

# The Messenger

## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

12095 Blades Road, P.O. Box 368, Cordova, MD 21625

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## An Advent Tradition: The Moravian Star

A popular symbol from the beginning of Advent through the end of Epiphany is called the Herminuter Stern, or in English the “Moravian Star.” This tradition finds its root not in liturgical celebrations, but in an educational setting.



Predating the emergence of the Lutheran Reformation and the Lutheran Church, another gathering of Christians seeking to reform their religious and spiritual lives came up in the region of Moravia, which is now in the Czech Republic. The Moravians, whose church is also called the *Unitas Fratrum*, or Unity of the Brethren, trace back to the reformer Jan Hus, who was martyred at the Council of Constance in 1415. Like Luther, Hus sought to put the Scriptures in the hands of the Christian faithful, and also like Luther, abhorred the practice of only distributing the consecrated bread to the laity, instead of both the bread and the chalice.

Out of the Moravian tradition would arise a significant missionary movement which would find its way to North America. The Moravian Church would make great establishments in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. Communities such as Bethlehem, PA, Nazareth, PA, and Winston-Salem, NC are originally Moravian communities.

One priority of Moravian missionary activity is the maintaining of schools – many of them boarding schools. It is in the Moravian Boys’ School in Niesky, Germany that the Moravian Star has its origin. There, a 26-point star, called a rhombicuboctahedron was created as a geometry project. Peter Verbeek, who himself attended that school, would go on to manufacture the stars for sale. His son Harry would continue that business in the Moravian headquarters town of Herrnhut in Saxony. Moravian Stars are made to this day in Herrnhut and may be ordered online (look for the Abraham Dürminger Company).

Lutherans developed a special love for the Moravian Star. The Star may be found in our churches across the world. One of the most famous ones may be found suspended over the altar in the Thomaskirche in Leipzig – the very church where Johann Sebastian Bach was Kantor.

Now, from the Himalayas to the Caribbean, the star proclaims the hope of Advent. Whatever its form, the star reminds us of God, who caused the light to shine out of darkness and of the light which is the life of humanity. It reminds us of the promise of Abraham that his descendants would be more numerous than the stars; we are reminded of the star that pointed to the “great and heavenly light from Bethlehem’s manger shining bright.” The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. This is the message of the Advent star, which also points to Jesus, who said, “I am the bright and Morning Star” (Revelation 22:16). It is the star of promise, the star of fulfillment, and the star of hope.

**Watch for where the Moravian Star appears in our churches this year!**

# Christmas Eve

*O Come, Let Us Adore Him!*

## The Festival Eucharist of Christmas Eve

**December 24, 2023**



<p><b>4:00pm</b></p> <p>Grace Lutheran Church</p> <p><i>Of Easton</i></p> <p><b>Pre-service Carols at 3:40pm</b></p>	<p><b>7:00pm</b></p> <p>St. Paul's Lutheran Church</p> <p><i>Of Cordova</i></p> <p><b>Pre-service Carols at 6:40pm</b></p>
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12/3 Sherri Brown

12/3 Charlie Marvel

12/7 Robert Saathoff, Sr.

12/12 Richard Sump

12/19 Nick Loukides

12/20 Colton Behrens

12/21 Silas Brenner

12/21 Lucas Hiner

12/23 Rocco Barletta

12/24 Carol Meers

12/27 Diane Miller

12/28 Gwen Smith

12/31 Editha Towers



### St. Paul's Email Prayer Ministry . . .

If you would like to add a name to the email prayer list or receive prayers from our prayer ministry group, please email Betty Jean Mumford at

**bettyjmumford@hotmail.com**

Please make sure you have the permission of the person you are adding, some people do not want to add their name to a public list.

### The 2024 Flower Chart is up!

**If you wish to honor someone, remember someone, or just make someone smile with flowers, the sign up sheet is on the bulletin board by the office!**

God has been generous to us in many ways. We believe that sharing these gifts in His name is a tangible way of expressing one's faith. As active Christians, we are called to give generously to assist our neighbors through our time, talents and treasures. If you are not able to attend services in-person, but still want to send offerings to the church; this can be done by mailing offerings to the church or by using Tithe.ly.



The direct link to our Tithe.ly account is <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1747825>  
If you are having trouble with setting up your account, please contact Donna Stevens.

If you have any questions about Tithe.ly, please contact Donna Stevens, Financial



Gerda W. Fisher “Oma” of Easton, died at home surrounded by family on November 29, 2023. She was 85.

Born in Altwiek, Germany, August 20, 1938, she was the daughter of the late Otto Reinhold and Herta Theresa Brose Wendt. She moved with her family from Germany to Easton, MD in July of 1952 where she attended public school. She then worked at a local ribbon factory in Easton from 1956 until 1961. In 1975, she was employed at Jenson’s Hyde Park Retirement Community in maintenance and office management until retiring in May of 1993.

A member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Cordova, she was also a member of the Ladies of the Elks, Easton Lodge #1622 and the Women of the

Moose, Easton Chapter, #1250.

An avid golfer, she was a member of the Ladies Wednesday Morning League at Hog Neck Golf Course, Easton. Her other hobbies included flower gardening, furniture upholstery and clothing alterations. She also loved playing Rummikub, yard saling, deer hunting, bingo and she loved cooking and feeding family and friends.

Along with her parents, Mrs. Fisher is predeceased by her husband and one true love, Edwin G. Fisher, who died in 2006; son, Charles E. Fisher, who died in 1974; sister, Ursula G. Kadolph; brother, Hans O. Wendt and two grandchildren.

Gerda is survived by a daughter, Ingrid F. Green (Jim) of Macungie, PA; two sons, Daniel H. Fisher of Easton and Thomas D. Fisher (Lisa) of Hurlock, MD; three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at 11:30am at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Cordova. A visitation will take place one hour prior from 10:30am until the time of the service.

Burial will follow at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Cemetery, Cordova.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Building Fund, Cordova.



The wonder of the infinite-personal God is displayed, more than anywhere else, in the Incarnation. Nothing can prepare us for the birth of God: a six-pound, four-ounce Jewish boy with dark brown curly hair born in the fall or winter of 5 B.C. in a shepherd’s cave on the side of a hill in the city of Bethlehem in the Roman province of Judea in western Asia.

It is so particular it staggers the imagination. God found a parking spot, a specific place and time where his love would touch our world. [Similarly,] prayer is a moment of incarnation — God with us. God involved in the details of my life.



—Paul E. Miller, *A Praying Life*



# USHERS THIS MONTH



## Tellers

## Ushers

- December 3 Alfred and Stevi Saathoff
- December 10 Kathy Barletta and Susan Behrens
- December 17 Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth
- December 24
- December 31 Donnie Davis and Keith Davis

- December 3 Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth
- December 10 Kathy Barletta and Susan Behrens
- December 17 Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth
- December 24
- December 31 Debbie Dudrow and Donna Stevens

## Lectors

- December 3 Stevi Saathoff
- December 10 Robert Saathoff
- December 17 Betty Jean Mumford
- December 24 Robert Saathoff
- December 31 Debbie Dudrow



- December 3 Corey Fisher
- December 10 Couper Barletta
- December 17 Corey Fisher
- December 24 Joshua Lewis
- December 31 Declan Corley

## Altar Flowers

- December 3 Robert and Barbara Saathoff
- December 10 Deneen Rickwood
- December 17
- December 24 Diana Hurd
- December 31



Altar Flowers



- December 3 Gavin Corley
- December 10 Preston Rickwood
- December 17 Addison Rice
- December 24 Morgan Sauca
- December 31

## Communion Assistants

- December 3 Fred Meers
- December 10 Betty Jean Mumford
- December 17 Bobbie Leaverton
- December 24 Deacon Hiner
- December 31 Robert Saathoff



Communion Assistants



- December
- Kathy Barletta
- Susan Behrens



We would like to thank St. Pauls Church for the flowers, cards, prayers, visits, and especially those who sent desserts to help out with the funeral lunch.

You all sure helped to brighten a sad time. We have an awesome church family and it really shows during difficult times like this.

Thanks again to all 😊 The Dudrow Family



Pastor	Jonathon Moyers	304 400-5379	revjmoyers@gmail.com
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President	Tom Roesel	703 795-8922	thomas.roesel@gmail.com
Vice President/Property	Darian Sump	410 924-7876	dsump@sumpassociates.com
Treasurer	Debbie Dudrow	410 924-8368	rdudrow@verizon.net
Secretary	Lyn Hollingsworth	410 714-3876	laph@goeaston.net
Financial Secretary	Donna Stevens	410 310-2107	dstevens62@icloud.com
Worship, Music, Education	Wendy Sauca	410 829-0411	swmmsauca@yahoo.com
Evangelism, Outreach	Donna Saathoff	410 310-1331	donnasaathoff529@gmail.com



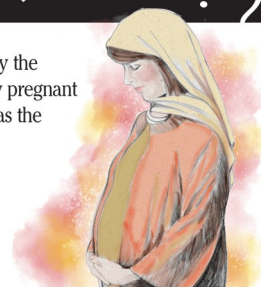
TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.

*Matthew 1:22, ESV*

**Bible Quiz**

Elizabeth, an older relative of Mary the mother of Jesus, was miraculously pregnant at the same time as Mary. What was the name of Elizabeth's husband?

- A. Aaron
- B. Zechariah
- C. Joseph
- D. Simeon



Answer: B (See Luke 1:5, 39-41)



### Christmas Program

*December 17 - We will be having the Children's Christmas program at St. Paul's at 4:30 pm with a potluck dinner to follow. There will also be a visit from Santa. Friends and families of Sunday school students are welcome.*

**Lillejuleaften – Little Christmas Eve**

**Saturday, December 23**

**Worship — 5:00 pm St. Paul's Church**



In much of the world where large numbers of Lutherans have been found, including Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, there is a tradition of December 23rd being a "Little Christmas Eve," since the main Christmas celebrations are on the night of the 24th. We will be celebrating Little Christmas Eve (in Danish: *Lillejuleaften*) at our Vespers on December 23rd. Traditional "Little Christmas Eve" desserts, including cherry desserts, will follow.









Friendsgiving,  
a perfect  
blend of  
friendship and  
thanksgiving.



THANKS BE TO GOD!



St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
12095 Blades Road,  
P.O. Box 368  
Cordova MD 21625  
Return Service Requested



## Our Staff

Worship Service Begins at 8:45 am  
Please inform the church office of any  
changes in your personal information:  
Address, phone number, marriage or  
divorce, or new births so that we  
can keep our records up-to-date.

Secretary: Meredith Lewis—

Cell: 443-496-0903

Office: 410-364-5147

Office Hours: Tue. Wed. & Thurs. 9:00-3:00

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### **Reverend Jonathon Moyers**

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