

St. Paul Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 267
201 Veterans Drive
Columbus, Texas 78934
PH: (979) 732-2423
Return Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
COLUMBUS, TX
PERMIT NO. 54

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LOCATED AT: 201 Veterans Dr.

P. O. Box 267 Columbus, TX 78934

PH: (979)-732-2423 FAX: (979)-733-0489

e-mail: admin@splctx.org

website: www.splctx.com

Senior Pastor: Alan Kethan

Cell: 830-708-1200 Home: 979-942-9060

Pastor's e-mail:

pastor.akethan@gmail.com

Youth & Family Specialist:

Stephanie Polasek

Secretary: Elena Holub

Parish Nurse Program Coordinator:

DyAnn Lauzon

Custodian: Tomasa Rosales

St. Paul Christian Learning Academy

Director: Briana Bedford

PH: (979) 732-6183

MISSION STATEMENT:

Love God, Love Neighbor (*Luke 10:27*)

VISION STATEMENT:

We will work to strengthen and grow
closer in relationship to God and to one
another.

Monthly Calendar at a Glance:

Traditional Worship at 7:00PM Saturdays and 9:00 AM Sundays with communion each week. Contemporary Worship every Sunday at 11:05 AM with communion. Noon Bible Study every Tuesday at 12:00 Noon in church library. Adult Bible Study every Friday at 11:00 AM in church library.

- Dec. 1 & 2 Advent Retreat – Lutherhill, La Grange
Dec. 2 8:00 AM – Men In Mission (Lighthouse)
Dec. 3 8:00 AM-12:30 PM – Blood Drive (Lighthouse)
Dec. 4 5:30 PM – Youth & Education Team (old choir room)
6:00 PM – Evangelism Team (library)
Dec. 5 5:30 PM – Prayer Team
Dec. 6 12:00 PM – Ministerial Alliance
1:30-3:00 PM – Continuing Education
1:30 PM – Neighbor-to-Neighbor Christmas Stockings (library)
5:00 PM – Meal & 5:30 PM – BLAST, Confirmation & HS Youth
Dec. 7 6:00 PM – Property Team (library)
Dec. 9 9:00-11:30 AM – New Member/Informational Class (library)
Dec. 10 6:00-8:00 PM – The Gathering
Dec. 12 5:30 PM – Stewardship Team (library)
Dec. 13 **Newsletter Deadline!**
6:00 PM – Youth Christmas Program
Dec. 14 10:00-11:30 AM – Manna for Moms (Lighthouse)
5:00 PM – Worship Team (library)
6:30 PM – Peru Team (library)
Dec. 18 6:00 PM – Church Council
Dec. 19 5:30 PM – Prayer Team (library)
Dec. 20 9:00 AM – Morning Circle (library)
Dec. 21 5:30 PM – Grief Support Group (old choir room)
Dec. 23 **No Worship Service!**
Dec. 24 **10:00 AM** – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship
4:00 PM – Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship
7:00 PM – Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship
Dec. 25-Jan. 1 **Office Closed!**
Dec. 27-31 High School Ski Trip
Dec. 30 7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship & Healing
Dec. 31 **10:00 AM** – Holy Communion Worship & Healing

Dear Members and Friends of St Paul Lutheran, Columbus, Texas;

It's the beginning of a new Church year with the season of Advent. Each season of the church year has meaning and purpose to help us amid the challenges of life and the anticipation of what is to come.

Advent itself has been recognized as early as the late 300's AD. However, the concept of the Advent wreath originated among German Lutherans in the 16th Century. It was not until three centuries later that the modern Advent wreath took shape. The modern Advent wreath, with its candles representing the Sundays of Advent, originated from an 1839 initiative by Johann Hinrich Wichern, a Protestant pastor in Germany and a pioneer in urban mission work among the poor. In view of the impatience of the children he taught as they awaited Christmas, he made a ring of wood, with nineteen small red tapers and four large white candles. Every morning a small candle was lit, and every Sunday a large candle. Custom has retained only the large candles.

The wreath crown is traditionally made of fir tree branches knotted with a red ribbon and decorated with pinecones, holly, laurel, and sometimes mistletoe. It is also an ancient symbol signifying several things; first of all, the crown symbolizes victory, in addition to its round form evoking the sun and its return each year. The number four represents the four Sundays of Advent, and the green twigs are a sign of life and hope. The fir tree is a symbol of strength and laurel a symbol of victory over sin and suffering. The latter two, with the holly, do not lose their leaves, and thus represent the eternity of God. The flames of candles are the representation of the Christmas light approaching and bringing hope and peace, as well as the symbol of the struggle against darkness. For Christians, this crown is also the symbol of Christ the King, the holly recalling the crown of thorns resting on the head of Christ.

The first printed Advent calendar was created in 1908 by a German named Gerhard Lang. As a boy, his mom would sew twenty-four cookies onto the lid of a box. Each day of December, he ate a cookie. This tradition inspired him to create a calendar entitled, "In the Land of the Christ Child." Today, Advent calendars are a popular tool for families to count down the days until Christmas. Many of them have a little chocolate behind the day.

As we count down the days to Christmas, let us remember the anticipation of celebration that comes at Christmas and the celebration that will be, when Jesus returns to make all things new. May you find time in this busy season to reflect on what God did by coming into human existence, taking on human flesh and teaching us about the love of the Father.

Blessed Christmas prayers for you and a Happy New Year as we look forward to new beginnings in the new year.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and a trailing flourish.

Pastor Alan Kethan
Sr. Pastor

Dorothy Wicke by: Janet Wienken
August Henry Jones, Sr. by: Janet Wienken
Rodney “Whitey” Robb by: Mike & Gerri Hackfeld; David & Sharon Johnson
Ronnie Rogers by: David & Sharon Johnson
Verne John by: David & Sharon Johnson
Edward Faldyn by: David & Sharon Johnson
Leroy Hajdik by: Nelma & Glen Strey; Todd & Wanda Freeze and family
Arlen Brune by: The Klump Family

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With Sympathy

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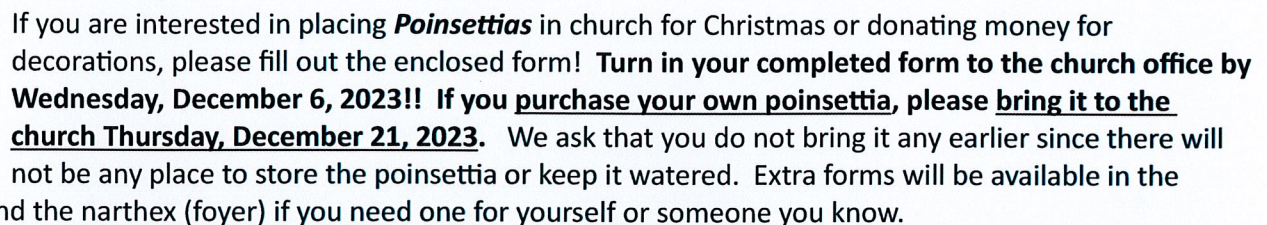
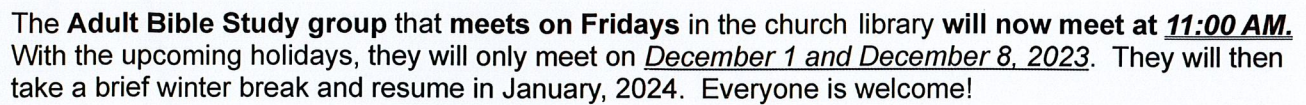
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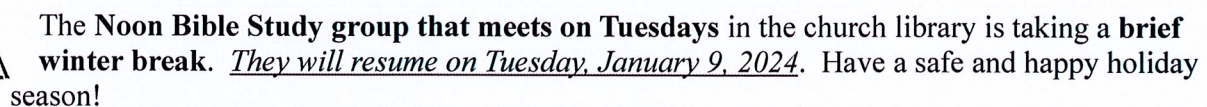
Thank You! 

**** Church Council Nominations:** If you are interested in serving on the Church Council, please **email a brief bio of yourself** to Elena Holub at admin@splctx.org **as soon as you can**. Your bio should include, but not be limited to, how long you have been a member of St. Paul, ministry teams you have served on, the reason you want to serve and a brief background description. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Sirois (979-732-1920), Shelley Janik, Bradley Polasek, Lora Kuenstler, or Edna Bergfeld. ******



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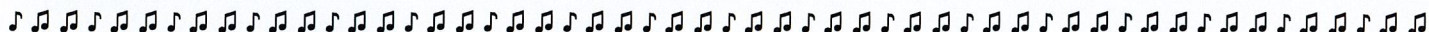
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Musicians Wanted for Praise Band!! The St. Paul Praise Band is in need of a keyboard player. They would also like to add at least one electric guitarist and a bass guitarist. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Tracy Baker at 713-516-8017.

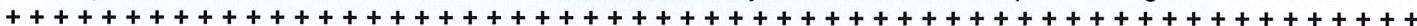


The **Mowing Team** is looking for more people to help mow the interior church lawn. Typically it takes an hour and a half, or less, to mow and edge. Please call John Brasher at 979-253-1448 if you are interested or if you have any questions.

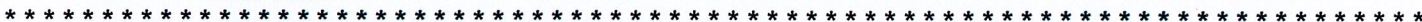


PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE!!

Saturday, December 2 –	7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship
Sunday, December 3 –	9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship
	11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship
Saturday, December 9 –	7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship
Sunday, December 10 –	9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship
	11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship
Wednesday, December 13 –	6:00 PM – Youth Christmas Program
Saturday, December 16 –	7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship
Sunday, December 17 –	9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship
	11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship
Saturday, December 23 –	No Worship Service!
Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) –	10:00 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship
	4:00 PM – Holy Communion & Candlelight Worship
	7:00 PM – Holy Communion & Candlelight Worship
Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day) –	No Worship Service!
Saturday, December 30 –	7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship & Healing
Sunday, December 31 –	10:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship & Healing



The church office will be closed for the holidays the week of **December 25-29, 2023 as well as Monday, January 1, 2024.** We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!



ATTENTION!! ANNUAL REPORTS of various Ministry Teams and organizations are due in the church office by Wednesday, January 3, 2024!! These need to be compiled for our regular congregational Annual Report for our annual meeting to be held January 28, 2024.

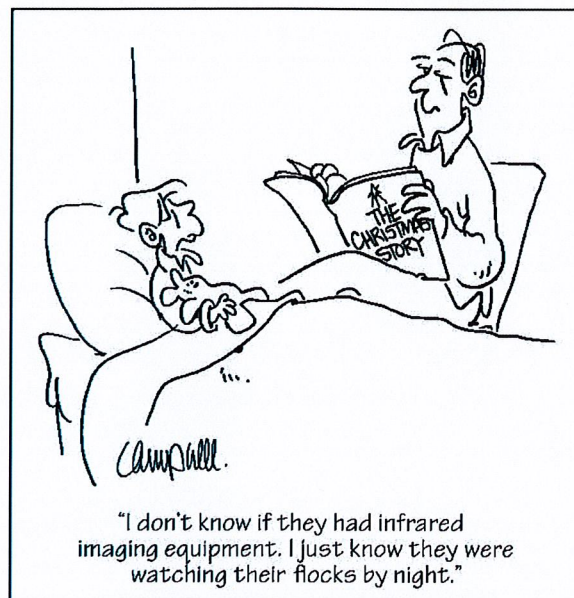


Church records constantly need updating. Please contact the church office if your name has inadvertently been omitted from the birthday, baptism anniversary, or wedding anniversary lists. Remember to include the year as well as month and day. Also, please notify the office of any changes to your mailing address or telephone numbers. You can contact the church office by calling 979-732-2423 or by emailing admin@splctx.org. Your help in correcting and updating the church records is greatly appreciated. *Thank you!*



December Wedding Anniversaries:

Douglas & Barbara Martinek	Dec. 2	Peggy & Carl Geisler	Dec. 17
Seth & Courtney Smith	Dec. 4	Brooke & Eugene Shorter	Dec. 17
James & Shelley Janik	Dec. 5	Randy & Judy Wendt	Dec. 18
Leonard & Earline Drumm	Dec. 9	Randy & Sandye Fletcher	Dec. 19
Walt & Cheryl Rognerud	Dec. 11	Leon & Verna Nell Dittmar	Dec. 21
Gary & Donna Schindler	Dec. 15	Barbara & David Blankenship	Dec. 27
Nelson & Kyndall Beettner	Dec. 16	Bob & Yvonne Lowe	Dec. 28
Pam & Steve Evans	Dec. 16	Stephen & Aerial Appelt	Dec. 29
Arnie & Kathy Hageman	Dec. 16	Mike & Gerri Hackfeld	Dec. 29
Michael & Donna Maas	Dec. 16	Byron & Rebecca Marburger	Dec. 29
Stacie & David Wicke	Dec. 16	Joe & Hope Schindler	Dec. 30



BENEVOLENCE FOR MONTH OF October, 2023 OFFERINGS:

Our offerings were \$64,662.00 and 10% of that (\$6,466.00) was used to support God's work.

5% went to the Synod for larger church work \$3,233.00

5% went to local & other ministries which were:

Lutherhill	\$ 100.00
Central African Republic (CAR)	\$ 200.00
Dina Anton, Missionary Support	\$ 200.00
UPBRING New Life Children Center	\$ 100.00
Colorado County Mental Health Fund	\$ 100.00
Camino de Santidad	\$ 100.00
Columbus Food Pantry	\$ 500.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 233.00
Poor/Local Emergencies	\$ 200.00
Lutheran Bible Translators	\$ 200.00
Meals to Heal	\$ 300.00
Peru Support	\$ 500.00
Wartburg Seminary Latin Leaders	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
	\$3,233.00

TOTAL for October 31, 2023 **\$6,466.00**



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



I would like to donate towards the purchase of Christmas decorations in the amount of \$_____.

This donation is made:

in memory of: _____

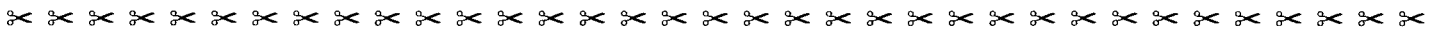
in honor of: _____

and is placed by: _____

Please enclose a check for the above amount made payable to

St. Paul Lutheran Church. Be sure to write "Christmas Decorations" on the memo line. Thank you!

DEADLINE TO RETURN FORM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE IS WED., DECEMBER 6, 2023!



If you would like to place a poinsettia in church for Christmas, you are responsible for purchasing your own flower.

PLEASE BRING YOUR POINSETTIA TO THE CHURCH
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023.

In order to have your name in the bulletin, please fill out the following information and have it in the church office **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023.**

I plan to place a POINSETTIA in church for CHRISTMAS:

Name: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Please return this form to the church office no later than Wednesday, December 6, 2023!!

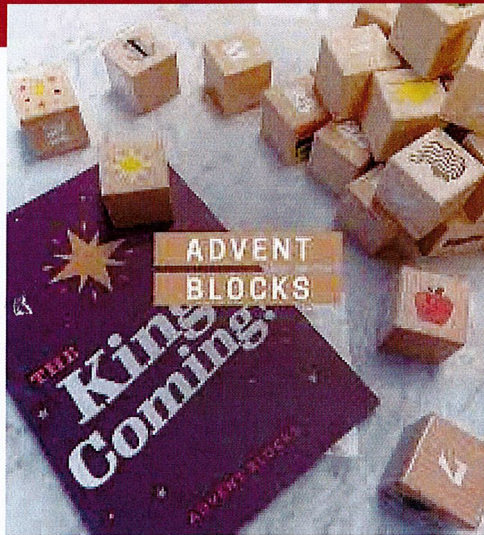
St. Paul Lutheran Youth

December Newsletter

"A Christmas Story" Wednesday, December 13 at 6pm

This year's Christmas Program will be narrated by a poem read by children highlighting parts of the Christmas Story. Children will dress the part and perform Christmas songs to get us into the spirit. Everyone is invited to join us on Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 6pm in the sanctuary. Following the play all are invited to the Lighthouse for cookies and punch.

Merry Christmas!

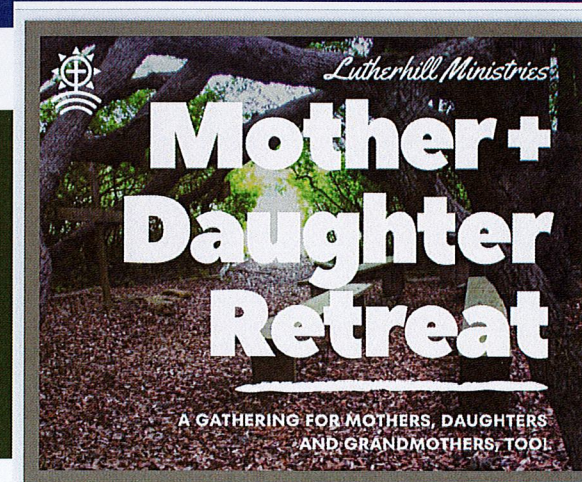


Advent Blocks

Advent Blocks are again available for purchase. These blocks are a tangible, meaningful practice to help kids and parents anticipate Jesus' presence not just presents. Advent Blocks walk you through the Season of Advent. Each day you read a story and turn the number block to reveal an image that corresponds with the day's story. Move the Star Block one step closer to the Earth Block: God is coming to earth to stay. They will be available for purchase during BLAST or from the church office. Cost is \$22 per set and make a great gift or practice for your home. Advent starts Sunday, December 3 so grab yours before then. For more info contact Stephanie @ 732-1858.

Mother/Daughter Retreat @ Lutherhill January 19-21, 2023

Enjoy a weekend away as you invest in your relationships and have some fun! Create incredible memories with all the women in your life-whether that's your mother or daughter, your grandmother, aunt, or God-mother. Sing songs around the campfire, cheer each other on at the ropes course, and connect with other faithful women, too. Register at Lutherhill.org.





Spreading the Love During Thanksgiving

During September and October Blast students decorated bags used for the Columbus Food Pantry distribution. They were used for the Thanksgiving distribution in November. Thank you students for sharing your talent and kind words with our community. They were well received.



Youth & Education Holiday Calendar

Dec. 6: Dress Rehearsal during BLAST

Dec. 13: Pizza Party 5pm/ Christmas Play 6pm/ Punch & Cookies following

Dec. 20: No BLAST

Dec. 24: Candlelight Service 4pm & 7pm

Dec. 25: Merry Christmas!!

Dec. 27: No BLAST/ High School Leaves on Ski Trip

Dec. 31: High School returns from Ski Trip

Jan. 3: No BLAST

Jan. 10: Welcome Back to BLAST!

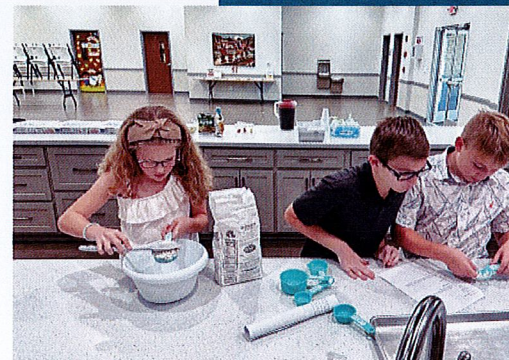


Congratulations!

Congratulations to Harlie Lewis, Addison Bookout, Mitchell Bookout, Mattie Clem, Camdin Barten and Beau Kuenstler on completing communion instruction and taking communions together for the first time as a class. We hope you are always reminded of God's love & forgiveness you receive through the body & blood of Jesus Christ.

Thank you 

To all who purchased tickets and donated to the Pulled Pork Baked Potato Fundraiser! We raised over \$5,000!



++ Outreach Ministries – December, 2023 ++



** Neighboring News **

Neighbor-to-Neighbor will meet to pack and deliver Christmas on **Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 1:30 PM** in the church library. Come check us out!

If you are interested in this program and would like more information, please contact Peggy Geisler at (979)-732-0350.

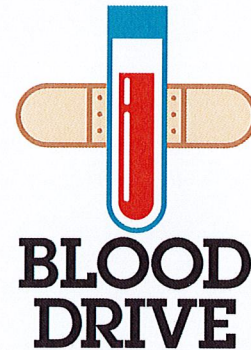


Our next Peru Team meeting will be **Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 6:30 PM** in the **church library**. Join us to hear what is going on with our sister congregations in Peru and get in on the planning stages of our 2024 trip. Questions? Contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127.



Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group is for anyone who has lost a loved one, either recently or a few years ago. We share and support each other. Come join us and get support from others walking this journey. We meet at **5:30 PM** in the youth room (formerly the choir room) the **third Thursday of the month**. Our next meeting will be Thursday, December 21, 2023. **NOTE:** You do not have to share or talk until you are ready! If you have questions, please contact Peggy Geisler at 979-732-0350.



Please donate blood at our last blood drive of 2023. During the holidays, the demand for blood increases. **St. Paul's blood drive is Sunday, December 3, 2023 from 8:00 AM- 12:30 PM in the Lighthouse.** All donors get a free gift! Sign up with the QR code on the poster or go to https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/353849. When signing up, please use **sponsor code P732**. You may also contact Melinda Zajicek at 979-820-8793, and she will get you signed up. *If you are interested in helping with this event, please let Melinda know.*



DECEMBER, 2023



USHERS, LAY READERS,
ACOLYTES, STREAMING
AND ALTAR FLOWERS



DATE	USHERS	LAY READERS	ACOLYTES	STREAMING	FLOWERS
Sat., Dec. 2, 7:00 PM	Kenny & JoAnn Venghaus; Janeen Venghaus; Emily Frank	JoAnn Venghaus			Arnie & Kathy Hagemann Additional Flowers: Virginia Fritsch
Sun., Dec. 3, 9:00 AM	Curtiss Schonenberg; DyAnn Lauzon; Marilyn Yearwood	David Johnson	Madison McRee	Tiffany Lauzon	
Sun., Dec. 3, 11:05 AM	Aaron & Amanda Oppermann; Loraine Gast; Adam Torres	Mike Hackfeld	Dylan Glueck	Mike Maas	
Sat., Dec. 9, 7:00 PM	Harvey Poenitzsch; Bob Poenitzsch; Audrey Rester	Rhanda Lattimore	Gracelyn Gorman		Laura Weido Additional Flowers: Elsie Kahlden
Sun., Dec. 10, 9:00 AM	Sonny & Tiffany Lauzon	Curtiss Schonenberg	Easton Leopold	Emily Brod	
Sun., Dec. 10, 11:05 AM	Gary & Donna Schindler	Terri Brasher	Hudson Muir	Kay Wesson	
Wed., Dec. 13, 6:00 PM Youth Christmas Program	Youth	Youth	Youth	(None Needed)	
Sat., Dec. 16, 7:00 PM	JoAnn Venghaus; Emily Frank; Sammy Cox	Audrey Rester	Henry Jones		Michael & Donna Maas
Sun., Dec. 17, 9:00 AM	Terrel & Robin Maertz; Ruth Bedford	Sharon Johnson	Callen Barten	Janel Barten	
Sun., Dec. 17, 11:05 AM	Bethany Guthmann; Sandy Cherniss; Fay & Thomas Ulbricht; Cindy Kahlden	Courtney Busselman	Berkley Anderson	Mike Maas	
Sat., Dec. 23, 7:00 PM	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service	Poinsettias
Sun., Dec. 24, 10:00 AM	Charleen Andrus; Darlene Ahlschlager; Brad Hajdik; Emily Brod	Deacon Barten			
Sun., Dec. 24, 4:00 PM Christmas Eve	Brent Gorman Family	Walter Guthmann, Jr.	Ericka Pesak	Brian Lighthill	
Sun., Dec. 24, 7:00 PM Christmas Eve	Kevin & Wendy Page; Ryan Thomas	Debbie Kethan	Elliot Polasek; Micah Polasek		
Mon., Dec. 25 Christmas Day	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service	
Sat., Dec. 30, 7:00 PM	Kenny & JoAnn Venghaus; Janeen Venghaus; Emily Frank	JoAnn Venghaus			Poinsettias
Sun., Dec. 31 10:00 AM	Mike & Gerri Hackfeld; Sandi Roensch	Ashlyn Pugh	Harlie Lewis	Kay Wesson	

December Altar Guild: JoAnn Venghaus, Belle Dungen and Emily Brod

December – 11:05 AM: Bethany Guthmann



JANUARY, 2024



USHERS, LAY READERS, ACOLYTES, STREAMING AND ALTAR FLOWERS



DATE	USHERS	LAY READERS	ACOLYTES	STREAMING	FLOWERS
Sat., Jan. 6, 7:00 PM	Harvey Poenitzsch; Bob Poenitzsch; Audrey Rester	Rhanda Lattimore			
Sun., Jan. 7, 9:00 AM	Curtiss Schonenberg; DyAnn Lauzon; Marilyn Yearwood	Phil Schmitt			
Sun., Jan. 7, 11:05 AM	John, Terri & Chase Brasher	Wendy Page			
Sat., Jan. 13, 7:00 PM	Kenny & JoAnn Venghaus; Janeen Venghaus; Emily Frank	Pastor John Hunsicker			
Sun., Jan. 14, 9:00 AM	Sonny & Tiffany Lauzon	Curtiss Schonenberg			
Sun., Jan. 14, 11:05 AM	Aaron & Amanda Oppermann; Loraine Gast; Adam Torres	Ashlyn Pugh			
Sat., Jan. 20, 7:00 PM	JoAnn Venghaus; Emily Frank; Sammy Cox	JoAnn Venghaus			
Sun., Jan. 21, 9:00 AM	Terrel & Robin Maertz; Ruth Bedford	David Johnson			
Sun., Jan. 21, 11:05 AM	Bethany Guthmann; Sandy Cherniss; Fay & Thomas Ulbricht	Courtney Busselman			
Sat., Jan. 27, 7:00 PM	Brent Gorman Family	Brent Gorman, Sr.			
Sun., Jan. 28, 10:00 AM Annual Meeting	Gary & Donna Schindler; Cindy Kahlden	Deacon Barten			



January Altar Guild: Janeen "Tootsie" Venghaus and Kelly Zajicek
January – 11:05 AM: Peggy Geisler