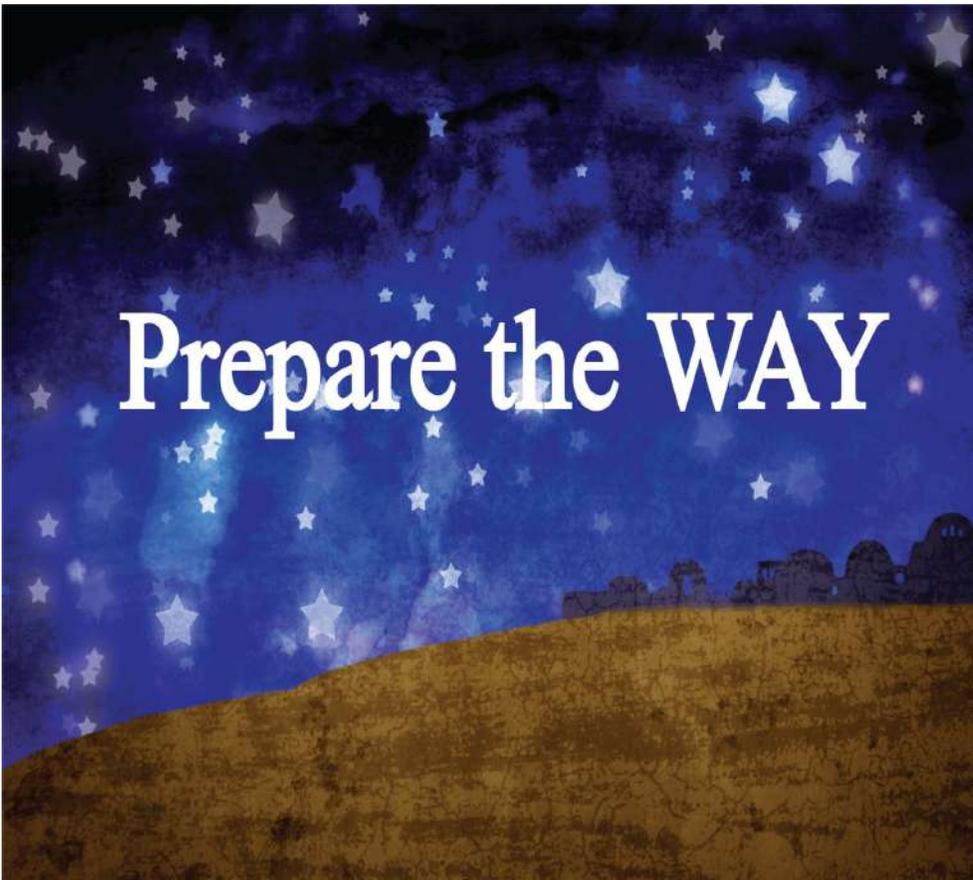


December
2022
Volume
LXXXVIII

THE EPISTLE

St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
309 S. Jackson St.
Jackson, Michigan 49201
Phone 517-787-3370
Email: church@stpauljxmi.org
Website: www.stpauljxmi.org



Inside this issue

Rector's Corner.....	2
Sr. Warden.....	3
ECW.....	4
Organist's corner.....	5
Hospitality.....	6
M&O.....	7
Announcements.....	8-11
Birthdays & Anniversaries.	10
Calendar.....	12



Rector's Corner

The Work of Transition

Advent is a time of new beginning(s). During this special season we celebrate several special pregnancies and the new beginnings that come from them: Elizabeth's special pregnancy with the baby who God tells her and Zechariah to name John (the Baptizer) and then Mary's special pregnancy with the baby who God tells her and Joseph to name Jesus. As we have been reminded by Amy-Jill Levine in our Advent Bible study, these special pregnancies echo many others from the Hebrew Scriptures, all the way back to Sarah, Abraham, and Issac. And in the Bible, whenever there is a special pregnancy like these, God is up to something . . . doing something new with and for humanity.

When churches are between long-term rectors we say they are in "transition." I think a pregnancy is a very good metaphor for this special time, except for the fact that it usually takes a little longer than nine months! But in so many other ways, I find the metaphor helpful. Some transitions are easy, some are difficult, most are somewhere in between. There's a lot of waiting and anticipation and uncertainty, but we still have a lot to do physically, mentally, and emotionally as we wait. We engage specialists to help us, like midwives, obstetricians, and breathing coaches, and others who have simply gone through this before. We think about and plan about what life will be like after the baby comes, and what changes we need to make to be ready. We prepare.

The main job of a trained Interim Rector is to help identify and guide a parish through whatever work they need to do to prepare for whatever God is calling them to birth. There are some important questions to ask and answer about your past, your present, and your future. This isn't a delay tactic or some sort of ecclesiastical navel gazing. It's productive work that can create common understanding among parishioners with different tenures and experiences and establish a shared vision of who St. Paul's is and what's important to you, now. Parishes that have taken this work seriously usually end up with a much more cohesive and communal internal culture and a much better ultimate "call" of a new leader.

I would like to invite and encourage you to take part in a series of Interim Forums that will be our all-parish opportunity to tend to this important work. We'll meet in Holy Spirit Hall, once a month on Sundays, between our two morning services. We'll make coffee and tea available beginning at 9am and we will start promptly at 9:30, so please arrive before that time! Our first two Interim Forums will be December 11 and January 15. Please plan to come and take part!

My first month with you was such a blessing. Thank you for welcoming me warmly. And thank you, in advance, for the work of transition that we'll do together in the months to come. God is most certainly at work among you. I'm excited to see how this pregnancy unfolds . . .

Faithfully,
Jadon+



From our Sr. Warden...

Two things jump out at me as I write this month's letter. First: This is the last letter of the year. This year has been a blur! Last year, we were just starting to get back to what we thought was the new normal, after Covid. We were trying to safely find our way through Advent and the Christmas season. Second: eleven short months later we are finding our way through a completely different new normal. Pastor Melissa moved on, Pastor Sarah moved on and now we have both a new Minister with new ideas and a new choir director with his own new ideas. Our minister alone is a new thing for St. Paul's although common throughout the diocese. Pastor Jadon is a three-quarter time minister. He has responsibilities with the U.S. Navy as a reserve Chaplain.

This new normal is stretching our imagination and our understanding of the way we do things. It is both exciting and scary. Scary gets you out of your comfort zone and gets your adrenaline flowing. I get excited when something new is given an honest chance by the congregation.

We are now preparing for another new normal as the search committee does its work. It is up to us to figure out who we are and what we want to be as a church. As new members have arrived the profile of the church has changed. Part of the process of calling a new minister is determining what that profile is. This too is both exciting and scary. The Search Committee is working hard to get the church profile done. They need as many people as possible to fill out the CAT survey. Please take the time to do so. It will help us decide who we want to call as our Rector. IT IS IMPORTANT!

Our in-gathering of pledges will take place this coming Sunday. Once again, your pledge is IMPORTANT. We are blessed with a generous congregation that has supported this church for over 180 years. I am confident that we will continue to do so. Please prayerfully consider your pledge to this church. St. Paul's can and should be part of the renewal of Jackson, as we too renew ourselves.

As we go into this holiday season, we will continue to explore different ways to enhance our worship service. As a choir member, I find it once again, both exciting and scary.

Coming in January, look for an announcement about becoming certified in Safe Church. The Diocese has strict standards as to who needs to be trained in the church. Our goal is to have this completed on March 1, 2023.

Last week Rev. Jadon called on us to be specific in what we are grateful for. I am grateful this month for Alice Mulhearn. As our Church Administrator she is a Rock Star. The past six months have been exciting and scary, but Alice kept them organized. She has been a blessing to us all.

Peace,
Barney Rudolph



The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ECW

I wish you all a happy and holy Advent season as we prepare for the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. He comes at the end of the darkest days of the year bringing light for the time to come. Christmas – one of the holiest of holy days.

Also celebrated in December are Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. December brings the start of winter on December 21 which is also the winter solstice and the shortest day of the year. For me it's a time of reflection on the year past and looking forward to the year to come - a setting of goals to strive for rather than resolutions I struggle to keep.

On November 12, we had the great pleasure of hosting Sheryl Sabo-Grieve from the Interfaith Shelter. Sheryl did a fantastic job of telling us all about the shelter, from its humble beginnings on East Michigan Ave to the wonderful, newly renovated building they have now on Blackstone Street. She shared her own journey of homelessness with us and about the wonderful programs the shelter provides to its clients, many of which were a surprise to most of us. A very worthy institution to support doing mostly untold good in our community.

We are down to just 5 bags of nuts left of the amount we ordered. Thank you to all who participated in our only yearly fundraising event. We are sure these last bags will go quickly and then we can report the final profit.

The St. Nicholas children's party will be held on December 4. St. Nicholas will be there and there will be treats and special bags for the kiddos both the young and the not so young ones. We hope to see you there to support the young people of the church.

Again, we are overwhelmed by your generosity to our Priceless Gifts collection. These items serve those who have the least in our community and relieve parents of the stress of finding and paying for gifts for their children. Well done people of St. Paul's. You have stepped up yet again and we are very thankful.

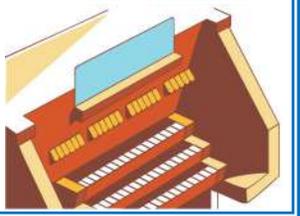
Please don't forget our Holiday Luncheon at the Country Club of Jackson on December 10. If you have never attended a meeting before, please make a point of attending this one. It is a great time of fellowship and fun to kick off the season with other women. You don't have to be a regular attendee or indeed a parishioner of St. Paul's to come. So, if you ladies have friends you'd like to invite, please feel free to do so. Festivities start at 11 am and the cost is \$20. If you have trouble with coming up with that amount, please contact Rev. Jaden who will arrange a scholarship payment anonymously to cover your luncheon.

The ECW board wishes you and yours a safe and happy Advent and Christmas season.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Rowley, Vice-President ECW.



Organist's Corner



Savior of the Nations, Come!

During each of the first three Sundays of Advent, we will sing the hymn “Savior of the Nations, Come!” (The fourth Sunday in Advent will be a special Lessons and Carols service.) The Hymnal 1982 Companion refers to this text and tune as among “the most important and valuable additions to the *Hymnal 1982*.”

The text of this hymn is one of Martin Luther’s (1483-1546) earliest hymn translations, probably from 1523. The original text was in Latin (*Veni redemptor gentium*) and is attributed to Ambrose of Milan (340-397). Ambrose is often called the “father of church song,” because his hymns were the first ones that the church found worth keeping. Although only a catechumen at the time, Ambrose was baptized, ordained, and elected bishop all in December of 374. One of the catechumens that Ambrose instructed was Augustine (354-430), who also wrote many congregational hymns. The text of this hymn is remarkable in that it begins with the manger and carries us to the cross and resurrection. Our Hymnal 1982 has a composite text with verses 2–4 created specifically for the H82. A more complete text translation is as follows.

- 1 Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth: God has chosen such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood, but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of woman, blossom fresh.
- 3 Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child— from his throne, a virgin mild!
Very God, and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!
- 4 From God's heart the Savior speeds, back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command, back to reign at God's right hand.
- 5 Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.
- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

The tune for this hymn is *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*. A close approximation of the plainsong chant from which this tune came can be found as #55 in The Hymnal 1982. The hymn we will sing each Sunday is found as #54 and shows Luther’s strength in creating songs for congregational singing. Luther gave the tune a set meter, which feels like 4/4 to singers. With the meter came changes in the tune including repeating the first phrase of the tune as the last phrase. He also eliminated much of the melodic embellishment, making the plainsong chant into a bold “chorale,” a harmonized version of the simple yet profound hymn tune.

Julie J. Baglien
Organist/Director of Music



Thank you for making our Harvest Dinner such a blessing!

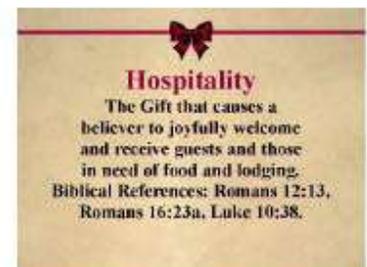


Just a brief note of thanks to everyone who contributed their time, talent and efforts in making the 2022 Harvest Dinner a wonderful and delicious occasion for the members of St. Paul's Church. We had over 70 in attendance and everyone was able to taste old favorites as well as some new treats. In addition, Big Guy Catering did an outstanding job and even provided an additional type of

meat (beef) for those who don't like turkey. Thank you especially to the women (and men) who helped to decorate the tables in preparation for the feast and then helped to clean up afterwards. It definitely helps when people jump in and help to clean up plates, silverware, condiments, table decorations, and other items that need to be picked up, sorted and put away until next year.



The gift of giving and providing hospitality extends throughout the year for our parish family and visitors. The Hospitality team would like some help with the purchase of sweet items and serving of food for coffee hour. Big Guy Catering provides a tray of food that will have to be put out each Sunday in time for coffee hour. The host / hostess would have to purchase sweet items, including a gluten free item for those with dietary restrictions in our church family. Other duties would include arranging the sweet items on a tray and setting them out for serving, putting out plates, napkins and forks. You would also need to put out a basket to collect donations toward the coffee hour. Both regular and decaf coffee would need to be made and served in the white carafes. Ice water and juice would need to be set out as well. Help would be provided if needed.



Hospitality Team Members

Debbie Batchelder	Dana Burkey
Jo Alipit	Romelle Frey
Sally Mckinnon	Rhonda Rudolph

We are always looking for new members

A calendar is available for you to sign up and the team members listed are available if you have any questions regarding what to do. We encourage you to become a vital part of our ongoing efforts to welcome everyone who enters St. Paul's through blessings of food and refreshment.

From Mission & Outreach



December Focus

St. Paul's December "Mission & Outreach" focus will be an "Angel Tree". This Christmas we are adopting six Jackson High School students who would not otherwise have any gifts to open this holiday. St Paul's has also adopted a family of five through The Salvation Army! The Angel Tree will be in the glass narthex on November 27th. The tree will be decorated with gift tags. Each tag will include the description of a requested gift item. Please be mindful of the deadline date on your gift tag. Each unwrapped gift must be returned to St. Paul's by the specified date noted. (If you are unable to deliver your gift to the church feel free to contact Heidi or Dana to arrange pick-up.) Thank you in advance for your loving support of our community! Your generosity makes a difference!

Holiday Blessings, Heidi Hosler-Lathrop & Dana Burkey



Handbells are back !

Come join the fun on Thursday evenings, from **5:30-6:30 pm** in the chapel.

All are welcome!

For details or questions, contact Michelle Gibson (832) 445-4461.



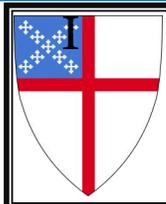
Calling all singers!

The St. Paul's choir is back!

Rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm.

It's a fun group, check us out!

Questions? Please see choir director Jeff on Sunday or email him at jwilkinson@stpauljxmi.org



RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

If you haven't already, please submit the CAT (Search Committee assessment tool) by Dec. 4th! www.surveymonkey.com/r/STPECJMI

And if you have already completed it, look for the "CAT box" in Holy Spirit Hall and submit your name for the Search Committee's "Thank You" drawing for gift cards and other fun prizes.

For questions, or to contact a member of the Search Committee for assistance in filling out the survey online or obtaining a paper copy you can email:
searchcommittee@stpauljxmi.org



**Holy Eucharist is
back
on Wednesdays at
12:15 pm for the
season of Advent.**



Reminder:

Our Annual
Congregational
Meeting will be held
after the 10:30 am
service on

**Sunday, January
22nd.**

**More details to
come soon!**



**Holiday Hours:
OFFICE CLOSED**

December 26-27

January 2, 2023





Join us for in-person services at 8 am or 10:30 am.

Or Join us online Sundays at 10:30 am:

For the Facebook Livestream of our service follow the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi>

Sunday Worship Bulletins are on our website at <https://stpauljxmi.org/>

You can also view our services later on Facebook.

(You do NOT have to have a Facebook account to view our videos.)

Adult Forum

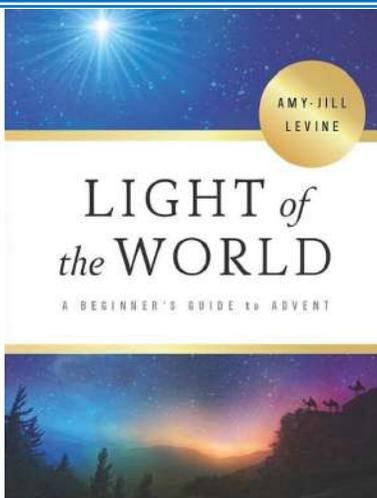
9:15 am-10:15 am on Sundays in the small dining room.

Email Eric Magnusson (emagnusson75@gmail.com) for more info or questions.

Bible Study



Bible Study will continue to be in person on Wednesdays in January at **10:30 am** led by Natalie Magnusson in the Small Dining Room.



Special Advent Book Study

Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent by Amy-Jill Levine.

Father Jadon invites the whole parish into this short study of the Old Testament passages and Jewish context that are the foundation of Advent and Christmas. Read or listen to the book on your own or join him for a 4-week discussion group on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. at church or Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom, beginning with Chapter 1 on November 30. The book is available on Amazon in paperback, Kindle, and Audible. Father Jadon also has a small quantity available for \$10 cash.

Email him at jadon@stpauljxmi.org or call the office to reserve a copy, or if you want to attend the online Zoom sessions.



Wayne Frey	December 2
Dr. James Freer	December 7
Elaine Themm	December 10
Dr. John Alipit	December 13
Jan Osborn	December 25
Jesus	December 25



Mike & Diane Worthing	December 3
Jim & Joyce Grace	December 12
Wayne & Romelle Frey	December 16



Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 18th:

8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Lessons & Carols



Saturday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve:

5:00 PM Service
(Recorded and Livestreamed on Facebook)
11:00 PM Service



Sunday, Dec. 25th, Christmas Day:
1 service only - NO 8 AM Service

10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist
(This service will not be streamed or recorded to give our tech team a break.)



Sunday, January 1, 2023:
1 service only - NO 8 AM Service

10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist



You are joyfully invited to the

***Bishop's
Christmas Open House***

Enjoy Christmas carols,
food & fellowship with
Bishop Perry and friends
from around the Diocese!



***Friday, December 16, 2022
6: 00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.***



St Paul's Episcopal Church
309 S. Jackson Street
Jackson, MI 49201



DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				5:30 pm Hand-bells 6 pm Diocesan Clergy Event 6:30 pm Choir		
4 Birthdays & Anniv.	5	6	7	8	9	10
2nd Advent 8 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ St. Nicholas Party		6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Search Comm Mtg (Zoom)	10:30 am Bible Study	5:30 pm Hand-bells 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal		11 am ECW Christmas Lunch
11 Noisy Sunday	12	13	14	15	16	17
3rd Advent 8 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour	6:30 pm Vestry Mtg	6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Search Comm Mtg (Zoom)	10:30 am Bible Study	5:30 pm Hand-bells 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 pm Diocesan Christmas Party 	
18 4th Advent	19	20	21	22	23	24
8 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Lessons & Carols / Coffee Hour		6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Search Comm Mtg (Zoom)	10:30 am Bible Study	5:30 pm Hand-bells 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal		5 pm Christmas Eve Service 11 pm Christmas Eve Service
25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:30 am Holy Eucharist 		6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Search Comm Mtg (Zoom)	10:30 am Bible Study	5:30 pm Hand-bells 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal		