



ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

December 2019

VOLUME 68 ISSUE 12



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

1:00, 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00PM

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

11:00AM

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH

DECEMBER 1ST-1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 10:00 SERVICE

ADVENT WORKSHOP

DECEMBER 8TH- 10:00 SERVICE-CANTATA

DECEMBER 15TH- HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

DECEMBER 24TH-CHRISTMAS EVE-SERVICES AT 1, 7, 9, & 11PM

OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON

DECEMBER 25TH- CHRISTMAS DAY-SERVICE AT 11AM

DECEMBER 31ST-NEW YEAR'S EVE

DATE	TIME	LECTORS	SERVERS	LITURGISTS	BREAD BAKERS	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS	GREETERS	MONEY COUNTERS
12/1	10:00	Jane Krisher	Adam & Jennifer Hinton	Lynnette Ozanich	Beth Boerke	Marilyn Niksa	Team 1 R Hamilton T Herr G Hofman T English F Putman T Brunett	Tracy Hamilton Laurie English	Denny & Rae Batig
12/8	10:00	N/A	Tiffany Salay	N/A	N/A		Team 2 J Montag T Riggle G Rohde J Lappin R Genther T Norris	Jan Sultan Sharon Genther	I.Sumner J. Bairoti
12/15	8:30	Diane Ferrari	Charles Russo Gail Hansen	Meg Montag	Kelly & Melissa Brandt		Team 5 W Hansen J Flick J Schlott J Cutnaw L Carmean		
	11:00	Cheryl Harkema	Liz & Jeff Campbell	Jon Montag			Team 6 H Daniels G Hrivnak R Genther M & H Hollingsworth	Nancy Goette Pat Gugliotta	
12/22	8:30	Mike King	Mike & Linda King	Liz Wittman	Sherrill Crawford		Team 7 R Winwood B Trausch J Holden R French B French J Sears	Tania French	Adam & Jennifer Hinton
	11:00	Linda Jungeberg	Linda Jungeberg Alice Chadbourne	Dave Hall			Team 8 L Walker J Sears G Grizzell S Harkema	Barb & Harold Daniels	Alice Chadbourne Nancy Thompson

12/24	1:00	TBD	TBD	TBD	Nancy Dinardis		Team 3 T Salay D Henning D Moore M Eckert P Milloy W Crawford	Sandy Henning Amy Russo Joyce Moore	TBD
	7:00	TBD	TBD	TBD			Team 2 J Montag T Riggle G Rohde J Lappin R Genther T Norris	Jan Sultan Sharon Genther	TBD
	9:00	TBD	TBD	TBD			Team 1 R Hamilton T Herr G Hofman T English F Putman T Brunett	Tracy Hamilton Laurie English	TBD
	11:00	TBD	TBD	TBD			Team 6 H Daniels G Hrivnak R Genther M & H Hollingsworth	Nancy Goette Pat Gugliotta	TBD
12/25	11:00	TBD	TBD	TBD			TBD		TBD
12/29	10:00	Bette Idemoto	Anna Mae Migra Judy Stintsman	Mike King	Loni Flagner		Team 5 W Hansen J Flick J Schlott J Cutnaw L Carmean		TBD

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you will be attending one of the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day services and are available to help as liturgist, communion servers or money counters, please contact the office. Thank you!

JANUARY LECTOR-SERVER SCHEDULE

		8:30	11:00
5-Jan	LECTOR	Tom Herr	Jane Krisher
	SERVERS	Adam Hinton	Lois Wolfe
		Jennifer Hinton	Cathie Varnes
12-Jan	LECTOR	Paul Heyse	Diane Ferreri
	SERVERS	Donna Tindera	Alice Chadbourn
		Tiffany Salay	Sharon Lappin
19-Jan	LECTOR	Bette Idemoto	Cheryl Harkema
	SERVERS	Charles Russo	Liz Campbell
		Gail Hansen	Jeff Campbell
26-Jan	LECTOR	Lynnette Ozanich	Linda Jungeberg
	SERVERS	Barb Spatz	Linda Jungeberg
		Anna Mae Migra	Lynne Morella

Sorry, Jesus. You're Not Welcome Here

Daniel Skillman

"No one born of a forbidden union may enter the assembly of the LORD.
Even to the tenth generation, none of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD."
-Deuteronomy 23:2

As we approach Christmas, I want you to think for a moment about this verse from Deuteronomy,
from the Torah,
from the **Bible**.

A child who was born of an illegitimate union,
a child conceived out of wedlock,
a child whose father was unknown,
was not permitted to be part of the worshiping congregation of Israel.
He was not permitted in the Temple.
He was considered to be unclean and an outcast.
The Lord had spoken.
Or so it was thought.

Consider for a moment, now, that for all anyone knew, **Jesus** was born of an illegitimate union.

He was a child conceived out of wedlock.

No one knew who his father was, except Mary.

The hearer of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke might know differently, but the people of Jesus' day could only assume that He was an unclean bastard, and respond accordingly: they almost surely felt that the presence of Jesus in the worshiping assembly was illegitimate.

Let me spell it out in clear and unmistakable terms.

They would have attempted to exclude **Jesus** from their worship and from the reach of God because the Bible told them to do so.

Let that sink in for a minute.

Is the lesson to be learned here simply that we must be sure to gather all of the facts before we condemn someone to a life outside of the reach of God? Or, perhaps is the lesson that any interpretation and application of scripture that would lead us to exclude someone from the reach of God is surely not the work of the Holy Spirit? And more, might we not actually find God precisely in the people whom so many religious folks exclude from their company and from God's?

We often think of the virgin birth as a miracle. And so it is.

But the miracle isn't the magic trick of a child being conceived and born without a father.
The miracle is that the bastard child is the very presence of **God** with us: our Immanuel.

FINANCIALS

NOT AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF PRINTING

REDEEMER CRISIS CENTER CHRISTMAS BAG PACKING

December 13th-6:30pm



CHRISTMAS BAG PACKING-Christmas dinner is packed for 500 families to share with their loved ones, Volunteers once again line up to take a bag through the line to be filled with potatoes, canned vegetables, cranberries, fresh carrots and other foods for Christmas dinner. Some volunteers wrap Christmas gifts for children. Every child in a client family will be assured of being able to open at least one gift on Christmas morning provided by generous supporters of the Center. A great way to celebrate the best gift of all.

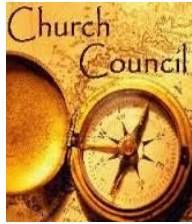
***St. Paul volunteers will meet Friday,
December 13th to carpool to Redeemer
Crisis Center (5:30 p.m. at Panera
Bread-Middleburg)***

HELP WANTED! DECEMBER COMMUNITY MEAL

St. Paul is in charge of serving and providing desserts for the Community Meal on December 18th.

Please contact Lois Wolfe or Ginny Anderson if you can assist. All types of desserts are welcome. It's nice to have a variety. When you are baking for the holidays, plan to make a little extra to donate to the meal. There will be a sign up sheet outside the parlor.

If you are able to help serve, please be at the church by 5pm and have desserts dropped off by 5pm as well.



COUNCIL CORNER

Church Council met a week earlier this month in order to prepare for the Annual Meeting. Another item discussed at the council meeting was the Volunteer Interim Evening Youth Leader situation. Currently, Council is pursuing a possible intern from Baldwin Wallace or other local colleges to fill this opening. In addition, further discussion was held about the overall Education program at the Church. As a result of this discussion, a subcommittee of Council has been established (i.e. Pastor, Lynne Morella and Jen Hinton) to review and recommend what the Education program should be going forward.

The Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, November 17th. The key takeaways from the Meeting were:

- Approval of the 2020 budget which included money for the replacement of the Sanctuary Roof.
- Approval of two Council members for 2020 (i.e. Rob Winwood and Phil Sultan).

I would like to thank all of the members of the Congregation who attended and participated in the meeting. I would also like to thank the Office Staff (Sherrill and Dean) for putting together the written material for the meeting.

Lastly, speaking for the Council, I would like to wish the Congregation a blessed Advent and Christmas.

Jack Flick, President

Please contact any member of the church council with questions or concerns: Peter Brumenschenkel, Jack Flick, Randy Genther, Jennifer Hinton, Kara Krywyj, Jon Montag, Lynne Morella, Aaron Ozanich, Pastor Dan Skillman



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Property Committee is pleased to report that Colony Roofing was able to find the cause for the water leak in the sanctuary roof and temporarily repair it. They found a cracked roof tile on the roof just above where the water leak appeared below and noted that the tar paper below the tile was disintegrated so the water was able to enter the ceiling below. They made a thin metal flashing for under the tile to direct any water that gets under the tile out from underneath the tile and down the exterior of the roof to the gutter. They also caulked the crack in the tile. As usual, they responded the same day they were called to help us minimize the damage before it rained again.

Colony also supplied a firm quoted cost for the re-roofing of the Sanctuary in time for the Congregational meeting. The cost submitted was only 10% higher than the cost estimate submitted over seven years ago. Since the cost to re-roof the Sanctuary is in the budget approved by the congregation on Sunday, the contracts will be signed and the project detailed planning will begin.

The idea of having two live balled Christmas trees in the back of the church as giving trees and then replanting them on church property has taken root. One of the trees will be a memorial gift and the other a gift from Schonhut Landscaping. Schonhut will deliver the two trees, and then plant them after they are removed from the Sanctuary. The proposed location will be either side of the dead tree in the middle of the lawn between the two driveways.

When the major repairs and replacement of parts of St. Paul was built into the budget 8 years ago, the congregation was told that a 7% increase in giving would be able to support that plan. The congregation has been faithful to their unanimous approval and allowed St. Paul to make several improvements that have reduced the upkeep and operating expenses for the congregation. In the congregational meeting, the financial report showed that the level of giving has decreased about 5% in the last year, making it difficult if not impossible to continue with the annual repairs in the future years. Please prayerfully consider what you may be able to do to help offset this decrease so that we can continue to make the necessary repairs and replacements before they become a costly emergency situation.

Jim Jungeberg

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



DECEMBER EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ADVENT WORKSHOP

DECEMBER 1 11:15 AFTER OUR 10:00 WORSHIP

Please join us for our Advent Workshop & lunch

Pizza, salad & a brownie bar

Crafts to make

Cookies to decorate & popcorn to munch

Fleece blankets to tie to donate to folks in need

Grab a basket to fill with food for the Berea Food Bank

Bring a family Nativity Scene to display

Get an Advent calendar of devotions for the month

Christmas Bingo

Live music

PLEASE JOIN US

FOLKS OF ALL AGES!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

DECEMBER 15

DURING OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

9:45-10:45

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Mark your calendars & watch for details!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR

- December 1** 10:00 Worship
11:15 Advent Workshop & Lunch
Fellowship Hall
No Sunday School
- December 8** 10:00 Worship
Christmas Cantata
No Sunday School or Children's Church
- December 15** 9:45-10:45 Happy Birthday Jesus Party
Fellowship Hall
Kids & Families- Please join us!
- December 22** 8:30 Children's Church
9:45-10:45 Sunday School
11:00 Children's Church
- December 24** Christmas Eve Services
1:00 / 7:00 / 9:00 / 11:00
- December 25** 11:00 Christmas Day Worship
- December 29** 10:00 Worship
No Sunday School

Susan Moore 440-243-1144 ext. 207; email: children@stpaulbera.org





STAY TUNED-UPDATES WILL BE IN THE BULLETINS

STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

Stewardship is what I do after I say "I believe in Christ Jesus as my Lord and Savior!"

Stewardship Verse: Hymn "We Give You But Thine Own" Verse 1 -

"We give you but Thine own,
What e'er the gift may be,
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust O Lord from Thee."

GIVING TREE OPPORTUNITIES

BEREA COMMUNITY OUTREACH

These gifts go to specific children in the Berea community. Gifts are to be **unwrapped** so their parents may wrap their children's gifts. You may include gift wrap. Gifts should be returned by **Sunday December 8th**.



LMM-COMMUNITY RE-ENTRY PARTY

These gifts go to the Community Re-Entry Party being held on Saturday December 14th. Please **wrap** these gifts and return to the church by **Sunday December 8th**.

SHEEP AND GOATS FOCUS



CHILDREN'S ORGAN TRANSPLANT ASSOC. COTA FOR TEAM CORMACK



Autosomal recessive polycystic kidney **disease (ARPKD)** is a rare inherited childhood condition, where the development of the kidneys and liver is abnormal. Over time, either one of these organs may fail. Both Jaina and Chesley Cormack have this disease and are expected to need both liver and kidney transplants. You can help them raise funds for their transplant fund through COTA.org. You can use your Sheep and Goats donation in your special envelopes or donate directly via the website.

<https://cota.org/campaigns/cotaforteamcormack/contributions/>

Did You Know?

- The Children's Organ Transplant Association does not charge for its services. 100% of funds raised in honor of patients are available for transplant-related expenses.
- COTA funds are available for a patient's lifetime for almost any transplant-related expense.

MONTHLY COLLECTION FOR BERA COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Hats, Mittens & Scarves

**In addition all canned, boxed, shelf
stable food is welcome every month**



COMMISSION ON AGING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



**Tuesday December 10th at noon
the Senior Luncheon will
be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church
Cost \$5.00**

**Contact the
"Active Senior Network"
for reservations
at 440 891-3316**



OFFICIAL ACTS

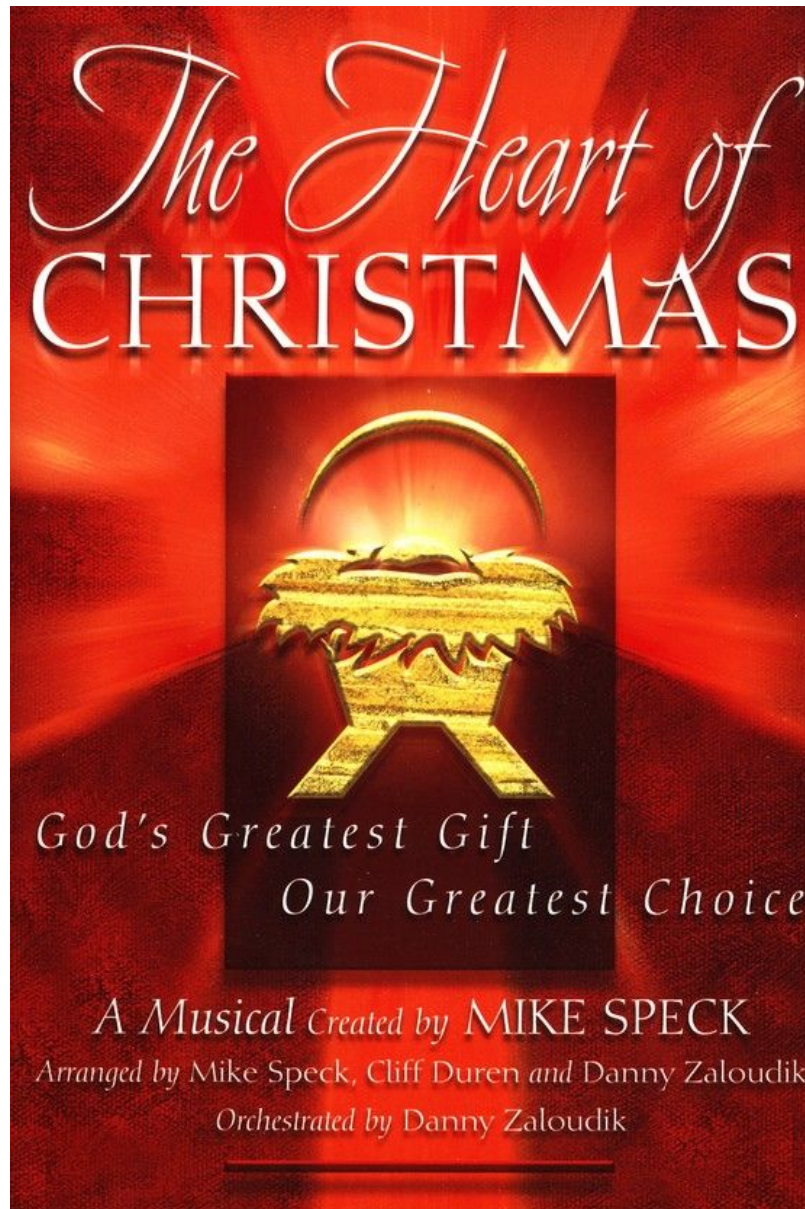
Wedding

11/2 Firing/McGrath

Funeral

11/15 David Stevenson

CHRISTMAS CANTATA DECEMBER 8TH, 10AM



PLEASE BRING A FRIEND OR TWO!

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
276 EAST BAGLEY ROAD
BEREA, OHIO 44017
440-243-1144
www.stpaulberea.org

FIRST CLASS
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM



I wish to order a poinsettia plant(s) for the Christmas season. The money or check (made out to St. Paul Altar Guild) is enclosed. Deadline for ordering is December 8th

PLEASE PLACE ENVELOPE IN THE BOX ACROSS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE.
Name as you wish it to appear in the bulletin

_____ Phone _____

PLANTS - \$9.75 each

I WISH THE BULLETIN TO READ:

_____ **Red Blooms** **To the Glory of God** _____

_____ **White Blooms** **In Memory of** _____

In Honor of _____

_____ **I will pick up plant(s)**

_____ **Altar Guild is to give plant(s) to homebound person**

Plants may be picked up after the 11:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, after service on Christmas Day or during the week from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. daily when the church is open. Any questions, contact the church office (440-243-1144) or call Barb Daniels or Ginny Anderson.