

# The Epistle

## Waiting



Do you remember waiting for Christmas morning as a child? Do you remember the excitement of discovering what awaited you under the tree? Do you

remember planning your whole Christmas Eve—your nighttime ritual—in preparation for Christmas morning? Do you remember being too excited to sleep, spending the whole night (or as long as you could last) straining to hear the sound of reindeer hooves on the rooftop? No matter your family's Christmas traditions, there is always an element of waiting during Christmas, whether you opened gifts on Christmas Eve, Christmas morning, or the Saturday before Christmas. Or perhaps you are reliving those days now through your nieces and nephews, children or grandchildren, as you see the excitement that they feel as they wait for Christmas morning. If you remember these days in your childhood, or if you have witnessed this joy in the children in your family, then you have a very vivid sense of the kind of anticipation of which we speak in the season of Advent.

*(Continued on page 2)*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Dorcas Circle.....	3
Seniors Flying Solo	3
2017 Proposed Budget.....	4-7
Special Events.....	8, 9
Celebrations .....	10
Prayer Requests.....	10
Ministry Schedule .	11

## Special Congregational Meeting Dec. 11th

Please join us after worship to review the 2017 proposed budget. The proposed budget is on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter, and printed copies will be available in the narthex as well.

## Waiting

*(Continued from page 1)*

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27th. Advent comes from the Latin root meaning, “Come.” Jesus Christ has already come to us to reveal God’s love for us and to save us from our sin, but we still await the time when he will come again. During Advent, even as we wait for Christmas and the celebration of Jesus’ birth, we also prayerfully wait for Jesus to come again.

God does not intend this time of waiting to be a time of fear or of obligatory vigil. It is a time of joy--the kind of joy and thrilling enthusiasm with which children wait for Christ-

*Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein; Rejoice on earth, ye saints below; For Christ is coming, is coming soon.*

*-Paul & Ruth Manz*

## Valley Interfaith Donation Item of the Month: Canned Meat



mas! The reason that his return is so exciting is because there is still so much wrong with our world and with our lives; death, evil, sin, and suffering are apparent everywhere. We wait with joyful anticipation because we know that Jesus will come again! When he does, he will right every wrong and wipe every tear from our eyes until there is no more weeping, mourning, or pain.

So this Advent season as the decorations going up in the stores are juxtaposed with natural disasters, violence, wars, and disease, turn your heart and mind again to the promise of Advent; your Lord is coming soon. The dark and cold may last the season of winter, but they eventually give way to spring. Evil and darkness may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning (Psalm 30:5). All evil and suffering will give way to Jesus Christ when he comes again. This Advent, we do not despair. We wait with hope and with anticipation of all the joy that awaits the world when Jesus comes again. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor Emily Beckering

## Dorcas Circle

The ladies are busy at work again and are grateful that we will have batting for the quilts for the next few months—thanks to the Thrivent VISA cards from our members. Any donations of sheets (preferably flat) and larger pieces of fabric for quilt squares can always be used, and we appreciate your donations.

Recap of the Lutheran World Relief shipment of quilts: We sent 175 quilts. The Quilt Raffle netted \$570. Of this amount, \$300 was sent to LWR to help cover the cost of shipping quilts to their destinations, and \$270 was gifted to St. Paul treasury. Thank you to all for your support.

## Winter Clothing Drive

The Social Concerns committee will be collecting hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves during December, January, and February to give to those in need. Please see Penny Huber for more information.

*E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come; And night shall be no more. They need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, For Christ shall be their all.* -Manz

## Seniors Flying Solo

How about a “Craft Day”? Chrissy Harris has a special interest in scrapbooking and other crafts and would like to share some of this fun with us. On **Wednesday, Nov. 30**, she will bring supplies so each of us will be able to make 2 small gift boxes or bags. Time is short, so please sign the sheet on the bulletin board or let me know ASAP. We will meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. and lunch at Lucy's before working on our little crafts.

On **Sunday, Dec. 3**, we plan to stay after worship and enjoy the play in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are already on sale.

Now, open up those 2017 appointment calendars. Have you reserved **Friday, March 10**, to go to LaComedia Dinner Theatre for the Church Basement Ladies in “Away in a Basement”. Reservations have been made for 20. Please let me know if you would like to join our group. Cost for the meal and performance is \$38.

## Operation Christmas Child a big success!

Thanks to everyone who gave boxes and presents for this year's Operation Christmas Child collection. Because of your efforts, 75 children will be blessed with Christmas gifts!





## Christmas Fund for Fam- ilies in Need

During Advent, there will be a competition between the youth and the rest of the congregation to raise money for families in our congregation who are in need.

Bring coins and dollar bills and add them to the bucket of your choice. The winners of the competition will have the satisfaction of being exceptional stewards!

All proceeds will be used to buy gift cards to help families in our congregation to have a joyous Christmas.

## Dec. 18: Wel- come, New Members!

St. Paul's new members will be formally received during worship on Dec. 18. A reception will follow the service.

## Special Events in December

St. Paul Lutheran Church

106 Maple Street

Reading, Ohio 45215

## Live Nativity

Live actors and animals

December 10th 2-6 pm

513-821-0987



## Lessons and Carols: Dec. 18 at 4:00 pm

Come hear the story of Jesus' birth and the prophecies that foretold of him, while singing some of your favorite Advent and Christmas carols. It's sure to get you into the Christmas spirit and prepare your heart for Jesus to come again!



## Special Events in December

# *Over the River and Through the Woods*

*A comedy by Joe DiPietro*

Dinner followed by the play  
\$15.00 (group rates available)

**Friday, December 2nd 6:30 pm**

**Saturday December 3rd 6:30 pm**

**Sunday December 4th 12:30 pm**

Reservations 513-426-6504 or  
email [stpaulplayers@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulplayers@gmail.com)  
106 Maple St. Reading, OH 45215  
Visit <http://stpaulplayers.com>



The story of a twenty something man's relationship with his grandparents. Grandma Emma sums up the inter-generational clashes with "Nicky, I think you expect too much. You look for the perfect girl, so you find no one. You spend so much time worrying ..., you just expect too much."



## Celebrations in December

- 1 Edna Willet
- 3 Larry Huber



- 8 Freda Faulkner
- 13 Trent & Jenny Liffick**
- 13 Olivia Lohmeier; Amy Flege Lorenz
- 14 Rachel Dean
- 16 Ruth Lohmeier
- 17 Heather Segar
- 18 Robert Portmann, Jr.

- 19 Louise Barry
- 21 Barbara Moorhouse; Debra Roell
- 23 Chelsea King
- 27 Eric & Susan Bardes**
- 27 Jean Nolte
- 30 Jason Hirt
- 31 Rhonda Kreiner

## Our Life Together

**For emergency pastoral care**, please call Pastor Emily Beckering, 513-760-5884.

**If you have requests for the Prayer Chain**, call Penny Huber, 513-931-6420. To remove people from the list, contact the office.

We pray for **Mary and her granddaughter Kyra** (friend of Paul Pieper); **Jim Barry** (Kathy Hirt's dad); **Berkeley** (the Curlesses' great-grandson); **Jimmy Bertheaud** (friend of the Portmanns); **Bill Corbett** (Kings' neighbor); **Debbie, Steve, Jessica Davis** (friends of Holly Ford); **Amberly Derby** (friend of Molly McDowell); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Jerry Doan** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Kathy Downie** (Sieckmans' neighbor); **Bus Faulkner; Larry Faulkner** (Bus and Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Steve Headley; Les Helmich and his daughter Elaine; Greg Hershey** (Steve Headley's cousin); **Sandy Hill** (David Hill's sister-in-law); **Matt Huber** (Penny Huber's son); **Karen Kerlin; Kevin Kilgore** (the Spelmans' niece's husband); **Jay King** (son of Jamie King, who cleans the church); **Steve Koller and family** (Adam and Kathy Pirrmann's brother/in-law); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Charlotte Langefeld; Marty Lohmeier; Cindy Mayhugh; Doug Meyers' family** (friends of the Portmanns); **David Oaks** (Bus Faulkner's son-in-law); **Craig Olsen** (friend of the Sieckmans); **William Pratley** (friend of Pastor Emily); **Ron Replogle; Sarah Rupert** (Carolyn Koehl's sister); **James Savory** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson);

**Pauline Schauer** (Cindy Sieckman's cousin); **Michael Schmitt** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Kim Sieckman; Jason Simpson** (Bus and Freda Faulkner's grand-nephew); **Speedy Sizemore** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Scott Songer** (friend of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (Jack and Joyce Spelman's grandson); **John Spelman** (Jack & Joyce Spelman's son); **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Sherman and Mike Waddle; Susan Winkle** (Jean Winkle's daughter-in-law); **Anna Louise Witker** (Carolyn Koehl's mother).

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Bernice Baglien, Dottie Bangert, Pat Edwards, Bus Faulkner, Mary Jane Flege, Ruth Jones, Carol Leonard, Marge Malin, Jack and Barbara Moorhouse, Jean Nolte, Heather Segar, Edna Willet.**

We pray for our armed forces members: **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman's grandson); **Jared Forst** (Jim and Loretta's grandson); **John Garbrecht** (Carolyn Koehl's nephew); **Beau Glenn** (Karen Koehl's son-in-law); **Kylie Hahn** (Gretta Hahn's granddaughter); **Chad Harris** (Donald Harris's cousin); **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl's son); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Mack Thompson** (Freda and Bus Faulkner's grandson); **Mylan Watkins** (friend of the Ford family).

## December Ministry Schedule

*If you are unable to serve as scheduled below, please arrange for a replacement. Thank you!*

<b>Month-Long Assignments</b>	<p>Greeters: Ron &amp; Shirley Harbaugh</p> <p>Altar Guild: Nancy Erbeck, Janet King</p> <p>Bulletin Folders: Penny Huber, Jean Winkle</p>
<b>December 4</b> 2 Advent	<p>Assisting Minister: Terry McDowell</p> <p>Reader: Kathy Hirt</p> <p>Acolyte: Ian Cathcart</p> <p>Communion Ministers: Ron &amp; Shirley Harbaugh, Elinor Schieman</p>
<b>December 11</b> 3 Advent	<p>Assisting Minister: Leandra Hawkins</p> <p>Reader: Carroll Mayhugh</p> <p>Acolyte: Katie Sturgill</p>
<b>December 18</b> 4 Advent	<p>Assisting Minister: Taylor Beckering</p> <p>Reader: Sarah Papin</p> <p>Acolyte: Donny Cathcart</p> <p>Communion Minister: Terry McDowell</p>
<b>December 24</b> Christmas Eve	<p>Assisting Minister: Doug Lohmeier</p> <p>Reader: Carroll Mayhugh</p> <p>Acolyte: Olivia Hedges</p> <p>Book Bearer: Matthew Lawson</p>
<b>December 25</b> The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day	<p>Assisting Minister: Nancy Erbeck</p> <p>Reader: Sherry Bronner</p> <p>Acolyte: Grant Lohmeier</p> <p>Book Bearer: Maci Lawson</p>

## Free Band Concert Dec. 11

Please join Carolyn Koehl, Jack Wagner, and the rest of the Sycamore Community Band and New Horizons Band for a joint concert. The two bands will play a variety of selections along with some Christmas and holiday music, and also commemorate the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The concert is free of charge and will take place at 2 p.m. December 11th, at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 10345 Montgomery Rd. All are welcome.



## St. Paul Lutheran Church

### Mission Statement

“As a community of Christian believers, we are called by God to use the many gifts He has given us, within the church and the community, so others may come to know Him.”

## From the Presiding Bishop

### ADVENT DEVOTIONS AVAILABLE

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, and leaders from The Episcopal Church, the Anglican Church of Canada, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada have prepared a series of Advent devotions for members of the four denominations.

“May our prayers united be a modest but hopeful sign of what our churches can do together as we bear witness to the One who first reconciled himself to us,” the bishops wrote in a joint cover letter.

The Advent devotions are available for download at

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/2016\\_Advent\\_devotions\\_all.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/2016_Advent_devotions_all.pdf).

## St. Paul Lutheran Church

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PLACE  
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