

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

December 4 - December 10



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

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.

View from the Pulpit: Mother Liz

It's Advent II. This week we meet John the baptizer again, the aesthetic prophet who calls out to us to prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. He cries, repent, for though I baptize with water, one is coming who will baptize with the spirit and fire. He warns the sanctimonious that the one who is to come will cut down barren trees and winnow the threshing floor with his fork.

Like a persistent cough, John the baptizer is impossible to ignore. He appears in his aestheticism to be gruff, wearing clothing made of camel's hair, eating locusts and wild honey; in other words, subsisting on the basics, seeking solely to proclaim the coming of the Messiah, not seeking creature comforts in any way. We are urged by him this week to take time to consider in what ways we may avoid repentance in our own life and what we can do to face the need for it.

How is God calling to us through John the baptizer to turn around toward God and take an honest look at ourselves? Then, after turning and bowing in reverence to God, how may we take the next step in our dance with God? A dance borne of our mutual love and indwelling with the Holy. In our new awareness resulting from our repentance, we can rest in the arms of God and glide across the dance floor of life, letting God show us the steps to take anew, allowing us to live out the Way of Love in all of our actions, having turned and learned from our sins.

Keep in mind that we will all continue to fall throughout our lives and when we do, God will forgive and lift us up again, continuing the dance. So never give up, never stop trying to live the Way of Love, practicing love of God and neighbor, and always, more deeply. And as we do so, we continue to prepare for the glory to come as well as the glory we can achieve here and now, bringing the Kingdom of God ever closer here on Earth.

Two reminders, first, our Country Store is Saturday from 9am to 3pm. Please join in welcoming our neighbors to St. Paul's for food, fellowship, and fun. It's all hands on deck. The more the merrier.

And, next Sunday, join us after Eucharist for a potluck lunch followed by a Holy Land Presentation at 1pm by Mother Rebecca from St. Luke's and me. We are looking forward to sharing about the sights and sounds from our trip, the people, and places we encountered, and how some of our misconceptions were laid bare. Please bring a dish to share for lunch.

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:

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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, direct daily emails, as well as on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Meditations will also be available on www.adventword.org.

View from the Pew:

It Takes a Village

One day last week my daughter called me while on a lunch break from substitute teaching at William Penn Charter School in Philadelphia. She knew my father had attended the school and thought I'd like to know she was there. I told her that The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, where I grew up and where she was baptized, was in back of the school. She decided to go looking. I was on Google search and was able to guide her while we spoke. What a fun walk down memory lane. For the rest of the afternoon, I thought about how especially thankful and grateful I am to my parents and the Good Shepherd family for instilling in me a deep faith in God in those early years. Thankful for our dear Quakertown Emmanuel Church family for encouraging and renewing that faith for over 40 years, and now for St Paul's family who have welcomed us with loving open arms. There are no truer words than "It takes a Village". I feel blessed.

- Wanda Peirce

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 or John Warriner at 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

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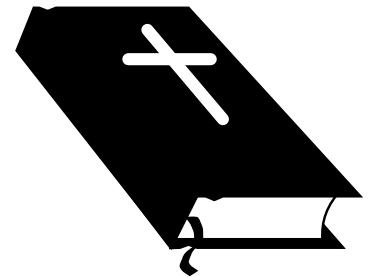
Readings for this Week: This Week's Ministers:

First Reading: Old Testament:
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm: 72:1-7, 18-19
The Epistle: Romans 15:4-13
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski
Altar Guild: Barb U., Carol L. & Carol M.
Announcements: Lynne Graham
Lector: John Warriner
Organist: Joyce Printz

This week's Hymns:

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding
There's a voice in the wilderness crying
Comfort, comfort ye my people
People, look East



This week's Gospel according to Matthew:

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

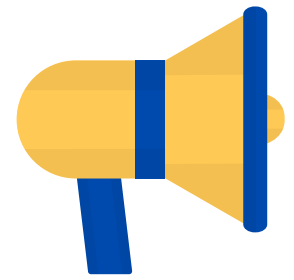
"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Happenings and Announcements



Soup Night

December 7th is Soup Night! If you aren't busy come join us to bag up some soup! If you are busy that night and want to donate some soup beforehand, let us know! Bible Study also follows Soup Night at 5PM.



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.

Susquehanna County



We are collecting coats in
October & November

Distribution Dates

St. Paul's Montrose: Dec. 21-22

Last Week's Service and Events

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT- NOVEMBER 27

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
once for ev'ry sinner slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ reveals his endless reign.

The November 27th live-streamed 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was led by Mother Liz. Lynne Graham did the announcements and Nancy Dooling read as lector. Mary Ann DeWitt played the organ. The service included four hymns along with the Prelude. The lighting of the first candle on the Advent wreath took place. 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.





Old Picture of Ben Lighting the Advent Wreath

Tradition is an important part of St. Paul's services. Here's an old picture of Ben Zelewski lighting our Advent Wreath. This Advent picture was in the archives.

Everly Golden Makes Her Appearance

John and Gaby Warriner's newest granddaughter, Everly Olivia Golden, was at church on Sunday with her proud parents, Corey and Lindsey (Warriner) Golden. It's always great to hear babies in church but little Everly didn't make a peep. She's beautiful!



Our Fireplace is Ready

Winter brings cold weather, dreary skies and snow. But it also means St. Paul's fireplace will be providing comforting ambience and heat. If you see somebody warming their backsides during coffee hour, join them. It's the best spot in the Parish Hall.

South Montrose Community Church

Here's an update on the construction of the South Montrose Community Church on Rt. 29.

As you remember, the church was struck by lightning this spring and burned completely down. They were able to save some of the stained glass windows. The Montrose Mobile Food Pantry has begun using their lot again to do their monthly food distribution. The church is still hoping to have a service there on Christmas.



REMEMBER WHEN – CHRISTMAS IN MONTROSE PAST



END OF NOVEMBER IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake, it is necessary to stand out in the cold.” It was a typical November week here. The sunsets just keep getting better, if that’s possible. Deer season started on Saturday this week. Our dogs were wearing their orange handkerchiefs so they didn’t get mistaken for a doe. It’s December and the countdown to Christmas begins.

