

Crosstalk

January 2024

DUTIES FOR JANUARY

Ushers (should arrive by 9:15):

Brent Gottfried Chase Ray
Lyle Gottfried Rick Kraus

Greeters:

Marcy Cranston & Becky Vaughn (west)

Assisting Ministers:

7 – Sheryl Clinger
14 – Abbi Ault
21 – Jane Bricely
28 – Jim Ruhlen

Acolytes:

7 – Drew Leightey & Brody Mays
14 – Caroline Baker & Adrianna Ray
21 – Harper Fahle & Ian Seal
28 – Jocelyn Leightey & Erica Ruhlen

Readers:

7 – Rosie Craig
14 – Lauren Baker
21 – Becky Krock
28 – Darlene Mooney

Communion Assistants:

Matt & Lorie Schultz
Emily & Erica Ruhlen on the 14th

Bread Baker: Michelle Halter

Host in The Gathering Place:

7 – Marcia Geary
14 – Sue Decker
21 – Linda Rinderknecht
28 – Michelle Ohler

THANKS FOR HELPING!!!

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pastorbarryhalter@gmail.com

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bjcollins8326@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Closed Monday & Wednesday
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:
8am-12pm, 1-5pm

Website:

www.stpaulupper.org

2024 Council Members:

Jacob Badenhop 419-572-9964
Chad Baker 614-309-4104
Katie Clark 419-310-9889
BJ Ford 419-619-2166
Jean Hollanshead 419-310-0447
Rick Kraus 419-310-8395
Tim Ray 419-310-1313
Matt Schultz 419-552-4465
Melissa Summit 419-310-2788



Exhausted?

We made a gift list. Check! We hunted high and low to find the best deals and purchased everything on the list. Check! We purchased even more wrapping paper and gift wrap tape. Check! We set the menu. Check! Went on yet another shopping

run to get ingredients we have not used in over a year. Check! What about the Christmas cards? Do we still do those? Check! Wait. Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year?! So, do we go to church in the morning and at night? Check! Did you call everyone to wish them Merry Christmas? Check! Did you post your obligatory family Christmas PJ picture to Facebook? Check. Presents presented and opened. Check! Meal cooked and ate. Check! Dishes done. Check. "Some adult assembly required" completed. Check! Finally, you sit down for five minutes only to think, "Why does it feel like Thanksgiving was just last week?" CHECK!

The holiday season can be exhausting. It is a busy time. We place so many expectations on ourselves and others to make everything, "just right." The holidays can be an emotional time as well. We celebrate with friends and families, yet we may be grieving loved ones we have lost. When we finally get to Christmas day, the word that hits me is "weary." That word, "weary" always reminds me of the Christmas carol, "O Holy Night." These are a few of my favorite lines:

"A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices. For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees; O hear the Angles voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born."

The carol reminds me that God did something new on that first Christmas day. God became incarnate. God lowered God's self to human form and walked among us. At the beginning, small, fragile, and dependent on a mother's love to help him through the night. Angels ushered him in with songs of joy and thanksgiving. The shepherds rushed to the scene to tell what they had heard and seen. The baby lying in the manger was no ordinary baby. He was our savior. The Messiah! The Lord. There must have been a thrill of hope, a moment of rejoicing. God's people were receiving their long-awaited king that would make everything right. They were hurting. They were worn out and weary. They rejoiced in a new and glorious day, Christ was born!

Two-thousand years later, the world can still be a weary place. Maybe we have lost our focus. Maybe we have commercialized the season too much. Yet I see you around our community going beyond yourself to ease the weariness of the world. I see you volunteering and giving to local charities. You are helping your neighbors and calling to check on a friend. I see you sitting down just to have a chat with someone who needs an "ear to bend."

Jesus came to usher in a kingdom rooted in God's love for us. I see bits and pieces of that kingdom shining through the weariness in our community every day. Witnessing you all use your vocational gifts to make positive impacts on our community gives me a thrill of hope. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

God's Peace
Pastor Barry



JANUARY 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:30pm BB 6:30pm CS 7pm AB	3 8-12:45pm WC 12-2pm CFC 7:30pm WOW	4 1-3pm CFC 1:15-2:15pm WC 3pm WELCA Board meeting 7:30pm DB (H)	5 1:15-2:15pm WC	6 10am DB 4 person tournament @ Jenera
7 9am Adult SS 10am Worship 11am Choir 11:30am E&S 1pm TGP in use	8 8:30am Pinning & Knotting 7pm DB @ Dola	9 5:30pm CS 6:30pm BB 7pm AB	10 8-12:45pm WC 9:30am R/N Circle 12-2pm CFC 7:30pm WOW	11 1-3pm CFC 1:15-2:15pm WC 6:30pm Council 7pm Martha Circle 7:30pm DB @ Sycamore	12 1:15-2:15pm WC	13 10am-noon CFC 10am-noon Free Community Meal
14 9am Adult SS 10am Worship 11am Choir	15 8:30am Pinning & Knotting 9am Kitchen cleaning 7pm DB @ Trinity, Findlay	16 6:30pm BB 6:30pm CS 7pm AB	17 8-12:45pm WC 12-2pm CFC 7:30pm WOW	18 1-3pm CFC 1:15-2:15pm WC 7:30pm DB (H) vs. TEC A	19 1:15-2:15pm WC	20
21 8:30am 4S's 9am Adult SS 9:15am Choir 10am Worship 11am Choir	22 8:30am Pinning & Knotting 7pm DB (H) vs. Salem, Findlay	23 5:30pm CS 6:30pm BB 7pm AB	24 8-12:45pm WC 12-2pm CFC 7:30pm WOW	25 1-3pm CFC 1:15-2:15pm WC 7:30pm DB (H) vs. Scutch	26 1:15-2:15pm WC	27
28 9am Adult SS 10am Worship 11am Annual Meeting	29 8:30am Pinning & Knotting 7pm DB @ Jenera	30 5:30pm CS 6:30pm BB 7pm AB 7:30pm MM	31 8-12:45pm WC 12-2pm CFC 7:30pm WOW	BB = Beginning Bells CFC = Christian Food Center DB = Dartball	AB = Advanced Bells WC = Wyandot Cares classes SS = Sunday School	WOW = Word on Wednesday CS = Cub Scouts MM = Mutual Ministry





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 – Lynn Stilwell
- 6 – Ashleigh Insley
- 6 – Erika Merrick
- 7 – Amber Roszman
- 10 – Ana Barth
- 12 – Ashley Cipriani
- 12 – Jack Leonard
- 16 – Dan Berg
- 17 – Colby Koehler
- 17 – Pete Miller
- 20 – Ethan Poe
- 21 – Joel Leslie
- 21 – Alec MaGinn
- 21 – Tammy Stilwell
- 24 – Jane Bricely
- 24 – Sue Decker
- 24 – Dave Eippert
- 25 – Michelle Halter
- 27 – Bob Wachtman
- 28 – Larry Webster
- 31 – Deb Grafmiller
- 31 – Heidi Obenour
- 31 – Jenn Ruhlen



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 – Bruce & Sue Decker Happy 29th!
- 22 – Matthew & Jane Smalley Happy 24th!



We are collecting
ALL KINDS OF TOILETRIES
 for the Christian Food Center this month.
 Please bring your donations forward
 during the offering.
 Thanks for your help!



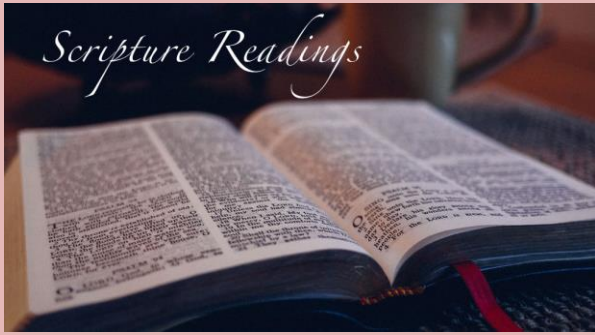
Shopping for our 2 adopted Christmas families went very smoothly again this year! Thanks to the youth who did the shopping! And thanks to Brenda Koehler for bagging and delivering all the gifts! We can be so proud of our youth!!! One of them said, "It's a lot more fun to give gifts than to receive them!" They all chimed in how fun it was! THAT'S what it's all about!!! Thanks again to all who helped!!!

We're still collecting...



These must state "Manufacturer's Coupon" on them. No store coupons, internet coupons, or restaurant coupons can be used. We can send only coupons that are not expired more than 2 months. Please clip them and sort them into 4 categories: Food, Non-food, Baby, and Pet. There are collection containers at the crosswalk or you can drop them off at the office. These are used in overseas military commissaries. Thanks in advance!!!

Scripture Readings



January 7

Genesis 1:1-5

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

January 14

1 Samuel 3:1-10

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

January 21

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

January 28

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28



DO YOU *Read* YOUR BIBLE
LIKE YOUR *Newsfeed*?

MISSION OUTREACH

January's Mission Outreach budgeted dollars will go to

Hannah's House.

We encourage you to join us in giving directly throughout this month if you feel so moved. The mailing address is
445 N. Sandusky Ave.
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

Women of the ELCA

Ruth/Naomi Circle
will meet **Wednesday,**
January 10th
at **9:30am** in
The Gathering Place.

Martha Circle
will meet **Thursday, January 11th**
at **7pm** in the
Adult Sunday School room which is
beside the kitchen in the lower level
of the church.

All are welcome!



2023 Contribution Statements will be ready soon. If you would like a copy of yours, please let Beth know. We do not hand them out to everyone, only those who ask for them. I can email it to you or print you a hard copy. Just let me know!

TIME TO
Un-Decorate



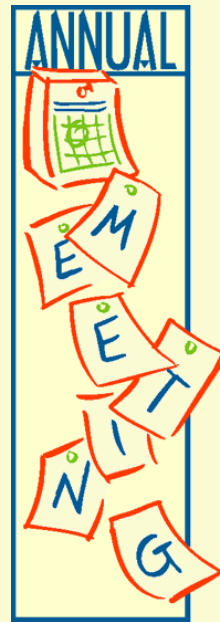
WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN!

Monday, January 8th at 6:30pm we need lots of help to take all of the Christmas decorations down and put them away. Please plan to be there!

Annual Report



2023 reports from each committee and group need to be turned in to the office by January 12th. These will be included in the church's annual report which will be presented at the meeting on January 28th.



Our annual congregational meeting will be held on January 28th. At this meeting, we will hear about all the great things that happened at St. Paul last year! In addition, we will hear about plans for our mission in 2024! The meeting will take place immediately after worship.

From WELCA Board:

It's that time again.....kitchen cleaning time!!! Everyone is welcome to help out on Monday, January 15th starting at 9am and ending with a delicious, complimentary lunch. Feel free to bring your own bucket and cleaning cloth. There is a sign-up sheet at the crosswalk so we know how much food to make. Hope to see you then! Thanks in advance!



THANK YOU!

As of this printing
the following Mission Outreach dollars
have been collected:

January – Project Noelle.....	\$1615
February – Keris Riebel Scholarship Fund.....	\$1872
March – Lutheran Disaster Response.....	\$1464
April – Hannah’s House & Maveryk Breece Medical Fund.....	\$1780
May – Radio Fund.....	\$1491
June – Luke Swavel “Run Through First” Scholarship Fund.....	\$1696
July – Wernle.....	\$1961
August – Hopewood Outdoors.....	\$855
September – Buckeye Ridge Habitat for Humanity.....	\$1047
October – Lutheran World Relief.....	\$1174
November – Cub Scout Pack #125.....	\$1283
December – Adopted Christmas families.....	\$1446

St. Paul is doing so much good for those outside of our walls!
Keep up the great work!!!

Join us for

The 4 S's

(Second Sunday Social Stint)

When: Second Sunday of each month

Where: Youth Room on the 3rd floor

Time: 8:30-9:30am

Why: For faith, fun, fellowship, &
prep for 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans

Who: all youth in grades 6-12



Christmas Ornament Showcase/ 2nd Annual Chili Cook Off

**Sunday, January 14th
immediately after worship**

Don't put your Christmas ornaments away just yet!!! Bring your favorite ones early that morning and set them up on a table in Fellowship Hall. Please have the story behind them on a card along with your name and any information to share.

If you wish to bring a chili entry, bring your chili in a crockpot along with any garnishes or toppings that would help your presentation. Table service, bowls, water, and cornbread will be furnished. There will be voting for the entries and a prize awarded to the entry with the most votes! **Homemade chicken noodle soup will also be served for those who don't like chili!**

You don't have to bring anything to attend! We need all of you to help be the judges so ALL are encouraged to come!