

We are a community empowered by the Holy Spirit, called to bring God's comfort, to work for God's justice, and to share the hope and love of Jesus with all.

# December 2025 Newsletter



**SEASON of ADVENT**  
— Celebrate the Coming King —

## Our Core Values



*faith  
acceptance  
compassion  
gratitude  
love*



**Christmas Eve  
Service**

~ see page 8 ~

## *A Message from Our Pastor*

November 30<sup>th</sup> began the first week of Advent. Already the Christmas lights are being hung around the neighborhood. Various scenes of reindeer, Santa Claus, decorated trees, and even some scenes depicting more religious elements: the angels, the Magi, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in a manger at the inn, surrounded by all the various animals. All of them are beautiful. Normally, as one who recognizes and preaches on the importance of recognizing that we are in Advent, a season of waiting for the light of Christ to enter the world, I have often been annoyed at how quickly these lights have gone up. It has felt too commercialized, a way of getting people hyped up to buy more presents than they can afford. But strangely this year as the lights began to appear, I found myself thinking differently. I found my heart moved by the lights, a sliver of hope entering into this darkness we presently find ourselves in. Not just the seasonal darkness, but the darkness surrounding us these days in the form of a philosophy, a false Christianity being preached that dismisses the needs of the poor, of the hungry, of the sick and the homeless. A philosophy that sees brutality of the weak and helpless as somehow acceptable and dismisses our responsibility to our neighbor. There is anxiety and fear by many about the future we seem to be headed towards. And so I found myself looking at these same lights with a newfound appreciation. For these were Advent lights I realized. Lights reminding us that there is an alternative to the fear, to the anxiety, and heartlessness that seems to pervade our world at this moment in time. These Advent lights I realized now serve as a means of guiding us back to promises of God. Promises fulfilled by the birth of God's son Jesus, into the world. Through the birth of the child, God enters into the world in order to bring justice, to bring healing, to bring resurrection and new life. These lights remind us of the hope to be found in our world if we but have faith. We are not alone. God through his son walks with us and there is hope. Yes, I thought, this gift of lights is perfect.



May the lights of Advent guide you to the joy of the Christ Child this Christmas season.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

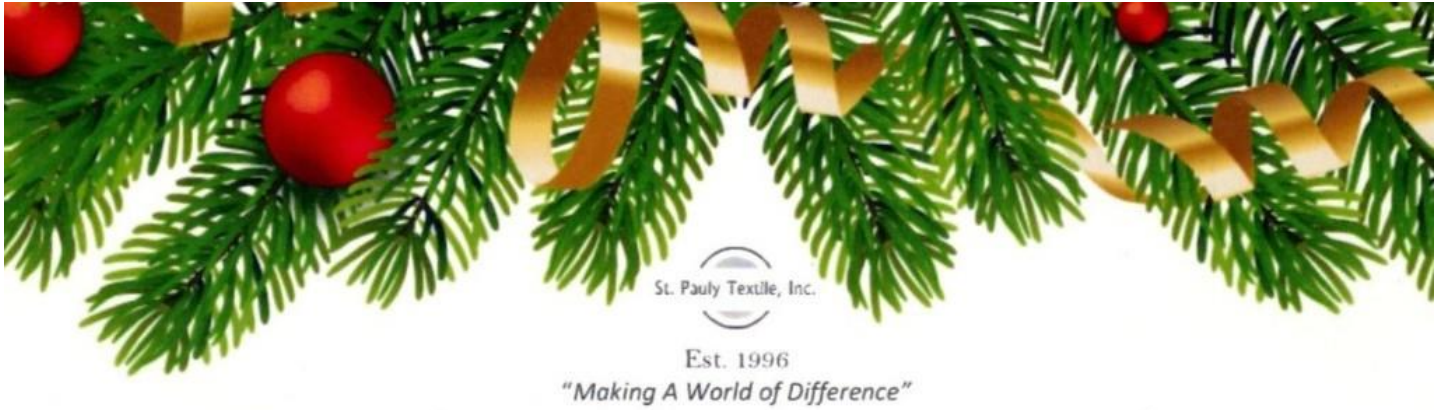
Pastor Pamela



***Welcome our newest members:***

-  **Donna St. John**
-  **Eugene St. John**
-  **Diane Cornell**
-  **Kathy Zorian**





Happy Holidays!

We wanted to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation for your continued trust and support as we begin to round out the year. Your partnership means the world to us, and we are truly grateful for the opportunity to work with you and have you as a member of the St. Pauly Textile family.

At St. Pauly Textile Inc., our mission has always been to provide the best service and ensure every experience you have with us is positive and rewarding. Partners like you inspire us to keep improving and striving for excellence every day.

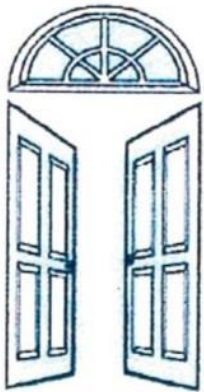
Thank you once again for partnering with us and for being such an important part of our community. We look forward to continuing to partner with you as we continue to grow and expand our family.

From our family to yours, we want to wish you all a happy holiday season!

Sincerely,

St. Pauly Textile Ownership





# Doors of Hope

Matthew 25:35  
"For I was hungry and you fed me,  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,  
naked and you clothed me..."

Thank you so much  
for your donation  
of Toilettries to  
Doors of Hope. It is  
something we really  
need. So again  
thank you for all  
the donations you  
provide.  
God Bless You



# DECEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR

## December 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Ja'net Malmstrom	2 Bonny Munteer	3 Jim Munteer	4 Karen Covey Birthday	5 Richard Covey	6 Bob Crowley	7 Rachel Carey Birthday
8 Nora Guido	9 Maureen Hoffman	10 Dawn Conville	11 Jim Macris	12 Sandra Governor	13 Tyler Gray & Wayne Mizerak Birthdays	14 Hannukah Begins
15 Charmanka Gamage	16 Luke Morello	17 Debbie Favro	18 Gary Favro	19 Pam Dodson	20 Tim Mizerak Birthday	21 Winter Solstice
23 Dickie Dodson	23 Wayne Felt	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Chris Nash	27 Bob Nash	28 Mike Daus
29 Carol Mizerak Birthday	30 Marion Daus	31 New Year's Eve				



EACH MONTH WE LIST NAMES FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS. EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY BRINGS UNIQUE GIFTS FOR OUR MISSIONARY JOURNEY. OUR PRAYERS SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. (A REMINDER...THESE ARE NOT PRAYERS FOR HEALING.)



**We wish you a very Happy and Blessed Birthday ...**

**Karen Covey ~ December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Rachel Carey ~ December 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Tyler Gray ~ December 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Wayne Mizerak ~ December 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Tim Mizerak ~ December 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Carol Mizerak ~ December 29<sup>th</sup>**



# Christmas Food Baskets

**Your help is needed!**

Advent is here and Christmas is coming soon! Once again, we at Hope LC will be preparing Christmas food baskets for 15 families who have recently moved out of the St. Paul's Center. We need your help! There is a poster in the sanctuary listing the items needed. Please sign-up for whatever you can provide and take a Post-It note for each item to remind you when you're shopping.

We will pack the food on Monday morning, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:30am in the large classroom. If you are available to help out for about a half-hour, please let Pam Dodson know at (518) 701-4628.

Each family will also receive a grocery store gift card, purchased with church funds, so they'll be able to buy turkeys, fresh produce and whatever else they need for a nice Christmas dinner. Please help us make Christmas special for these families who have recently moved from the homeless shelter into new homes.

*"Every year, the families are overjoyed and truly grateful. Thank you all so much for all that you do!" – Jason, St. Paul's Center*

**HOPE** Lutheran Church

470 Winter Street Ext., Troy, NY 12180

[www.HOPELC.ORG](http://www.HOPELC.ORG)

 *Christmas Eve Service* 

CHRISTMAS EVE  
*Candlelight*  
SERVICE

*In-Person & Online*

**7:00 PM**

*Come Celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ*

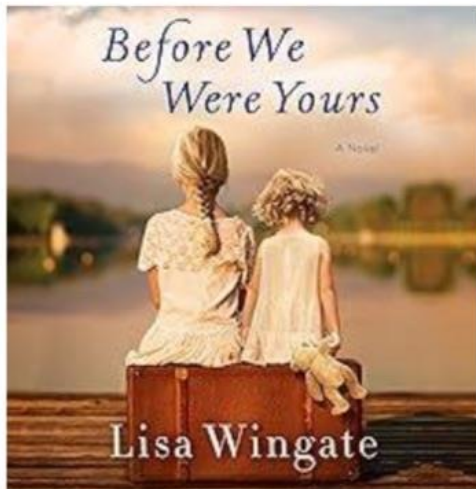


*Celebrating*  
THE BIRTH OF  
*Christ*

**Wishing You All  
a Blessed & Merry  
Christmas this  
December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

***No Service Today***





*Book Group Meets to Discuss Before They Were Yours by Lisa Wingate on January 28, 2026*

Amazon gives a detailed explanation of this riveting book based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country.

It begins in **Memphis, 1939**. Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family's Mississippi River shantyboat. When their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge—until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents. They quickly realize the dark truth. At the mercy of the facility's cruel director, Rill fights to keep her sisters and brother together in a world of danger and uncertainty.

**Aiken, South Carolina, present day.** Born into wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it all: a successful career as a federal prosecutor, a handsome fiancé, and a lavish wedding on the horizon. When Avery returns home to help her father weather a health crisis, a chance encounter leaves her with uncomfortable questions and compels her to take a journey through her family's long-hidden history.

Gail Markert will lead the January meeting discussion. The Women's Book Group meets 4TH Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Marilyn Dyer and Pr. Elaine Berg (47 Deerhaven Lane, Rensselaer 12144)

**NOTE: THE BOOK GROUP WILL NOT MEET IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH & WILL JOIN LENT DISCUSSIONS.**

# Worship Volunteer Duties for December 2025

**Please find your own replacement if you cannot be available on date of assignment.**

	7-Dec	14-Dec	21-Dec	24-Dec	28-Dec
	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Xmas Eve 7:00pm	Worship 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Bonny M	Charlie H	Debbie F	Marilyn D	Donna S
Greeter	Nancy D	Nancy C	Anna-Lisa H	Elaine B	Marion D
Usher	Lois B	Janis Z	Diane C	Cindy W	Mike D
Assisting Minister	Bonny M	Sandra G	Cindy W	Chris N	Janis Z
Comm. Assistant	Debbie F	Bonny M (+ candles)	Chris N	Janis Z	Bonny M
Snack Set-Up	Charlie H	Maureen H	Marilyn D	(not needed)	Maureen H
Offering Counters	Bonny M & Charlie H	Nancy C & Bonny M	Anna-Lisa H & Diane C	(will be counted 12/28)	Bonny M & Pam D



# Upcoming Events for December of 2025

We have 'In-Person' Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM.

We also live-stream our services on our website, Facebook and YouTube.

*Sharing the hope and love of Jesus with all*

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Beginner Plus Tai Chi with Pam Dodson @ 7 PM in the sanctuary; (every Tues. except 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>).**

**3<sup>rd</sup>: Qigong with Pam Dodson @ 1:30 PM in the sanctuary; (every Wed. except the 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>).**

**Advanced Tai Chi with Pam Dodson @ 3 PM in the sanctuary; (every Wed. except the 26<sup>th</sup>).**

**Women's Book Club @ 6:30 PM at Marilyn and Pr. Elaine's home.**

**6<sup>th</sup>: Regional Food Bank Packing, 10:30 AM – Noon, Meet at RFB.**

**7<sup>th</sup>: Prayers of Hope meets in the small classroom following worship service.**

**11<sup>th</sup>: Women's Bible Study @ 6:30 PM at Pr. Elaine Berg's home; (every Thurs., except the 25<sup>th</sup> & Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>).**

**14<sup>th</sup>: Choir Rehearsal with Sandra Governor in the sanctuary following worship service.**

**18<sup>th</sup>: Grief Support Group @ 5:30 PM in the large classroom.**

**21<sup>st</sup>: Choir Rehearsal with Sandra Governor in the sanctuary following worship service.**

**22<sup>nd</sup>: Food Basket Packing for St. Paul's Center @ 10:30 AM in the large classroom.**

**24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve Service @ 7 PM in the sanctuary & online.**

**25<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Day ~ Christ, Our Savior, is Born!**

**26<sup>th</sup>: Newsletter Articles Due.**

