



St. Paul's News

475 State Street Albany, New York 12203

Advent Every Day

It's about that time of year again, when it becomes appropriate to sing some of my favorite hymns (Advent hymns rock!). It's about time to start lighting the candles in wreaths. It's about that time again, when the Church on earth raises its voice as one, crying out to the Lord of the Church to come quickly. But why should we wait until then? Until Dec. 3rd and the first Sunday of Advent?! Why should I wait until December to write this Advent newsletter article when just this past Sunday a man possessed by evil killed dozens in a church, hopefully reminding you of the Church's Advent prayer?!

The refrain of Advent should be on our lips every day, in November as well as December, May as well as August, "Come soon, Lord Jesus, come quickly!"

The need for Jesus to come back is all around us, all year long, and all we need to do is pay attention to our fears. What are you most afraid of or uncertain about? Violence? Hunger? Poverty? Failure? The suffering of your loved ones? The safety of your children? The faith of your grandchildren? All the causes of our fear or uncertainty are triggers that point to a brighter day when fear will be gone. A brighter day when Jesus comes back and makes all things new. "Come soon, Lord Jesus, come quickly!"

The Church for thousands of years now has been anxiously EXPECTING that day. Do you find yourself expecting it? Day in and day out praying that Jesus would return to make all things new and to swallow up death forever, knowing that you WOULDN'T be surprised if He actually did? Do we live like the early Church, EXPECTING Jesus to show up at any moment? I pray that you do, and I pray that He does...

Because only on that day will fear of gunmen while we worship cease. Only then can we rest securely knowing that our children will not be taken by an opioid filled needle. Only then will the effects of ALS be reversed, and motionless bodies become animated again. Only then will the threat of our grandchildren turning away from the love of God be eliminated. Only then, when Christ returns, will the threat of nuclear war truly be removed. Only then.

And so we give thanks to God the Father that Jesus will return. We pray for those who lost loved ones in Texas to gun violence and evil that they would be comforted with the knowledge that their loved one is safe in the arms of Jesus. But we also pray for the hastening of that day when those slain by senseless violence would be raised from the dead. With our needs and fears, and theirs, in mind, we lift up our voices as one crying out, "come soon, Lord Jesus, come quickly!"

Amen.

Pastor

Homeless Shelter Dinners: The homeless shelter will again be in operation from November through April 30 at First Lutheran church. We will join with the Lutheran Cluster churches to provide dinners on Tuesdays evenings. Paul's dates are:

November 14
 December 12
 March 6
 April 3



1

We would like to have four different people or families coordinate dinners for these dates, but that doesn't mean you need to prepare the entire dinner. Please consider asking others to help make the meal with you. In this way, more people can participate in this important ministry. Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the rear of the church.

A typical dinner is for 25 people and should consist of a main entrée, a starch (potato, rice, pasta) a vegetable or salad and a dessert. Meals should be completely cooked and in disposable pans. You'll find it very rewarding to make dinner for these homeless men. And thank you in advance for helping with this project. If you have any questions see Sheryl Baum.

Christmas at Sea Boxes

Albany Maritime Ministry - Christmas at Sea:

Take the time to share your blessings and the joy of Christmas with seafarers who will be out on the sea and far away from home and loved ones. Collect a few items, place in a box and gift-wrap it for the sailors whose ships are docked at the Port of Albany during the Christmas season. Suggestions to include: knit cap, gloves, socks, writing paper, envelopes, comb or brush, book, toiletries (razor, shaving cream, shampoo, shower gel). An OPEN HOUSE is scheduled at the Maritime Center at the Port of Albany on Sunday, December 3, from 1-4 pm for anyone who would like to drop off boxes and see the center.



SPECIAL LUNCHEON NOVEMBER 19, 2017

A special luncheon is being planned to be hosted by our youth group to raise money for their projects and a convention.

Ghassan Gorges will be our "Chef" for the luncheon and will prepare some great food!

Please put this on your calendar and plan to be there after worship on Sunday morning, November 19th.



Lutheran Cluster Community Outreach Project – November:

We continue to support the Emergency Overflow Homeless Shelter, which opens in early November. We are collecting:

- Men's Flip Flops (sizes L & XL)
- Coffee
- Powdered creamer
- Spray disinfectants
- Laundry Products (liquid or powder detergents and dryer sheets)
- Plastic Silverware
- Heavy duty paper plates, bowls, cups
- Paper towels
- Napkins
- Tissues
- Toilet paper

These items may be dropped off in the basket in the back of the church. As always thank you so much for your help!

CANCELLATIONS AND CLOSINGS

No one wants to hear it, but it is November. That 4 letter word will be soon upon us.

If the weather is bad, check with TV and radio stations for cancellations and closures at St. Paul's. There will be notification on Capital News 9, channels 6,10,13, WXXA, and radio stations FLY92, WGY,WRVE,B-95.5.



Poinsettias

Poinsettias for Christmas can be ordered now. Choose red, white, or pink plants. The cost per plant will be \$10. Please see Frances VanAcker to place your order. (orders must be placed by November 27th)

Wishing You a
**Happy
 Birthday!**

4. Heath Northup
8. Kade Flynn
ANNETTE KAHLER
LINDA KINDLON
9. MARTHA HEMPEL
11. MARTHA KRATZ
- 18 Brodey Flynn
22. JOAN ALDI
TINA HARRIS
24. MICHAELA SCARLATTA
25. JEREMY DAVID
26. ADLEEN AKHTAR



**THERE ARE SEVERAL OPEN
 DATES FOR FLOWERS IN DE-
 CEMBER. PLEASE FILL IN THE
 BLANK DATES.**



COFFEE HOUR

Please continue to check the "Sign Up Genius" in your email. We are so fortunate to have Tina Harris coordinating our Coffee Hours and taking on the responsibility. We need to all pitch in a little bit to help her. There are simple items and chores to sign up for each week. Most "chores" won't take long at all.

If you don't have email—please check with Tina about items needed. You don't even have to think about what to bring—she will tell you what is needed for each week!!

**SignUp
 Genius** 

Let's all pitch in !!!



ELDER
 James Roberts

DATE	FLOWERS	SERVICE STEWARD	Communion Assistant	ALTAR
11/5		Thom Kingston	Joan Aldi	Arlene Hurley and Lisa Flanagan
11/12	Sharen and Steve Dom-browski in memory mother, Jane Dascher	Thom Kingston	Anne Ragoni	Alida Earl
11/19	Anne and Tom Ragoni in memory of loved ones	Andrew VanAcker	Anne Ragoni	
11/26	Joan Aldi and Vince Sarandrea in memory of loved ones.	Andrew VanAcker	Jeremy David	Linda Calamarras and Muriel Brady