

Celebrate the Advent Season with some special coffee hours after our Sunday service.

This will be a time for all ages celebrate this

Holy Season together.

December 3rd – 1st Sunday of Advent

Betty Rude has a crew making Swedish waffles made fresh and served with strawberry jam. We will all be making paper hearts to decorate our Christmas trees.

December 10th - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Everyone is invited to decorate a gingerbread person. Please sign up to bring:

Name: _____

Phone number _____
(circle one)

2 dozen gingerbread cookies

Tubes of icing:

Cookie decorations like red hots, raisins, sprinkles

December 17th – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Bring your favorite holiday dessert that represents your heritage! Ideas are Filipino Flan, German apfestrudel, Australian Christmas pudding or Southern Buttermilk-Pralines.

Name: _____

Phone number _____

December 24th – 4th Sunday of Advent

NO Coffee Hour this week. We will all take a break so we can get ready for Christmas Eve at our homes.

December 31st – Christmas Season Celebration

Bring your leftover cookies to share with everyone! No sign up. Just come with your leftovers!

Fill this out, tear if off and put it in the offering plate.

➔ **See the other side**

the festivities! After our full Sunday on December 24, we will not have a service on Monday, December 25, but all the excitement on the 24th should carry over to enrich your family celebrations on Christmas Day.

Men's Bible Study Breakfast: Thursdays, 7:30 am, Rm # 210

Women's Bible Study: 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 1 pm, Rm # 210

Women of Spirit Book Study is reading **CHOOSE JOY** by Kay Warren.

The group meets on Mondays at 6:00 pm in Rom # 208.

Women's Quilting: Thursdays, 9 am Lower Level

Men's Quilting: 2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:30 pm, Lower Level

- OFFICE TELEPHONE UPDATE: The office is in the process of updating the phone messages and protocols so they are reflective of current voices on staff. If you call the office and nobody answers, it likely means that we are busy on another call or assisting another member. Please leave your voicemails on the extension you were trying to contact, and we will respond at the earliest opportunity..

PRAYERS

This week we pray for: † Thanksgiving for Don's healing; † Jan's brother Joe, Doug, John, Alan, Kate M., Peggy, and Chuck's sister-in-law Debbie; all recovering from surgery; for Asa, Delana and Derold; Bill's sister-in-law; Denny and for good results for Janet W; † young people who face mental illness; † all who wrestle with addiction, anxiety, depression, or PTSD; † those in the Holy Land: Almighty God, the terror of war, violence, trauma, and pain are heavy on our hearts and those in Israel and Palestine. For the lives lost, families broken; the fear of not knowing; we pray for your peace and strength. We ask for wisdom and grace for leadership. But overall, we pray for forgiveness, peace, and your hands to work in the hearts and lives of all in the Holy Land. We trust you remain faithful and present, that in Christ all things are made new; † peace to prevail in Ukraine; † all who have been affected by earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires; † all who have lost loved ones to gun violence; † people to embrace caring for all of creation; † protection, strength, and resilience for all who work elections, all who work in health care, all first responders, and all who serve their country; † refugees; † peace for the dying; † all who are incarcerated; † people to acknowledge truth and disregard misinformation; † peace and comfort for Diane's mother; † all who are challenging to love, lonely, unhoused, or hungry; † an outpouring of common sense and kindness.

Amen.

GIVING

Your support of the ministry of St. Paul is greatly appreciated. A donation can be made on our website at www.stpaulmissoulamt.org/give, by choosing "Give" in the church app, or by mailing a check to the church office. Thank you for your continued generosity!

God's Healing Hope and Peace,
St. Paul Staff (406) 549-4141

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS NOVEMBER 19, 2023

WORSHIP

Have trouble hearing the sermon? We have assistive listening devices in the credenza at the back of the sanctuary. Just ask the ushers for one.

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:00 am (in-person and livestreamed).

To view livestreamed or recorded services online, go to:

<https://www.stpaulmissoulamt.org/watch-live> This page provides a link to the worship service, a link to the bulletin, and a way to make your offering online.

ST. PAUL SERVICES are broadcast weekly on MCAT: Wednesdays, 4 pm, Spectrum cable channel 189.

OFFICE HOURS, ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH: 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, or by appointment by calling (406) 549-4141.

**PREACHING & PRESIDING: Intentional Interim Pastor Mark Galbraith
PASTOR MARK'S OFFICE HOURS AND AVAILABILITY (BESIDES SUNDAYS):**

Office hours: Mon-Thurs 10:00 AM-2:00 PM for all regular office business, and/or appointments, please contact me here at the church office.

Off-campus Mon-Thurs: for those "when-it-just-can't-wait-for-those-office-hours- moments", please email me at: sermonator.july91@gmail.com or text (please identify yourself when you text me) 360-325-3227

"BEING TOLD IS TRULY GOLD" If you or someone you know needs a pastoral visit, call, or prayer, please contact the church office so the pastor can receive this request. Thank you for helping this way in the pastoral ministry of SPLC!

READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 26, 2023: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

ABOUT CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES:

LET'S SUPPORT OUR KIDS AND YOUTH! One meaningful way for grown-ups to support children is to show up and cheer them on when they have important events, games, and performances. In an effort to foster this kind of support, St. Paul will publish information about these events. If you're a parent or grandparent, send information including time, date, location, cost/ tickets, and name(s) of kid(s) to colter@stpaulmissoula.org.

This week's opportunities to show up:

For the week of November 6, Sam Fontaine and Natalie Bates have

a swim meet at the Griz pool from November 10 through November 12. Contact Charla Fontaine at (541) 505-4759 for specific events and times.

Tickets are now available and starting to sell out to see Ellie Fontaine and Maya Leischner in Garden City Ballet's Nutcracker. Tickets can be purchased using the GrizTix link below or going to the box office at the Adam's Center. [https://griztix.eventue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/SEGetEventList?](https://griztix.eventue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/SEGetEventList?groupCode=GCB&linkID=montana&shopperContext=&caller=&appCode=)

[groupCode=GCB&linkID=montana&shopperContext=&caller=&appCode=](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EA9AE2CA2FB6-grow3)

GROW – for grades K thru 5, Sundays at 11:20 am Come be part of St. Paul's weekly faith formation program for kids! After a heavy snack, head upstairs to kid's choir, and then enjoy a story and craft/activity. Please RSVP at this link for all dates your children will attend: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EA9AE2CA2FB6-grow3>

2023 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM Sunday, December 10th, 10am St. Paul's annual kids Christmas Program will be held during 10am worship on Sunday, December 10th. All elementary kids are invited to participate.

Rehearsals are Sundays after worship beginning November 12th. Please contact Colter if your kids plan to take part and haven't been attending

GROW: colter@stpaulmissoula.org

ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING New Orleans, LA, July 16-20, 2024

Every three years, the National Youth Gathering brings high school youth together for a week of faith formation.

This year's gathering is in New Orleans, a vibrant city rich in culture and good food! Registration has already

opened. Fundraising expected, and financial assistance available from congregations as well. If your high school

student is interested in traveling to the Gathering this summer, please contact trip leader Colter Murphy ASAP:

colter@stpaulmissoula.org.

INTERIM MINISTRY AND SEASON OF DISCERNMENT

Mission Study Listening Session teams are trained, and are now offering the opportunity for all of the great and holy people of St Paul Lutheran Church to participate in these listening session groups.

◇ The purpose of these groups is to come together and for everyone to have a chance to respond to the five questions as listed below.

◇ Please carefully note and take to heart that these are not planning, decision making or debate meetings; these are sharing and listening meetings. Every participant will have a chance to respond to the questions without debate or challenge or decision making, while everyone else listens.

◇ Mission or goals will surface from these groups that will guide and →

inform everything that will happen in the next chapter of ministry, including who St. Paul will call to be the next rostered leader of word and sacrament

◇ All participants will be on the Holy Ground of not only God's presence, but of everyone's hearts, hopes, dreams, fears, uncertainties, anticipations, and excitement about St Paul's next chapter of ministry, in these groups.

◇ Please take advantage of this opportunity to contribute your voice to St Paul's future, and also to grow in Community and Fellowship. The sign-up sheets are on tables in the narthex. You only need to sign up for one group and participate one time.

The Questions:

1) What makes your heart sing about St Paul Lutheran Church?

2) What are the challenges and opportunities before us for the next chapter of ministry?

3) What are the Mission or Guiding Goals you sense God calling St Paul to embrace for the next chapter of ministry?

4) What needs to change at St Paul for how we "do church", for these calls to become reality?

5) What are the next ministry and leadership skills, (not personal qualities!), the next Pastor needs to have the help and partner with St Paul for these mission/guiding goals to become reality?

- **REHEARSAL: WOMEN'S SINGING GROUP** Please come to our first

practice on Monday, November 20th at noon in the sanctuary. We hope to sing for the 3:00 Christmas Eve service and for one of the upcoming Sunday Advent services.

- **2023 GIVING RECORDS: All giving for 2023 must be received in the church office no later than December 26, 2023.** Gifts received after December 26, 2023 will be reflected on your 2024 giving statement.

- **SAVE THIS DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 9:00 AM for Christmas Cookie Plate assembly.** We will need DOZENS OF CHRISTMAS COOKIES AND HOMEMADE CANDIES to fill plates that will go to the homebound and bereaved. THANK YOU FOR HELPING WITH THIS MINISTRY!!

- **MEDICARE RECIPIENTS: It is time to review for Medicare Part D insurance.** Marge Samsoe has offered to assist anyone who would like help doing this. You can reach Marge at 406-207-2596 or by email at margesamsoe@gmail.com

- **2023 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP:** Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year so on December 24, we will have our normal Sunday morning service at 10 am to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Then, at 3 pm and 7 pm, we will celebrate Christmas Eve with choirs, candles, and communion! The 7 pm service will also include a brass quartet to add to

You may fill out this form, fold & tear on the dotted line and drop it in the offering plate.

St. Paul Connections We are glad you are here!

Date: _____

Please tell us about YOU

Name: _____

Age group (*circle one*)

18-26 27-40 41-55 56-65 66-up

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Do you have school-aged children?

___ Y ___ N

Name(s)/Age(s) _____

Please check all applicable:

___ Member

___ First time visitor ___ Returning visitor

___ I am visiting with a St. Paul member:

Name: _____

___ I would like to know more about

becoming a member of St. Paul

___ I would like to connect to a small

group

___ I would like to know more about

Jesus Christ and the Christian faith

How do you prefer to be contacted?

___ Phone ___ Email ___ Text

How did you hear about St. Paul

Lutheran Church? _____

See the other side →