



# The Voice

## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



**December**

**This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.**

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Advent is my favorite season of the church year. I think it's because Advent is a season of hopeful expectation, and a time of waiting for what is promised to be fulfilled. St. Paul's is in a extra-adventy Advent this year. You are waiting to celebrate Christmas, Immanuel, God-with-us, and you are waiting to begin life with your next pastor.

This Advent, I invite you to dwell in this season of waiting and expectation, and not to run through it too fast. Let the anticipation linger, dwell in this in-between season, and let your new life as a congregation unfold. Be patient, hopeful, and get ready. And then in 2022, roll up your sleeves, get to know Pastor Marchese, work together with her, support her, and share God's great love for the world with those around you.

I look forward to concluding my time as your interim pastor during these seasons of Advent and Christmas. We have worked hard, imagined, prayed, and supported one another in this most unusual interim time imaginable. Now is the time to hope, anticipate, and together celebrate Jesus' birth.

May you have a blessed Advent, and a very Merry Christmas!

Pastor Adam

**Here are a few things for you to know:**

Special Advent and Christmas devotionals are available in both regular and large print. These are separate from and in addition to the Christ in Our Home daily devotional. There are also Advent and Christmas cards of daily family activities to do at home to number and celebrate these seasons. Please check out both resources.

Christmas Eve worship will be at 5 PM and 11 PM. The 5 PM Christmas Eve worship will be a service of lessons and carols. Both will incorporate candle lighting, hearing and celebrating the birth of Christ.

**# # # # #**

My Fellow Members,

What a way to celebrate the last Sunday of the Liturgical year. The then candidate Rev. Ashlin Marchese led our service, which was followed by a Congregational meeting, that voted unanimously to extend the Call to Rev. Marchese to be the next Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. It was accepted!

Rev. Marchese will begin her tenure at St. Paul's on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Pr. Adam will remain with us until that time.

I would like to thank the Call Committee Karl Kristoff, Dave Nuzzo, Cheryl Parr, Dawn Sagerman, Joe Brown, Sara Smith, and Emily Dufrene for their giving of their time and expertise. I would also like to thank Pr. Adam for the leadership and guidance that he has provided us throughout this process, and during his time with us.

As we celebrate Advent in preparation for Christmas, I will ask each of you to consider new ways that you could be of service to St. Paul's in the New Year. We are facing a new beginning, and as our future begins to materialize, we will need everyone's assistance to restart the work of St. Paul's. I urge you to consider becoming a council member, a teller, a greeter, working with Altar Guild, working with the Social Ministry, working with our children in Sunday School, or singing in the Choir. Many hands make light work.

I am also asking you to review your stewardship, your time, Talents, and gifts to St. Paul's. We have been blessed in so many ways, let us envision how can we return to God what he has given us.

Advent has a special meaning this year, we are not only awaiting the Birth of the Christ Child, but we are taking our next steps into our future.

God Bless, and may your Advent and Christmas be filled with wonder.

George Roeser

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**Please continue to use a mask while inside St. Paul's.**

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**The December Letters Project** : Led by Jessica Mason

**About the project:**

The December Letters Project is an annual feminist mental health literacy project that was started by Madwomen in the Attic in the United States, in December 2018. The project relies on individuals and groups to come together to write secular cards and letters with messages of friendship, solidarity, kindness, and hope to people who are in psychiatric institutions around the winter solstice, each year. The project aims to help alleviate some of the alienation, isolation, and separation that people sometimes feel while inside mental healthcare institutions, and to combat discrimination and stigma by bridging the gap between institution and community through a material gesture of solidarity that happens when we send someone about whom we care a kind letter in the mail.

Groups and schools in the United States, Canada, and Australia have participated in the December Letters Project since 2018. The project was inspired by the owls who transport mail in the Harry Potter series.

**How to Participate** Individuals and groups interested in participating in the project can either (a) reach out to their local mental healthcare institutions to discuss specific hospital/facility policies for the cards and to schedule a delivery date around the winter solstice or (b) send their cards to Madwomen in the Attic by December 15th to participate in the project in Buffalo, NY.

We encourage groups to hold letter-writing events in their communities and to work with nearby facilities to make the project meaningful and personal to their local communities

Madwomen in the Attic's Address: 68 Chasewood Lane East Amherst, NY 14051 The December Letters Project

For more information, please visit [www.madintheattic.org](http://www.madintheattic.org) or email MITA at [madwomenofwny@gmail.com](mailto:madwomenofwny@gmail.com).

## **ALTAR GUILD:**

**December**      **Arlene Bossert**

**January**        **Annette Berg and Pat Nowak**

If you have any questions, please contact Arlene Bossert (716-697-4848)

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## **YOUTH NEWS --**

### **ELCA National Youth Gathering-2022**

The national gathering of high school Lutheran youth will be in Minneapolis July 24-28, 2022. Gathering under the theme of Boundless: God beyond measure, all current 7th through 11th grade youth are eligible to attend. If you or a youth you know are potentially interested or have questions, please reach out to Pastor Adam. Some planning will begin this summer. This event brings together 30,000 high school aged youth for worship, service, learning, and exploring who they are while deepening their relationships with God and the church. It is an amazing experience. Go to [www.elca.org/gathering](http://www.elca.org/gathering) for more information.

**LADIES AID** meets Tuesday mornings from 9:30am to 11:00. All are welcome and you do not have to know how to sew in order to join these fun ladies. Bring a bag lunch and come catch up on what's going on. Nancy Noble.

**St. Paul's is still collecting DASH'S Register Tapes:** St. Paul's gets \$2.50 for every \$100 in tapes! **Please save your tapes**, and put them in the box in the narthex or the envelope on the social hall bulletin board.

**FRIENDS OF THE NIGHT PEOPLE** - Friends of the Night People and St Paul's are reaching out to volunteers for the 4th Monday from 4:30pm to 7:30pm of each month. This is to distribute TO GO MEALS ONLY from the Friends facility. 3 volunteers are needed. Please text Lee Clukey at 716-631-9855 if interested in volunteering. Without saying, the need is great.

**Food Pantry Open in Clarence for Anyone in Need.** The Evangel Food Pantry has returned to serving low income Town of Amherst residents. Anyone in need should contact the Morlock Foundation at [\(716\) 842-1300](tel:7168421300). You need proof of residency and proof of income. Cutoff for income level varies depending on the number in the household.

**THE LOCKPORT FOOD PANTRY** needs cake mixes, canned meats, canned fruit (except peaches), toothbrushes & toothpaste, shampoo, soap, and hand & body lotion. Diane Busdiecker will deliver your donations. Thank you for supporting this ongoing project.

**Book Club** - The next meeting of the Book Club will be on January 16, 2022 at 3:00pm. We will discuss The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion by Fannie Flagg. Kathy Hannon will lead the discussions and Peg Clukey will be our hostess.

***Order your Poinsettias by December 10, 2021. Call the office to reserve or fill out an order form at church. 716-634-2330.***

## PARISH REGISTER

**Baptisms** Savannah Ann Burke May 23, 2021  
Clara Marie Reagan July 11, 2021  
Taylor Josephine Granica July 27, 2021  
Riley Scott Snyder November 14, 2021

**Deaths/ Memorials** Barbara Weber June 5, 2021  
Eileen Folkerth August 7, 2021  
Wayne Hill(Mem.) August 2, 2021  
Arlene Lauer October 12, 2021  
Ursula Grau November 8, 2021  
Carl Steward November 24, 2021  
Rick Bossert

**Weddings** Sandra Ann Smith and James Raymond Moesch August 21, 2021  
**Upcoming** Lindsay Andrews and Andrew Reynolds December 18, 2021

### PRAYER LIST – DECEMBER VOICE



Dick Atkins	Jim Murray
Rosemary Rizzo	Emily Friedrich
Ron Edwards	Tony Rizzo
Marge Kolb	Ken Welton
James Dickie	Nancy Rasmussen

Also, friends and family -

Carl Steward died on November 24, 2021..Please keep his family in your prayers  
Ursula Grau Died on November 8, 2021. Please keep her having in your prayers  
Arlene Lauer died on October 12. 2021. Please keep her family in your prayers  
Diane Giuliano...friend of Linda and Al Weisser.  
Alba Santinelli.. family member to Holly and marge Kolb.  
Judy Klug ..friend of Holly and Marge Kolb  
Judi Alrecht ...friend of Kathy Habermehl and Celeste Christ  
Russell Ponivas, friend of Diane Busdiecker  
Tom Flynn, Susan Gibbons' husband, died. Please keep Susan and her Mom, Lois, in your prayers.  
Sara and Steven Hannon...son and daughter-in-law of John and  
Kathy Hannon  
Sophia Grace Turner -Granddaughter of Barbara Heine, friend of Gene  
and Sandi Emser  
Ray Broecker... friend of the Berg family.  
Cortney Wilkins... friend of Berg family.  
Paul Busdiecker...Son of Diane Busdiecker

Names will remain on the prayer list for 2 months and may be renewed by calling the office.  
Please send prayer requests/changes to [stpaulswilliamsville@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulswilliamsville@gmail.com)