbara J. Mazzei  
Director/Head Teacher



# Women of the ELCA



## **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 4th 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!

Hostesses that evening are Pam Ewing, Paula Rosenbeck, and June Seiser. We'll have a light supper after the tree is trimmed.



## **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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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 10<sup>th</sup>, when they will be processed and prepared for delivery to recipients. For the 37<sup>th</sup> 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.



## **ST. PAUL'S WOMEN SAY THANK YOU!**

St. Paul's Women of the ELCA wish to thank the entire congregation for your support of our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Fair, which was held earlier in November. It was a success in every sense; great vendors (20 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.





## **SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT**

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> during 10am Worship**

As in most previous years, the Sunday School/ Confirmation students will present their Christmas pageant based on a storybook, Love Came Down, on Sunday, December 17th during the 10am worship service. There will be one rehearsal for all children participating on Friday, December 1st from 6-7:30pm. Snow date for rehearsal is Saturday, the 17th, from 5-6:30pm. Parents are asked to please stay with their children.



## **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

There will be no Sunday School classes on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, due to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held that morning. There WILL be Sunday School following the 10am Worship & the Sunday School Pageant on Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>. Children should report to their class at the usual time and then classes will come up for a small birthday party of Jesus. Children will be dismissed from the Fellowship Hall.

## **THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!**

I want to thank all of you who helped bake many, many cookies for "Cookie Day" at St. Paul's. Your generosity is putting smiles on lots of faces of elderly, sick, shut-in, and college students. Typically, this is a Confirmation project but with only three confirmands in total, I asked you to help. I am amazed at the outpouring of cookies! There were so many varieties of cookies, that no one went without trying many of the tasty treats! Thanks to those who have helped with delivery. There are still a few more that need to go out, so please stop by and help if you can!



Special thanks to our packers! John, Robin, Jeremy & Kyle Thurlough, Kurt and Ethan Schaller, Casaundra and Maverick Abeling, Will Siss, Gabrielle Dziedzic, Pamela & David Little and Leah Seleman. They formed quite an efficient assembly line.

# Around the Community!



I recently brought towels down to the Gathering Place on Prospect St., where the homeless can take showers and do laundry. In speaking with the staff there, I was told they are desperate for men's clothing. They have more than enough of women's as she shared there are fewer homeless woman than men. If anyone has men's clothing that is still in good condition, they would appreciate them. If you are unable to deliver them yourself, please let me know and I will take them down.

They also accept any toiletries and laundry detergent.

Thanks so much. Jeanette Richard



## Blood Drive

### St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Held in the Church Hall  
837 Charles Street  
Torrington, CT 06790

**Friday, January 5, 2024**  
**1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: STPAULTORRINGTON to schedule an appointment.



Scan to schedule an appointment



Make a Legendary Impact! Come give Dec. 18 thru Jan. 5 for NEW long-sleeved Red Cross Tee, ltd qty!



Scan to schedule an appointment

**Schedule your blood donation appointment today!**

1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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## An Advent Fireside Reflection

- Wednesday, December 13, 2023
- 10:00 AM 2:00 PM

Wisdom House Retreat & Conference Center  
229 East Litchfield Road  
Litchfield, CT, 06759

Presented by Sr. Patricia Torre, DW  
December is often the busiest time of year with all the cookie baking, present buying and wrapping, decorations found, dusted off and hung. The days get shorter, the nights longer, and the air colder. Do we notice how the night sky sparkles?

And into this busiest time of year comes Advent – the call to quiet waiting. Advent invites us to wake up, to stay alert, to watch – to not miss the signs of the Divine’s presence among us, in us. Advent is our gift of time to stop and enter the stillness of God’s love. It is a time to surrender to the quiet longings of our hearts – and learn the art of waiting with patient expectation. We long for Emmanuel, God-with-us, as Emmanuel longs for us to become God’s presence in our time and place. Join us on Wednesday, December 13, 10 am - 2:00 pm for An Advent Fireside Reflection and Meditation. Touch once again the Light within.

COST | \$25,  
LUNCH INCLUDED  
Register @  
[wisdomhouse.org](http://wisdomhouse.org)



# Poinsettia Memorials

Anyone wishing to memorialize a loved one with poinsettia can do so by filling out the form provided below and placing it in the offering plate or returning it to the church office.

**Cost is by donation.**

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF:

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GIVEN BY:

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Person making the request Name & Phone Number:

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Please make checks payable to:  
**St. Paul's**

**Memo:  
Poinsettia**

**Forms must be in  
the church office  
no later than  
December 17<sup>th</sup>**





Family Order Form

Created: 10/31/2023 9:49:19 AM

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%		\$
Department Store			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Kohl's \$25.00	7%		\$
Dining - Casual			
Product	%	QTY	Total
BB Restaurants \$25.00	13%		\$
Applebee's® \$10.00	8%		\$
Applebee's® \$25.00	8%		\$
Applebee's® \$50.00	8%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$25.00	8%		\$
Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$
Olive Garden \$25.00	8%		\$
Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	10%		\$
Discount Store & Outlets			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Target \$10.00	2.5%		\$
Target \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Target \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$10.00	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Electronics & Office			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Best Buy \$100.00	4%		\$
Best Buy \$25.00	4%		\$

Electronics & Office			
Product	%	QTY	Total
GameStop \$25.00	5%		\$
Staples \$25.00	5%		\$
Entertainment			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Barnes & Noble \$10.00	8%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$25.00	8%		\$
Fast Food			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Burger King \$10.00	6%		\$
Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10.00	10%		\$
Chipotle Mexican Grill \$25.00	10%		\$
Dunkin' Donuts \$10.00	3.5%		\$
Dunkin' Donuts \$25.00	3.5%		\$
McDonald's \$10.00	2%		\$
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%		\$
Wendy's \$25.00	6%		\$
Gas & Auto			
Product	%	QTY	Total
BP \$100.00	1.5%		\$
BP \$50.00	1.5%		\$
Exxon \$50.00	1%		\$
Quil 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%		\$

Grocery			
Product	%	QTY	Total
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%		\$
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 \$100.00	1.7%		\$
Amazon \$25.00	1.7%		\$
Amazon \$50.00	1.7%		\$
Apple Store/Apple.com \$15.00	5%		\$
Apple Store/Apple.com \$25.00	5%		\$
Sporting Goods & Outdoors			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Cabela's \$25.00	10%		\$
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%		\$
Travel			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Disney \$100.00	3%		\$
Disney \$25.00	3%		\$
Universal Prepaid Cards			
Product	%	QTY	Total
Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee \$25.00	1.25%		\$
Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee \$50.00	1.25%		\$

Make Checks Payable To: PUPPETUDE

Total Due All Columns

\$



**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Diane Boscarino

**December 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Lois Nygren

**December 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Mary Boscarino

**December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Cheryl-Ann Bombardier

**December 12<sup>th</sup>**  
Pastor Dwaine Moon

**December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Kelli Schaller

**December 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Dana O'Brien  
Garrett Grening

**December 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Cynthia Bielik

**December 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Sandra Heintz

**December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Rachel Takeman

**December 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Tom Seleman  
Rosemarie Foth

**December 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Audrey Marquard

**December 30<sup>th</sup>**  
Pamela Ewing

**December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
Debra Seitz

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

Renate Duksis  
Rob Seelye  
Mary Chamberlain  
Bill Young  
Barney Roy

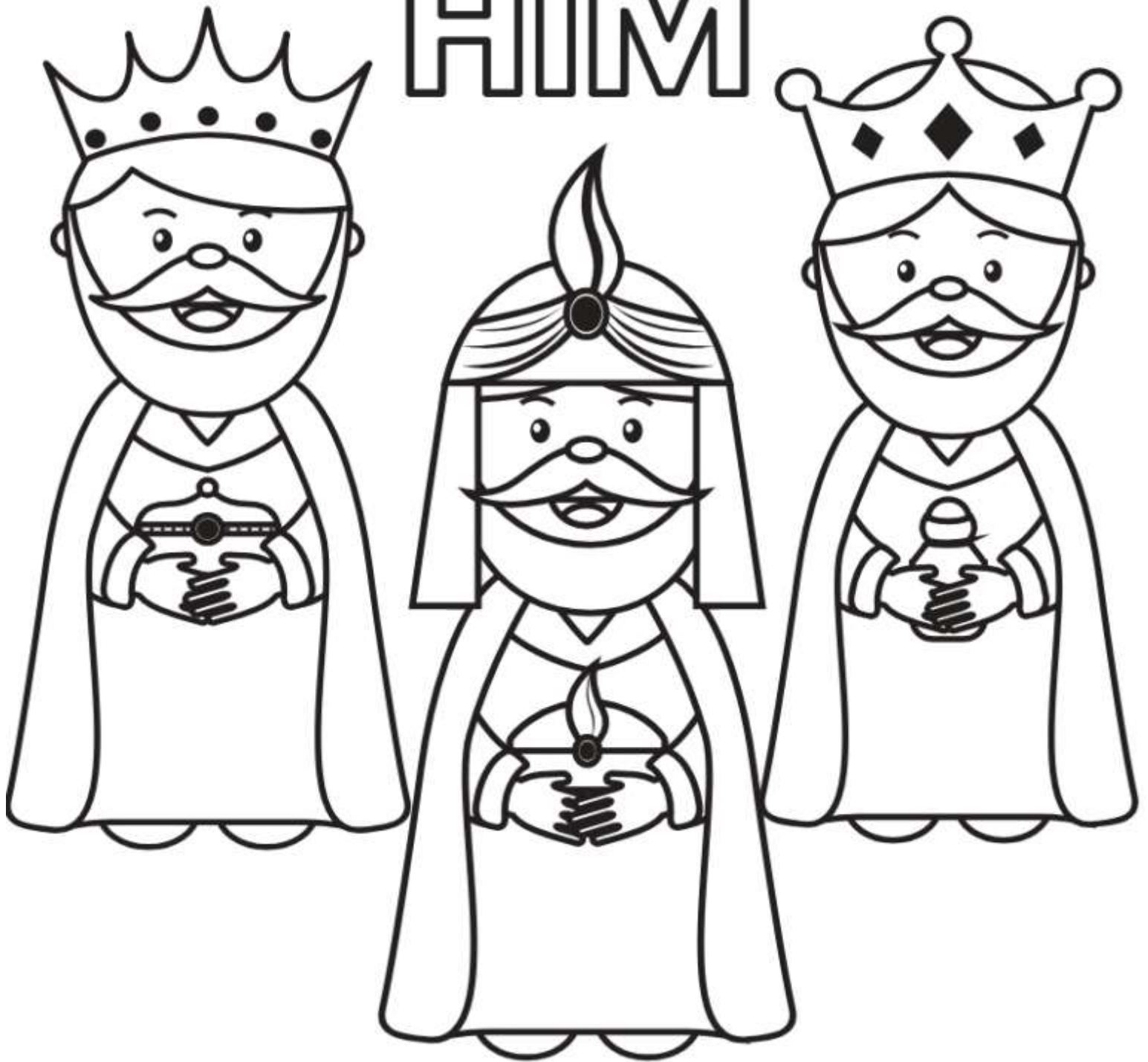


# Kids Pages!





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

[gscady@gmail.com](mailto:gscady@gmail.com)  
[secretary@stpaulstorrington.com](mailto:secretary@stpaulstorrington.com)  
[bookkeeper@stpaulstorrington.com](mailto: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  
Tracy Sierdy,, Assistant Teacher  
Shaelynn Holmgren, Custodian

[director@hilltopchristianelc.com](mailto:director@hilltopchristianelc.com)

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[www.stpaulstorrington.com](http://www.stpaulstorrington.com)

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