

DECEMBER 2024
The magazine of St. Paul Lutheran Church

journey



December readiness



ON THE COVER:
Homemade Christmas
cards (see pages 8-9)

journey

DECEMBER 2024

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MISSION

St. Paul Lutheran Church is a faith community, shaped around five core values: radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith formation, courageous service, extravagant generosity.

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POSTMASTER

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One Saturday last month was yardwork day at the Niethammer house. My wife Malie mowed the lawn a few times to get the leaves chopped up as finely as possible and in nice, easily raked rows; Julia and Miles reluctantly picked up the hosta cuttings; up on a ladder, I removed leaves and gunk from the gutters; and our little Bluetooth speaker blasted my favorite “get pumped” playlist.

It was a satisfying day of work. The yard looked wonderful, and we were ready for winter. I think that was our way of emotionally transitioning to a new season, and it is no coincidence that I started listening to Christmas music that afternoon.

I think you all know what I discovered the next day. Upon returning home from an amazing day of worship, it looked like we hadn’t done a thing in the yard. The driveway had already disappeared under a blanket of rogue leaves. The yard too, not lovely green but dull orange. And just to rub salt in the wound, the giant silver maple tree in the front yard doesn’t look like it has shed any leaves yet.

This is the autumnal liturgy in many of our lives in a northern climate, isn’t it? It always includes preparing for something we cannot predict so that some future version of ourselves can be at ease knowing that we were fully prepared for the change in season.

Most years, this is how I find myself approaching the celebrations of Christmas. Advent invites us to prepare ourselves for the coming Messiah, signs and decorations implore us to hope, joy, love, peace and other nice but often vague words.

I attempt to become more loving until I get cut off in traffic. I begin to hope for some big and profound changes to humanity’s interactions and then I open an internet browser. All of my efforts are negated it seems.

Preparing for the birth of salvation, God With Us, isn’t an easy thing. It is full of starts and stops as well as a reorientation of our hearts and minds. At the end of the Advent season though, Jesus is going

to be born; whether we are ready for it or not, whether the house is cleaned, the leaves raked and bagged, whether we want it or not, God is going to come to us again. I think of those shepherds in the gospel stories, they didn’t have time to get ready.

An angel appeared, gave them direction, and they went. Their true selves, not the best versions, not the cleaned-up and ready versions.

This is the grace of God in our lives. It comes even though all of us are still works in progress at various levels of not-yet-ready. Give yourselves some grace this season. Look for hope and joy and when you get disappointed, start again. Divine Love is coming and has already come. All we can possibly do is receive it, whether we are ready or not!

MARK NIETHAMMER
senior pastor



GO OUT WITH joy

St. Paul people: Have you pledged?

2024 Offerings

Our offerings are critically important for the financial health of our congregation. Every offering we make adds to the goodness of what we can accomplish. Thanks for making St. Paul a priority in your life.

Pledging for 2025

The St. Paul expectation is that every member make a financial pledge commitment – a faith promise of what you believe you can give to support the ministry of the congregation. Please make every effort to turn in your pledge card for 2025. Extra cards are available at church. Or, save time by making your pledge electronically at stpaulqc.org/pledge or by scanning the QR code. Online pledges are completely confidential.



Year-end giving

You should have recently received a statement of your giving through October 31. To be credited to 2024 giving statements, all offerings must be received in the offering baskets, in the lock box in the receptionist desk area of the main office by Tuesday, Dec. 31, or postmarked/initiated online by Dec. 31. Any gifts received after these dates will be included on 2025 giving statements.

Gratitude

Thank you for your gifts of gratitude to St. Paul all year long. The Christ-centered mission and ministries of St. Paul depend entirely on the giving and pledges of every single household. Our pledged giving for 2025 make possible St. Paul's expanding mission character, staffing, and ministry vision. Thank you for your generosity.

Have a question about pledging or stewardship? Contact Marcia Robertson, giving ministry coordinator, 563-326-3547 ext. 218, marcia@stpaulqc.org.

Experiencing joy together

"When we were working (Ellen as a recruiter for Genesis Health System and Charlie as an educator, coach, principal, and then superintendent of Wheatland Community School District), our professions kept us busy. Now, being retired since 2011, we get to experience everything together and that gives us such joy. Joy is connecting with others— neighbors, friends, students —and seeing how they've grown as people.

Ellen always has a positive attitude and sees the good in people and outcomes. It's easy for her to smile. After dealing with some health issues, just waking up every morning with my wife, and feeling strong and healthy, makes me joyful."

— Charlie Freese

"Charlie demonstrates quiet strength. I never have to worry because this strength is a constant and makes me feel safe. He has quiet ways of showing care and concern for those around him. He puts so many people before himself. He practiced this often when working with children and staff in the schools. We find ourselves very fulfilled when we help others.

When we step foot in this church, the joy inside these walls radiates. The people of St. Paul smile. They extend themselves to help others feel welcome and comfortable. We came to St. Paul not knowing anyone and we feel like we're in a church family now." — Ellen Freese



december

HAPPENINGS



Upcoming concerts: Tidings of comfort & joy

Talented ensembles and acclaimed choral performances. Music events are a gift from St. Paul to the community, welcoming area music lovers.

► **A Nova Christmas | Friday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.**

The Nova Singers' Christmas concert is an annual tradition at St. Paul. The sanctuary blooms with songs of the season, thanks to this nationally-known vocal ensemble. Tickets available at novasingers.com and at the door.

► **QCSO Holiday Brass Concert | Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 p.m.**

Ring in the holiday season with the Quad City Symphony Orchestra brass and percussion sections and St. Paul organist Chris Nelson. The concert includes uplifting selections of classical and holiday favorites. Tickets are available online at qcsso.org.

► **Big River Brass Band Holiday Concert | Sunday, Dec. 22, 3 p.m.**

Join the Big River Brass Band for an afternoon of your favorite holiday classics, featuring St. Paul organist Chris Nelson. The concert is free (donations accepted).

► **Choirs for Christmas | Dec. 21-25, various times**

Choirs and ensembles from all across the Quad Cities recorded in the St. Paul Sanctuary for a KWQC program called *Choirs for Christmas* to air the week of Christmas.

Summer 2025 Youth Mission Trip

This coming summer, St. Paul youth travel to St. Louis, Mo. for the annual summer mission trip. The trip dates are July 6-11, 2025. This service trip is for students going into ninth grade in the fall of 2025 through students who have just finished 12th grade. An informational meeting will be held in January to discuss more details. Contact: Ellie Lindmark, ellie@stpaulqc.org.

The Book Corner shines for Advent

The St. Paul bookstore glows with the season. Displays are freshened with gift-giving in mind. Most gifts come from organizations committed to global justice and fair trade. Come and see! You'll find Advent calendars and devotional booklets for all ages. In addition to Sunday mornings, the Book Corner has expanded its hours for the season to include Wednesdays, 5:30-7 p.m., and Saturdays, 4:30-6 p.m.

The St. Paul Book Corner has new selections for adults and children on the shelves. Every book is carefully selected by St. Paul pastors, staff, and avid St. Paul readers. Books are priced below retail, without sales tax. Some recommendations include:

- *You are Part of the Wonder* by Ruth Doyle
- *A Soft Place to Land* by Janae Marks
- *Remaking the Space Between Us* by Diana McLain Smith
- *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson



Radio broadcast moves online

For many years, the St. Paul radio broadcast could be heard on the airwaves every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. on WOC Radio. This outreach has blessed many older and homebound members. With the creation of the St. Paul podcast more than three years ago, the way to listen to worship services is changing slightly. Instead of tuning in on Sunday mornings at exactly 8:30 a.m., you can listen anytime to the previous week's sermon, music selections, and a reflection from a St. Paul pastor. New episodes premiere every Thursday at 1:30 p.m. The broadcast can be found wherever you listen to podcasts, on the St. Paul website, and social media pages. Contact: Jessica Taylor, jessica@stpaulqc.org.

Counselor services available

If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed, holiday-fatigued, or just need a listening ear, reach out to staff counselor, Steve Kalber. His services are free of charge to the St. Paul community. Contact Steve at 563-326-3547, ext. 312 or steve@stpaulqc.org.

Where do we go next? An open forum about the outward-facing ministries of St. Paul

Since the closing of Madison Market this summer, St. Paul leadership has spent time connecting with others, listening intently to the neighborhood, and discerning where St. Paul may be needed most. Food, housing, mental health; all are vitally important focuses of the St. Paul mission. On Sunday, Dec. 8, 10:15-11 a.m., an open forum will be held in the Luther Loft to reflect on, brainstorm, and discuss possible future opportunities for St. Paul ministries. Contact Mark Niethammer, mark@stpaulqc.org.

Privacy Changes in the Membership Photo Directory

The membership photo directory serves as a quick and easy method for you to feel the spirit of your church community at home and on the go. It is open to all St. Paul members who wish to participate. If you would like others in the membership photo directory to view any additional contact information beyond your email address (address, phone number, etc.), please contact Jessica Taylor to make those changes, jessica@stpaulqc.org. Your information is only viewable by others in the directory. No one outside of the directory has access to your contact information.

Please note: Any and all contact information is private and available for personal use only. This information should not be used to solicit members for any business not directly related to St. Paul Lutheran Church ministries.

Thank you for feeding the community!

Thank you to the families and St. Paul people who generously donated food, hygiene, feminine, and baby products for the fall Thanksgiving ingathering. The Friendly House helped fill Thanksgiving baskets to feed families for the holidays and beyond.

St. Paul is routinely blessed by donations from the congregation and community, and we want to continue to give back to all who are in need. If you or your family struggle with food insecurity, please reach out to one of the pastors. Your request will be handled confidentially. Contact: Jessica Taylor, jessica@stpaulqc.org.



Christmas poinsettias decorate the Sanctuary

Christmas poinsettias decorate the front of the Sanctuary as Christmas approaches. If you would like to donate a plant in memory or in honor of a loved one, orders may be placed in the church office or by mail no later than Sunday, Dec. 8. The cost for each plant is \$10. Forms are available at the Info Center. Please complete the form and drop it with payment attached in the lock box marked by a poinsettia across from the receptionist's desk. Contact: MacKenzie Griffin, mackenzie@stpaulqc.org.

Advent family learning

On Sunday, Dec. 1, 10:15-11 a.m., families gather to kick off the Advent season with an Advent lesson, carols, and a family craft activity. This event will take the place of regular Sunday-morning learning for kids and youth.

Intentional time together turns our focus toward the wonder of Jesus' birth. Meet in Fellowship Hall. No need to sign up — just come! Contact Maddy Carroll, maddy@stpaulqc.org.





Advent

*BEGINNING THE WEEKEND
OF NOV. 30 & DEC. 1*

Week by week, we'll prepare our hearts for Christ's birth with melodies that crescendo in hope and expectancy, and with candles that pierce the darkness.



Choral Advent Worship

Sunday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m.

Let the glories of song and an intergenerational gathering of St. Paul choirs carry you into the beauty of the Advent season at the 9 a.m. worship service. From preschool choristers to adults, Choral Advent Sunday is a joyful tradition for preparing the way for Jesus' birth and a magnificent day to invite others into our church home. Communion will not be served at this service.

Blue Christmas Worship

Friday, Dec. 20, 6 p.m.

This quiet service of longing and hope is designed for those who don't feel like celebrating. During the holidays, grief, illness, and loneliness can be magnified. Blue Christmas acknowledges pain and longing, while offering hope and comfort for the broken-hearted. Counselors will be available at the reception following the service.



Children's Christmas Pageant

Angels, shepherds, sheep, and bright shining stars gather at the manger on Sunday, Dec. 15, 10:15 a.m. The Christmas Pageant blends the voices and sweet anticipation of the children of St. Paul, age four to grade six.

The congregation is warmly invited to gather in Fellowship Hall for this annual delight. Contact: Maddy Carroll, maddy@stpaulqc.org.

Youth Advent Events

Shopping for Empowering Abilities: On Sunday, Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m., high schoolers gather at Target to shop for Christmas gifts for residents of Empowering Abilities (formerly the Handicapped Development Center). Bring \$5-\$10 to share if able. Students gather at church afterward to wrap gifts and worship through music, camp style. Contact: Ellie Lindmark, ellie@stpaulqc.org.

Christmas Party & Caroling: On Sunday, Dec. 15, high schoolers meet at church at 4:30 p.m. for a pizza party and white elephant gift exchange. Following the Christmas party, students in grades 6-12, along with family and friends, are invited to come together for an evening of Christmas caroling around the community from 6-8 p.m. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Ellie Lindmark, ellie@stpaulqc.org.

Gingerbread House Building: High school youth gather on Sunday, Dec. 22, 6:30 p.m. to create Bible-story gingerbread houses. Bring candy to share and a spirit for friendly competition. Contact: Ellie Lindmark, ellie@stpaulqc.org.





Christmas Eve

TUESDAY, DEC. 24.

Come celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

12 p.m. | Holy Communion & Carols

All the glory of Christmas Eve at noontime. Scripture and hymns tell the story of this holy night. *Pastor Mark Niethammer preaching.*

2 p.m. | Holy Communion & Carols

All the glory of Christmas Eve in an early-afternoon option. Scripture and hymns tell the story of this holy night. *Pastor Mark Niethammer preaching.*

4 p.m. | A Children's Christmas Eve

A service focused toward children, with traditional carols and a lively children's message. Children and youth choirs sing. Kids are invited to play a short Christmas piece on the piano as part of the pre-service music. Interested in playing? Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.

6 p.m. | Holy Communion with Open Spirit

The Open Spirit ensemble leads Christmas singing with a contemporary flair. *Pastor Mark Niethammer preaching.*

8 p.m. | A Service of Lessons & Carols

Music by the Chorale with candlelight. *Pastor Mark Niethammer preaching.*


10 p.m. | Candlelight Holy Communion

The evening concludes with *Silent Night*, strings, a darkened Sanctuary, and worshipers' candles. *Pastor Mark Niethammer preaching.*

Holy Communion is served at the 12, 2, 6, and 10 p.m. services on Christmas Eve.

Childcare: The nursing moms' room is open with toys and childcare supplies. Child-care staff have the day off. Children are always welcome in worship.

Christmas Eve parking: In addition to St. Paul lots & side streets, Madison School lots across Brady Street are available. Observe extra care when crossing Brady Street. A St. Paul shuttle will be making the rounds to help transport folks back and forth.



Open to being a Christmas greeter?

Welcoming people into the warmth of St. Paul on Christmas Eve is a joyous experience. Would you be willing to spread some Christmas joy for about 30 to 45 minutes before a particular worship service?

Please contact Jennifer Garvey, 563-326-3547, jennifer@stpaulqc.org.

Decorate a community Christmas Tree

Dec. 7 & 8 and Dec. 14 & 15

All are invited to decorate a special ornament to hang on our community Christmas tree! Bring your creativity and personal touch to help make this year's tree truly unique.

Located in the Elevator Commons, a table will be set up in early December with supplies to create your own ornament. Come share in the festive fun and leave your mark on this new holiday tradition with your beautifully crafted decoration!

Handmade

FROM THE HEART

A thoughtful note, a card, a gift lifts the spirit. Whether recovering from surgery, celebrating a birthday, or a big event, knowing someone is thinking of you is a balm for the soul. When it comes time to wish others well, these St. Paul people create their words of sympathy, healing, and love from scratch. No two cards are the same and it's the touch of personalization that makes them even more special.



Shirley's crafty creations

Shirley Monkman began making her own greeting cards more than 30 years ago and hasn't purchased a card in stores ever since. She bought her first stamps – one a small bear and another with three penguins – in 1982 while living in California. She mailed her first cards to her daughters in college but little did she know just how her hobby would expand.

"My husband Doug was in the military so we moved around a lot. In the 80s, while living in California, I was looking for a hobby. My daughters were in college back in the Midwest so I decided to make cards to send to them. It was just a plain card and I used some stamps to decorate them,"

Shirley said. "My cardmaking skills have developed over time. The cards started fairly plain and traditional until I attended a cardmaking class called Stampin' Up. Once a month, for the past 20 years, I've attended those classes and been inspired by what I've learned from the instructor. The cards have developed into what they are today because of them."

Z fold, shaker cards, stand-up cards, and other designs give cards a unique look. Shirley's creativity abounds and she's creating memories for her family members that will last for years.

"While I make cards for all occasions, my favorite is making them for kids. I send an Easter card to my 11-year-old great-niece and her brother every year. Sometimes they're a challenge too. I try to find something to make for the kids that's unique to them," Shirley said. "They appreciate them. They say, 'I wonder what Aunt Shirley is going to send us this time.' Two months ago, my granddaughter moved away from home. I've been sending her a card every week. It's the only mail she gets. She picks up her mail each Wednesday from her apartment complex and texts me a picture of the card. I think it makes her feel closer to home."

It's not just cards that Shirley gifts these days. She makes her own dishcloths and scrapbooks and creates beautiful memories for her family through personalized, handmade calendars each Christmas.

The Arps' artful designs

Nothing says 'congratulations' like a handmade graduation card. And it's an added bonus if it comes from your elementary school teachers. That's just how Steve and Cheryl Arp started making their own cards.

Steve and Cheryl, now both retired, were elementary school teachers in the Eldridge and Long Grove area. As their former students began to graduate from high school, the Arps wanted to celebrate the students they watched grow up.

"We started by making graduation cards for the students we had had as third and fourth graders or other kids we knew through their families," Steve said. "Some years we create quite a few cards."





That practice slowly grew and grew, expanding to cards of encouragement, get well soon, thinking of you, and just because. The two now have a list of people who receive regular, sometimes weekly, cards from the Arps.

"Growing up in the Eldridge area, we know quite a few people. We would hear when someone had an illness or was working through a difficult situation," Cheryl said. "There is often little more you can do to help in that situation than to let them know you're thinking of them."

Cheryl uses a Hallmark computer program to help her find templates for the cards, then she personalizes each individual card for the recipient. Steve is the resources guy, purchasing all the supplies needed to outfit their card-making enterprise.

One of Cheryl's favorite cards to create was a 'You Can Do It' card. A friend was working the Weight Watchers program, and after a rather less-than-encouraging week, Cheryl made her a card to lift her spirits. 'We're happy for you and are proud of your hard work,' the card said.

"My friend and I had talked about ways to look beyond the scale when changing eating habits so on the card I listed all the ways we talked about to remind her that even on difficult days, she's doing a great job and to keep going," Cheryl said. "The card made a big impact on her and touched her heart. She took it to her next Weight Watchers meeting."

A card in the mail can perk up anyone's day and knowing that someone was

thinking of you can make all the difference in someone's journey.

Handmade from the heart by Jan

Retirement and crafting as a hobby seem to be a theme and it was no different for Jan Schweer. When she retired in 2012, she and a friend decided to try something new and enrolled in the Stampin' Up card-making class. More than ten years later, Jan and her friend are still creating beautifully crafted cards.

"I could sit there all day and make cards. Some cards I spend more than 30 minutes on the design. I could work eight hours straight and not even get up to eat. That's how focused I get and how much I love it," Jan said. "It brings me so much joy that I can maybe make someone smile. When I get a card, it makes me smile and I hope it brings others joy as well."

Many of Jan's cards are sent to hospice patients to brighten their days. Each month, Jan sends about 30-35 cards to patients in hospice care.

"My husband Jay heard volunteers were needed to visit hospice patients and I immediately volunteered. I usually visit one or two a month. I enjoy visiting the people but, I also like to send these handmade cards to hospice patients as well," Jan said. "I try to theme the cards for each month. For instance, if it's Halloween, I'll make something with pumpkins. Recently, a daughter sent me a nice note. I had mailed her mother a fall-themed card with leaves



on the cover. The daughter wrote 'The card you sent was my mother's last card. I had just taken her for a ride to see the leaves and then she got that card. It meant a lot to her.'

Sharing these special cards with her family means a lot to Jan as well.

"Sometimes I'll send my daughter a card out of the blue just to let her know I'm thinking of her. Cardmaking is going to become a lost art," Jan said. "People don't give cards like they used to."

Jan seems to be able to make just about anything with paper. She crafts sticky note holders, pocket favors for holidays, and even likes to give handmade card sets as gifts.

"I tell people 'Don't worry about sending me a card,'" Jan said. "I get the privilege of sending these cards to others."

Learning for adults

In Sunday-morning learning, we seek to grow curiosity about the stuff of faith. You'll find an array of top-notch options for adult classes. Grab your cup of coffee and come on in.

► Dec. 1: The Year of Luke

Pastor Mark Niethammer

Advent is the beginning of a new church year and our Sunday gospel readings move from Mark's gospel to the Gospel of Luke. What was Luke's community like? What concerns led Luke to offer them "a well-ordered account" of what many others had already told? How do we read this gospel as good news for our time, that we, too, "may have a firm grasp of the words in which we have been instructed?" We will hear the gospel from Luke for a while; here's an opportunity to tune our ears to his melodies.

► Dec. 8: Women in Jesus' Genealogy

Dr. Judy Robinson, retired English professor

The first chapter of the New Testament, in Matthew's gospel, is a genealogical list of Jesus' ancestors. Several women are named there (unlike in Luke 3, which lists only men). Who are the women? What do they signify in the line of Jesus' descent? As readers enter Matthew's story of Jesus and as we move toward the festival of his birth, what can we learn from his spiritual heritage?

► Dec. 15: Children's Christmas Pageant

In lieu of learning on this Sunday, head to Fellowship Hall to watch angels, shepherds, sheep, and bright shining stars gather at the manger. The congregation is warmly invited to gather for this annual delight.

► Dec. 22: Jesus' Birth and Childhood Outside the Bible

Pastor Peter A. Pettit

Early church theologians knew of several gospel-like writings, not part of the New Testament, that include stories surrounding Jesus' birth and childhood. In the ways that they portray Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and others, they can teach us about the concerns of some Christian communities in the first few centuries. They also include amusing and, in some cases, disturbing images of the child who would grow up to be the Jesus of the New Testament.

► Coming up in 2025

The new year brings a fresh season of learning. Upcoming topics include religion in America today, relationship boundaries, the Church and America's racial legacy, artificial intelligence, a meet and greet with Pastor Maddy Tyler, and more!

Please note: Sunday morning learning for adults will not be held on Sunday, Dec. 29. Learning will resume in the new year on Sunday, Jan. 5.

New! Conversations of faith and culture

Beginning Jan. 9, 6-7:15 p.m., Library Commons

A new iteration of CC Conversations has arrived. Beginning on Jan. 9 and continuing on the first Thursday of each month following, join Pastor Mark for a discussion of select articles from the *Christian Century* magazine and other similar publications and blogs. Articles will be available in the library two weeks prior to each gathering. Contact Mark Niethammer, mark@stpaulqc.org.

Theology Pub

Thursday, Dec. 12, 6 p.m., Second Thursday of the month, In the Loft at Boozie's (114 W. Third St., Davenport)

At Theology Pub, every question is welcome, everyone is respected, nothing is out of bounds, and good food and drink nourish community and conversation. Each month a new topic gets our attention, together with whatever the gathered group brings. No sign-up necessary to attend and participate, but you can sign up to get on the topic email list by emailing Pastor Peter Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org.





CHRISTMAS LOVE from the St. Paul staff

Pictured: (top left to right) Lauren Brown, Laura Scott, Steve Kalber, Miles Thompson, Jessica Taylor, Chris Nelson, Mac Mullins, Marcia Robertson, Jennifer Garvey, Matt Spencer, Peter Pettit, Ellie Lindmark, Paul Caldwell, Sara Olson-Smith, Mark Niethammer, Katy Warren, Allison Winter, Karen Strusz, Kathy Becker, Mackenzie Griffin; (sitting left to right)

Maddy Carroll, Andrea Spencer, Teresa Keller, Karen Brooks **Not Pictured:** Jim Akright, Linda Allebach, Todd Byerly, Katie Casey, Pam Garrett, Brittany Guy, Sara Harless, Terry Haru, Larry Keller, Terry Ousley, Dan Pepper, Brian Schou, Dana Taylor, Margaret Thompson, Nathan Windt, and Joe Wollett.

2025 giving envelopes available mid-December

For those who have used envelopes in the past, the 2025 envelopes are expected to be available beginning mid- to late-December in the Elevator Commons. Please stop by and pick up your personalized box. Questions? Contact Laura Scott, laura@stpaulqc.org.

A word from St. Paul's council treasurer:

At St. Paul, we strive to show God's love in our lives and communities. Each and every day we work to share that love, and we're only able to do so thanks to the continued support of everyone in the congregation. Our \$3 million budget this year, driving everything from mission outreach to our tremendous staff, is possible because of your generosity. We are grateful for your faithful giving as we work to finish the year strong. Please feel my personal gratitude to you, the people of St. Paul, for your continued commitment and for every year-end gift. — Jenny Gosse

WORSHIP at St. Paul

► Nov. 30 & Dec. 1

First Sunday of Advent

Preaching:

5pm/9am: Katy Warren
8 & 11:15am: Mac Mullins

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► December 7 & 8

Second Sunday of Advent

Choral Advent, 9 a.m. worship

Preaching:

All Services: Mark Niethammer

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► December 14 & 15

Third Sunday of Advent

Preaching:

All Services: Sara Olson-Smith

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► December 21 & 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Preaching:

All Services: Katy Warren

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► December 28 & 29

First Sunday after Christmas

Preaching:

All services: Mac Mullins

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803



Christmas Eve

COME & WORSHIP

12~2~4~6~8~10 PM