

1: Students planting trees & bulbs at a partner parish in Lorain.
2: Baptisms on All Saints' Sunday.
3: C.A.S.T. Musical, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." 4: Playing & processing in the Commitment Sunday combined service. 5: Delightful fellowship & delicious food at our Commitment Sunday gathering. 6: Dedicated volunteers prepare the Herb Harvest Sale. 7: Two of the artists in the Winter Art Gallery. 8: Turkeys lovingly prepared for families in need on behalf of ECW. (more on back cover)

A Letter from the Rector

In the 1930s, a new ministry was birthed in the Episcopal Church to provide steamship passage to those fleeing Nazi Europe. It became what is now Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM).

Since then, EMM has aided in the resettlement and thriving of more than 105,000 people. Over the last several years, with political unrest across the globe, the effects of climate change, and food insecurity, the number of refugees in our world has increased. Our call as followers of Jesus, to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and imprisoned¹, remains steadfast.

In November, the Diocesan Convention approved resolution R-3: **Resolution on Dignity: Not Hate, Not Mass Deportation, Not Silence** ([page 58 of the Convention Handbook](#)). This resolution urges the Diocese of Ohio, our parish, and the wider Episcopal Church to work for policies that welcome, protect, and work to integrate refugees into our communities, and to resist policies that demonize refugees and cause fear among immigrant communities.

On December 7, our own Catherine Scallen will present the Forum looking at art that represents the Holy Family (who were refugees) and wrestles with the reality of refugees in our current age and throughout history.

To the right, you can see a poster that was produced in 1938 by our sister Diocese, the Diocese of Southern Ohio, urging us to: **In the Name of These Refugees: Aid ALL Refugees through Interest-Friendship-Gifts.**

As we approach the Nativity of our Lord, may we always be mindful of those who are striving to be safe, to be loved, and to belong.

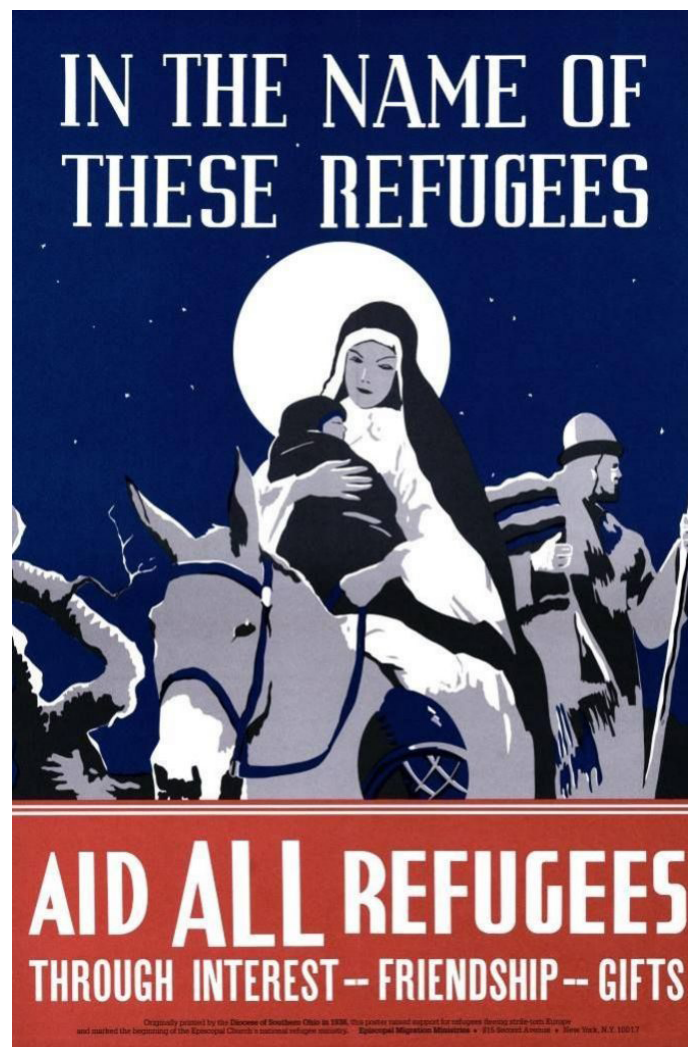
Pax et bonum,

The Rev'd T.J. Freeman *SMMS*

Seventeenth Rector, Saint Paul's Episcopal Church



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T.J. +". The signature is stylized and includes a small cross-like symbol at the end.



¹ Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday Services

Holy Eucharist:

7:45 a.m. | St. Martin's Chapel

9 a.m. | Nave

ASL interpreted

11:15 a.m. | Nave

Livestreamed at StPaulsCLE.org/Live

Please Note

Church Closures

If you need pastoral care when the church office is closed, call the Pastoral Care Line: (216) 238-4001.

Wednesday, December 24 | Christmas Eve services are offered instead of the typical Wednesday service.

Thursday, December 25 | Parish office, church building & Act II Shop are closed on Christmas Day. Open for 10 a.m. Christmas Day Eucharist.

Friday, December 26 | Parish office, church building & Act II Shop are closed.

Wednesday, December 31 | Parish office & church building close at 2 p.m. There is no Wednesday evening service.

Thursday & Friday, January 1 & 2 | Parish office, church building & Act II Shop are closed.

Worship

Longest Night Service

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 6 p.m., *St. Martin's*

As the longest night of the year approaches, we remember those confronting sadness and grief or who feel disconnected from the joyful spirit of the holidays. All are welcome to a "Blue Christmas" service with music and candle lighting, when we'll lay our burdens before God, pray for healing for ourselves and those we love, and hear the hopeful message of the light that shines in the darkness.



Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve | Wednesday, Dec. 24

Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at Christmas Eve services except 9 p.m. Christmas Lessons & Carols.

Family Service | 2 p.m.

Tucker Hall will be filled with joy at this Christmas Eve service geared toward families with young children. With the participation of the children gathered, we re-enact the Christmas story!



Visit nativity animals on the Front Lawn before and after the 4 p.m. service.

Pageant Service | 4 p.m.

A festive service centered on the annual Christmas Pageant offered by children and youth, complete with a procession of barn animals straight from the nativity scene into the Nave. *ASL interpreted, Livestreamed.*



Christmas Lessons & Carols | 9 p.m.

The Senior Choir leads the annual retelling of the Christmas story through readings and carols. From *Once in royal David's city* to *Hark! the herald angels sing*, we traverse the Christian story from creation and prophecy to the nativity of the Christ child. Music by Bach, Britten, Stephen Jackson, Ledger, Ord, Paulus, Stopford, Warlock, and Willcocks. *Livestreamed.*



Festival Holy Eucharist | 10:30 p.m.

Celebrate the birth of the Christ child in the stillness of the night at this service. The Senior Choir will lead glorious music, and the service will end by candlelight. *Livestreamed.*



Christmastide

Christmas Day Eucharist

Thursday, December 25, 10 a.m.

This service on the first day of Christmas will include the reading of the Prologue of John and Christmas carols. *No livestream, or ASL Interpretation.*

First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 28, 10 a.m.

This combined service on the fourth day of Christmas will include Christmas lessons and carols.

Children & Youth

Christmas Pageant Lead Role Auditions

Sunday, Dec. 7, 11 a.m. - noon, O'Hear Room



Calling students in grades 4 and above with a passion for storytelling! Join us to audition for a lead role in St. Paul's Christmas Pageant. We'll perform during the 4 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24.

Christmas Pageant: Full Cast Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 23, 10 a.m. - noon, Nave

Children ages 4 and up are invited to be an angel, shepherd or a sheep in St. Paul's Christmas Pageant (at the 4 p.m. service on Dec. 24). **All pageant**

participants must attend the full cast rehearsal on December 23.

If your child is under 8, you'll stay for rehearsal to help supervise them.

Please email Susan Armstrong with any questions about the pageant: SArmstrong@StPaulsCLE.org

**Christmas
Pageant
Full Cast
Rehearsal**

Music & Art

From Darkness to Light: An Advent Procession of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 7, 4:45 p.m.

As part of the quiet reflection and joyful expectation that the yearly observance of Advent brings, this candlelit service of scripture, hymns, and anthems moves us from the creation story, to prophecy, to the coming of the Kingdom of God. The liturgy will again be formed around the "O Antiphons," seven ancient antiphons that are the basis for "O come, O come, Emmanuel."

The St. Paul's Ringers begin at 4:45 p.m. Chants, carols, and hymns are sung by the Senior, Youth, St. Cecilia and St. David Choirs. Congregational hymns feature prominently throughout the liturgy. A carillon concert follows. A series of O Antiphon banners designed by Robyn Sand Anderson are processed at the singing of each Antiphon. The offering will benefit our non-profit community partners.



A St. Paul's Chorister Christmas

Saturday, December 20, 5:30 p.m.

Join us for beloved Christmas anthems, carols, readings, and poetry as we celebrate the joy of Christmas with the St. Catherine, St. Cecilia and St. David, and Youth choirs of St. Paul's. This one-hour concert will be followed by a parish-wide potluck dinner.



Winter Gallery Show

On display until February 22, 2026

The Nicholson B. White Gallery Committee is proud to host the work of 34 students from the Cleveland Institute of Art. Peruse the exhibition of paintings, drawings, metalwork, glass, fabric and more! Most of the work is for sale. Be sure to stop by to appreciate the talent and commitment of these emerging artists!

Deck the Halls

All Things Advent

Sunday, November 30, 5 - 7 p.m.



Kick off the Advent season with warmth, fellowship, and fun for the whole family at All Things Advent! Share a cozy soup supper, create Advent wreaths, plant waiting bulbs, and prepare for this sacred season together with festive activities. We need your help to make this event special. If you'd like to bring a soup or lead a craft, please email Susan: SArmstrong@StPaulsCLE.org. Suggested donation: \$5/person, max \$20/family. Sign up: TinyURL.com/sp-advent25



Men's Council Greens Sale

Through Sunday, December 7. Pick up orders on Sundays through December 14.

Purchase your holiday flowers and decorations through the Men's Council Annual Greens and Poinsettia Sale. Since 1999, the

proceeds of this sale have benefitted the Journey Center for Safety and Healing (formerly known as the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center). Thanks to your support, we donated over \$3,000 worth of goods during the 2024 Christmas season! Order items in person after services, through the Men's Council website or by calling (216) 899-8899. Curbside pickup is available for online orders; select your time slot at checkout. Order online: MenOfStPauls.org



Greens Workshop

Saturday, December 13, 9 a.m. - noon
Tucker Hall

Bring a friend to this beloved St. Paul's tradition to make a tabletop Boxwood tree, a fragrant evergreen door swag, or a gorgeous Christmas centerpiece for your dining room table. Bows, baubles, pinecones, candles, and other decorations are included. Experienced crafters will be there to help you get started.



Price list and registration are available online: TinyURL.com/2025greens-wksp

You can also contact Lee Deiningner to register: call 440-289-9044 or email LeeDeiningner@Ameritech.net

Can't have live evergreen decorations? We can preorder realistic faux greens for you. **Contact Lee Deiningner before December 1 and let her know what you need.**



Christmas Flower Donations

Due Monday, December 15

Donating to St. Paul's beautiful Christmas decorations is a meaningful way to remember or honor someone or to give thanks for a blessing in your life. The names of those recognized will be printed in the Christmas Bulletin. Since your donations are to be made directly to St. Paul's Church, they are tax deductible.

Give online: StPaulsCLE.org/xmas-flowers



Outreach & Service

Remember: Fairhill Partners Holiday Gifts Tuesday, December 2, Parish Office

We are overjoyed by the response to this year's Fairhill Partners Holiday Gifts Drive! If you haven't already, make sure you bring the wrapped gift(s) to the church office by Tuesday, Dec. 2.



Please check with the office to make sure they are open. We like gifts to be secure in the office.

1. Remember to add an open, visible tag with the child's first name and last initial on the gift.

2. Add a *removable* tag that says, "Fairhill Partners gift." Alternatively, you may put the gift in a bag labeled, "Fairhill Partners gift."

For questions, call or text:

Julie Dornback: (216-780-7760)

Jennie Kaffen: (216-544-7579)

Advent Outreach Giving

This year our giving will focus on HUNGER. The recent disruptions to SNAP benefits have brought devastating challenges to 42 million families across the country. The Outreach Committee has identified three opportunities to support neighbors who have been impacted. The needs are great, and the situation for many families is dire. For this reason, we're increasing this year's donations. In addition, we've provided information about volunteering with each organization.

Here's how it works:

1. Learn about the organizations below or at the Advent Giving table in the foyer during the first three Sundays of Advent.
2. Cast a vote for one of them at that table. Each of the three will receive a donation of either \$4,000, \$3,000, or \$2,000.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Every Wednesday evening since the 1990s, St. Luke's has welcomed neighbors to a warm, home-cooked meal, serving not only food, but friendship and fellowship that truly nourishes the soul. The average number of meals served each Wednesday was 80-100, but due to the disruption in SNAP benefits, they now serve 180 meals per week. St. Luke's also lost funding for this community meal due to cuts in government grants.

Volunteer for St. Luke's Wednesday meal:

StLukeCLE.org/service/community-meal

Roxboro Elementary School

One kindergarten teacher noticed students seeming lethargic and tearful, only to realize they are hungry. A school social worker noted that with increased food expenses due to SNAP disruptions, some families can't afford other essentials like gloves or coats. St. Paul's is setting up a fund for Roxboro to support families with specific needs for food and other essentials for their children.

Volunteer as a reading tutor for Roxboro students.

Contact parishioner Cathy Albers: CLA2@case.edu

Greater Cleveland Food Bank (GCFB)

The GCFB is the largest hunger relief organization in Northeast Ohio, having served more than 404,000 people from seven local counties in 2025. In the counties they serve, one in four children lives in poverty. Recently GCFB has seen record amounts of food distributed in a single day, noticeable increases in people coming to the food bank, and a significant increase in calls to their Help Center. Due to GCFB's purchasing power with various vendors and food donations, every dollar they receive helps provide two meals.

Volunteer with GCFB:

GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org/give-help/volunteer

Outreach & Service

Loaves and Fishes

St. Paul's has a long-standing relationship with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries Men's Shelter—the largest shelter in the state, serving up to 365 men per night, with an additional 30-60 beds at overflow sites. For more information about any of these opportunities, email Adam Blackman: Blackman@ClevelandInternationalFund.com

Final Day for Sock Collection

Monday, December 8, Narthex, Foyer, or outside the Parish office



Bring pairs of new cotton or wool socks to be given out at our festive Christmas dinner. These socks will make a huge difference to folks who spend a lot of time outside in frigid weather.

Festive Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, December 10, 5 – 7 p.m.
2100 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland

We will provide and serve our annual, festive Christmas dinner at the LMM Men's Shelter.

Last year, our intergenerational crew served over 270 holiday meals at this joyous occasion with traditional Christmas festivities.



Help by making a casserole or baking sweet treats in advance, or by coming to the dinner to help serve and/or socialize (setup starts about 4/4:30).

Serve Thursday Lunch

Thursday, December 18, Noon to 1 p.m.

St. Paul's has answered the call to host an additional lunch at the LMM Men's Shelter every third Thursday. Help serve the meal and/or socialize (*if possible, please arrive by 11:30 a.m. to help set up*). A regular commitment is not required. Join us any time!

Meal Train Ministry

St. Paul's is reviving its Meal Train Ministry to provide care and support to those in need in our church family, whether they're welcoming a new baby, recovering from illness, or grieving a loss.



This simple act of kindness is a tangible way to show love and care while strengthening our sense of community. In the words of a recent meal deliverer:

"It seems like such a little thing—bringing a couple of casserole servings to someone's home—but when you are met with such warmth and gratitude, you realize what a positive influence this little thing has on a person's frame of mind as they heal."

If you would like to deliver food and comfort as part of our Meal Train Ministry, please contact Kirsten Radivoyevitch: KRadivoy@StPaulsCLE.org

Love on Wheels

Bitter cold weather won't keep folks away from the beautiful worship services and warm hospitality of St. Paul's! Our transportation ministry is looking for additional drivers, especially in the winter months. All drivers are encouraged to consider how you can support this vital ministry—even young, licensed drivers are helping (*with their adult's blessing*)! If you are interested in transporting parishioners to or from a parish event, a holiday service, or Sunday services from time to time, email Kirsten Radivoyevitch at KRadivoy@StPaulsCLE.org



Formation

Centering Prayer Practice Sessions

Monday, December 1, 7 - 8 p.m., *online*
Tuesday, December 2 and 9, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Chapel of the Cross



Want to gain peace and grounded energy by learning Centering Prayer? You're invited to our final instructional practice sessions, online or in-person. Both beginners and experienced practitioners will find value in the sessions.

To receive the Monday Zoom link, contact Rev. Patricia: PRose@StPaulsCLE.org

The Forum: Strangers in a Strange Land: Belonging and Exclusion in Northern European Art

Sunday, December 7, 10:10 a.m., *Dining Room*

The status of refugees in today's world has become newly complex for us, and it is an issue that has always had significance for Christians. After the birth of Jesus, the Holy Family became refugees, facing disorientation and the loss of a sense of belonging as they fled to Egypt to escape King Herod's persecution.



Plate eight from "The Flight into Egypt," Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo, 1753. Etching on paper.

Tumultuous times and dislocation of people in northern Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries meant that the Flight into Egypt gained increased resonance then as a subject of art. We will look at art works of this theme, as well as depictions

of people reduced to begging, and paintings of the Adoration of the Three Kings to see what sometimes surprising meanings they offered to the contemporaries of the artists. *Presented by Catherine Scallen, parishioner and CWRU Professor Emerita in the Humanities, specializing in Northern European Art. This Forum will be recorded.*

The Forum: True Belonging

Sunday, December 14, 10:10 a.m., *Dining Room*

We intimately belong to life, held powerfully and unconditionally in the love of God, no exceptions. This forum will include scripture reflection and experiential meditation to open our hearts to this truth as we prepare to celebrate the incarnate Christ, whose life calls us to know our true belonging. *Presented by Rev. Patricia Rose. This Forum will be recorded.*



Meet in the Middle Coffee Hour

Sunday, December 21, between the 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services, *Tucker Hall*

To underscore our theme of Belonging, all are invited to "Meet in the Middle." Enjoy an hour of pure fellowship, and a delicious Hot Chocolate Bar (along with our typical coffee and treats) as you chat with friends, long-time and new, whom you may not often see on Sundays.



Around the Diocese

Ohio's Presidents' Wives

December 10, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., *St. Barnabas, 468 Bradley Rd, Bay Village, 44140*

St. Barnabas, Bay Village presents Ohio's Presidents' Wives on December 10 at 11 a.m. in Parkside Hall. This one-hour program is presented by a group of women (in period costumes!) portraying the lives of the eight First Ladies of the Ohio Presidents. Little-told facts of their lives and times will be shared.

All are welcome, but reservations are required. Please email to reserve your spot: Care@StBarnabasBV.org

Ministry Highlight: Act II



The Act II Resale Shop is ready for all your Christmas shopping needs (and wants)!

From clothing to seasonal decor, from furniture to housewares, Act II is a wonderful place to purchase gifts or decor for your own home!

Act II isn't a typical resale shop. If you're picturing a dark warehouse in a strip mall with florescent lights and rows of *Marie Kondo* rejects, think again. Act II receives clean, high-quality donations, and many are actually new or never opened! The cozy shop is surrounded by windows which provide natural lighting for your shopping experience. Your new blouse won't appear to be a different color once you take it home.

Can't justify a big-box price tag for another decorative serving platter? Your purchase from Act II doesn't just liven up the holidays, it can serve as a conversation starter about sustainability (or your faith). Proceeds from Act II sales benefit our community at-large:

- A few weeks ago, Act II funds helped keep our children and neighbors safe by aiding in the replacement of the playground fence.
- Act II proceeds support our music ministries by paying for the refurbishment of the Steinway piano in Tucker Hall, which is used during recitals and concerts. It is also funds from ACT II that have made possible the beloved Jazz Vespers service for many years.
- Act II revenue also paid to transform the dated, yellow Bride's Room into our lovely Reception Room, which is used during weddings, funerals, the Parish Photo Directory seatings, and small gatherings.

Be part of the fun year-round and good work by visiting the shop. We are located directly across from the playground.

Act II Resale Shop Hours:

Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Stewardship



Thank you to the many households who responded to the 2026 Annual Campaign by making a financial pledge to support St. Paul's in the new year.

Our theme for the 2025-2026 program year is *Belonging*. Together, we find community and belonging at

St. Paul's through our common worship, service, celebration, and care for each other during times of difficulty and loss. And together we share our gifts to ensure that St. Paul's is here for us, for our children, for those we serve, and for future generations. Making a commitment to help sustain the vital work of the church is an important demonstration of *belonging*.



Pledge
Online

As of November 26, we have received 223 pledges totaling **\$1,070,200**. We are enormously grateful for all gifts, but we are still short of the goal established to maintain our current ministries. If you have not yet made a pledge to the 2026 Annual Fund, we invite you to do so now either online or by contacting Director of Operations,

Pam O'Halloran: POHalloran@StPaulsCLE.org

With your gifts, St. Paul's will continue to do all of the good that it does. Thank you!

Portrait Update

Thank you to everyone who had their picture taken for the Photo Directory! It was an excellent reason to get dressed up or bribe the kids with ice cream!

For those who didn't get a chance to sit for glamour shots, find out how to submit a photo for inclusion in the printed Parish Photo Directory and update your photo in Realm:

StPaulsCLE.org/directory-update

Submission Deadline: December 31

If you had your picture taken at church/Judson, edited photos have been going out via email. You will receive a link to your virtual photo gallery in an email from "**Notifications@ShootProof.com**." A St. Paul's staff member will also email you to remind you to check your spam or junk folder if you didn't receive the gallery email.

When you view your gallery via the email from ShootProof, you will find information about downloading the digital portrait or purchasing prints/other photo products. All photo products purchased through that gallery (*fulfilled by MPix*) help offset the cost of photography and producing the directory in-house.

January Highlights

Epiphany Service

Tuesday, January 6, 6 p.m., *Candlelight procession into the Nave begins in the space between the Narthex and Reception Room*

We'll mark the arrival of the magi with the ancient Epiphany custom of "chalking of the doors" and a service of the Holy Eucharist, followed by a dessert reception with cake and toasting with champagne and sparkling grape juice.

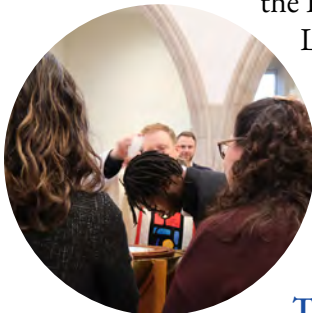


"Chalking the doors" is a ritual to ask God's blessing on our homes and lives. We'll send everyone home with chalk and special prayers to observe this custom in their own homes. *No livestream or ASL interpretation.*

Feast of the Baptism of our Lord

Sunday, January 11

The next baptisms will be Sunday, January 11, on the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord.



This feast day celebrates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. If you are interested in being baptized or having your child baptized, email Rev'd T.J. Freeman:

TJFreeman@StPaulsCLE.org

Save the Date: The Installation of Rev'd T.J. Freeman *SMMS*

Saturday, January 24, 11 a.m.

All are invited to the Installation of the Rev'd T.J. Freeman as the seventeenth Rector of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. The Rt. Rev'd



Anne B. Jolly, Bishop of the Diocese of Ohio, will preside. The Rt. Rev'd Matthew D. Cowden, Bishop of the Diocese of West Virginia will preach. Esteemed guests and friends from across the wider church will be in attendance. *A reception will follow.*

Combined Service of Holy Eucharist and Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 25, 10 a.m.

There will be one combined service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, January 25, followed by our Annual Meeting. The service and meeting will have ASL interpretation. *The service will be livestreamed, and the Annual Meeting will be recorded.*



Sage Presents: *Liberace, Mr. Showmanship*

Thursday, January 8, 11 a.m., *Tucker Hall. Snow/ice date: Thursday, January 15*

Sages announces its 2026 New Year's potluck luncheon with nonalcoholic bubbly. Rev. Gabriel presents *Liberace, Mr. Showmanship*. Come as you are or wear glitz. Singing and dancing are possible! RSVP:

GLawrence@StPaulsCLE.org



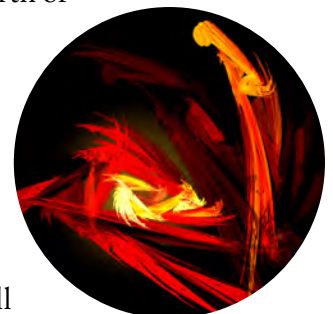
Kevin Jones plays Messiaen's

La Nativité du Seigneur

Sunday, January 11, 4 p.m.

Building on the legacy and life of the late Karel Paukert, St. Paul's own Kevin Jones brings this score to life on the Holtkamp organ. Experience Messiaen's depiction of the birth of Christ in nine movements.

Each of the meditations brims with complex theological concepts, paradoxically anchored in the simplicity of belief. From "A boy is born" until "God among us," listeners will embark on a dynamic exploration of faith and prayer.



You're Invited!

Gatherings: Meet the Rector

Through May 2026, *various locations*

All meaningful relationships are built on trust, a trust that is slowly nurtured over time. With this in mind, the Rev'd T.J. Freeman invites you to join him for a series of Gatherings. These 90-minute gatherings will be in the homes of church members. After a time for socializing, we will focus on one primary question "What does your new Rector need to know?" Your questions are welcome. Notes will be taken, and a summary will be published. If you identify as a member of Saint Paul's, you are invited!



In addition to gatherings in the homes of parishioners, we will host a gathering at Judson Park (open to all, December 18). There will be two reserved gatherings at St. Paul's:

Saturday, February 7, 3 p.m. | Reserved for parishioners with young children; childcare provided.

Monday, March 9, 3 p.m. | Reserved for those who need a daytime or handicap-accessible gathering.

Learn more and sign up online: TinyURL.com/gatherings25-26



1: Young choristers directed by Kelsey Ferguson and the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra directed by Paul Ferguson at our Jazz Vespers service. 2: Sages visit to the Porcelain Art Museum. 3: St. Paul's Senior Choir and featured instrumentalists lead Choral Eucharist on the Feast of Christ the King directed by Kevin Jones.