

## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Weekly Update

## December 18 - December 24



**276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801**


Office 570-278-2954, Monday-Thursday 8:15am-3:00pm

Click on link to email St. Paul's: [stpaulsmontrose@epix.net](mailto:stpaulsmontrose@epix.net)

Click on link to go to our Website: <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>

Click on link to go to our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmontrose>

To proclaim God's love by word and example and to seek Christ in one another.

In person worship or you can watch live streamed on YouTube. Go to St. Paul's website <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org> and click this red button  on the front page, which takes you to our YouTube page.



**Donations** You can scan the QR Code. Or go to St. Paul's Website and click the Donate Button for online giving. You can mail your tithes & pledges to the church office at 276 Church St., Montrose, PA 18801

### Church Closures

Please turn your radio dial to WPEL 96.5 FM. We will announce any closure of our church service on that station.

## AdventWord - 2022

Forward Movement has announced the 2022 reflection words for AdventWord, a global online advent calendar and community of disciples. For nearly a decade AdventWord has inspired followers of Jesus who wish to add an accessible prayer practice to their daily routine during this holy season.

Daily meditations and images—inspired by a prompt word selected from the daily lectionary readings—will be released at <https://adventword.org/en/sign-up-adventword/> beginning Sunday, November 27.

Participants can sign up to receive this daily message, in English and Spanish, by email or by following AdventWord on social media. For all who are technically inclined, please sign up to participate!

Many followers join the creativity each year by sharing their own personal reflections across social media using #AdventWord. Participants respond with photos, written responses, crafts, drawings, poems, found art, and other creative expressions inspired by the day's selected word.

"This year we enlisted volunteer community members to help with the selection of prompt words from the daily lectionary readings," said Richelle Thompson, managing editor at Forward Movement. "The online gathering of dozens of AdventWord community members was an inspiring way to kick off the planning for 2022 and a strong reminder that AdventWord is community-driven."

The prompts for 2022 #AdventWord are:

November 27 - Walk	December 7 - Winnowing	December 17 - Majesty
November 28 - Together	December 8 - Breathe	December 18 - Purify
November 29 - Teach	December 9 - Fire	December 19 - Sign
November 30 - Mountains	December 10 - Flourish	December 20 - Hear
December 1 - Make	December 11 - Messenger	December 21 - Obedience
December 2 - Ready	December 12 - Wilderness	December 22 - Choose
December 3 - Unity	December 13 - Stranger	December 23 - Restore
December 4 - Delight	December 14 - Beloved	December 24 - Birth
December 5 - Rain	December 15 - Thirsty	December 25 - Emmanuel
December 6 - Welcome	December 16 - Traveler	

The #AdventWord Images and meditations can be experienced through [AdventWord.org](https://AdventWord.org), direct daily emails, as well as on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Meditations will also be available on [www.adventword.org](https://www.adventword.org).



# View from the Pew:

## Ringling in the Christmas Spirit

Lynne  
Graham

Admittedly, I take great pleasure in watching people. Dan would say that I'm more than a people watcher. He brings me up short by saying, "You're staring." I know it's rude, but somehow I'm drawn to the outward expression of other people's lives. This week, I had a real opportunity to indulge in my bad habit. For the first time ever, I volunteered to ring the Salvation Army bell for "red kettle" Christmas donations at Price Chopper for two hours. What a hoot!

At first, I thought I would be embarrassed to be "asking" for money, but instead, I saw myself as the entrance greeter. I looked each person in the eye and smiled and said "Good morning!" Very few people avoided making eye contact as if pretending that they didn't see me would excuse them from responding. What a slice of life—young mothers toting toddlers and lugging car seats in the other arm; residents from the Square dropped off by SWCT transportation then zipping around in the electric scooters with a basket; sons bringing their elderly mothers who walked with canes at a snail's pace; quarry workers grabbing lunch; young 20-somethings out together for errands; and delivery men to name a few.

Almost everyone put something in the red bucket. If they didn't on the way in, they would on the way out. The women would park their shopping carts and rummage through their purses. Many people had money in their hands when they left the cashier with the intent of donating. I thought people just dropped coins in those red kettles, but I was wrong. People donated \$5, \$10, and even \$20. Some dropped in coins saying, "Sorry, this is all I have." I was blown away by the generosity I encountered. It absolutely warmed my heart and I found myself wondering why we can't all be so caring and generous every day of the year.



**We would love for you to be included!**

Article submissions (photos, community news items, or a personal or faith story) are due every Wednesday. This is YOUR newsletter, and all congregants are invited to share their stories and photos. Please email your items to Kate at [stpaulsmontrose@epix.net](mailto:stpaulsmontrose@epix.net) or John Warriner at [jdwarri@me.com](mailto:jdwarri@me.com); post an item to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 276 Church St. Montrose, PA 18801 on Facebook; or drop a note in the offering plate.

# Sundays Service

DEC  
18



## **Readings for this Week: This Week's Ministers:**

First Reading: Old Testament:

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms: 80:1-7, 16-18

The Epistle: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Barb U., Carol L. & Carol M.

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: Vickie Calby

Organist: Joyce Printz

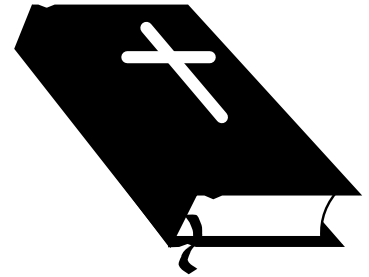
## **This week's Hymns:**

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes

Come, thou long expected Jesus

People, look east



## **This week's Gospel according to Matthew:**

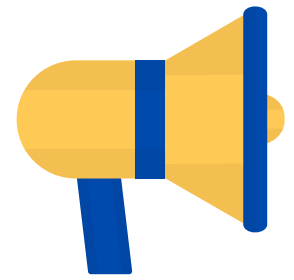
Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.



# Happenings and Announcements



## For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Charlotte Eckert, Nancy Finlon, Jeannine Ball, Sandy Nagy, Addie Evans, Carol Marker, Ellen Ely, Rev. Janet Watrous, Vanessa Smith.

## Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact:

You can call the parish office during office hours. After hours, call Mother Liz 212-222-8109.



## This Months Birthdays:

Daniel Graham 12/4, James Cain 12/9, Vera Dunn 12/13, John Warriner 12/31



## This Months Anniversaries:

No Anniversaries this month; If you would like your Anniversary or your Birthday added to this list, please call Kate in the office.

## Our thanksgivings:

We give thanks for those who celebrate their birthdays this week. O God, our times are in your hand: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives. Amen.

We give thanks for those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week. Grant o God, in your compassion, that those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week may live out the covenant they have made. May they grow in forgiveness, loyalty and love, and come at last to the eternal joys, which you have promised through Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with them this day and forever. Amen.

## **Are you Safe Church compliant?**

Maintaining your required trainings and clearances is vital because it helps us to keep all the people in our congregations safe. Episcopal Church canons require all people who have contact with children in an Episcopal Church to take online trainings to learn best practices, appropriate boundaries, and who to contact if they need help or suspect child abuse. Both Episcopal Church canons and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania laws require everyone who has contact with children and those with any sort of leadership position in the church to obtain background checks.

If you are a clergy person, lay employee, vestry member, volunteer who works with children, or a keyholder in the church, there are steps you need to take to be in compliance with Pennsylvania law and the Episcopal Church Canons.

The learning modules and Safe Church Training site have been recently updated. Learn more about what you need to do in order to be compliant and to keep your church safe. Contact Kate Aukema in the office if you have any questions or concerns about Safe Church compliancy.

Kate will be contacting those whose compliancy status is about to expire to remind them that they must complete the modules to renew their status. It only takes about an hour to complete the modules for renewal.

Please, help us to keep our congregation safe.

Thank you

Mother Liz

# Susquehanna County



Volunteer for Coat Distribution today!

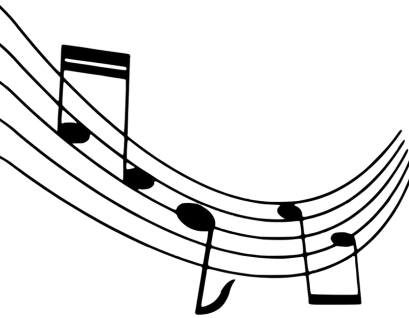
Call John Finlon or Dan Graham

## Distribution Dates

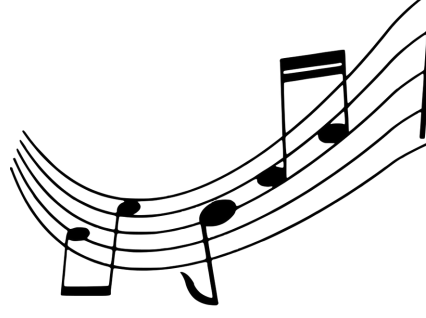
St. Paul's Montrose: Dec. 21-22 from 9AM-1PM

# Last Week's Service and Events

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT- DECEMBER 11



Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of his word;  
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice



The December 11th live-streamed 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was led by Mother Liz. Lynne Graham did the announcements and read as lector. Due to illness, there was no organist and there were no hymns. As you know, our live-streamed services can be watched live or any time on YouTube. Just go to our webpage and hit the red button.

On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake, and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!







## Parishioner Al Leigh Dies

Long time St. Paul's parishioner, Alfred "Al" Leigh, died on December 7, 2022, after a brief illness. Please keep Rita, Eric, and their other four children, as well as Al's brothers and sisters, and the rest of his family in your prayers. Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Al. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen. Thanks Al, for all you did. St. Paul's will miss you.

## Jerry Sock – Model

Our former parishioner, Jerry Sock, appeared in an article in the Village Voice, the magazine of the Masonic Village in Dallas. The article has several pictures of Jerry and discusses his woodworking hobby of making model trains, Jerry, as you remember, used to sell his models at the Christmas Store. We miss him and Maggie.



## Sleeping Bags

The finished sleeping bags made by St. Paul's sleeping bag crew were at church Sunday. After church they were packed into Mother Liz's car for their trip to Scranton where they will be distributed. Good job makers.





## Coats For Our Community

After a whirlwind tour which started last October, the Coats For Our Community returned back to St. Paul's on Monday. They had been to 4 churches, 1 school, an American Legion, a VFW and a food bank. Over 1,000 coats have been given out so far. On Tuesday the 13th, the Montrose High School Key Club students came over and put them on the coat racks in the Parish Hall. The Key Club has helped us every year get ready for distribution, which occurs this year at St. Pauls on December 21st and 22nd, 9 AM to 1 PM. We always are looking for some volunteers to help give the coats out. The distribution of coats is a true community effort. We kept our neighbors a little warmer this year,



## Salvation Army Bell Ringer

If you happen to go into Price Chopper and see the Salvation Army kettle, you might recognize the bell ringer. It's our own Lynne. Say hi if you see her and drop a donation in the kettle and say "Merry Christmas." (They only let her have a tiny bell!)



## Sunday Morning Church

Got a good picture of John Warriner leaving church Sunday Morning and heading for the parking lot. Winter is here.



## MID-DECEMBER IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“Advent is a time when you start to get homesick even when you’re home.” It got warm again early this week and the mornings were foggy with heavy frost again. But Sunday it snowed and the temperature dropped and it created a winter wonderland with everything snow and ice covered. It has been clear and cold since. Winter officially begins next week, but it seems like winter now.



## Remember Our Old Manger

Actually, it seemed more like a hotel as it was pretty big. Our new one is just as nice but not as large.

