



December

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

775-358-4474

www.StPaulsSparks.org

The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector

Sunday Worship Information

10:00 a.m. In-person and on Zoom
Blended Holy Communion Service

Masks are optional.

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church
(1135 12th Street)
P. O. Box 737
Sparks NV 89432

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From the Pile on Fr. Kirk's Desk...



It is hard to believe that Advent is already here. It seems like we say that every year, don't we?

These four weeks before Christmas are a special time of the year that we focus on preparation. We prepare ourselves for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, God's Incarnation into the world. Are you ready to welcome in the Christ Child? If so, what does that look like for you?

Preparing for the birth of Jesus is just part of our Advent prep time. We are also preparing ourselves for our participation in the Incarnation, which means, we are to take these four weeks to prepare ourselves for a life of action as Christ's feet, hands, and voice. How are you preparing your feet, hands, and voice to represent God's Love in the world?

Not sure? That's okay. Ponder it in your heart, mind, and soul...you have a few more weeks before Christmas.

Kirk+

Senior Warden's Report

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

There are lots of things to keep us busy this month. It is important to remember to take care of yourself by taking time to prepare for the coming of the Christ child.

Coming in January is our Annual Meeting. We have 3 candidates for vestry at this time but if someone feels they are called to additional ministry in the church, please talk to me or Fr. Kirk.

We will be ramping up our fund raising efforts next year to work on the parking lot. I am sure you have seen the problems we need to address in this area. Your support is appreciated!

Thank you for all your prayers for me during the past year. I am grateful for your care and support.

Margaret Bouzek
Senior Warden

Stewardship Ingathering Sunday

December 4th is Ingathering Sunday. This is a day that we bless and celebrate the financial pledges for the coming year. We hope you can join us for 10:00 worship. If you have a paper pledge card that you have yet to turn in, please bring it with you. If you have made your pledge online, you are set. We will add it before they are blessed on Sunday.

If you have not made your pledge and you want to make it online, please do so by clicking this link.

[My/Our 2023 Pledge to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sparks \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com/My/Our_2023_Pledge_to_St._Paul's_Episcopal_Church_Sparks)

If you want to fill in a paper pledge card on Sunday, one will be provided for you in the Narthex. Thank you!

Craft Fair: December 4th

On December 4th following the Sunday Service, we will have a craft sale in the parish hall. All proceeds will benefit the parking lot fund. If you would like to donate any items for the sale, please see Linda Devon or Margaret Bouzek. The Community Food Pantry will have bowls available for sale as well. The proceeds from their sale will go to the Food Pantry.

"Blue" Christmas Service

Wednesday, Dec. 21st 6:00 p.m.

Is Christmas time hard for you? There are numerous reasons why so many people struggle during this time of year. If you are someone that experiences more pain than joy around the holidays, you are not alone. Come and worship the Christ Child with others in the struggle. Come to our Blue Christmas service and invite those you know who might want to join you.

“Greening” the Church: Dec 18th

We will need some extra help following the 10:00 service on December 18th. If you are able to stick around and set up the Christmas Trees, etc., it would be much appreciated.

Christmas Altar Flowers

The special envelope for the Christmas Altar Flowers are in the Narthex. A donation to the Christmas Altar Flowers is a wonderful way to remember loved ones and to give thanks for God’s blessings. Deadline for flower dedications is noon on Dec. 20th.

Special Christmas Offering

The Special Christmas offering this year will be given to the St. Paul’s Clergy Discretionary Fund. These donations will be used in a variety of ways to help those in need, which may include individuals or outreach ministries such as Laundry Love if they come up short.

Special Holiday Worship Times

Sunday, December 18th

10:00 a.m. Advent Lessons & Carols

11:15 a.m. Greening the Church

Wednesday, December 21st

6:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve, December 24th

5:00 p.m. Praise Service

8:00 p.m. Traditional Rite II

Christmas Day, December 25th

10:00 a.m. Traditional Rite II (No music)

December 26-30 Office Closed (mostly)

Sunday, January 1st

10:00 a.m. Praise Service

St. Paul's Prayer Team

Please call or email a prayer request to Robin at church or Rita at honda07rita@gmail.com or 775-971-4775.

Prayer requests for your special people will be on for about 2 months, unless you need a longer date. Your special people will be lifted to our Lord each day. Thank you for the privilege of praying for you and your special people.

Wine and Grape Juice

We now offer both wine and grape juice during Communion. Both chalices continue to be intinction only. Ask Fr. Kirk for more details.

Altar Guild

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the Altar Guild Team. If you are interested, please contact either Sue Schultz at 775-626-5814 or the church office at 775-358-4474. Training is provided.

Prayers and Squares Ministry

Prayers and Squares will not be meeting in November or December. We hope you will join us at our next meeting, the last Sunday in January. Contact Linda Kennedy or Margaret Bouzek if you have any questions.

Ushers Needed

Ladies and gentlemen, as we approach the new church year, we are finding the continual need for the ministries that serve during worship and that includes ushers. The usher duties aren’t complicated or demanding, and the more volunteers we have the fewer times you are called to serve. If you are already in a ministry that serves during worship (choir, praise team, lectors, eucharistic ministers, etc.) adding usher to your list could complicate your life. If not, you can help and still participate in the service from the cheap seats. Please give some thought to joining the crew. Let us know at office@stpaulssparks.org or contact Dick Stufflebeam.

Advent Study

The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God’s Voice in Advent

Sundays, 12:00 to 1:00

Week Two, Dec. 4th Chapter 2

Week Three, Dec. 11th Chapter 3

Week Four, Dec. 18th, Chapter 4 and Epilogue

Friday Bible Study

Come and join Fr. Kirk on Friday mornings from **11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** We are currently studying the Sunday Gospel lesson for the week.

Laundry Love

This once-a-month ministry helps people do their laundry so they can use their limited funds on medicine, rent, etc. Doing a load of laundry is expensive, so we continually collect quarters (or other \$\$ that we can turn into quarters). Monetary donations can either be handed to Linda Devon or designate it in an envelope and put it in the offering plate.



If you have any questions or interest in helping with ministry, contact Linda Devon at LSD4764@hotmail.com.

United Thank Offering

In May St. Paul's started their United Thank Offering Campaign to express our gratitude to God for the Blessings received in our lives. On Nov 6th the Ingathering was held and St. Paul's will send \$1109.13 to the National UTO Office representing many Blessings received. Thank you to all parishioners for your generous response for God's Blessings from St. Paul's, Recipients of UTO grants, Jori Trimble and Kathie Dixon.

Recovery Groups at St. Paul's

Wednesdays: Women's AA @ 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Ala-Non Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

Calendar at a Glance

Dec 04, Stewardship Pledge Ingathering
Dec 04, Craft Fair
Dec 18, Lessons & Carols 10 a.m.
Dec 20, Deadline for Flower dedications
Dec 21, Blue Christmas Service 6 p.m.
Dec 24, Christmas Eve Service 5 & 8 p.m.
Dec 25, Christmas Day Service 10 a.m.
(no music).
Jan 01, Sunday 10 a.m. worship
Jan 29, Annual Parish Meeting

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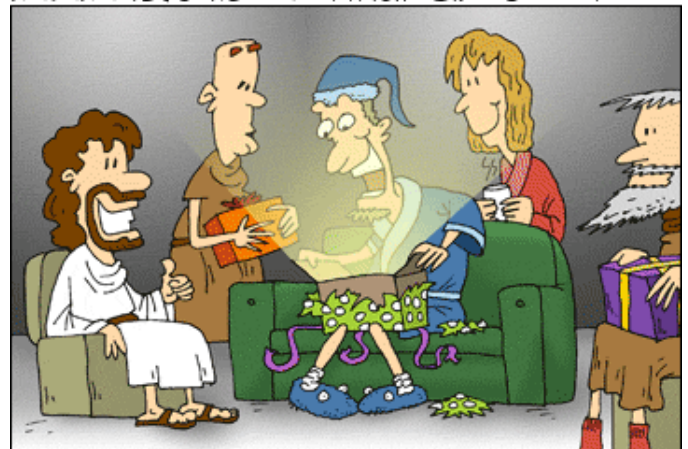
Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-20-2001
SORRY FOLKS, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID ... GOD HIMSELF COULDN'T GET A ROOM HERE TONIGHT

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Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-23-2005
AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS BROUGHT UP IN A STABLE HOME

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Thanks to Andrew S. 12-21-2007
ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS JESUS!