

St. Paul's Epistle

From: St. Paul's Church Enola (stpaulschurchenola@163705962.mailchimpapp.com)

To: stpaulsenola@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 11:08 AM EST



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS: *It's still Christmas!*

January 2025

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I have to admit that this Christmas Eve was very, very different for me. Outside of the two years during the pandemic when I was leading worship via zoom either at home or in an empty sanctuary, I have never in my life missed worshipping on Christmas Eve. To be fair, I DID worship at home while watching St. Paul's live Facebook feed last week – for which I am VERY grateful! But because of illness, I was not there to lead worship this year, and I truly missed you all! I thank all of those who reached out to me to see how I was doing. As I am writing this on December 26, I can say I'm getting better but am not yet 100%. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers, and for the many Christmas cards I received this year!

There are so many other wonderful words and songs offered during the Christmas Eve service that I rarely preach a sermon of any kind. This year I had planned to share a meditation from the Iona Community in Scotland, from a publication entitled *Cloth for the Cradle*. Since we are still in the Christmas season (which lasts 12 days), I offer it as my wish for you this Christmas and into the new year.

When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came.

*You crept in beside us.
And no one knew.*

Only the few who dared to believe that God might do something different.

Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?

*Will you come into the darkness of tonight's world;
not the friendly darkness as when sleep rescues us from tiredness,
but the fearful darkness, in which people have stopped believing
that war will end, or that food will come, or that a government will change,
or that the Church cares?*

*Will you come into that darkness and do something different
to save your people from death and despair?*

*Will you come into the quietness of this town,
not the friendly quietness as when lovers hold hands,
but the fearful silence when the phone has not rung,
the letter has not come, the friendly voice no longer speaks,
the doctor's face says it all?*

*Will you come into that darkness, and do something different,
not to distract, but to embrace your people?
And will you come into the dark corners and the quiet places of our lives?
We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden or want to be,
but because the fullness our lives long for
depends upon us being as open and vulnerable to you
as you were to us, when you came,
wearing no more than diapers, and trusting human hands
to hold their maker.*

*Will you come into our lives, if we open them to you
and do something different?*

*When the world was dark and the city was quiet
you came.
You crept in beside us.*

*Do the same this Christmas, Lord.
Do the same this Christmas.
Amen.*

With joy for Christ's presence among us,
Pastor Gwenn Trout



January 12, 9am, Baptism of Our Lord
(Installation of Congregation Council)
January 19, 9am, Second Sunday of Epiphany
January 26, 9am, Third Sunday of Epiphany
February 2, 9am, Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
Click [HERE](#) to watch live.

Each Sunday's bulletin can be found on our
website (stpaulsenola.org) the week prior.

THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Jan 12 Baptism of Our Lord	Jan 19	Jan 26	Feb 2	Feb 9	Feb 16
Asst. Min.	Debbie L.	Nick C.	Keith G.	John F.	MaryJane	Nick C.
Lector	Seana M.	Phyllis A.	Wendy C.	McKenna S.	Seana M.	Emily B.
Musician	Micki K.	David B.	Deb R.	Micki K.	Micki K.	David B.
Ushers	Steve H. Drew K.	Steve. H. Drew K.	Steve H. Drew K.	Mike P. Darrell M.	Mike P. Darrell M.	Mike P. Darrell M.
Counters	Chris F. MaryJane	Chris F. Trudy G.	Chris F. MaryJane	Nick C. Judy C.	Nick C. MaryJane	Nick C. Trudy G.
Altar s/u	Keith	Amanda	Keith G.	Amanda	Keith G	Amanda B.
Altar c/u	MaryJane	MaryJane	Judy C.	MaryJane	Judy C.	MaryJane
Lock-up	Chris F.	Chris F.	Chris F.	Nick C.	Nick C.	Nick C.
Tech	Nick C. / Doug B.					

WE NEED YOU!

Interested in becoming involved with worship in any of the above ways? Training will be provided and you can help as often as you'd like. We particularly need people to set up and clean up communion.

THANK YOU to everyone who already helps each Sunday. It could not happen without this team of dedicated helpers!

Please contact Pastor Gwenn or Ann in the church office (stpaulsenola@yahoo.com or 717.697.9675) if you can help.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School: Join us in the upper Sunday school room for Adult Sunday School utilizing the book "If God is Love, Don't be a Jerk" by Jon Pavlovitz.

Children's Sunday School will be held on January 12, February 9 and March 9. Other dates will be announced once determined.

Pastoral Care: Please inform the church office and/or Pastor Gwenn when you or a loved one becomes a patient in the hospital or other health care facility. A phone call or text message to Pastor Gwenn (717-602-9913) will help us respond to you with pastoral care in a more timely manner.

MANY THANKS to Tim Morgan for his years of service on Council. Tim is chair of the property committee and we would be lost without his help and expertise, especially in this area!

Baptism: We rejoiced in the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Misty Rose Krammes on Sunday, December 29. Misty is the niece of Dan & Debbie Loope and they are her legal guardians. Misty's baptismal sponsor was Brittany Kyler. Welcome to this new sister in Christ!

New Members: In addition to the Zion members we welcomed as new St. Paul's members in November, we are also blessed to have received the following in December:

Bonnie Carswell
Sara Fortuna and sons, Michael & Connor
Cora Hostetler
John Hostetler
Carl & Donna Lubold
Tara Reed and son Lucas
Michael & Stephanie Ringler
Arlan & Shirley Wiest

Facilities Use: The access code to the church kitchen has been changed. Currently, there is one renter (Genevieve/Crazie Cupcakes) who will be actively using the kitchen and has this code. Please do not share the code with anyone outside of the congregation.

A security camera was installed outside the kitchen basement door to monitor the commercial use of the kitchen. Nick and Ann have access to the security footage. We thank Nick & Wendy for purchasing the camera and overseeing its installation.

Please contact Ann in the church office if you need the door code or have any questions.

Souper Bowl Sunday: bring in your canned goods (especially soup) now through Sunday, February 9th for donation to New Hope Ministries Enola.

Committee Chairs: please submit your reports for the annual congregational report to the church office by Friday, January 24, 2025.

A Pastoral Message from the ELCA Bishops of Pennsylvania

In this Advent season of waiting and hope, the bishops of the Pennsylvania synods of the ELCA speak to the needs and concerns of our neighbors following the election, offering encouragement to live out the Gospel in meaningful ways during this time of expectation. Click [here](#) to read their letter.

Church Triumphant: Our prayers and the comfort of the Christian faith are extended to Shirley Wiest and family on the recent death of her husband, Arlan. Services will be held here at St. Paul's on Friday, January 10 at 11:00 a.m. with viewing from 10-11:00 a.m. Please keep Shirley and family in prayer.

Shirley Wiest, Legend at Silver Creek
425 Lambs Gap Road, Room 115, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Annual Congregation Meeting (December 2024) actions:

- ~ Approved the 2025 budget in the amount of \$222,279.
 - ~ Approved a change in the Bylaws regarding the annual congregational report
 - ~ Approved minutes from the 2023 annual congregational meeting and three special congregational meetings held in 2024
 - ~ Elected Jeff Achenbach (1-year term), Nick Cekovich (3-year term), Deb Enders (2-year term), Dan Loope (2-year term) and MaryJane McMillen (3-year term) to serve on congregation council
 - ~ Elected Linda Frymire, Keith Gilbert and Heather Verchick to serve as the 2025 Nominating Committee
 - ~ Elected Nick & Wendy Cekovich as voting members to the 2025 synod assembly
-



**Next Council Meeting: 01/13,
6:30pm**

[December Meeting Materials](#)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January

1 Stephanie Ringler
4 Seana Miller
6 Sandra Olley
7 Sherry Berrier
10 Mistie Diehl
10 Michael Fortuna III
11 Jeremiah Keller
13 Kylie Hunter
15 Julie Foore
17 Holly (Bickle) Jumper
17 Shelby Herman
18 McKenna Stitzel
21 Margaret Zerbe
22 Karina Keller
23 Kenneth Sgrignoli
24 Joan Kugler
25 Bronwyn Glasbrenner
25 Alanis Keller

January

25 Bronwyn Glasbrenner
25 Alanis Keller
26 David Wood
30 Cheryl Hultberg
31 Michael Stoner

February

3 Aleah Lumby
6 Justin Mitchell
8 Carole Jane Sutch
12 Gabriel Stitzel
14 Ann Gilbert
14 Lisa Hunsicker
14 Patricia Shaffer
16 Donna Lubold
17 Doug Bowers
18 Deborah Loope
24 Barbara Hunter
25 Kenneth Getz, Jr.
27 Lance Diehl



Kody, Jay, Bill, Jerry, Doug, Jerry, Doug, Jordan,
Christian, Naoma, Andy D., Andrea G., Jim,
Linda, Marcia, Barbara H., Stew H., Jack,
Richard, Alice, Shirley, Judy G., Earl, Barb, Bob E.,
loved ones of Arlan

*Please let the church office know if anyone you've placed on the
prayer list can be removed.*

ONGOING LONG-TERM PRAYER REQUESTS

Elizabeth D., Sheree H., Tim M., Doris & Stew,
Terrie J., Boden R., Pastor Anne, Pastor Pam

**If you have any news you would like to share in the Epistle,
please email or call the church office.**



Remember to mention St. Paul's ID #10151 when you
donate clothing, shoes, accessories, electronics, toys and
household goods.



AN EASY WAY OF GIVING

Scan the QR code with your phone to quickly
and easily give to the church.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
The Reverend Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor
Ann M. Gottlieb, Office Manager (office hours T/Th 9am-3pm)
Nicholas Cekovich, Director of Music
Jack Yinger, Sexton

