

December

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

The Good News!

2025

Sunday Services

December

- 7 **Advent 2**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 14 **Advent 3**
Worship & Communion
10:00 am
- 21 **Advent 4**
Worship and Communion
Sunday School Pageant
10:00 am
- 24 **Christmas Eve**
10:00 am
4:00 pm
- 28 **First of Christmas**
Worship & Communion
10:00 am
Sunday School 11:00 am

January

- 4 **Epiphany of Our Lord**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 11 **Baptism of Our Lord**
Worship & Communion
10:00 am
- 18 **2 Epiphany**
Worship & Communion
10:00 am
- 25 **3 Epiphany**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am

Sunday School 11:00 am most Sundays!

Find us on  facebook.com/StPaulsTorrington



www.stpaulstorrington.com

860-482-3555



A Word from Pastor Cady



Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

A blessed Advent and Christmas from Amy and myself to you all! We are both deeply grateful for all your support and genuine warmth. It is a great blessing to serve you here at St. Paul's.

We hope you can all find some sense of peace, joy, and hope during this festive season. Advent is a time for two kinds of preparation. Christians around the world remember and contemplate the meaning of the birth of Jesus. What we understand as the Incarnation is the point in history in which the fullness of God's saving work enters our world in the flesh of a human being. In Jesus, God will heal, feed, teach, and finally redeem our fallen race. In Jesus, the distance between humanity and divinity is forever closed. We are drawn by God's grace back into an intimate and eternal relationship that is nothing less than a fully new life. In Advent, we get ready to celebrate that great miracle, and during Christmas, we do just that - celebrate holy love, embodied in the person of Jesus, that makes all things new.

While we are being renewed in the message of the Gospel, we are also preparing for our own particular traditions. Some of us will travel to be with loved ones. Some will welcome their beloveds into their own homes. Some will attend parties, concerts, Living Nativities, or traditional worship services. Our homes will be lit and often filled with joyous music. Especially in Torrington, the annual Nutcracker is part of many people's season. Special foods will be prepared, filling our homes with rich scents and nostalgic flavors. There will be gifts and special times to share.

The parish will observe all this in a few ways. We will have our own outdoor tree lit for all passers by to see. Our members will decorate our inside tree on Monday, December 1. The Connecticut Yankee Chorale will present their holiday concert at 4pm, Sunday December 7. We will offer a service called Blue Christmas/Longest Night at 4pm, Sunday, December 21. This quiet, contemplative service is especially helpful for those who are dealing with grief or sorrow in the midst of the season's joy. Our children's pageant will be Sunday morning, the 21st. We'll offer 2 Christmas Eve services, one at 10am for those who do not drive at night, and one at 4pm with candlelight. Both will feature many favorite carols. The Sunday after Christmas, the 28th, will be a lay-led service of Lessons and Carols at our normal 10am time. We will celebrate Epiphany on January 4.

We wish you all the most uplifting and positive experiences as you decide which of these good events to attend. Through it all, may God's peace fill your homes and hearts, and may the Holy Infant's birth deepen your faith and love.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Scott Cady



ADVENT

Finance

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

As a congregation, we are called to walk together—supporting one another, setting shared priorities, and discerning how God is guiding our ministry forward. One of the most practical and meaningful ways we do this is through our Annual Budget Meeting.

This meeting isn't just about numbers on a page. It is about our mission. Every dollar we steward reflects the ministries we value, the outreach we support, and the vision we hold for the year ahead. By participating, you help shape how we serve our neighbors, nurture our community, and sustain the life of our church.

Whether you are long-time member or new to the congregation, your presence and perspective are important. The budget meeting is an opportunity to ask questions, offer insight, and better understand the responsibilities and blessings of our shared ministry. Please make plans to join us. Together, we can ensure that our resources align with our faith, our values, and God's calling for the year to come.

We look forward to seeing you there on Thursday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m.!

Your Sister in Christ,
Pamela Little
Treasurer/Finance Committee

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11–13



Save the Date! Part I
December 18, 2024 6:30 pm

COUNCIL

Dear Members of St Paul's,

As we journey forward together in faith, I want to take a moment to remind us of the beautiful gift we share — the gift of community. Though we come from different walks of life and hold different opinions, we are united in one purpose: to love God and to love one another.

Let us strive to “agree to disagree” in harmony, with kindness and respect at the heart of every conversation. It is in our diversity that we find strength, and through grace that we remain one body in Christ.

Each of us has been blessed with unique talents. I encourage everyone to share those gifts often — in worship, in service, in fellowship, and in outreach. Whether it's lending a hand, offering a prayer, sharing music, teaching, or simply showing up with a smile — every act of service strengthens the whole.

Finally, let us also remember that financial giving is one more way we can share in God's work together. Your offerings sustain our ministries, support those in need, and allow our church to continue being a light in the community. Every contribution, large or small, is an act of faith and love.

May we continue to walk together in unity, generosity, and grace — celebrating all that God is doing through us and among us.

With gratitude and blessings,

Diane Boscarino, Council President



2026 New England Synod Assembly

And the Word became flesh - living the story of Jesus

The New England Synod Assembly will take place on June 4-6, 2026 at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA. under the theme of 'And the Word became flesh - living the story of Jesus'. To encourage congregations to plan to send their pastor, deacon or LLM and voting members, we are providing the dates of assembly for your planning calendars and the registration rates to be included in your 2026 budget calculations.

\$275 - Early Registration \$200 - Early Registration for People of Color & Youth/ Young Adult

\$375 - Regular Registration *meals may be purchased for an additional fee

More information related to next year's theme, workshops and other activities will be shared in the new year. You may expect registration information during the month of February.

Poinsettia Memorials

Anyone wishing to memorialize a loved one with poinsettia can do so by filling out the form provided below and placing it in the offering plate or returning it to the church office.

Cost is by donation.

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF:

GIVEN BY:

Person making the request Name & Phone Number:

Please make checks
payable to:
St. Paul's

***Memo:
Poinsettia***

***Forms must be in
the church office
no later than
December 12th***



HILLTOP ELC



In the blink of an eye, it's December already! Hilltop is preparing for new enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year. Pre-enrollment will be open to existing families at Hilltop and to our St. Paul's church families beginning January 5, 2026. If you are interested or know of anyone in the church family who is interested, please give me a call and I will be happy to send out an enrollment form. Registration opens to the public on February 2, 2026

Although only one classroom was blessed with good weather for the pumpkin picking field trip, we still explored the large classroom pumpkin and are waiting and watching to see what will happen after the winter. We call him "Pumpkin Jack".

We are blessed with so many wonderful families in our program. We treated our families to a Grateful/Thankful feast on November 14th. Our families donated items for the feast and helped to set up and prepare the food. We served approximately 150-160 people!!!

Thank you to everyone who either bought and/or sold the Nutmeg Spices for our fundraiser. We had 34 orders totaling 430 spice bottles! We are happy to report a profit of just over \$1600.00 to help balance our Hilltop budget.

We are planning a "Christmas Spirit" week and classroom celebrations with songs and snack.

We continue to ask for your prayers and blessings as we begin registrations for the coming school year. Making some of our classrooms a full day has helped with enrollment these past three years.

In His Service,
Barbara J. Mazzei
Director/Head Teacher



Women of the ELCA

THANK YOU!!!!

Thank you to all who contributed to the Fall Fair, Socktober, The 508 Reformation food drive (yes we made our goal and then some!!!) and those who helped out with the creation of the Thanksgiving basket for 3 families. October/November is a busy time and we could not do it without the help of many!

Our next event includes trimming the Chrismon tree and nave on Monday, December 1st at 5:30 pm with the help of the Property Committee and friends. Come when you can! Hostesses are Pam Ewing and Paula Rosenbeck.

ANGEL PROJECT 2025

Fruit Baskets – for families who have lost a member of their immediate family (cash donations toward the purchase of fruit)

Assembly of Fruit Baskets – 12/12 at 12pm

***Gift Preferences out on 11/23 and due back by 12/14
(wrapped with angel attached)***

Hat & Mitten Tree – up for most of November and into December. Hats, ear muffs, gloves, scarves, mittens, slipper socks, etc.!



Thankful for the Women of the ELCA!

The Women of the ELCA and the Altar Guild donated the fruits and vegetables for the Cornucopia that was displayed on Christ the King Sunday and for the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service.

The fruits and veggies were donated to the soup kitchen on the Wednesday after the services to help feed our neighbors in need!

AROUND THE CHURCH

Gift Cards with Purpose at St. Paul's!

Looking for a simple way to support St. Paul's Church?

We will be selling gift cards every Sunday, to your favorite retailers – and a percentage of every sale goes straight to St. Paul's, and helps the general fund and mission and ministries of our church!

Whether you're buying groceries, filling up your gas tank, shopping for birthdays and holidays, or shopping online, using these gift cards turns your everyday spending into meaningful support for the work God is doing through St. Paul's.

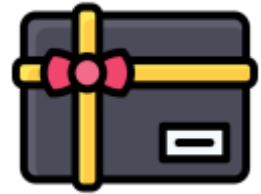
Choose from top brands. Some of the most popular are:

Grocery Stores - Stop & Shop, Shop Rite

Gas Stations – Gulf, Mobile, Shell

Restaurants – Applebee's, Panera, 99's

Retail shops - Walmart, Target, Lowes, Home Depot



And many more! Over 500 retailers to choose from.

Cards will be available after the worship service in the Narthex.

Pay with cash, check, or card.

No extra cost to you

Cards for everyday use or gift-giving

A great way to give back while you shop!

Favorite cards are in stock, for purchase on Sunday. Additional cards can be ordered.

Buy gift cards. Support our Church. Be a blessing.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Paul's.

A CAPPELLA CHOIR

Do you like to sing? Can you carry a tune?

St. Paul's a cappella choir is always looking

for new members for all parts. We rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:00 in the choir room with a second, informal, practice on Thursday mornings at 11:00. for anyone interested.

There's no application process; all you have to do is show up and be ready to sing.

Although it's a plus if you can read music, it's not a necessity as each part of every anthem is recorded individually (for the most part) and sent to the members via email. If you have questions, you can call the director, Bonnie, at 860-485-1166 or email her at airfluffy@charter.net.



The Congregational Care Committee ministers to members who need meals or rides or sometimes just someone to sit with them for a while. Do you have a favorite recipe that you would like to make and deliver to someone with an illness or a new baby for instance? This is a good ministry for you. Likewise if you like to drive. It's not a committee that requires much time; you might only be called on to volunteer once or twice a year. For more information, you can call Bonnie at 860-485-1166.



**Men's Breakfast
Wednesday
December 17
A/C Eatery
South Main St.
Torrington**



**Women's Breakfast
Wednesday
December 17
George's Restaurant
East Main St.
Torrington**



Fellowship Committee News

The Fellowship Committee is looking for new members to help with these events. Most of us are in our 70's and we need some younger help! See June Seiser or any member of the committee (Casaundra Abeling, Ralph Boscarino, Gabbie Dziedic, Pam Ewing, Wendy & John Iannelli, Pamela Little, Karen Ness, Susan Racloz, Linda & Gary Rosa, Paula Rosenbeck).

Save the date, February 7th, for our next event, our Souper Bowl Grinder, Chili, and Chef Salad sale! Watch for more details in the New Year!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Epiphany Sunday, this year celebrated on January 4th, is traditionally the day the Christmas season ends. We celebrate the Wiseman's journey to witness the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The season of Epiphany continues until Ash Wednesday (this year on February 18th.)

Sunday school children will be having a Baby Shower that day during Children's Church, reminiscing of the Wisemen's journey bearing gifts fit for a king. Children will place gifts at the foot of the manger in celebration of Jesus. Adults are invited to participate by bringing new items for infants and toddlers (diapers, bibs, onesies, clothing, blankets, toys, etc. All gifts will be presented to a local social service agency.





*St. Paul's Lutheran
Church presents
The Longest Night
Blue Christmas Service*

Sunday December 21, 2025

4:00 pm

Blue Christmas

A service of lament and hope

The Blue Christmas service is a solemn and reflective way to acknowledge darkness of life and set aside the usual holiday cheer. It is a source of comfort and hope for people who are dealing with loss, illness addiction, estrangement or other challenges.

The service can also be a reminder that God is present in all situations.

837 Charles St. Torrington, CT

860-482-3555



December 2nd

Julie Brewster

December 3rd

Diane Boscarino

December 5th

Lois Nygren

December 6th

Mary Boscarino

December 8th

Cheryl-Ann Bombardier

December 12th

Roxanne Studelska

Pastor Dwaine Moon

December 13th

Kelli Schaller

December 14th

Dana O'Brien

Garrett Grening

December 15th

Cynthia Bielik

December 20th

Carmela Sanzo

December 21st

Sandra Heintz

December 25th

Rachel Takeman

December 27th

Tom Seleman

Rosemarie Foth

December 29th

Audrey Marquard

December 30th

Pamela Ewing

December 31st

Debra Seitz

Cynthia & Lawrence Bielik

12/03/1977

Kendra & Kyle Campbell

12/07/2001

Mark & Cynthia Rose

12/26/1971

Tom & Leah Seleman

12/31/1991

**Tai Chi
Wednesday
Mornings 11:00**

**Drop in whenever the mood strikes.
Free to all!**



Friends and Family of

Sherri Franceschetti

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Advent Fireside Reflection and Meditation

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

9:30 AM 2:00 PM

Presented by Sr. Patricia Torre, DW

December is often the busiest time of year with all the cookie baking, present buying and wrapping, decorations found, dusted off and hung. The days get shorter, the nights longer, the air colder. Have we noticed how the night sky sparkles?

Into this busiest time of year comes Advent – the call to quiet waiting.

Advent invites us to wake up, to stay alert, to watch – to not miss the signs of the Divine's presence among us, in us. Advent is our gift of time to stop and enter the stillness of God's love. It is a time to surrender to the quiet longings of our hearts – and learn the art of waiting with patient expectation. We long for Emmanuel.

COST | \$25, lunch included

<https://www.wisdomhouse.org/program-calendar/advent-fireside-2025>



229 East Litchfield Road Litchfield, CT, 06759

860-567-3163



Blood Drives @ St. Paul's December 4 & 30
Make an appointment today on their website to give the gift of life.

KID'S COLORING PAGE

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



For personal or single classroom use only - Find more printables from The Art Kit at: www.theartkitblog.com



837 Charles Street
Torrington, CT
06790

Staff Directory 860-482-3555

The Reverend Dr. G. Scott Cady, Pastor
Rachel Harrel, Secretary
Margaret Clavette, Bookkeeper
Marcia Newcome, Music Director
Lisa Bodnar, Custodian

gscady@gmail.com
secretary@stpaulstorrington.com
bookkeeper@stpaulstorrington.com

Hilltop School Staff 860-482-3727

Barbara Mazzei, Director & Head Teacher
Nicole Waldron, Teacher
Melanie Beebe, Teacher
Linda Arigoni, Teacher
Stacey Fitzgerald, Teacher
Amy Werner, Teacher
Tracy Sierdy, Assistant Teacher
Cynthia McPhee, Assistant Teacher
Casaundra Abeling, Custodian

director@hilltopchristianelc.com

www.stpaulstorrington.com
