

winter NEWSLETTER



Coming Home for Christmas: Advent in Isaiah

The book of *Isaiah* spans one of the most turbulent periods in Israel's history. Isaiah prophesied during the 8th century B.C., a time when the once-unified kingdom of Israel had divided into the northern kingdom (Israel) and the southern kingdom (Judah). As Assyria's power surged across the ancient Near East, the northern kingdom fell to its armies in 722. Meanwhile, Judah watched anxiously as the threat of foreign domination grew.

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All Saints' Sunday

On Sunday, **November 2**, we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday by remembering and honoring all those who have passed away since last All Saint's Day of 2024 as well as those who have passed years before. From our Family at St. Paul's we will lovingly remember:

Craig Negley

Floyd Lux

Larry Szebalskie

Judy Shelton

Chris Kuras

Nelson Bastin

Annual Thanksgiving Lunch

Sunday, November 16
In Heide Hall
Following the worship
service.

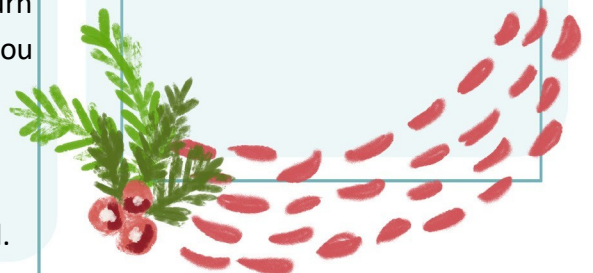
There is a sign up sheet
at the kiosk to donate a
food dish of your choice.



It's not too late to
pick up your shoebox
for Operation Christmas
Child! Grab one in the
narthex, fill it with your
items of choice and return
it by November 16. Or you
may Build A Shoe Box
Online at
[samaritanspurse.org/
buildonline](https://samaritanspurse.org/buildonline) for \$30 total.

Dates to Remember

- 11/2 All Saints' Sunday
- 11/16 Thanksgiving Lunch
- 11/16 Operation Christmas
Child Shoeboxes Due
- 11/30 First Sunday in Advent
- 12/6 Open House time for
prayer
- 12/7 Christmas Concert by
the Kiski Valley
Community Band
- 12/21 Christmas Caroling
- 12/24 Christmas Eve
- 1/18 Annual Congregation
Meeting
- 1/25 Alternate Date for
Congregation Meeting



Isaiah's ministry in the capital of Judah, Jerusalem, spanned the reigns of several kings, including Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (Isa. 1:1). He warned Judah about the consequences of their idolatry, injustice, and misplaced trust in political alliances rather than in the Lord. His early prophecies focus on coming judgment, yet they are also laced with hope, most famously in the promise of *Immanuel*, "God with us" (Isa. 7:14).

The later chapters of Isaiah reflect a shift in tone. By then, Assyria had waned, and Babylon had risen to dominate the region. This mighty empire would eventually conquer Jerusalem and carry many Judeans into exile in 586 B.C. These later chapters speak with extraordinary hope about God's power to redeem, restore, and bring his people home through this Immanuel, his one and only son, Jesus.

It is Jesus, the incarnation of the living God, who Isaiah promised would come as a child born, a son given (Isa. 9:7). Jesus, the holy seed (Isa. 6:13) from the root of Jesse (Isa. 11:10), who would go to the cross for our sake: "being despised and rejected" and "pierced for our transgressions; crushed for our iniquities" (Isa. 53:3,5). In the midst of exile, Isaiah prophesied only one way home to our God: through the arrival of the God-man, Jesus.

As Pastor Matt Popovits writes in this series, "What becomes plain [through the book of Isaiah] is this: when Jesus comes, he brings with him a Kingdom. A reign. A Home and haven under God's care that is very, very good."

For this year's Midweek Advent Service, we will be focusing on several passages in Isaiah where the promises of God - fulfilled in either Jesus' arrival or his second coming - proclaim to us that while we long to find peace, belonging, and comfort this time of year, our ultimate Christmas gift is our citizenship in his kingdom. For he is the Home who has come to win us back from exile, keep us safe in his embrace, and promises that we will someday reside with him forever.

So, during the busy season of Advent, let me encourage you to set aside an hour every Wednesday at 7pm to gather with your brothers and sisters in Christ to hear God's Word through the prophet Isaiah. I hope you will find the words a warm comfort as we reflect on the good news of Christ's incarnation and our longing for Christ to return once again. -Pastor Shawn

Coming Home For Christmas

St. Paul's Midweek Advent Services
Wednesdays during Advent Dec. 3-17 at 7pm



Donations for College Students

We will be collecting monetary donations to purchase gift cards to send to our college students as they prepare for their final exams. A box will be placed at the kiosk from November 2-23 for your donations.

The air conditioning systems in Heide Hall have been replaced as of September 10. This project was funded by memorial contributions made in memory of Larry Szebalskie and the Ira Wood Grant to St. Paul's in 2025. The new units are working great and should serve us for many years to come.



Luther's Corner

"How can I be set free from sin? Run to Christ, the physician, who heals those who are broken in heart and saves sinners... If you believe, you are righteous, because you give glory to God... His righteousness is your righteousness, and your sin is his sin." -Martin Luther's Commentary on Galatians

What is Advent? What makes it the beginning of the church year? ... It is the first gleam of Christmas; it is the promise of his coming; it heralds the entrance of the Divine into human history; it is heaven descending to earth; it is a great event casting its brilliance before it. It is as though a trumpeter had taken his stand upon the turrets of time and announced the coming of the King. "Get ready," he seems to say. "Get ready. He is coming!"
-W.E. Sangster in Special-Day Sermons

CHRISTMAS
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

3:00 pm & 7:00pm

Join us on Sunday,
December 7, at 3:00pm
for the Kiski Valley
Community Band's Annual
Christmas Concert.

A free will offering will be
collected to benefit the
Cabot Food Bank.

Plan on staying after for
refreshments!



CONCERT



**THANK YOU
VETERANS**

**Hymn Sing ~ Sunday, November 16
during the worship service**

Request your favorite hymn at the kiosk. The
Worship & Music Committee will do their
best at including all of them in the service.

This is your chance to select all of your
favorite hymns!



St. Paul's Women's Group is once again hosting a
Christmas Toy Drive to benefit the Lighthouse
Foundation of Butler. Due to the kindness of do-
nors last year, the Lighthouse Foundation provided
toys for more than 500 children throughout our
community. The Christmas Tree will be up in
November for you to take a tag as a reminder. We
will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for children
between the ages of 0-17.

We will also be collecting
gift cards (Walmart, Tar-
get, Amazon, etc.) with a
value of at least \$25 to be
given to the older children.

Please place your
donations under the tree
by Sunday, December 7.

Thank you in advance for
your support of this special ministry.



ANNUAL
MEETING

January 18 immediately following the worship
service. 2025 Annual reports will be available the
first week in January. January 25 will be the
alternate date if the meeting needs to be
postponed due to inclement weather.



1 Luke 1:1-4	2 John 1:1-5, 18	3 John 1:1-5, 18	4 Isaiah 9:6-7 & 11:1-5	5 Micah 5:2-4
6 Matthew 1:1-17	7 Luke 1:5-25	8 Luke 1:26-38	9 Luke 1:39-45	10 Luke 1:46-56
11 Luke 1:57-66	12 Luke 1:67-80	13 Luke 2:1-7	14 Matthew 1:18-25	15 Luke 2:8-21
16 Matthew 2:1-12	17 Luke 2:22-40	18 Matthew 2:13-15	19 Matthew 2:16-18	20 Matthew 2:19-23
21 John 1:6-8, 15	22 John 1:9-14	23 John 1:16-17	24 Isaiah 52:13- 53:12	25 Revelation 21:1-8