

# St Paul's Winter Newsletter 2020

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## Minister's Message

The anticipation of Advent, the anticipation of the birth of Jesus the Christ. In worship we will follow the well-loved weekly markers of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. What is Hope? Modern culture tells us it is a "maybe," a kind of unsure optimism. Rather like the child who says that he/she hopes to get a new bicycle for Christmas, and the parent replies, "perhaps, maybe, we'll see."

But in scripture hope is an indication of certainty. "Hope" means a "strong and confident expectation."

The Israelites were hoping for a saviour, a Messiah. God had promised a Messiah, and they believed it. They didn't know when or who, but they were waiting. We wait in Hope.

This Advent 2020 we are waiting in hope for that time of healing mind, body and spirit as we move through a life-changing modern pandemic. We are all changed. We are reminded of the Reformed tradition ethos "we are re-formed and always re-forming by the Word of God." And the Word of God, our tradition, and our personal experience of God-with-us tells us that our Hope is well-founded. "We affirm the hope that turns suffering into a creative process. We affirm the hope that enables us to act. God we hope: help us hope together!" VU 656

Rev Arlyce Schiebout

## Christmas Worship

We continue to navigate and enrich our faith during these different times. We join virtually, in person or in print to celebrate the season of Advent, sharing traditional and new experiences of faith.

Teams, committees, staff and volunteers have worked hard to provide meaningful worship experiences for the congregation through message, music and participation of the congregation. With Covid19 changes we have found new ways to worship and realize the true value of sharing community.

We have experienced worship in print, email, Zoom, YouTube and in person. At the time each seemed like a giant step, but they have become small steps along the pathway of our faith journey.

In August, the re-opening committee prepared the sanctuary for a physical return to worship & provided protocol to keep us safe. Weekly attendance for in person worship has averaged 30 members.

We are especially grateful for the contribution of time and talent by staff and volunteers who have made virtual services, activities, and meetings possible.

So much has changed - worship sacraments & rituals, contact with groups and isolated individuals, community outreach, meetings.

What has not changed is the caring congregation of St. Paul's and our desire to strengthen our faith. This will carry us forward as we seek new ways to be the church, making important decisions about St. Paul's future and emerging with more tools to support and expand our faith community.

Submitted by the Worship & Arts Team



## Memorial Tree Stars & Angels

To have a **STAR** in memory of a loved one or an **ANGEL** to honour a special person in your life placed on the tree in the sanctuary please submit a free will donation and your dedication to the office by December 16<sup>th</sup>

Memorial Star in memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Honour Angel dedicated to \_\_\_\_\_  
From: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$10    \$15    \$20    \$25    Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

## December Worship Schedule ~ Sundays at 10AM

**RSVP for in person worship to:**  
613-267-2973 or [admin@stpaulsperth.ca](mailto:admin@stpaulsperth.ca)

November 29: Advent 1 - St Paul's Bell Choir  
December 6: Advent 2 - Celebration of Advent Communion  
December 13: Advent 3  
December 20: Advent 4

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
December 24 at 7:00PM

**Office Holiday Schedule:**  
Closed from December 23 to January 4

## 12 Days of Christmas Cheer & Good Will

There are many ways you can spread joy during the holidays. Here are some suggestions to spread good will and cheer for the 12 days of Christmas:

**1st Day** – Call a friend, family member or neighbour who may be experiencing loneliness and isolation.

**2nd Day** – Bake something or purchase a treat and drop it off to a friend or neighbor's porch with a cheerful note.

**3rd Day** – Donate to an animal shelter, pets without homes need love too during Christmas.

**4th Day** – Leave a positive online review for your favourite local restaurant to help support them during this challenging time.

**5th Day** – Purchase a few small gift cards for a local coffee or sandwich shop and drop off to a hospital, police station or a senior's care home to show appreciation for our frontline workers.

**6th Day** – Prepare Christmas cards with a small decoration attached and deliver to a senior's care facility to brighten the day of an elderly member of our community.

**7th Day** – Pay for the person behind you in the drive through

**8th Day** – Make a homemade Christmas tree decoration or craft and give to a friend or neighbour.

**9th Day** – Share a compliment or express your appreciation to a friend, coworker, or someone in your daily travels.

**10th Day** – Send a picture or share a favourite festive memory with a friend or family member on social media or in an email.

**11th Day** – Forgive someone or reach out to someone who you have had difficulty with in the past.

**12th Day** – Do something nice for yourself! Read a book, watch a movie, take a nap, treat yourself to a favourite snack or meal.

## Stewardship Update & Thanks

In this very unusual year, St Paul's financial situation has done unexpectedly well. You have been so supportive financially, and the Federal Government has had programs to help us through Covid times. We have saved expenses due to reduced custodial and musc director costs. We may end the year with income covering costs. Who could have anticipated this?

Your continued support of our Community of Faith is very much appreciated, with your financial donations as well as sharing your time and talent. The return of your 2021 intention cards will help us find our path as we walk together on our faith journey.

Thank you, each and every one, for being a part of our St. Paul's community of faith.



## 2020 Christmas Basket Program



This year the Lanark & District Ministerial Association will be taking a break from coordinating the Christmas Basket Project. Because this season will be especially hard for many people, local organizations and businesses, with support from the Perth and District Community Foundation, have come together to keep this tradition alive.

The North Lanark Community Health Center is seeking donations (of cash or goods) from the community at large to help facilitate this program.

Each basket will include a frozen turkey or chicken, fresh vegetables and fruit, bread and/or rolls, butter, juice, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, pickles, gravy, and a dessert. Frozen dinners will be provided for individuals or people unable to prepare a larger meal.

If you are in a position to help support needful households this Christmas Season please make a donation online by going to [www.nlchc.on.ca](http://www.nlchc.on.ca) or drop off a cheque to St Paul's by December 10<sup>th</sup> or mail directly labelled "Christmas Basket Program" to:

North Lanark Community Health Centre  
207 Robertson Drive  
Lanark, ON K0G 1K0

For further details you may call 613-259-2182

