

The Chimes

December 3, 2013

Saint Paul's Worship Schedule

Sunday

9:00 & 10:30 am: Holy Communion

*First Sunday of month: Family Worship at 9 am
(service designed with children in mind);*

Remaining Sundays: 9 am service concurrent with Sunday School

Christmas Pageant at 9:30 am on December 22

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve services at 5:00, 7:00 & 11:00 pm

December 29: Worship at 9:30 am

(one service only; children's alternative Sunday School)

*Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
415 E. Athens Ave., Ardmore, PA 19003
The Rev. Dr. Harry W. McDowell II, Pastor
610-642-3211 610-658-3262 (fax)
www.stpaulsardmore.com*



Saint Paul's Christmas Eve Services

5:00 pm - Candlelight Communion Service with Youth Choir (prepared especially with Families in mind)

7:00 pm - Traditional Candlelight Communion Service with Brass Ensemble (preludial music begins at 6:45 pm)

11:00 pm - Traditional Candlelight Communion Service with Arioso String Quartet (preludial music begins at 10:45 pm)



**Chimes publication
information**

The Chimes, the newsletter of Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, is published for the inspiration, education and entertainment of its members and friends. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Just mail, e-mail or deliver them to the church office.

The next issue of *The Chimes* will be published on **Tuesday, January 14**. Your articles are due in the office no later than noon on **Tuesday, January 7**. Thank you!

Pastor's Letter



***In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains...***

***Many peoples shall come to it and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord...'
And they shall beat their sword into plowshares,
And their spears into pruning hooks."***

(Isaiah 2:1-5)

Dear Friends:

As we begin this Advent season, I begin with the above words from the First Reading for the First Sunday in Advent. Advent is from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming." It is a season of expectancy, anticipation, and hope. The color is blue which, in the church, signifies hope. The event for which we expect, anticipate, and hope is, of course, the annual remembrance of the birth of our Savior in Bethlehem's manger.

Our Hebrew scripture readings during Advent will all lead us in this journey of expectancy. As I pointed out at the Women's Bible Study a few weeks ago, in our three year lectionary, Year A (which begins the First Sunday in Advent), is by far more loaded with "hope" than any other year.

This reading from Isaiah truly captures the hope of those ancient Israelites as they await the coming of the Messiah. "And they shall beat their sword into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks." Instruments of death and destruction will become instruments of planting and life. This passage speaks of *reversal!*

This morning I went up to the Sanctuary to get something, and I was struck with a kaleidoscope of colors: there were over 100 Christmas gifts wrapped in bright colors: gifts from **you** for our annual participation in the Christmas Ingathering for Lutheran Children and Family Service. As these gifts go out to children in foster care, these gifts will be instruments of reversal in young lives that need some reversing.

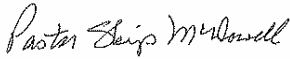
Along with all of the hustle and bustle of this season, please take time for spiritual preparation in anticipation of Christmas. Join us for...

December 8-	Alternative Gift Giving	9 am – 12 noon
December 15-	Service of Lessons and Carols	4 pm
December 15-22	Nativity Display	
December 22-	Sunday School Christmas Pageant	9:30 am service

Note: Only one service at 9:30.

December 24-	Christmas Eve Services @ 5, 7, and 11.	
December 29-	First Sunday after Christmas- One service at 9:30 am	

In Christ,



Pastor Skip McDowell

Baptism

Chloe Andrea Schmeiss, daughter of Richard & Kate Schmeiss was baptized on November 24th.

We All Have Questions Group

The Saturday morning We All Have Questions group will next meet on **December 14th in the Kugler Room at 9:30 am**. Our topic will be: *What are we passionate about and where do our passions originate?* Everyone is welcome. The next meeting after the holidays will be January 4th.

Prayers

Please pray for our men and women in the armed services, especially and Michael Burns (son of Linda & Bob Burns) and Brandon Mader (grandson of Wendy Black).

Prayers are also requested for: Cara Barr (niece of Robert Ertner); Frank Costantini (friend of Barb & Tom Keyser); Richard DeFeo (friend of Millie Parker); Tammy Dormans (sister-in-law of Nan Dormans); Kara Granger (friend of Liz Cassidy); Barbara Johnson (wife of Jack Johnson); Bryan Jones, Mark Kelly (brother-in-law of Carrie Kelly); Miranda Ram-Nolte (friend of Colleen Kolb); John Messer (friend of Claudia Muller); Brian Michonski (friend of Millie Parker); Waneta Peart; Claire Robinson, Norma Small (friend of Linda Burns); Judy Sonnemann (friend of Carol Henry); Russ Stevenson (father of Debbie Moran); Charles Sweeny (friend of Judi DellaBadia); Joseph Tye (father of Nan Dormans); Heather (friend of Frank & Helene Roth); Bob (friend of Dolly Henderson) and Kristi (daughter of Judi DellaBadia).

Christmas Pageant

This year's Sunday School Christmas Pageant will take place on December 22 during the 9:30 am service. All classes—three year-olds through 6th grade—will participate in the pageant.

Worship & Sunday School on 12/29

On the Sunday after Christmas, **December 29, there will be one worship service only, at 9:30 am.** Children's alternative Sunday school will meet concurrently with the 9:30 worship service.

2014 Envelopes

Envelopes for 2014 will be available in Fellowship Hall beginning December 8th. If you do not have 2013 envelopes, please make your contributions using the blank envelopes in the pews, including your name, so you are credited with those contributions.

Thank you for your support of St. Paul's!
Jason Sack, Stewardship Committee Chair

2013 Contributions Reminder

All contributions for 2013 must be in the office or postmarked by December 31, 2013 in order to be counted for this year's donation. No exceptions.

LCFS in the News

On November 25 an article about the Albahadly family appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer. The article highlights Lutheran Children and Family Services and the work of sponsor churches such as St. Paul's. The complete article can be found on St. Paul's new website:
<http://stpaulsardmore.com/social-ministry-update/>

Attention Committee Chairpersons

Annual reports on all activities for the year 2013 are due in the **office no later than Monday, December 30, 2013**. Please note that reports are expected from **all** committees, subcommittees and groups. Observance of this deadline will greatly assist the church office in distributing the annual report to members in a timely fashion. **The following reports are due:**

Senior Pastor	Director of Music
Council President	Finance
Christian Education	Saint Paul's Youth Ministry
Subcommittee on Library	Parish Activities
Men's Bible Study	Staff Personnel
Evangelism	Worship & Music
Property	Stewardship
Technology	Subcommittee on Altar Care
Cemetery	Treasurer Report
Social Ministry	Audit Committee
Financial Secretary Report	
Benevolence Payments	
Council's Strategic Planning and Development 2013-2014	
2012, 2013 Budget & Actual; 2014 Proposed Budget	
Cemetery Budget & Financial Summary	
Endowment Investment and Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund Summary	
Ad Hoc Committee on Council Nominees	



Families with Young Children

Breakfast with Santa!

***Saturday, December 7
9:30 – 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall***

Pancake breakfast, picture with Santa, and crafts!

Families, please bring the following items:

- A – H Muffins
- I – R Fruit
- S – Z Orange Juice

Please register with the church office by
Wednesday, December 4th
(610-642-3211 or millie@stpaulsardmore.org).

Family and friends are welcome.
Free-will offering



2013 Alternative Gift Giving

On **Sunday, December 8**, St. Paul's will host Alternative Gift giving during both coffee hours. This year, we will again be selling the popular fair trade items including coffee, tea and chocolate. Proceeds from these sales will support **Philadelphia Orchard Project (POP)**: The program plants orchards in the city of Philadelphia that grow healthy food, green spaces and community food security. POP orchards create a myriad of environmental and social benefits including: better nutrition and public health, restored air, water and soil quality and closer communities that are clean, safe and livable.



You will also have the opportunity to support two other organizations through your Advent giving:

Lutheran Children and Family Services (LCFS) Housing Emergency Fund:

LCFS provides resettlement services to refugee families throughout the Philadelphia area. The families usually arrive with very little resources. The Housing Emergency Fund provides money for these families when a financial crisis hits and they are unable to pay rent or other bills related to housing and household goods.

Aquarius School Feeding Project:

The program supports 15 of the poorest primary schools in Cape Town, South Africa with meals, coats, school supplies and registration fees. This Christian-based program helps ensure that kids in those schools get at least one good meal per day. The Aquarius Project's support of school fees has kept kids in school when they would have been discharged due to a lack of money to pay fees.

Women's Dinner



In Fellowship Hall
Catered by Peppers Café in Ardmore

Please RSVP to the church office
(610-642-3211 or millie@stpaulsardmore.org)

Join us for these Advent Events



LESSONS AND CAROLS

The annual Lessons and Carols service returns to St. Paul's on **December 15, at 4:00 pm**. Featured will be the Adult, Youth and Children's Choirs, and the Handbell Choir. This year we will be accompanied by a string quartet and oboe as well as the organ.

The church will also be fully decorated for the Christmas holiday including a display of Nativity sets throughout the narthex and fellowship hall. There will be a cookie reception afterward.

Please help us sing in the Christmas season by coming to Lessons and Carols.

NATIVITY DISPLAY

On Sunday, December 15, at 4 pm, one of our most loved traditions, the Lessons and Carols service, will take place. This lovely service does much to help us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ Child. This year we will again feature a nativity display, whose debut last year was so well received that we hope to make it an annual tradition. All nativity sets (both serious and cute) are welcome and will be displayed in the narthex. Participants are asked to notify Helene Roth (610-649-5145, helene.roth@veizon.net) how many sets you will be bringing. **The sets should be delivered to the church by Saturday afternoon, December 14** so they can be viewed in conjunction with the Lessons and Carols service, and will remain on display until after the children's Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 22, after which they can be claimed by their owners. All contributions will be greatly appreciated.

DECORATING THE CHURCH

Another traditional event in preparation for Christmas is the decorating of the church, which will take place on **Saturday, December 14. Come at 9:30 am** with your gloves, branch cutters and be part of the festivities. If you don't have time for breakfast at home, coffee and munchkins will be available. All members (and friends) are encouraged to come; its lots of fun and a wonderful way to draw worshipers into the beauty of the events surrounding our Lord's birth. Help is also needed to remove the decorations on Sunday, January 5 after the late service.

Christmas Caroling to the Homebound

Sunday, December 22 at 2:00 pm



Join us as we sing to many of our homebound members. All are welcome! No choir membership is required. We will meet at the church at 2:00 pm, split into groups, and carpool and caravan to the different residences. **RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, December 18, to allow for route planning.**

Can you help lead a group instrumentally (guitar or other)? Let Joy Baxter know as soon as possible (610-789-2408).

Mark your calendars!
Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Paul's
Monday, December 23
Fellowship Hall 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm



Bring a Guest to Church on Christmas Eve

Do you know someone who doesn't go to church? Invite them to join you on Christmas Eve. Not going to be in town for Christmas Eve? No problem, St. Paul's has worship services conveniently scheduled every Sunday!

Upcoming Bring a Guest Sundays:

January 26th: Bring a guest to church & Sunday school

Easter: Bring a guest to church Sunday

Rally Day (September): Bring a guest to church Sunday

Religion 101

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the last series of Religion 101, some people asked to hear more about the decline of Lutheranism in the US and the struggles that Lutherans have in the Philadelphia area.

In answer to that request Pastor Fred Schramm will be facilitating a series on the first three Tuesdays of December. Study materials will be distributed for the first two sessions and music will be prepared for the sing along, therefore please let us know if you intend on participating. We will have extra materials for those who show up at the last minute.

This stimulating quote from Robert Benne, prompts us to dig deeper into the present dynamics of Lutheranism and Christianity in the USA. In this series, the teachings of Martin Luther and the Scripture will be explored as well as recent survey data of the Pew Research Religion and Public Life Project.

“Rather than being exceptional in their promise for renewing American Protestantism, mainstream Lutherans have become exceptional in the rapidity and extensity of their decline. The National Council of Churches reports that the ELCA has ‘the sharpest rate of membership decline’ among all mainline Protestant denominations.”

Robert Benne is the Jordan-Trexler Professor Emeritus and Research Associate at Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia, and Professor of Christian Ethics at Christ School of Theology of the Institute for Lutheran Theology.

On **Tuesday, December 17**, we will explore Luther’s presentation of the Christian message and the nativity of Christ through hymns and carols. We are blessed to have Andy Heller as co-facilitator at this session.

We look forward to your participation and we pray that you will not only grow in knowledge and grace through these sessions but that they will bless your Christmas season.

December 3: *Here’s the church, Here’s the steeple, Open the doors, But where are the people?*
Why are Main Line Churches Declining?

December 10: Thoughtful Response from a Lutheran Perspective

December 17: Lutheran Christmas Hymns: Words, Music and Sing Along

St. Paul's Membership Directory – Online

Two years ago many of us participated in the St. Paul's Pictorial Directory. I hope you find it as valuable as I do. If you are in need of a copy please contact Joy Baxter at (610) 789-2408 or joybaxter@gmail.com.

The Evangelism committee is rolling out the online component of the same pictorial directory. The directory is safe and secure with individual family logins and passwords. The "St. Paul's membership directory" link is located on the bottom of our new website design.

Each family will receive an individualized login and password with their 2014 offering envelopes. The password can be changed to one of your choice once you login.

We hope this online component of the directory can further connect our community so that we can grow together in Christ and serve those in need.

The Evangelism Committee

St. Paul's Book Club Resumes

On Tuesday, January 28 at 7:30 pm in the Kugler Room the St. Paul's book club will resume. We will be discussing [In the Garden of Beasts](#) by Erik Larson. We anticipate a lively discussion of this historical book and how a supposedly resolved issue of our time once again has arisen from the past.

Sunday Counters Needed

People have moved, retired and resigned and now we need to refill the ranks! Sunday counters collect donations from the altar after each service and take them to the finance office where they count the offering and prepare the bank deposit. The Sunday counters will be taken off the ministry scheduler and will return to the previous system of mailing schedules on a yearly basis. When there are enough teams you would count only 4 times a year (2 consecutive Sundays). **Contact Judi Zucker if you are interested (610-728-5373)**

Share the Season

As we count our blessings and prepare for the coming of the Christ Child, please prayerfully consider visiting a homebound member. We have several members of our community who would appreciate a friendly visit from you during the holidays.

There is no long term commitment - a single visit as you are able is a tremendous gift to someone alone at this time of year.

Please be in touch with the office if you are willing to share the Christmas spirit.

Lisa Lexa
baldwin2020@gmail.com

Mark your calendars —

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 2, 2014

***Following worship at 9:30 am
(One service only; no Sunday School)***

***The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary;
a luncheon will follow in Fellowship Hall.***

***All members are encouraged
to attend this important meeting
& the luncheon that follows.***

***The Council Reorganization Meeting will be
held Thursday, February 6.***

ST. PAUL'S WOMEN'S RETREAT

Dates: Friday – Saturday, February 21 - 22, 2014

Location: Franciscan Spiritual Center, Aston, Pa

Topic & Leader: To Be Announced

More details will be announced soon. If you have questions, please contact Diane Pringle (dianep@design.upenn.edu).

Gifts of Flowers for the Altar

Consider becoming a weekly or monthly sponsor of altar flowers for Sunday morning worship. The cost of the flowers is \$25 per week, \$100 or \$125 per month. A sign-up chart for sponsoring altar flowers is available in Fellowship Hall, or you may call Dottie Buchanan at 484-420-4969. The dedication(s) for your flowers will be published in the appropriate Sunday bulletin(s).

JANUARY *Birthdays*

- 1 Aiden Gale, Morgan Gale, Alexandria Schuster, Andrea Schuster, Virginia Vitty
- 3 Charlotte Miller
- 4 Sarah Krissinger
- 5 Madeline Hamilton, Virginia Mace
- 6 Kari Draper
- 7 Alexa Foust, Giang Nguyen, Nancy Snyder, Christine Stallkamp
- 8 Olivia Osborne
- 9 Danielle Lau, Beth McElvenney
- 10 Eugene Bright, Jr., Andrew Horn, William Miles III
- 11 David Harkins, Frank Roth
- 12 Zoe Bozman, John Mullin III
- 13 John Dormans
- 15 Rebecca Dewey, Kendall Henderson, Louise Pierce, Molly Trombello
- 18 John Nagle, Jim Van Horn III
- 19 Russ Carstens, Jason Sack, Pat Welsh
- 20 John Martin, Isabel Montgomery, Grady Walters, Anthony Wilkerson, Jr.
- 22 Melanie DeWarf, Eleanor Jacobsen, Christina Wagner
- 23 Barbara Orwig, Grady Walters, Jr.
- 24 Robert Phillips
- 25 Andrea Scota
- 27 Jim Schneider
- 28 Denette Stetler
- 29 Paige Badovick, Lance Billingsley II, Benjamin Brophy
- 30 Vernon Newhouse
- 31 Kimberly Hunt, Charlotte McColgan, Elisabeth Ritaldato

JANUARY CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 1—New Year's Day (OFFICE CLOSED)

Thursday, January 2

6:30 pm

Children's choir rehearsal

7:30 pm

Adult choir rehearsal

Saturday, January 4

9:30 am

We All Have Questions group/2nd floor meeting room

Sunday, January 5

8:40 am

Matins choir warm-up

9:00 am

Adult Bible Study

9:00 am

Holy Communion (*Family Worship*)

10:30 am

Holy Communion

8:00 pm

NA/Fellowship Hall

Monday, January 6

6:30 – 9:30 pm

Greater Philadelphia Paper Pholders/Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, January 7

9:00 am

Community Bible Study

7:00 pm

AA/2nd floor Meeting Room

Wednesday, January 8

Thursday, January 9

9:00 am

Community Bible Study/throughout church

1:00 pm

Women's Christian Fellowship/Kugler Room

6:30 pm

Children's choir rehearsal

7:15 pm

Council meeting/2nd floor Meeting Room

7:30 pm

Adult choir rehearsal

Sunday, January 12

8:30 am

Matins Choir warm-up

9:00 am

Sunday School

9:00 am

Adult Bible Study

9:00 am

Holy Communion

10:30 am

Holy Communion

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Confirmation class/Kugler Room

8:00 pm

NA/Fellowship Hall

Monday, January 13

9:00 am

Outside Group/2nd floor Meeting Room

Tuesday, January 14

9:00 am

Community Bible Study

7:00 pm

AA/2nd floor Meeting Room

Wednesday, January 15

6:00 pm

IHN/St. Mary's Ardmore

Thursday, January 16

9:00 am

Community Bible Study/throughout church

1:00 pm

Women's Christian Fellowship/Kugler Room

6:30 pm	Children's choir rehearsal
7:00 pm	Social Ministry Meeting
7:30 pm	Adult choir rehearsal
Saturday, January 18	
9:30 am	We All Have Questions group/2 nd floor Meeting Room
Sunday, January 19	
8:40 am	Matins choir warm-up
9:00 am	Sunday School
9:00 am	Adult Bible Study/2 nd floor Meeting Room
9:00 am	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Holy Communion
TBA	Cooking for the hungry/St. Paul's basement kitchen
8:00 pm	NA/Fellowship Hall

Monday, January 20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, January 21	
9:00 am	Community Bible Study
7:00 pm	AA/2 nd floor Meeting Room
Thursday, January 23	
9:00 am	Community Bible Study/throughout church
1:00 pm	Women's Christian Fellowship/Kugler Room
6:30 pm	Children's choir rehearsal
7:30 pm	Adult choir rehearsal

Sunday, January 26 – Bring a Guest to Church

8:40 am	Matins choir warm-up
9:00 am	Sunday School
9:00 am	Adult Bible Study/2 nd floor Meeting Room
9:00 am	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Holy Communion
6:00 pm	Confirmation class/Kugler Room
8:00 pm	NA/Fellowship Hall

Monday, January 27

9:00 am	Impact/Kugler Room
9:00 am	Outside Group/2 nd floor Meeting Room

Tuesday, January 28

9:00 am	Community Bible Study
7:00 pm	AA/2 nd floor Meeting Room
7:30 pm	St. Paul's Book Club/Kugler Room

Thursday, January 30

9:00 am	Community Bible Study/throughout church
1:00 pm	Women's Christian Fellowship/Kugler Room
6:30 pm	Children's choir rehearsal
7:30 pm	Adult choir rehearsal

Christmas Decorations & Music



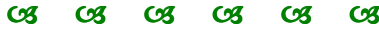
I/We would like to share in decorating St. Paul's for Christmas by donating the following:

In loving memory of _____

In honor of _____

Name(s) of donor(s): _____

_____ Poinsettias @ \$10.00 per plant	= \$ _____ enclosed
_____ Wreaths @ \$25.00 each	= \$ _____ enclosed
Contribution toward pine roping	= \$ _____ enclosed
Contribution toward cemetery decorations	= \$ _____ enclosed
Total	= \$ _____ enclosed



I/We would like to sponsor a musician for the Christmas Eve services:

In loving memory of _____

In honor of _____

Name(s) of donor(s): _____

_____ Brass/string instrumentalist(s) @ \$250.00	= \$ _____ enclosed
Entire string quartet @ \$1000.00	= \$ _____ enclosed
Donation in any amount	= \$ _____ enclosed
Total	= \$ _____ enclosed

Any funds received in excess of the actual cost of the Christmas musicians will be used to support the music program at Saint Paul's. Names of all contributors will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



The church office must receive your completed form and check payable to *St. Paul's Lutheran Church* **no later than Thursday, December 12**, in order to include your information in the bulletin.

Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
415 East Athens Avenue
Ardmore, Pennsylvania 19003-3197

Change Service Requested
Time Dated Material