



December

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

775-358-4474

www.StPaulsSparks.org

The Very Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector

Sunday Worship Information

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

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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...



Advent is Here

Advent is the season and runs the four weeks prior to Christmas. This church season is a special time of preparation, but what are we preparing for?

The short answer is Christmas. We are preparing for the birth of that cute little baby Jesus. The long answer goes a bit deeper.

Advent is a time of preparation, an intentional focus to prepare our hearts and minds to receive God incarnate into our lives...an annual refresher course to prepare us to meet Jesus, not just as a baby, but to meet Jesus everyday in the world around us...in every creature big or small, that is created in God's image.

How will you live into the season of Advent? What things will you do to intentionally prepare yourself, intentionally heighten your awareness to the Love we celebrate at Christmas?

Kirk⁺

Sr. Warden Report



Happy New Year!

As Fr. Kirk reminded us last Sunday, Advent is the beginning of the church year.

There are several special events being held at church this month. Please attend as you are able.

In January we will elect two new members to the vestry. Please prayerfully consider if you are being called to a new ministry. The vestry meets monthly to conduct the business side of the church. Please talk to any current vestry member if you have questions.

Thank you for your gifts during our Stewardship campaign. The vestry will now be working to finalize the budget to be presented at the annual meeting.

Thankfully,
Margaret Bouzek
Senior Warden

Christmas Quilt Raffle

We will be having a raffle for a queen size Christmas Quilt. The drawing will be on December 1st at the Craft Fair.

Tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10.

Please see Margaret Bouzek or Linda Kennedy for tickets during coffee hour in the parish hall.

Daughters of the King Holiday Craft Fair and Bake Sale

December 1, 2024

After Church to 2:00 p.m.

Proceeds to be used for Coffee Hour Supplies

We will offer:

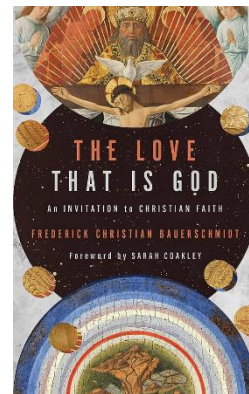
- Baked Goods
- Home Made Soup to Go
- Hand-made crafts and jewelry

Come join us for some Christmas Shopping!!

Advent Book Study

Sundays: December 1, 8, 15, 22

2:00 to 3:00 (Location TBA)



The Love That is God by Frederick Christian Bauerschmidt.

Get your hard copy or digital copy wherever you purchase your books.

“God is love is the radical claim of Christianity,” writes Frederick Bauerschmidt at the beginning of this little

meditation on the essentials of Christian faith. In a rich yet accessible style reminiscent of C. S. Lewis and G. K. Chesterton, Bauerschmidt breathes life back into that claim, drawing from Scripture, great Christian and non-Christian writers of the past, and his own lived experience to show just how countercultural and subversive Christianity is actually meant to be. This book offers something for everyone, from new believers, lifelong churchgoers, to students of religion.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Join us **Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 10:00 a.m.** for the Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Special Christmas Offering and Christmas Flowers

Envelopes for both Christmas Flowers and Special Christmas Offering are in the Narthex. A donation to the Christmas Flowers is a wonderful way to remember loved ones and to give thanks for God's blessings.

The Special Christmas Offering this year will be split between The Community Food Pantry and St. Paul's General Fund. **Deadline for flower dedications is noon on Dec. 20th.**

"Greening" the Church: Dec 15th

We will need some extra help following the 10:00 service on December 15th. If you are able to stick around and set up the Christmas Trees, etc., it would be much appreciated.

"Blue" Christmas Service: Dec 21st Saturday, December 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.

Christmas Day Snack Potluck

St. Paul's will be hosting a snack food potluck and boardgame gathering for after the 10am Christmas Day service for those without plans. Everyone is invited to bring a snack and a favorite board game, we will gather in the parish hall and have Jenga, Yahtzee, Dominos, Gin Rummy, and Chinese Checkers. Sign-up in the Narthex. For more information contact Susanne at t9susanne@gmail.com.

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.

Special Holiday Worship Times

Saturday, December 21st

6:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 22nd

10:00 a.m. Advent Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve, December 24th

5:30 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-January 1st

Office Closed (mostly)

Sunday, December 29th

10:00 a.m. Praise Service

United Thank Offering

Almighty God, we give you praise for blessing us in many ways. Create in us grateful hearts and with these gifts a blessing start. Amen. (UTO Book of Prayers)

In May, St. Paul's started the United Thank Offering campaign to express our gratitude to God for the Blessings received in our lives. On November 3rd our UTO Ingathering was held and because of your gifts of gratitude St. Paul's will send \$564.86 to the National UTO Office representing many Blessings received. Thank you to all parishioners for your generous response to God's Blessings.

A poster listing many of the 2024 UTO Grants has been posted on the OUTREACH board in the narthex. Please check out the grants given world wide to ministries seeking to live Jesus' way of love.

Jori Trimbell and Kathie Dixon

St. Paul's Prayer Team

Please call or email a prayer request to 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.

Friday Bible Study on Zoom

We will **NOT** meet on

Dec. 27th or Jan 3rd or Jan 10th

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. If you would like to join the bible study on **ZOOM**, first email Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org so you can receive the scriptures for the day and then join by using this link. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86365786953?pwd=ZzkwME9iYy9FZWVxbSs0d3NaOFIrlUT09>

Tech Team

St. Paul's relies on technology to facilitate both live and online communication. Our Technical Team Ministry (Tech Team) is essential in making this happen.

The team utilizes the Zoom platform to ensure all parishioners can access church services. Our services are hybrid, available both in person and via Zoom.

We use cameras to broadcast and record services, sermons, and special events. Currently, we are learning and experimenting with new cameras and camera systems.

A soundboard is used to control the audio, directing it to the church speakers, hearing assistance devices, and Zoom broadcasts. We manage audio feeds from the praise team, choir, clergy, various mics, and auxiliary sound sources, balancing the sound as needed.

The Tech Team relies on each member's unique gifts to contribute to a quality service. Some volunteers have professional tech training and willingly share their skills, while others with an interest are being trained. Our team works collaboratively, so every member does not need to know every aspect of our technology. The goal is to have team members on a rotating schedule to run the cameras, Zoom, and assist with the soundboard. Members will also help install and maintain equipment and contribute to discussions about future improvements.

Currently, our team is very small, and we need more members to achieve our goals. Please consider if this is something you are interested in. It helps if you have technical aptitude and are comfortable with computers, but even if you are unsure, a willingness and patience to learn and contribute are valuable.

We ask that anyone interested in joining the Tech Team be committed to the church and our ministry, available to support technical aspects during services, and trainable in new and expanding technologies. This includes working with the soundboard, running camera systems, assisting with wireless microphones and hearing assistance devices, troubleshooting projectors, managing Zoom sessions, recording services, and helping produce a service that all parishioners can participate in, whether in church or at home. Once you join the Tech Team, we ask that you have grace, an open mind, a willingness to learn, and dedication to assisting with all technical matters before, during, and after services.

St. Paul's Girls' Weekend

Save the Dates April 25-27, 2025

St. Paul's Girls Weekend 2025 will be held Friday, April 25, Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27 at Camp Galilee, Lake Tahoe.

Who: Women of all ages and their friends are invited.

When: Friday, April 25-Sunday, April 27, 2025

Where: Camp Galilee, Lake Tahoe

Why: Come enjoy the beauty of Lake Tahoe, walk on the beach (the camp is steps from Lake Tahoe), get to know other women from our church, eat delicious food, have great conversations, play games, watch movies, enjoy an art project or two, go to South Lake Tahoe to shop or see a movie, and relax!

Price: \$200 per person. Limited scholarships are available- if needed, please chat with Tia. Payment due before the event.

The weekend will begin with dinner on Friday night. Everyone attending will contribute a food item for Friday dinner. All meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday are included and prepared by Camp Galilee staff.

For more information or to confirm your attendance, you can call or email Tia Mittelstadt at tia.mittel@gmail.com or 775-722-3329; or Erin Anderson at erin@trinity-ai.com or 775-250-2699. Checks can be made out to St. Paul's Episcopal Church and please note for SPGW 2025 on the memo line. Hope to see you there!