

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 7, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — WHAT DO YOU FEAR?

John the Baptist sends word to Jesus from his prison cell, asking, “Are you the one?” John has spent his entire life preparing the way for Jesus, but from his prison cell, now certainly facing death, the future looks grim. Like John, even the most confident of us wonder from time to time: *Is all this work worth it? Does anything I do matter? Am I on the right track?* We can't always see the fruits of our labor, yet God is at work anyway. How might we, like Jesus and Isaiah, point to the places where God is at work in our world? How might we keep hope alive?

ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES

Join Pastor Cris for the **Adult Forum** that will be a little bit of teaching, a little bit of group reflection, and a lot of hope-filled conversation about the season. We gather on Sunday mornings at **8:30** through December 21.

Devotional booklets for Advent are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary between the doors. They tie in with our theme, “What do you fear?”

CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD

Every Advent season we receive requests for Christmas gift cards from some of our neighbors to help them purchase for their families. Please consider contributing a gift card or two from Walmart, Target or other retail store of your choosing. Just put it in an envelope marked “Gift Cards” and place it in the Sunday offering plate, or make a donation through [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) by using the QR code for electronic giving. The deadline for donations will be next **Sunday, December 14**.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA FOR CHRISTMAS

If you play a woodwind, string, or brass instrument, and would like to join in the fun of accompanying hymns and anthems on Christmas Eve, as well as our *Sounds of the Season* concert on January 4 at 4PM, please let Mike Bareham, Director for Music and Worship, know. He plans to rehearse on **Mondays, December 15 and**

December 22 from 4 – 5:30 PM. He will send you PDFs of the music prior to the first rehearsal. Most of the arrangements are written for high school proficiency.

ALTAR GUILD

We're getting the church ready for Christmas! The Altar Guild will be gathering at **9 AM on Saturday, December 13**, in the Sanctuary and they could use some extra hands to help with the cleanup tasks. If you can spare an hour or two that morning, we can make the whole space shine in celebration of our Lord's birth. Come join us! Any questions? Contact Cindy Bart at 302-345-6106/cynthia.bart@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettias and fresh cut greens will be used to adorn the sanctuary on Christmas Eve and throughout the Christmas season. The flowers you order may be picked up after the *Sounds of the Season* concert on Sunday afternoon, January 4.

Order forms are available in the Narthex and are due to the Church Office no later than **today!**

Payment can be made by cash, check, or by clicking the "Christmas Poinsettia" tab on the drop down menu using Tithe.ly, accessed by the QR Code.



HILLTOP CHRISTMAS

We are coming into the home stretch for Christmas and the annual Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center Christmas gift drive for some of the Center's neediest children. There are still some outstanding gifts for the students at Hilltop. Please review the online Sign-Up Genius and make a much-appreciated selection. Then, please bring your new, wrapped, and labeled gifts to church on **Sunday, December 21** by **10:00 AM** for transport to Hilltop. Here's the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C44A5A62CA20-60675118-hilltop>.

BOOKS & BANTER

St. Paul's readers meet this month, **Wednesday, December 10**, at **1 PM** in the Youth Room. If you have a book that you would like to share with the group, please let us know. Please join us for conversation and fellowship. Our book for this month is *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain.

FISH COOKIES

FISH is packing cookie boxes again this year for our clients and we hope you can help us out with a few of your favorites. Whether you're someone who likes to bake-and-share or someone who likes to buy-and-donate, we can use your contribution!

Drop off any time **Sunday, December 14**, up to **Thursday, December 18**. Have questions or need a special drop off time? Contact Keith Bart at 302-345-6107/ keith.m.bart@gmail.com.

And, as we do every month, we invite any and all members of the congregation to help with all our FISH activities: the Food Bank pickup and re-boxing on **Thursday, December 18 at 1 PM**, the packing of the food boxes at **6:30 PM** that same evening, and the distribution on **Friday, December 19**, starting at **2:30 PM**. This month we'll follow the packing of the food boxes with packing and decorating the cookie boxes at **7:00 PM**.

BREWING THEOLOGY

For everyone twenty-one and older, please join us on **Wednesday, December 10**, at **7:00 PM** at the home of Rick and Kris Cassar, located at 438 Pierce Run in Newark, for a tasty beverage, some snacks, and some Christmas Charades. Please RSVP to Kris Cassar at krisccassar@icloud.com.

GIRL SCOUT COLLEGE PREP WORKSHOP

The Girl Scout group that meets here at St. Paul's is hosting a College Prep Workshop on **Thursday, December 11 at 6:30 PM** in Fellowship Hall. Please share with any family or friends that may benefit from this workshop. They will cover topics around college applications, scholarships, STARS program for UD and other colleges, as well as financial aid. To RSVP or if you have questions, please contact Shirin.skovronski@christina.k12.de.us.

HOLY HIKE

Please join us next Sunday, December 14, after worship, for our monthly Holy Hike, as we visit Old New Castle for a four-mile hike with flat but uneven pavement. We will meet at 400 South Street in New Castle.



*Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to
live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.*



The Reverend Cris Frigm

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Church Council

Anne Sullivan (*President*), Greg Johnson (*Vice President*), Heidi Burch (*Secretary*),
Mary Collins (*Treasurer*), Kristine Cassar, Phillip Gerecke, Winnie Hull, Ian
Kenyon, Susie Olson.

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast – articles are due by Wednesday morning at 10 AM
to office@stpaulsnewarkde.org. Late submissions will be shared the following
week.



Worship Attendance



Prayer Requests



Electronic Giving

