



*Christmas*  
**CONCERT**

FEATURING MUSIC BY  
MICHAEL W SMITH

DECEMBER 2 & 3, 2023  
6:30 PM

St. Mark Lutheran Church  
1330 North Carpenter Rd  
Brunswick, OH

✝

Free-will offerings  
to support  
Oaks Family Center and  
Project Angel Tree



### St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool

115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001

[www.stpaulamherst.com](http://www.stpaulamherst.com) (440) 988-4157

Sunday Worship Services: 8:30AM & 10AM

In-Person or Live Stream @ [www.stpaulamherst.com](http://www.stpaulamherst.com)

Church/Office: 440-988-4157 Fax: 440-988-5436

E-Mail: [churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com) Church Website: [stpaulamherst.com](http://stpaulamherst.com)

Rev. Paul G. Werner, Pastor - Office: (440)988-4157 Cell: (586)201-3302

Beth Naro, Preschool Director - Preschool Phone: (440)988-5427

James Feddick, Organist

ST. PAUL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH & PRESCHOOL  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023



## **Welcome to our Guests!**

**We're glad you're here!** Whether this is your first time at St. Paul, or you're a "regular," we hope you see that our welcome mat is out for you. If you're a guest with us for the first time, we hope you'll find today's experience helpful to you, and you are invited back any Sunday at 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM. Please fill out a white "Communication Card" found in front of you in the pew rack, and place it in the offering plate later. And about the offering ... don't feel obligated to participate in giving because we – and God – are really glad you are here as our guest!

**Ushers are standing by to assist you** in locating a seat, directing you to restrooms, coat racks, and to our nursery.

**Nursery is available for children ages 3 and under.** An usher will be happy to direct you to our Nursery where parents may care for infants, and rambunctious toddlers will find a place to be ... themselves.

**Kids' Church** Families please join in the 10AM Worship Service, and kids will be excused to leave for Kids' Church, then return to parents at the end of the service.

**Kids' Activities** to keep little ones busy during the worship service – There are cloth bags filled with crayons and coloring booklets, and other quiet things to keep kids' attention. They are in the back of the worship center hanging on a small coat rack.

**IN TODAY'S WORSHIP** Clothing in the Bible is more than an insignificant detail. In fact, clothing reveals God's plan of redemption. Our Creator is also the first tailor. Despite Adam and Eve's rebellion, God covered Adam and Eve's shame and nakedness. Immediately upon their sin, God promised the coming of a King. This King, first wrapped in rags in a manger, would hang naked on the cross in order to clothe us in the riches of His righteousness.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP** Heavenly Father, as I begin this season of Advent, work in my heart a strong and active faith. Enable me to appreciate anew Your work of saving me, and fill my mouth with praises to share with those around me. Amen

**Altar Flowers given to the glory of God by** Andy & Deby Lasko celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**PLEASE PARDON THE DUST** A contractor is working several weeks in the worship sanctuary to install our new Audio/ Video/ Live-Stream system. This may cause some dust and some disruption through the process. We hope all goes as planned and brings a big improvement to both in-person and live-stream worship.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** – "God with Us" is a Bible study fitting for Christmas. Join us Tuesday mornings in December @ 10am, upstairs. In January we will begin the Bible book of Genesis.

**Happy Times** is a simple, easy-to-use resource to help families with preschool school-aged children share faith in Christ at home. **Happy Times** is full of age-appropriate stories, games, puzzles, and activities. Booklets are free, and December - January editions are available today on the resource wall in the lower narthex/lobby

**My Devotions for Families with Children** is a very practical, easy-to-use resources to help share faith in Christ at home. **My Devotions** is designed for families with elementary school aged children. Families simply include these resources in their daily routine, like during breakfast before school, during a supper time together when distractions are turned off for a few minutes, or at bedtime. **My Devotions** are free. December - February editions are available on the resource wall in the lower narthex/lobby.

**"Breath of Heaven" – Live Nativity** The walk-through of Bethlehem will be on December 9<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 8pm at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 15617 Mason Rd, Vermilion. Walk-through presentations will take place approximately every 15 minutes. Please see flyer in the narthex for more information.

**The Redeemer Crisis Center (Iglesia Cristiana Hispana), Cleveland, Ohio** (ENG) is asking for your help with their bag packing events for the upcoming holiday season. The Christmas bag packing event will take place December 13, 14 & 15, from 7:00-9:00 PM. Register with Diane Zellmer at: 216-219-3325. Prayerfully consider giving your time and use your abilities to assist where the need is great. Thank you!

This Week For The Lord	Looking Ahead One Week
<b>12/3</b> Holy Communion 8:30 AM Worship / Kids Church 10 AM	<b>12/10</b> Worship 8:30 AM Holy Communion / Kids Church 10 AM
<b>12/5</b> Seasoned Saints 10 AM Women's Ministry 7 PM	<b>12/12</b> Seasoned Saints 10 AM Women's Ministry 7 PM
<b>12/6</b> Advent Midweek Worship Service 5 PM Fellowship Supper 6 PM	<b>12/13</b> Advent Midweek Worship Service 5 PM Fellowship Supper 6 PM

### **Serving in God's House:**

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Paul Werner
<b>Organist</b>	James Feddeck
<b>Readers</b>	Christine Krupp (E) Bryan Draga (L)
<b>Greeters</b>	Cindy Klein (E) Jim & Carol Naro (L)
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Ann Conley, Linda Hargreaves
<b>Head Usher</b>	Ron Fisher
<b>Ushers</b>	Dan Streza, Chuck Draga, Danny Kemery, Bob Kemmerle (E) Bryan Draga (L)

Special 2023

Christmas Love Offering

**LOVE** *Came* **DOWN!**



At Christmas God's love came down to us. Jesus is the greatest gift of love and hope to the world! Our Special Christmas Offering 2023 brings God's love down into human need. 80% of gifts will start a **Scholarship Fund** Families in need to send their children to St. Paul's Preschool. 10% of gifts will empower our Community Care Team to serve the **200 Foster Children** in Amherst schools. 10% will **relieve hunger in Somalia** where 6.7 million are starving. Special envelopes for "Love Came Down" will be available in the narthex. This giving opportunity is limited to the month of December. Please pray about this opportunity, asking God to guide you to determine a gift that truly celebrates God's love which has come into *your* life.

### Sundays in Advent

Advent is a 4-week period before Christmas when Christians prepare their hearts and lives for Jesus to come in. He brings stronger faith, love, and we follow Him more closely. **The Clothing of the KING** is the theme we will follow this Advent in our Sunday worship services on Sunday Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Pick Up Your Clothing of the KING Advent Devotion Booklet TODAY

Take a booklet home today for you and your family to use throughout Advent.

### Wednesdays in Advent

Wednesday Worship Services in the season of Advent will be **Conversations with the Angels**. Each Wednesday an angel will appear and the dialog will reveal to you the wonder of God keeping His promises through the centuries to send His Son, Jesus, to become a human like you to save you.

**ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Wednesday Evening, December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 5 PM**

**Wednesday Evening, December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 5 PM**

**Fellowship Suppers will be held AFTER each midweek Advent service.**

**Join us for good food and friendship, Wednesdays, 6:00 PM**

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services

Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 4PM & 7PM

There will be NO worship services Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, 2023.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP

Sunday, December 31, 2023 ~ 8:30 AM & 10AM

There will be NO New Year's Day service on Monday, January 1, 2024.

Prayer Requests this Week: "The Lord is Near to all who Call on HIM." *Psalms 148:18*

- Pray for Coralie Swanz er who fell and is in pain with 7 broken ribs.
- Pray for Nancy Wilbur, Amy Akosi's mom, who will have aortic valve replacement surgery on December 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Pray for Tim Ross, Sheryl Gregg's brother, as he is in hospice care.
- Pray for Chad Moss' family as his father died and funeral was last Thursday.
- Please pray for healing in Edna Klentz's lungs.
- Pray for Elija to receive a kidney for transplant.
- Pray for Jeff Howells who had a brain bleed and is in the hospital.
- Pray for Geri Deidrick and Ed as Geri has begun chemotherapy to follow up surgery removing cancer.
- Pray for Lori Gingrich, sister of Lynn Jiovanazzo and Terri Gerber, who is now home doing rehab therapy and she will start chemo soon.
- Pray for Kuno Josupeit as he is home recovering and pray that his immune system can fight off an infection.
- Pray for Ron Klein that he keeps getting stronger.
- Please pray for Paxton Roby as she has cancer; Priscilla Harden's sister in California who has cancer; Pat who has a brain tumor; Heather, a young mother of 3, who has cancer; Nelson Paquette (cousin of Laurie Beran) who has pancreatic cancer; Sherry (Kevin Starbuck's mother-in-law); Chris (sister-in-law of Virginia Warnock); and pray for Pat Kidder.
- Pray for those who have on-going chronic illnesses or shut-in: Charles Waryu, Don Lamoreaux and Don Gramer, Ruth Murdy, Jack & Marilyn Green, Dorothy Barckert, Dale Mack, Phyllis Darakis, Will & Lydia Rice, John Harden, Andy Lasko.
- Pray for those celebrating birthdays this week: Sally Krause, Tina Muska, John Bloom.