

## Paulin Newsletter

Advent 2024

3200 Woodland Ave. (519) 972-3627

Email: [office@paulinmemorial.ca](mailto:office@paulinmemorial.ca)

### **Message from Reverend Lisa:**

The season of Advent is now upon us. Our city lights up in the evening sky and we dust off the lyrics to our favourite Christmas hymns as we ready ourselves to celebrate the birth of the long-awaited Prince of Peace. I have always loved the season of Advent and all the many different family traditions that help count down the day to the celebration of Jesus' birth. Growing up we always put up the Christmas tree the day of the Santa Claus parade. My mom would make homemade potato soup and together as a family we would decorate the house for the season. Even when I got older and took part in the parade, we would still deck the halls, even if my feet were a little sore from the five mile walk that made up the parade route. I loved that time spent with my family watching the lights on the tree shine bright against the coming of night.

Each and everyone of us has our own family Advent or Christmas traditions, from making your mom's famous Christmas cookies, to when you put up your tree, and what Christmas movies must be watched before the 25<sup>th</sup> of December. Each year around this time we start to remember our old traditions, or some years we seek to create new ones to help us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ child. They help to add to the wonder of this holyday season.

We at Paulin have our own Advent traditions. One is the lighting of our Advent candle each week until we once again light the Christ Candle. We also gather to see the children in our congregation tell the story of Jesus' birth, flying sheep and all. And we are blessed to hear the choir lead us with a breathtaking cantata, as they use their gifts to join with the angel choir singing glory to God in the highest and peace to all humankind. Once again, we are being blessed with the brass band coming to celebrate the candle of Joy, as they add new sounds to our songs of praise.

I love the way that each of our Advent services are different from our regular worship, they help us to remember that so long ago, God did something wonderful for you and I. Out of love for us He gave us His only son, and so it makes sense that we have so many traditions that remind us that Advent and Christmas are not like any other time in the year. We are given the opportunity to celebrate the wonderful thing that God has done for His people, as we look forward towards the day when Christ will return in Glory. But until that day comes, let us rejoice in the good news of the child found in the manger, and do our best to follow in another Advent tradition and do our bit to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. For to us a child is born for us a son is given.

Thanks to be God. Amen.

Reverend Lisa

## Choir News

The approach of Advent is always a special (and sometimes stressful) time for choirs. We are in effect working double time: we are getting ready for the anthems we will sing over the Advent period, plus we are preparing our annual Cantata. The Cantata this year is titled 'The Mystery and the Majesty'. It is a lovely collection of familiar carols joined with new old text, and with original music also included. We



hope you enjoy the Cantata and our other music and find joy and inspiration in the message music brings, about the coming of the Messiah.

I would like to thank Don Adams and Jim Marchand for the work they did to remove and clean the old humidifying system underneath the sanctuary piano. Much appreciated!

Please remember to keep the choir in mind if you are looking for a way to serve the church, and if you have some musical experience. We welcome new members.

Submitted by Heather Inksetter

## News from your Board of Managers:

We hope everyone has noticed our fresh new look both inside and out! The women's washroom renovation is now complete. We wish to acknowledge and thank our generous benefactor for covering the cost of this much needed update! Our parking lot space lines have been repainted and new signage is in place. A new maple tree has been planted in our front yard. This was a gift from Gary Aubrey in memory of his wife, Margaret. Thank you to Don, Jim and helpers for their hard work. Our next big project is an unexpected roof repair in order to keep our minister's office and parlor dry.

The Board of Managers welcome the Vietnamese Alliance Congregation and the new beginning they bring to our Sanctuary. The board also thanks those members of session who worked on negotiations and accommodations.

On a financial note, we are in the last quarter of the year. While at this time our deficit is higher than we planned, we are hopeful that these last two months will see that reduce. Please keep in mind As the end of the year is approaching, that all donations for 2024 tax receipts must be received in the church for deposit by Dec. 31. Thank you to all for sharing their gifts of money, time and talents.

### **Faith, Community Action Group:**

At Paulin, we start the Advent season with White Gift Sunday on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The tradition of White Gift Sunday has its roots in a small Methodist church in Ohio in 1904. What began as a humble way to reflect on the love and devotion of the giver and not the value of the gift has grown into today's white gift services in many churches across several denominations. But rather than wrapping your gifts in white paper, please bring them in a White, Brown or Christmas gift bag. We will bring our gifts to the front of the church during the service. For our Gifts, we are once again collecting new items for Hiatus House (NO used or gently used items, please). Requested gifts include diapers (size 5 & 6), pullups, journals, day planners, adult colour books, pencil crayons, women's pajamas, personal care items (no travel size), pregnancy tests, boxes of chocolates, & throw blankets. Nonviolent toys for children such as LEGO, Magformers, Klutz toys, board games, play-doh, Barbie, Lite Hawk, Fisher-Price little people Leapfrog, Vtech & stuffed animals. Any cheque donations must be made out to Hiatus House and not Paulin. We are no longer collecting Gift Cards.

More than 40% of Canadian Women experience intimate partner violence at some point in their lives. Hiatus House provides services to support women and their children who leave these relationships. A recent development is the iHEAL app, which can be used by women to find personalized ways to stay safe and healthy while getting their basic needs met and reclaiming their power. Hiatus House also provides the Fresh Start program for men to help them understand, take responsibility for, and end abusive behaviour. Ending Intimate Partner Violence begins with Men.

Thanks to everyone who donated food bank items during November and to Kim Burgess who dropped them off at Our Lady of Guadalupe Roman Catholic Church. While food charity plays a role in the dealing with challenge of food insecurity, in 2025, we will be adding a letter-writing campaign to support increases to the Ontario Disability Support Program. Stay tuned for more information in February. In January, we will have the popular Pew Challenge for the Soup Shack. People in the pews on the minister's side are asked to donate underwear (size small and medium) and people on the choir side are asked to donate socks. There will be cake for the winning pews on February 9th, which is Paulin's Anniversary Sunday. (submitted by A. McLachlan).

### **Youth Group Happenings**



Halloween Fun

**Notes from Worship**

Up coming dates and events at Paulin:

- December 1 1st Sunday of Advent – Communion Sunday  
White Gift Sunday
- December 8 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – Children’s Christmas Pageant – “The Last Straw”
- December 15 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – Special Music with Arnold Eagle and Brass Players
- December 22 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – Choir Cantata “The Mystery and the Majesty”
- December 24 Christmas Eve Service – 7:00pm (please note only one service)
- December 29 Rev. Mike Mulroney – guest minister Reverend Lisa on Vacation
- January 5 Rev. Mike Mulroney – guest minister Reverend Lisa on Vacation



***Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*** MG

