

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:30 AM

December 14, 2025



The Coming One? Trust the BIG Picture!

AS WE GATHER

We are often tempted to think we deserve something better. If things don't go as planned, if crisis hits, or we are lacking happiness, we begin to question things. It happens in life, and it also happens as a temptation in our life of faith. We are not left alone in our wishing or our wondering about our Savior Jesus Christ and what He has done for us. His Word of truth reminds us of His works and His ways. In today's Lessons, Isaiah gives a message of future hope to the hopeless people; James reminds us of the Lord's attributes even in times of our suffering; and in a time of questioning for the imprisoned John the Baptist, Jesus brings a message of hope and confidence in his time of need. Though we are sinful and no person deserves something "better," by God's grace, we, too, receive that same reminder and message of hope of who God is and what He's done through Christ this Advent season and each day.

WELCOME – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

RINGING OF THE BELL

INVOCATION

Pastor: As we continue in this season of Advent, we begin this time of worship and recall our baptismal grace. In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: To the Father, who made the heavens and the earth and humanity as the crown of His creation,

People: set us free.

Pastor: To the Son, who came to be a prisoner to sin and death so that we could be free,

People: come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: To the Holy Spirit, who releases the chains of our captive souls and points us to our Savior,

People: set us free. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *Matt. 11:4–5; Isaiah 35:10; Ps. 119:105*

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, this wreath and the candles progressively lit each week remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and lead us into the light of His glorious kingdom. In this Advent season of preparing our hearts and minds to receive the promised Savior given and born for us, we are assured that no matter what trials we may face, Jesus' works of salvation show that He is the Promised One. "Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see:

People: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.' "

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, Savior and King, the true light who comes into this world, bless us as we light this candle in preparation for Your coming. Enter our hearts and minds with the light of Your love that we may welcome and receive You with joy as true and eternal King; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Your word is a lamp to my feet

People: and a light to my path.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

We come humbly before You, O Lord, recognizing that we have not always responded to Your grace in faithfulness and obedience. Often we feel we deserve more or better, forgetting and rejecting Your Word and Your works of salvation.

People: At times, we are lured by the world's deceptions, consumed by greed, passion, and desire. We fail to be thoroughly grounded in Your Word. Forgive us, dear Lord, for rejoicing in the temporal treasures on earth instead of the eternal treasures of heaven.

Pastor: We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

People: Forgive my impatience and my neglect. By Your Spirit, lead me to greater faith, obedience, service, and repentance until Your call to eternal glory comes.

352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

4 As Your coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
Which is Yours eternally.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

Pastor: Our Lord invites us to come and see what He has done—He has given us solid promises that guard our faith in days of sorrow, suffering, confusion, conflict, and pain. He has sent His Son to be the Word of life. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. You came, Lord Jesus, as the Promised One when the time was fulfilled. And we know You will come again at Your time. We see that darkness overtakes the earth and causes suffering, pain, and fear. Yet in this darkness, a great light has risen up. Through Your Word and Sacraments, let the light be so clear that all people walk in it; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

EPISTLE *James 5:7–11* (Patience in suffering as we wait for the Lord)

Reader: ⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 11:2–15* (In John the Baptist's doubt, Jesus affirms He is the Promised One proven by His ministry.)

² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴ and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.



THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

349 Hark the Glad Sound



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

MESSAGE – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us now pray for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs. Ever-present and comforting Lord, we pray for all those who have doubts and fears, suffering and sadness, grief and sorrow. As you affirmed John the Baptist and others that You are the true God to come to His people, we now also lift up in prayer all who wait in their time of need. We pray for all our sick who wait for healing and recovery.

People: Come, Lord Jesus, with Your healing Spirit.

Pastor: We pray for the grieving who in their loss wait with heavy hearts.

People: Come, Lord Jesus, bring hope to those who feel hopeless.

Pastor: We pray for all who experience transitions in jobs, relationships, and are in the middle of conflict or change, who wait for peace and security.

People: Come, Lord Jesus, and grant Your steadfast presence in times of change.

Pastor: We pray for nations and people waiting for peace,

People: Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, and bring justice to all.

Pastor: We pray for those who sit in darkness, waiting to hear the Good News of forgiveness, hope, and life through Your Word,

People: Come to them in Your Word, and use us as witnesses and instruments through Your Spirit.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

If you brought your offering today, you are welcome to leave it in the offering box you will find at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

We invite our guests and members to fill out our Friendship Card during worship, which is found on the back of the pew. Please leave your card at the end of the pew near the center aisle as you leave.

THE SACRAMENT

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

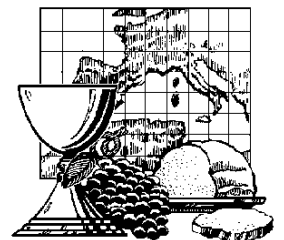
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Please see our communion policy stated on the inside front cover.



THE DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION WINE: For those who may not be able to take regular wine, we offer non-alcoholic wine, which is the light colored wine in the center of the communion tray.

++ We offer **Gluten-free** wafers upon request. ++

O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's
 5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,
 heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap-pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

O Bless the Lord, My Soul



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join
 2 O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mer - cies lie
 3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;
 4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;



And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.
 For - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die!
 'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.
 He that re - deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

5 He fills the poor with good;
 He gives the suff'ers rest.
 The Lord hath judgments for the proud
 And justice for the oppressed.

6 His wondrous works and ways
 He made by Moses known,
 But sent the world His truth and grace
 By His beloved Son.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!

- 3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

Pastor: Almighty God, You gave Your servant John the Baptist to be the forerunner of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in both his preaching of repentance and his innocent death. Grant that we, who have died and risen with Christ in Holy Baptism, may daily repent of our sins, patiently suffer for the sake of the truth, and fearlessly bear witness to His victory over death; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go and tell what you hear and see:

People: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.

Pastor: The Lord is coming soon.

People: Come, Lord Jesus, come to set us free.

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, abide with you, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE INVITATIONS

338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.



Need some PRAYER? Anyone who desires special private prayer with a pastor or a Stephen Minister may do so by coming forward after service to one of the front pews.

Our Vision — a place to come for comfort, support, answers, opportunities to serve, and to strengthen a salvation relationship with Jesus



WHERE WE SERVE

Preacher/Officiant	Pastor Christopher Fairbairn
Music Director	Daryl Renoekie
Family Life	Jeanette Koch
Elder	Will Hoffmeier
Greeter	Carole Crete and Paul Kemp
Welcome Center	Patrick Baker
Ushers	Jerry Krause Ron Breuhan Marty Jenter Mike Huskey Elyse Huskey
Tech Team	Corey Kovoch
Coffee Hour	Youth and Family Education
Counters	Jan Greulich Frank Newman George Foor
Acolyte	Caleb Norton
Altar Society	Jan Paver Lisa Fairbairn

Bible Study and Small Group Opportunities

WEDNESDAYS: Women's Bible Study- Wednesdays @ 9:30am in the church Parish Hall.

SUNDAYS: Join us for bible study and fellowship @ 9:45am in the church Parish Hall.

SATURDAYS: Men's Bible Study – Every 1st and 3rd Saturday @ 9:00am – Parish Hall

Attendance Last week: 12.7.2025– Attendance – 8:30am – 139 + 11:00am – 58 = 197

Communion - 175

Received week of 12.7.2025- for Church (Envelopes + loose plate)- **\$5,963** total includes online giving
School - **\$0**

Remember Our Shut-Ins

Christina Rohn
Waltonwood #240
27475 Huron Circle
Novi, MI 48377

14	DEC, SUN	● 8:30 – 9:30am	Worship w/Communion
		● 9:45 – 10:45am	Sunday School & Youth Bible Study
		● 11am – 12pm	Worship
		● 2 – 4pm	Ladies Christmas Tea - Parish Hall
		● 7 – 9pm	Adult pick up basketball school gym
15	DEC, MON	● All day	Christmas Shop School (Day 1/3)
		● 6:30 – 7:30pm	Board of Day School Parish Hall
16	DEC, TUE	● All day	Christmas Shop School (Day 2/3)
		● 10am – 2pm	School Hot Lunch - Kitchen
		● 6 – 7pm	Bible Quizzing Practice - Parish Hall
17	DEC, WED	● All day	Christmas Shop School (Day 3/3)
		● 9:30 – 10:30am	Ladies Bible Study -Church Parish Hall
		● 5 – 9pm	Family of God Mission Dinner Kitchen 2-5pm 7354 Whittaker St
		● 5:30 – 6:30pm	Choir Practice
		● 6 – 7:30pm	Grizzlies Basketball - gym
		● 7 – 8pm	Advent Worship
		● 7:30 – 9pm	Northville Swim Club (NSC) Room #3
18	DEC, THU	● 10am – 2pm	School Hot Lunch - Kitchen
		● 5:45 – 7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal - church
		● 6 – 7:30pm	Grizzlies Basketball - gym
19	DEC, FRI	● All day	1/2 Day of School No Aftercare
		● 7 – 9pm	AA Mtg. church parish hall
20	DEC, SAT	● All day	Men's Bible Study Parish Hall

Altar Flowers

One vase in memory of our wedding anniversary from Ann Kelly.



Two vases celebrating the mission work that God has placed in our hands and the workers whose hearts He has moved from Tom and Sue Poole.


Please arrange to pick up your flowers after the 11 am service

T Shirt Fundraiser for St. Paul Lutheran Preschool


ORDERS DUE BY:
December 19, 2025
Any questions contact
Jen Argiros 248.349.3146
school@stpaulnorthville.org

Name _____
Email _____ Cell _____

Short Sleeve Black T Shirt 100% Cotton

	YXS YS YM YL YXL	YXS-YXL \$18
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	AS-AXL \$18
	AS AM AL AXL 2XL 3XL 4XL	2XL-6XL \$22
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Quantity _____
		Total _____

Long Sleeve Black T Shirt 100% Cotton

	YXS YS YM YL YXL	YXS-YXL \$23
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	AS-AXL \$23
	AS AM AL AXL 2XL 3XL 4XL	2XL-4XL \$27
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Quantity _____
		Total _____

CASH _____ Check _____
payable to St. Paul

Total \$ _____

Show your school spirit and support St. Paul Preschool by purchasing one of our exclusive St. Paul Lutheran Northville Panthers T-shirts! Order forms are available in the church near the entrance and in the school entrance. Payment can be made by cash or check. A portion of each sale goes toward securing the future of our preschool program. Thank you for your support!

A mission trip euchre card game fundraiser will take place on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, 6:30-9:00 pm. Twelve members of our congregation have committed to participating in an eyeglass clinic in El Salvador in April. The cost of the trip is about \$3,000 per person. This fundraiser will help defray the cost for our participants. If you are new to the game, we are happy to instruct. There will be appetizers, beverages, snacks and prizes. The cost is \$15 per person, \$5 for youth. Please mark your calendar and join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.



OUR NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome former members Steven and Kathleen McFall. Kathleen was baptized at St. Paul in 1995. Also, joining us is Jason, Kathleen and Steven's son. Jason was also baptized and confirmed here. Jason has two sons, Jackson age 7 and Liam age 9. We look forward to getting to know them better, and many people have already welcomed them back.

CHURCH MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

This is a new service for our church family. **If you would like to advertise** your business please speak with Pastor Chris Fairbairn (248)349-3140. We may publish a quarterly email with your information.



ORGANIC SOURDOUGH HOME-BAKERY

Sourdough Bread + baked goods available for preorder pickup in northville (Taft + 8 Mile)

Elyse's Sourdough Kitchen
Message: (326) 212-0738
Facebook @elysessourdoughkitchen



Scott Huggins Medicare Advisors

(248) 985-7101

www.hugginsmedicareadvisors.com
scott@hugginsmedicareadvisors.com

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The early December meal for Family of God went very well and the weather cooperated and Julia got us there and back safely. We had 10 volunteers making ,

Chicken Tamale Casserole my favorite, I wasn't sure we would get 10 so I started asking if some could double up. God is faithful and He provided 10. Thank you Mary Lou Jaussi, Julia Smith, Kathy McFall (her son volunteered her but she was okay with that), Claudia Williamson, Carole Grimmer 1st timer, Melanie, Janet Kovalak, Gretchen Hasse, Alison Babic (another 1st timer) and Sue Poole. **Sour Cream** was provided by Jan Faerber & Carolyn Nieuwkoop; **Salsa:** Carolyn Nieuwkoop and Sue Poole; **Nacho Chips** Chris Henning; **Fresh Fruit** Katy Baetz-Matthews and Heather Roucker(?); **Beverages** Shelly Waldorff - Case of Water and

Marti Gilchrist - White/chocolate Milk, Juice (2); **Dessert** Cheryl Bailey (24), Beth Hempel (30); Janise Faerber (24) and Britney Fairbairn (30), I believe first timer too! Our **Servers were** Julia Smith (driver), Sue Poole, Shelly Ernst and Cheryl Bailey. Marcy gathers our paper products for each visit. Thank you all, it was a success and we enjoyed ourselves with friendly conversation and good work. We served about 90 servings. God bless you all and Merry Christmas.

The **Giving Tree** this year will be adorned with ornaments that represent children in need from Another Way Pregnancy Center in Farmington Hills. We are proud to partner with them this year. It's so easy:

- 1) Take home an ornament.
- 2) Purchase the item(s).
- 3) Return the item(s) with the ornament attached.

All gifts can be dropped off in the Parish Hall by December 21. AWPC thanks you for your generosity.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A TRADITIONAL
FUN EVENT OF
CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday December 21st, 3-6 pm

Meet at St Paul's Fellowship Hall at 3:00 to carpool.

You will be given maps, a colorful scarf, a songbook, and jingle bells.

We will serve a light supper around 6:00pm back at the church.

Questions?

Call Barbara Hoffmeier (248) 756-3035 or Tom Norton (734) 853 - 9423

Double Blessings at Family of God - The night didn't go quite as expected, but it all worked out well. We left early to drive down to serve. When we arrived another church, Shepherd's Gate from Shelby Two, was set-up. It was a scheduling error. They normally go on the 4th Wednesday but something changed due to Thanksgiving. Oh well, we squished our food amidst theirs and everyone had a choice. Their fried chicken was first in line and I was afraid that we would have 8 or 9 leftover casseroles. As it turned out, people also loved the casseroles. Everyone was able to have generous seconds and take home containers. Chris and Jeff Henning and Nancy Berg did the shopping. The menu was uncomplicated since the meat had been prepared in advance, Mark Potter was a great help in the kitchen preparing the meal. This month our famous Brownie bakers were: Beth Hempel, Anne Burgess, Debbie Pichan and Chris Henning. Will Hoffmier was the driver and took Dawn and Chris Englert, and Doug and Nancy Berg to help serve. Marcy gathers our paper products and they are always bundled up and ready to go. "Thank You" to everyone for all your help and support!

Another MOST eyeglass mission trip is currently being planned for April 11-18 2026 at a mission church in the town of Pasaquina in El Salvador. MOST has only recently established a presence in El Salvador, and we are excited to be among the first MOST missions to that country. We are establishing an email contact list for anyone who would like to be kept informed as we go forward with the planning. The list is not only for "goers", people considering going on the trip, but also for "senders", people who might want to be involved with supporting the team with fundraisers, etc. There is no commitment so if you would like to be kept informed, please forward your email address to Chris Burgess at chris.burgess917@gmail.com.

As we celebrate the miraculous gift God gave us in His son's birth, let us think of others during this Christmas season. For the month of December, Women In Christ is highlighting an LWML mission grant that provides funds to assist in the ministry of the Orphan Grain Train in the amount of \$18,000. The Orphan Grain Train has volunteers in 27 locations across the United States who gather clothes and other relief supplies for destitute people around the world. Their motto is "Sharing resources and bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both far and near." Please keep the Orphan Grain Train in your prayers.

Thank you to all the Saint Paul Families and friends who came out Sunday 11.30.25 after to church to help beautify the church for Christmas! It was fun and took no time at all to make our house of worship sparkle! Thank you also to the McFall family for coming out Monday to put some finishing touches on the narthex area- it really looks fantastic!



HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE 2025

(H/C = Holy Communion)

* **Salem Lutheran Church** (32430 Ann Arbor Trail - Westland, MI 48185) -noon services**12/14/2025 – Worship – 8:30am (H/C) & 11:00am – Sunday****12/17/2025 – Advent Noon Service- Wednesday -lunch follows service (Salem*)****12/17/2025 – Advent Dinner – 5:30pm-6:45pm – Wednesday****12/17/2025 - Advent Service -7pm –Wednesday****12/21/2025 – Worship – 8:30am (H/C) & 11:00am (H/C) – Sunday****12/24/2025 - Christmas Eve - 6:00 pm & 8:00pm – Wednesday****12/24/2025 - Christmas Eve Family Service - 10pm – Wednesday (H/C)****12/25/2025- Christmas Day Service – 10am — Thursday (H/C)****12/26/2025 – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED- Friday****12/28/2025 - Worship – 8:30am & 11:00am - Sunday****12/31/2025 – New Years Eve Service – 6pm – Wednesday (H/C)****1/1/2026– CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED – Thursday**

I would like to thank all the groups that help support the “Blessing Bag” Ministry for our less fortunate brothers and sisters on the streets of Detroit! –

God’s Sparrows – a group that shops for and packs those colorful tote bags you see in the parish hall- they are a group that formed specifically to support this mission- out of Ann Arbor.

We are Planners – a Down River group that crochets the sleeping mats out of plastic bags.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer – Birmingham, knitting group makes dozens of hats and scarves to pass out.

Allen Terrace Northville – does frequent hygiene item drives and supplies hats and scarves in the winter.

Genetti’s Northville – has collected coats and other seasonally appropriate items.

Computer Business in Northville (wants to remain anonymous) – supplies funding for emergency needs year round.

R.A.I.N. A. (reaching All in Need of Assistance) – a non-profit out of Woodhaven that has done multiple collections for our less fortunate friends.

Saint Paul Lutheran Church Board of Evangelism

I would also like to thank the many (dozens) who buy blankets, drop off needed items, supply funding and deliver bags! (some don’t even live in Michigan, they amazon in items needed-dozens of boots etc.) Detroit is HUGE and the need is HUGE. The biggest cause of homelessness is lack of affordable housing. The population of houseless friends is made up of teenagers, seniors, those with mental illness and no appropriate housing, trafficked women and men and more. Thank to everyone who has helped!

Love , Margo