

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

December 2016

Worship and Music

Wednesday Evening Advent Worship

November 30, December 7, 14, and 21

6:00 pm - Light Supper with a variety of menus

7:00 pm - Tidings of Comfort and Joy: A Midweek Advent Series worship

The worship will be Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. Preachers are Rick Lischer, Laura Wind, Bill Dahl, and James Demmel.



St. Paul's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 11 at 5:00 pm followed by the traditional Lasagna Dinner

Children and youth will present the pageant in their own words and music. Invite family and friends and then stay for the lasagna, salad, bread and dessert supper.

Lessons and Carols Service & Concert

Friday, December 16th at 7:00 pm

This event is very similar to a hymn-sing with scripture readings, anthems, bell choir, and lots of congregational singing. Open to the public!

Christmas Eve Services, Saturday, December 24 – All services celebrate Holy Communion

4:00 pm - Family service (note change of time from the past)

7:00 pm - Candlelight service with Handbells

10:00 pm - Candlelight service with the Senior Choir

Christmas Day Service, Sunday, December 25

11:00 am (no 8:30 service) Christmas Carol sing with Holy Communion



Name of Jesus - Sunday, January 1, 2017

11:00 am (no 8:30 service) Traditional Lessons and Carols Service with Holy Communion

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

Susan B. Holland, Vicar

Rev. Laura Wind, Duke Campus Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Charles R. Huggins, Pastor Emeritus

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From the Pastor...

Surprise, surprise – It's already December! Where has the calendar year gone? We started a new church year on November 27th with the beginning of Advent and the anticipation of Christ coming and His second coming. We are marking the new church year in the congregation with traditional Wednesday evening liturgy and with the appropriate seasonal commitments to prayer and repentance.

We anticipate the upcoming Christmas and New Year's holidays and it is a time of busyness and hope.

There will be a couple of changes to the worship schedule this year. December 24th is a Saturday and we will move the early children's worship service on Christmas Eve to 4 pm instead of 5 pm. We heard from several families that 5 pm was difficult and we hope that this change will assist with meal planning.

Also, on Sunday, December 25th and Sunday, January 1st, we will be holding only the 11 am worship service. The service on December 25th will be predominantly a Christmas Carol sing with Holy Communion and the service on January 1st will be our traditional Lessons and Carols service with Holy Communion.

Our annual children's Christmas Pageant will be on December 11th. More information is available in this newsletter.

I want to leave you this reminder from the Lutheran Hour:

"Thinking back on Christmases past is a fun way to reflect on the good old days. The wonderful lights and decorations, festive holiday atmosphere, warm family get-togethers, unforgettable melodies, and jovial Christmas cheer all make for pleasant memories. But, of course, our hearts aren't merry for these things alone. Christmas is the believer's celebration of the arrival of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, "who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a Servant, being born in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:6-7).

Hallelujah! It is this Gift of God – His own beloved Son – whom we joyously adore with our hearts this Advent season. Jesus, who took on human flesh so that we might partake of His divine redemption, is the One our Christmas memories turn to, worshipping and adoring Him for all He has done for us. Take time this holiday season to make Christmas memories that last – memories that lovingly honor the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Pastor Scott Anderson

From the Vicar...

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Of all the seasons of the church year, for me Advent seems to highlight the tension of living in the "now and not yet" the most. During Advent, we prepare to celebrate Christ coming into the world on Christmas and at the same time, anticipate his coming again. Advent invites us to ponder what it means to have God with us, Emmanuel and the hope that the coming of Messiah has changed everything while living in what remains a troubled world.

In our Wednesday evening Advent worship series this year, four gifted preachers: Rick Lischer, Laura Wind, Bill Dahl, and James Demmel, will help us explore how the "Tidings of Comfort and Joy" announcing the birth of Messiah confront the fear, confusion, doubt and curiosity that we today perhaps have in common with those who first heard about this new thing that God was doing: Zechariah, Joseph, Mary, and the shepherds. Take a break from your holiday preparations and join your St. Paul's family on Wednesdays this Advent for supper at 6 followed by worship using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy at 7.

Vicar Sue Holland

music Notes

by Jacqueline Nappi
Minister of Music

The Advent and Christmas season is upon us! I admit, Advent and Christmas hymns consist of some of my favorite tunes, like O Come O Come Emmanuel and Angels We Have Heard on High. This year, the St. Paul's Music Ministry is celebrating the Advent-Christmas Season with a Lessons & Carols Service/Concert on Friday, December 16th at 7:00 pm. This event will be very similar to a hymn-sing, with scripture readings, anthems, the bell choir, and LOTS of congregational singing. Non-musical volunteers are also needed – check out the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Join us for this festive event and get in the spirit of the season!

The Church Office will be closed December 26 through December 30. We wish you all a very Blessed Christmas.



Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen, Director

We enjoyed many gatherings during the month of November at the preschool. Together with their families, our classes shared meals together and enjoyed delicious food. We talked about who and what we are thankful for – our family, friends, teachers, swings, sunshine and even Wool E. Bull!

In November, our St. Paul's Gives Back service project benefitted The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina by collecting non-perishable foods and canned goods.

On Sunday, December 4, the preschool will host a Darkness to Light training for adults. The training will be held from 1:00-3:00 pm in Trinity Hall. Darkness to Light is a program designed to empower adults to prevent child sexual abuse. The program raises awareness and educates adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The training is provided free through grants. The program features a combination of survivor stories, expert advice, and practical guidance. It also shows you how a simple, 5-step approach can protect the children you love from sexual abuse. To register for the training, please contact Amanda Stoen at preschool@stpaulsdurham.org or call me at the church office.

In January, we will begin enrollment for Fall 2017. We will be offering classes for children ages 10 months - 4 years old. If you are interested or know of anyone who is, registration forms will be available and tours will begin in January. If you have any questions in the meantime, please let me know. We ask for your continued prayers throughout the school year.



by Emily Vardell & Brenda Linares, Librarians

This year the Fowler Library is offering you the opportunity to give the gift of reading this Christmas season! We have a list of books that we would like to add to the Fowler Library. St. Paul's parishioners can buy books for the library and dedicate them to family and friends as a possible gift for the holidays. The sponsored books will stay in the library, and we will put a sticker at the front saying who the book was bought in honor of. We will also provide you with a card and information about the donated book that you

can present to your loved one.

Here is a list of some of the books you can sponsor:

- ▶ A New History of Christianity by Hans J. Hillerbrand
- ▶ A Theology of Preaching: The Dynamics of the Gospel by Richard Lischer
- ▶ Marx and Teilhard: Two Ways to the New Humanity by Richard Lischer
- ▶ Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence by Jonathan Sacks
- ▶ Still: Notes on a Mid-Faith Crisis by Lauren F. Winner
- ▶ The Anchor Bible Dictionary by David Noel Freedman
- ▶ The Division of Christendom: Christianity in the Sixteenth Century by Hans J. Hillerbrand
- ▶ The Moral Vision of the New Testament by Richard Hays
- ▶ The Protestant Reformation by Hans J. Hillerbrand
- ▶ The World of the Reformation (1973) by Hans J. Hillerbrand

There will be forms in the library with the names of the books and the prices of each book. You can place the form and a check in the offering plate to sponsor a book.

Please get in touch with us with any questions. Merry Christmas from the Fowler Librarians!

From the Campus Pastor...

I came across this poem in mid-November as I was helping facilitate a retreat in the western North Carolina. It was a privilege to be with people as they were working through their grief, and this poem spoke powerfully to me about our world, the recent heartbreak and violence throughout our world, in too many places to name, violence in our community and lives. So imagine with me.

The Circle Dance
by Mary K. Stillwell

*The great circle dance at the September powwow
Is about to begin, but
This family has lost a child
Over the summer, and the grief must be combed
From their hair before they can enter
The circle. The mother walks the grasses
To the west of the circle. The father
Walks the grasses, then the other children.
Then the aunts and the uncles of this family
That has lost one of its children to accident*

*Over the summer. They stand just outside
The circle, and the old people come with*

*Finger combs and begin running them through
The hair of the family, combing the grief
From the mother, the father, each sister and brother,
Aunts and uncles, combing out the grief
Like snarls, casting out grief
In tangles. On the north side of the circle
My scalp tingles. It is grief caught in my own hair, and
I must comb it out
If I am to join the circle. I too, use my fingers
As a comb, pushing the hair up from the head
And away so that the grief can loosen.
This combing takes some time,*

*And the family begins to cry and the old people
Too, begin to cry, and I on my side of the circle,
Begin to cry. Tears and grief spill
Over my shoulders and run down my legs.
Tears and grief spill over their shoulders
And run down their legs.
The earth receives it, takes it in
As if it were her own because it is her own.
From it she has already begun to fashion
New children to send to us. We
Bow to the wisdom of the old people,
Enter the circle that we may dance.*

As we gather during these next days, we gather in the circle dance of Advent – Dark and light. A time to wait and watch and hope, a time when in the northern hemisphere each day grows a little shorter, each night a little longer.

For many years I have used a poem by TS Eliot as a prayer. I learned it from Marion Woodman—so it's not exactly the way that Eliot wrote it:

*I said to my soul be still
And wait without hope
For hope would be hope of the wrong thing*

*And wait without love,
for love would be love of the wrong thing*

*There is yet faith, but the faith and the hope and the
love are in the waiting.*

And do not think, for you are not ready for thought.

*So the darkness shall be come the light,
And the stillness the dance.*

This prayer has gotten me through some very difficult times. It is a prayer I come back to time and time again.

That's what the season of Advent is all about, hoping, waiting, watching, looking for signs of the coming kingdom. It's about watching and waiting and looking as dark and light dance together, as flames from candles cast shadows on walls, and light flickers against the dark.

In the darkest time of the year, we gather as the people of God. We pray, we watch, we wait, we hope. We gather, and together we are strong, and we light candles against the coming night, the coming dark.

In the midst of exams, and the end of a semester, in the midst of scurrying about getting ready, it easy to lose sight of what the season of waiting and promise is all about.

Barbara Brown Taylor writes: the promise may not be fully at hand. It may still be on its way, but to live reverently, deliberately, and fully awake, that is what it means to live in the promise, where the wait itself is as rich as the end. All it takes are some regular reminders. The promise is as alive, as vivid as a rainbow, as real as a hundred stars overhead.

The promise is as real as the light that flickers in the night, and each week as we gather more candles will be lit, until we gather on Christmas Eve and every single one of us will hold the promised light in our hands, and the entire sanctuary will be lit by the love and flame of God's presence and promise.

*And at the time,
The darkness shall become the light,
and the stillness the dance.*

Peace, Pastor Laura Wind

Ecumenical Lessons and Carols

Please join us, Sunday evening, December 4, 2016 at 7 p.m. in Goodson Chapel at Duke Divinity School. Many campus ministry groups come together to share the hope and anticipation of Advent.

Cookies and cocoa will follow the service. Mark your calendars now. Duke Lutherans will be helping to lead the service.

Thank you!

I can't thank you enough for all the support of Duke Lutherans this semester. Things are going well. Our new Bible study is growing as well as our Sunday

evening worship (with a few dips due to mid terms and finals). We have fabulous t-shirts thanks to the help of Chris Stoen, and plans are underway for a spring break trip. A special word of thanks to all who provided delicious meals, goodie bags for Halloween, and helping serve the Duke Community. I'm excited as we move into phase one of our development drive and will attend the Association of Lutheran Development Executives (ALDE) conference in February. The beginning of the new year also brings the Region 9 Campus Minister retreat where we meet to network and brainstorm with other campus pastors. Chris Heavener is already hard at work and has organized a book group to discuss "Beyond the Screen: Ministry for the Connected but Alone Generation."

I am especially grateful for the support of the Campus Ministry Committee, the staff at St. Paul's and Grace Lutheran, and for the communities who gather in the name of Jesus and lift up this important ministry. We're all in this together, and we have plenty of meaningful transformative work to do. I'm looking forward to rolling up my sleeves and getting to work. I'll be calling on you all for help!

Peace, Pastor Laura

A Christmas Party

We want to

Share the Blessed Christmas With You!

Linda and Charles Huggins

wish you the most blessed Christmas ever,
and if you can, we want you to come to our house
for our Christmas party.

It's at 7:00 pm

Friday, December 9, 2016

712 North Franklin Drive

Sanford, NC

"Be of Good courage Christ is Born"

This is the 50th year of welcoming you into our home for Christmas open house. Please notice the date change this year.

St. Paul's Archives

St. Paul's is fortunate to have an excellent archives of congregational documents. For years, Doris Tilley lovingly organized and tended the archives. This summer, Sharon Schulze spent some time in the archives room, picking up on what Mrs. Tilley had started. Sharon:

- cleaned out the cabinets and boxes so that only documents generated by St. Paul's remain
- placed everything inside a cabinet or closed

container so that if the fire sprinklers go off, documents will be protected as much as possible

- removed an old wooden cabinet so that outgassing from the wood and varnish on the wood would not damage documents

- sorted newsletters, bulletins, annual reports, and other sorts of documents so that instead of being arranged by year, all the bulletins are together, all the newsletters are together, and the like
- recycled, destroyed, or distributed extra copies of books, book not published by St. Paul's, and other duplicate papers.

The archiving task is large and there is still much work to do, but for now the documents are sorted and protected from fire sprinkler damage, just waiting for the next interested person to start working. If you are interested in working with the archives, please contact Curtis Chi, Emily Vardell, or Gus Holshouser of the Communications Committee.

Sharing with the Needy

The Women's Connection asks that the St. Paul's congregation continue their generous history of giving with those who need the most by bringing fresh vegetables/fruit to church during the first two weeks of Advent to be taken to the food pantry of the Urban Ministries of Durham. Please bring between December 4 and 11 at least **TWO** bags of **ONE** of these (feel free to bring more if you would like):

white potatoes

apples

oranges

tangerines

Please place in the boxes under the Giving Tree and they will be delivered to the Urban Ministries for Christmas distribution.

Katherine Circle

The Katherine Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 13 at 10:00 am. Barbara Shade will present the program "Hearing the Christmas Story – for the First Time." Hostesses will be Pat Cashwell and Fran Whitfield. Devotions will be led by Nan Treul. Martha Dahl will be in charge of pew supplies. Newly elected officers of the Katherine Circle are:

Nan Treul, Chairperson

Marilyn Hawley, Secretary

Martha Dahl, Treasurer

Diana Dominick, Program Chairperson

St. Olaf Choir

The St. Olaf Choir is singing at Baldwin Auditorium on the Duke Campus on Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 7:30 pm. Individual tickets are \$30. Blocks of 10 or more tickets are sold at \$28 a seat. To reserve a seat, please contact Deborah Steed at deborahsteed@gmail.com ASAP.

Thiel Choir Concert

The Thiel Choir, from Thiel College in Greenville, PA, will perform a concert at St. Paul's on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 7:00 pm as part of their spring break choir tour. We will provide a meal for the choir before the concert and house them in homes that evening, returning them after breakfast so they can depart for their next destination. Watch for more details on his wonderful tour.

Congratulations!

This fall Karen Shoaf was offered and accepted a full army ROTC scholarship at Campbell University to pursue her Masters in Science degree. She will be transitioning from an enlisted member of the USMC and when she graduates in May of 2018 she will be commissioned as an officer in the US Army.

Our Sympathy to the following

- † Family and friends of **Joyce Harless**, who died on November 8. Her funeral and interment was held on Sunday, November 13 at 3:00 pm. Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the Salvation Army, or the North Carolina Schnauzer Rescue.
- † Family and friends of Matt Sackett (son of Jim Sackett).

Memorials Received

We received a memorial from Mr. and Mrs. James M. Anderson, Sharon Center, OH in memory of Mrs. Joyce Harless.

In the Mailbag...

Dear St. Paul's Members:

Thanks to all who gave cards and came to help celebrate my 90th birthday. What a blessing to be a

part of such a caring church family.

Anita Johnson

Thank you for all of the cards, emails, calls, and visits during Jim's recent hospitalization. We felt your presence, through those means of communication.

Carol and Jim Sackett

To the Members of the Dropped Stitch Group,

Since I don't come into the office on Fridays, I don't get to see you or hang out with you often but I wanted to thank you for making the pocket prayer shawls and the larger prayer shawls as well.

I have been bringing them to folks when I've made visits and everyone loves them! It really means a lot to the shut-ins and homebound members to receive something from the congregation – especially something that lets them know we are thinking about them and praying for them. They all comment on the little cross and the tag you sew on.

Thank you and keep up the good work!

Blessings,

Vicar Sue

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your donation of \$100. Your generous gift will be put to work right away helping Families Moving Forward find permanent, secure housing for homeless families with children in Durham.

Thank you for your partnership and ongoing support. (Full letter on bulletin board in office)

Ryan Fehrman, Executive Director
Families Moving Forward

Thank you for your gift of \$250 through Urban Ministries of Durham to offer neighbors food, shelter, and a future. (Full letter on bulletin board in office)

Bryan Gilmer
Director of Marketing & Development
Urban Ministries of Durham

On behalf of Durham Literacy Center, I would like to thank you for your recent donation of \$100. Because of your contribution, our Adult Literacy program can continue to train volunteer tutors twice a year to work with adult students one-on-one. Our ESOL program can continue to serve over 200 non-English speakers. (Full letter on bulletin board in office)

Lizzie Ellis-Furlong, Executive Director
Durham Literacy Center

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Next Gen Youth Group (3rd to 5th Graders)

3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders! Come to the monthly meetings of Next Gen Youth group for fun, fellowship and service. Email Vicar Sue at vicar@stpaulsdurham.org to receive emails about Next Gen activities or for more information.

Christmas Cookie Bake!

Saturday, December 10 at 11 AM - 2 PM

Immediately following Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
Come and help bake and decorate Christmas Cookies for our local firefighters and sheriffs, and after we're done making them, we'll pile into the van and deliver them!

BYG at Camp Agape! Friday - Sunday, April 21-23

Registration now underway

On April 21-23, 2017, our Next Gen Youth group will be heading down to Camp Agape for a BYG (Building Youth Groups) weekend. We have room for the first 8 children who register with Vicar Sue by returning their registration forms along with a check for \$70. St. Paul's will pay the other half of the total registration fee of \$140. Full scholarships are also available.

This fee includes housing, program, and all meals from Saturday breakfast through Sunday lunch. Forms and more information are available on the Youth Ministry Bulletin board or can be received via email by contacting Vicar Sue at vicar@stpaulsdurham.org. Return forms and check to Vicar Sue as soon as possible to reserve your spot. The last day to return forms and money is Sunday, March 19.

For more information on the BYG retreat see:
<http://agapekurebeach.org/retreats/byg.html>

Future Next Gen Events:

- Sunday, Jan 15 – 12:30-3 – “Souper” Bowl Sunday
- Sunday, Feb 19 – 12:30-3 – Bowling
- Sunday, Mar 19 – 12:30-3 – Casserole Cook-Off
- Friday-Sunday, Apr 21-23 – BYG at Camp Agape (Register Now! – see Vicar)
- Sunday, May 21 – 12:30-3 – Youth Group Season Finale Cookout (Family event)

Middle School / High School Youth Group

All middle and high school students are invited to attend MS/HS Youth Group and Sunday School Events. Email Vicar Sue at vicar@stpaulsdurham.org for more information.

Christmas Cookie Bake!

Saturday, December 10 at 11 AM - 3 PM

We are going to help the Next Gen Youth Group bake and decorate Christmas Cookies for our local firefighters and sheriffs and then, we will accompany the Next Gen'ers to deliver them! Plan to stay at church after the cookie activities to prep for Wednesday evening's Advent dinner.

Ga-Ga Ball Pit Fundraiser – Advent Dinner Potato Bar!

Prep: Saturday, December 10, 2-3 PM

Meal: Wednesday, December 14, 5-7 PM

Our youth group will host the December 14 Congregational Advent Dinner, proceeds will go to our Ga-Ga Ball Pit construction project, plus a donor will match what we raise. The menu will consist of baked potatoes with assorted toppings and dessert. We will prep the potatoes on Saturday, Dec 10 after the cookie baking event. Middle schoolers and high schoolers are asked to bring toppings and desserts, and to help serve and clean up on the day of the meal. Watch for emails containing more details on this event and on our construction project.

Future MS/HS Youth Group Events:

- Saturday, Jan 21 – Community Kitchen - 10:30 am
- Friday - Saturday, Feb 24-25 – Leave 5 PM Friday, return late Saturday – Ski Trip!
- Sunday, Mar 26 – time TBD – Dinner and worship with Duke Lutherans
- Sunday, Apr 30 – Rehearsal for Youth Sunday (May 7)
- Sunday, May 7 – 8 am - 12 pm – Youth Sunday
- Sunday, May 21 – 12:30-3 – Youth Group Season Finale Cookout (Family event)

MS/HS Sunday School

- Dec 4-18 – Christmas Day Hymn Project – Bring your laptop and meet in conference room. We will be completing our Christmas Day Hymn Project. Donuts will be provided.
- Dec 25 – Christmas Day - No Sunday School, Worship at 11; Hymn project goes live.
- Jan 1 – New Year's Day – No Sunday School, Worship at 11
- Jan 8 – Sunday School resumes, we will discuss our next project.

Email Vicar Sue at vicar@stpaulsdurham.org to receive MS/HS Youth emails.

Worship Team Youth Members

Needed Every Sunday – You may have noticed more youth participating in worship lately. We've been actively inviting the kids to be part of the worship team and they are not only doing a fantastic job in these roles, they are also enjoying being worship leaders. Our youth can participate in worship as Junior Crucifers, Acolytes, Torch Bearers, Bible Bearers, Crucifers, and Lectors depending on their age. This is a wonderful way for the youth to contribute to the life of the church and take an active role in worship. If your child would like to be a part of a worship service, contact Vicar Sue (vicar@stpaulsdurham.org). We'll set up a time before the service to go over everything they need to know so they'll be ready.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, ELCA
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Durham, NC 27705-5731

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Young In Spirit

The December Young In Spirit activity is a viewing of the Bolshoi Ballet performing "The Nutcracker" at Briar Creek Theater on Sunday, December 18 at 12:55 pm. Tickets should have already been purchased through William Wilson.

Looking ahead to January – come join us for a train ride to Greensboro and a visit to the Civil Rights Museum. Additional information about the Museum, as well as travel/schedule options will be available, along with the sign-up at a later date. In the meantime, please view these sites as we make plans:

sitinmovement.org and amtrak.com

Contact Marilyn Hawley if you have questions.

Darkness to Light

The preschool will be hosting a Darkness to Light Training on Sunday, Dec 4 from 1-3 pm in Trinity Hall. Darkness to Light is a program designed to empower adults to prevent child sexual abuse. The program raises awareness and educates adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

The training is provided free through grants. The program features a combination of survivor stories, expert advice, and practical guidance. It also shows you how a simple, 5-step approach can protect the children you love from sexual abuse. If you are interested in attending, please contact Amanda Stoen at preschool@stpaulsdurham.org.

Lessons and Carols

Friday, December 16th at 7:00 pm

Seven readers are needed for the Lessons and Carols evening at St. Paul's. There will be scripture readings between carols. If you would like to participate in this wonderful event, please contact choir member George Seiz via email at geoseiz@aol.com or 919-824-0130 before December 2.

Thanks!

We reflect with gratitude on the great abundance that is ours at St. Paul's. We give thanks for each of you and the multitude of gifts you share. We offer special THANKS to those of you who have responded to our stewardship appeal and delivered a commitment card. Thanks, too, for the many additional pledges that have been received since. Please know: it is never too late to make a commitment to the work and future of St. Paul's. Bring it with you to church, drop it off, or mail it.

We have two challenge gifts that are still open until the end of the year! Anonymous donors have promised:

1. \$100 for each commitment received over 96, which was the number returned last year.
2. \$100 for each family/individual who increases their pledge amount over last year and starts giving at that level now.

The purpose of these challenge gifts is to bring attention to – and increase the participation of – all members in the process of committing and giving to the work of God at St. Paul's for next year.

Christmas Pageant

On Sunday, Dec 11 at 5:00 pm we will have our traditional Christmas Pageant followed by the Lasagna Dinner (which includes, salad, bread and desserts). All are invited. **Pageant rehearsals** will take place on Saturdays, December 3 and 10 at 10:00 am. Children and youth of all ages are welcome to participate. Contact Jody Timmins if you can help with staging or costuming.

Christmas Cookie Fixings Donations Needed

Next Gen and MS/HS youth groups will be baking, decorating and delivering Christmas cookies to our local firefighters and sheriffs. Stop by the "Activities" bulletin board in the atrium for a list of needed items. Donations are required by Wed, Dec. 7
