

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Maryville, TN

THE GOOD NEWS DECEMBER 2017



December 24, 2017

THIS
CHRISTMAS,

*there is a place
for you here*

Candlelight Service/Communion
7:00pm & 11:00pm

Prelude Concert 10:30pm



Worship Times

Sunday Morning
8:00 am & 10:30 am

Sunday School
9:15am

Contact Us

Pastor: *The Rev. Rick Ohsiek*

Phone: 865-982-4285

Fax: 865-977-8070

Email: splchurch@bellsouth.net

Web: www.stpaulmaryville.org

Church Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 8:30am-5:00pm



PASTOR AND CHURCH COUNCIL

A Message from Pastor Rick:

Advent is a season of preparation for the coming of the Christ child and for the second coming of Christ.

How do you prepare for these events?

Unfortunately, most of us have the whole month of December already spelled out for us by others.

Mandatory work parties, children's Christmas concerts, and other events have been on our calendars for months.

These can be great, but have we taken time to prepare our hearts for our savior?

For many years, the season of Advent was treated like Lent (just a little shorter in length). It was a more solemn time than now, even consisting of times of fasting and prayer. We even used the same liturgical color, purple, for Advent that we used for Lent.

I'm not saying that I want to go back that far, but I do wish that we could slow down a bit and enjoy some stillness and quiet in the midst of what has become a commercial extravaganza. We can't control how the world acts this month, but we do have some control over how we act.

As I write this, Drew & Noah are celebrating their 14th birthday. I miss some of the simple things we did with them when they were younger. We used to gather around our Christmas tree each night and read a different Christmas story to them. Actually, it wasn't always a different story. They did have their favorites. We often had an Advent calendar, and we would count the number of "big sleeps" until Christmas. These were simple things, but they did help us get ready.

Our lives, as have everyone else's, have changed over the years.

How can we observe a holy Advent in the middle of this crazy world?

It takes some intentional effort, but it can be done.

- * Spending extra time in silence or prayer (or both),
- * stopping to just watch and listen for signs of God around you,
- * or volunteering to help a ministry/organization where you have never served before are just a few ways to help keep your Advent holy.

These and several other thoughtful ideas can be found at

<https://jimfriedrich.com/2014/12/06/ten-ways-to-keep-a-holy-advent/>.

Give the page a look and see if it gives you any ideas.

Wishing you a Holy Advent and a Blessed Christmas.

Peace,

Pastor Rick



The St. Paul Church Council will meet monthly on the third Monday ~ 7:30pm

Kara Birdwell - President

karabirdwell@hotmail.com

Rick Anger – Vice President

angerrick@gmail.com

Shari Martin – Council Secretary

sgmartin1114@yahoo.com

Ed Martin – Treasurer - edmartin.splt@outlook.com

Greg Caldwell - gregc@whs-pi.com

Jan Hanes - jehanes@bellsouth.net

Herb Perry - hpcp2@tds.net



Beth Drane - Tenneliz2000@yahoo.com

JB Johnson - jbarcus@charter.net

Susan Ward - smw030364@aol.com

PASTOR AND CHURCH COUNCIL

A Message From the Council President



St. Paul Family and Friends, thank you to everyone that came to the Congregational Meeting November 19th. At the meeting Tom Sims spoke about the Capital Campaign that we will be embarking on for the 2018, 2019, and 2020 years. You have already received some information regarding the campaign in the mail. The Campaign is titled “A Vision for

Ministry”. We have included several needs of St. Paul that are not feasible with the current spending plan but will help us to strengthen our ministry at St. Paul.

Those needs include: **1.** The National Youth Gathering **2.** Stephen Ministry Program **3.** Kitchen upgrades to meet codes **4.** Eliminating mortgage debt **5.** Giving back to our community with “Passion Gifts”

Council and the Capital Campaign Committee asked the Congregation to approve a 1 to 1 match with the Endowment Fund up to \$135,000 to attain these goals. The Congregation approved this match at the November meeting. Over the next 3 years, if the Congregation donates \$135,000, the Endowment Fund will match \$135,000.

The Capital Campaign giving will be above and beyond your normal giving. We know that not every family can give extra so in the Capital Campaign brochure that you recently received we have examples of giving to meet our goal of \$135,000. We can easily meet our goal if we all come together and give a little extra. When we did our last Capital Campaign a few years ago, the market was down, and the economy had crashed. We were able to raise a good amount to lower our million-dollar mortgage down to what it is now. With the market back up and the economy better, I think we can do this! What better “Vision of Ministry” than to be debt free, strengthen our faith, strengthen our bond together, and better serve one another not only within St. Paul but also within our community in Blount County.

The \$135,000 will not deplete our Endowment Fund. It has been growing and if the market stays as it is, it will continue to grow. As Tom stated at the meeting, if we as a congregation give more than \$135,000 over the course of 3 years, we will not have to touch our Endowment Fund as much to reach our \$270,000 end goal. So lets do this! Lets make a “Vision for Ministry

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

VISION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS

Wednesday, December 6th, 13th, & 20th ~ 6:00pm



Soup
Supper

Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy a simple meal During Advent. Hearty Soups and Bakery style breads will be provided by the Fellowship Team. Members are asked to help only with clean-up*, as indicated in the chart below. Rotation of responsibilities is alphabetically by last name.

12/06 M-Z

12/13 A-L

12/20 A-Z

*Clean-up entails: placing remaining soup in freezable containers, washing; soup kettles, utensils and storing items for future use, cleaning tables, and taking out the trash.



Community Giving Tree

This holiday season the Serving Ministries Team invites you to pick an ornament from the "Community Giving Tree" and make a special Christmas donation to benefit one of four organizations providing help and hope to people in our community. The Community Giving Tree will be in the Narthex December 1st thru December 31st.

Take an envelope from the tree, place your monetary donation inside and put it in the gift box. **All checks should be made payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church with the organization selected written on the memo line.** A single check from St. Paul will be sent to each of the following organizations at the end of the giving period.

The Community Food Connection provides food to any individual or family in need of assistance.



Community Food Connection
of Blount County, Inc.



Family Promise of Blount County helps homeless families achieve sustainable independence.



Habitat for Humanity
Builds affordable housing.

Good Neighbors of Blount County provides resources to assist our neighbors struggling with the challenges of everyday life.



As the advent candles are lit this year reminding us that the light of Christ has come into the world, let your light shine by sharing with those in need in our community. *Thank you for your generosity.*



Family Promise Host Week
Dec, 17th-24th

Contact Susan Ward for more information.
(630) 917-5937 or smw030364@aol.com.



Community Food Connection
of Blount County, Inc.

December collection
Oatmeal or Cereal

Place items in the collection box near the front door.

WORSHIP

Merl Krull - Coordinator

PEACEMAKERS WHO WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD PERSECUTED KINGDOM
 THEIR KINGDOM IS THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
 BLESSED ARE...
 WHO MOURN WILL BE COMFORTED WHO IS SHOWN MERCY
 WHO IS HUNGER WILL BE SATISFIED WHO IS WEARY WILL BE RESTED
 WHO IS MERCIFUL TO HIS HEART OF GOD



LESSONS &
CAROLS
 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
a unique festival of music and scripture
 Sunday,
 December 31st
 10:30am
One Service Only

Mid-Week Advent Service ~ 6:30pm

Wednesday, Dec. 6th, 13, & 20th

Each week we will celebrate a different Saint who dedicated their life to the welfare of others.

The Middle School Class will be leading us in worship.



Creative Advent ~ A time to slow down

Thursday, December 7th, 14th & 21st ~ 10:00am and 7:00pm

Join us for a time of thoughtfulness and meditative coloring, stitching, doodling, or just relaxing. We will begin with an Advent devotion to guide our thoughts. An Advent color page and markers/pencils will be provided. You are welcome to bring a stitching project, drawing book, or just yourself. The hope is to give ourselves permission to relax in God's creative spirit during this busy holiday season. Contact Sue Tyler for more information.

PARISH LIFE

Carla McMillion- Coordinator



DAYS FOR GIRLS will not meet in December, but there are kits in the WELCA recycle bins if you would like to sew drawstring bags or Little Dresses for Africa. We will resume meeting the first Wednesday in January.

WELCA Bible Study December 20th at 10:00 am

"All Anew – Ready or Not"

Led by—Winnie Johnson



"A Cup of Christmas Tea"

Ladies Potluck Brunch

December 2, 2017

11:00am

All Ladies of the church invited to attend. Please bring a dish to share.



SPAM 55+

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday, December 12th
 2:00pm ~ O'Charley's

Signup sheet is on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

Thursday, December 14th ~ 6:00pm

MIM will have their Annual Christmas event at Lambert's Southern Pie and Bake Shop, 131 East Broadway Avenue, Maryville, Tennessee.



All men, and young men of the church, are invited for dinner and fellowship.

Meal cost will be \$18.00 per person which does not include the gratuity.

After dinner, there will be a brief business meeting to elect MIM officers for year 2018.

The evening will be concluded by playing "dirty santa" and sharing gifts which should bring some fun and frivolity. Please bring a gift, under \$10.00 and wrapped, if you want to play "dirty santa." A good time will be had by all. For further information, or to RSVP, please call or contact JB Johnson, 984 4234, or email jbarcus@att.net.

FELLOWSHIP

Leigh Caldwell - Coordinator

10:30 Service Fellowship Teams



- December 3** Barb & Bob Miller, Tim & Leslie Walker
December 10 Jacqueline and Dana Conzemius, David & Charlene Dubs
December 17 Darla & Brian Kaufman, Marsha Wynn
December 24 Lorraine Geary, Sue Stauffer, Dorine Keeble, Patty Harmon
December 31 JB & Sylvia Johnson, Bob & Linda Ullom

Each team is responsible for providing cookies or donuts, setting up and cleaning up the Fellowship time after the 10:30 service. Contact Jacqueline Conzemius for more information.

December 2017 Birthdays & Anniversaries



December 3	Lexi Dubs	December 10	Zach Gordon
December 4	Madelyn Carpenter	December 12	John Beck
December 5	Dan Wynn	December 12	Joel Searfoss
December 6	Judy Krull	December 13	Ann Jordan
December 6	Jenna Burts	December 14	Delores Block
December 8	James McMillion	December 15	Elaine Fisher
December 9	Andrea Joyal	December 15	Meaghan Liner
		December 16	Olivia DaCruz
		December 18	Larry Galyon
		December 22	Jeremy Snoderly
		December 25	Rachel Patterson
		December 26	Ethel Duff
		December 27	Tina Cusano
		December 27	Kathy Kaun
		December 30	Erika Hanes

ANNIVERSARIES

December 1	Ken & Neenah Dressler
December 2	Roland & Bertha Franks
December 7	Steve & Linda Zrioka
December 16	Gloria & Carl Leonard
December 16	Jeremy & Courtney Snoderly
December 20	Claude & Tena Abbott
December 23	Heinz & Shirley Lips
December 23	Robert & Marsha Bryant
December 26	James & Norma Watson

December 28	Mark & Elaine Fisher
December 28	Rick & Elizabeth Anger
December 29	Dan & Marsha Wynn
December 30	Curly & Sarah Wainwright



ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH



429 Sandy Springs Road
Maryville, TN 37803

*Growing in the Spirit,
Making Christ Known.*

Dates of Interest

Check Calendar for times and places

OFFICE CLOSED ~ December 25th-January 1st

Council:

Monday, December 18th ~ Council Meeting

Worship:

Sunday, December 24th ~ **ONE MORNING SERVICE ONLY**

Sunday Evening, December 24th ~ Candlelight Service with Communion

Sunday, December 31st ~ Lessons and Carols ~ **ONE MORNING SERVICE ONLY**



Sunday, December 24th ~ 10:30am
Children's Christmas Service

The Angels bring
God's message of
LOVE

Join us Christmas Eve morning for one service only.