

# **ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713**

## **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*Growing in faith. Growing in community. Welcoming all in Jesus' name.*

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
Sunday, December 1, 2024**

**10 AM Service of  
Holy Communion**

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

**Catch the excitement! Witness the joy! Shape the vision!**

ST. PAUL’S VISION STATEMENT (adopted 02/25/2018)

- To worship as a diverse community of all ages
- To engage in faith formation as a community grounded in God’s word
- To maintain with depth and integrity the work of feeding the hungry and housing the homeless
- To nurture a strong foundation of generosity, giving, and caring for creation
- To provide a music ministry that encompasses congregation and surrounding communities

### **Worship at Home and Away**

When we cannot be together in person, we can still hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Therefore, we offer the 10 AM service through simultaneous live streaming to St. Paul’s Facebook page. The service is then posted to the website, [www.stpaulsnewarkde.org](http://www.stpaulsnewarkde.org) and can be found in the upper right hand corner of the home page, along with a digital copy of this worship folder, as well as a copy of the sermon.

**Large print worship folders and hearing assistance devices  
are available in the narthex. Ask an usher for assistance.**

**A Prayground is available for young children  
in the rear of the sanctuary.**

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

*Worship begins with God who takes the initiative and calls us into being.*

*We gather at the Holy Spirit's invitation and assemble as the community of faith  
on the first day of the week, the day of Christ's resurrection.*

*Upon entering the sanctuary, the people pray silently or engage in quiet meditation  
allowing the music to focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.*

*The sanctuary doors will be closed as worship begins with the prelude.*

### PRELUDE

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” arr. Emma Lou Diemer

WACHET AUF

### WELCOME

*Please stand, as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy, we confess that we have sinned.

**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**

**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might, we confess that we have sinned.

**We have turned away from our neighbors.**

**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst, we confess that we have sinned.

**We plead: come to us.**

**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

ELW 436 (harmony)



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her  
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in  
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.  
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
 bliss be - yond all dream-ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;  
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.  
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.  
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

## **GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

*Choir:* Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.  
Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid, none shall be afraid.

## **RESPONSIVE LITANY**

In this season of Advent, we remember that Christ is coming to bring us hope.

For those of us bound by intense bitterness and anger

**Christ is coming to bring us hope.**

For those of us feeling trapped and misunderstood

**Christ is coming to bring us hope.**

For those of us burdened with ceaseless worry

**Christ is coming to bring us hope.**

For those of us whose lives feel out of control

**Christ is coming to bring us hope.**

## **CANDLELIGHTING**

In this season of Advent, as we look forward to Christmas, we take time to celebrate and to remember. On this, the first Sunday, as we light the first candle, we celebrate hope.

Hope for a better world and a better tomorrow. We also remember that we are God's instruments of hope here on earth and it's up to us to spread the message of hope.

*The assembly joins the choir in singing:*



When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be  
first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall  
be a - fraid, none shall be a - fraid.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Most merciful God, we thank you for the hope that shines like a star in the night. With your promise, we can look forward to a better tomorrow. Fill our hearts with the love that hope brings to all humankind during times of darkness. In your name, O Lord, we pray.

**Amen.**

### **✠ WORD ✠**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **FIRST READING**

### **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

*A righteous branch springing up from David*

A reading from Jeremiah:

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, who shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Lord, we wait impatiently for you.  
**You are with us in your word.**

**RESPONSIVE READING**

**Psalm 25:1-10**

*Antiphon: Ps. 25:1*

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.**

<sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.

**To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.**

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup> Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.

**To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.**

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup> You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.

<sup>9</sup> You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup> All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

**To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.**

**SECOND READING**

**1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

*Strengthen hearts of holiness for the coming of the Lord*

A reading from First Thessalonians:

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face

to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may that very God, our Father, and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

<sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may the Lord so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

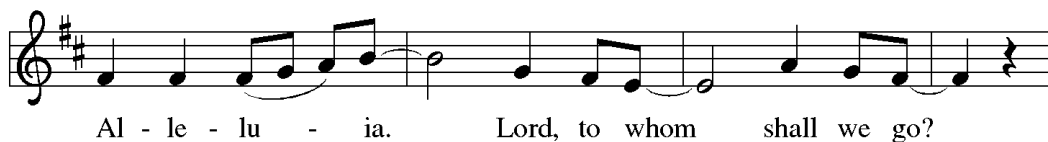
Lord, we wait impatiently for you.

**You are with us in your word.**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 6



## HOLY GOSPEL

### Luke 21:25-36

*Be alert for the coming of the Son of Man*

The Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son-of-Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the dominion of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

<sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly,

<sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son-of-Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Be seated.*

## CHILDREN’S CHAT

JP and Friends

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

Come Now, O God  
ACS 902

1 Come now, O God, when our love is for-sak - en.  
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.  
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.

Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.  
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.  
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.

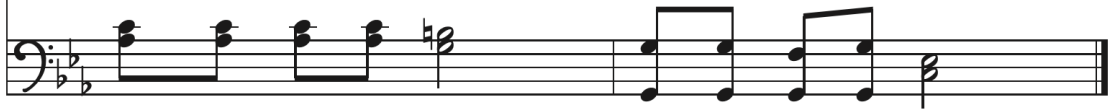




Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.  
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.  
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.



Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984  
Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune  
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*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

Pastor Greg Johnson

*Feel free to take notes or write down your own reflections on this morning's message.*

*Spirit-led doodling is also acceptable.*



*Please stand, as you are able.*

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

## **Nicene Creed**

Let us confess our faith:

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world.

Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering, especially Eric, Silas, Jim, Dot, Jenny, Addison, Cindy, Judy, Stan, Janice, Claude, Nancy, Jane, Paul, Pat, Margaret, Jay, Rob, Marie, Susan, Michael, JoEllen, Elizabeth, Melissa, Ginny, Isabella, Heyward, Olive and Jim. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another, especially our partners in ministry: Grace Lutheran Church in Hockessin and Lutheran Volunteer Corps. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

God of unity, on this World AIDS Day, bind us together with strong ties of love, that St. Paul's and all churches will be places where everyone can find acceptance. May our churches provide a welcome for all affected by HIV and AIDS. May they be places where care is given and received, especially for affected children and youth, where stories are told and heard, where fear is overcome by love, where you are to be found.

Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died, especially Karen, Gary, Ruth, and Sheri. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers.*

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly exchanges Christ's peace  
in word and gesture, saying, **Peace be with you.***

*Be seated.*

*At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad (the black folder) found at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. We ask **visitors** to provide us with contact information so we can thank you for enriching our worship experience. We ask **members** to update any changes to their information so our records can be maintained.*

## **✠ MEAL ✠**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **GATHERING OF GIFTS**

*In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, we offer our gifts for service and mission.*

### **OFFERTORY**

“The Yearning”  
Sanctuary Choir

Craig Courtney

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Let us pray.

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

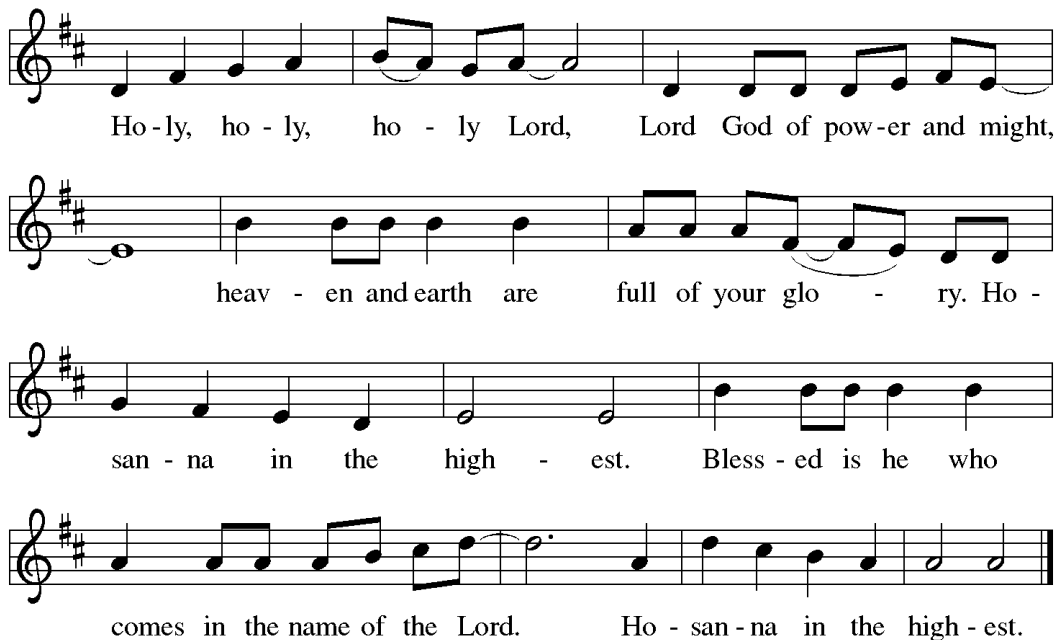
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ELW Setting 6



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

We will be led in this holy season to the place of our hope and redemption, even as we pray, saying:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

**As we wait and wonder, let us also be fed.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

ELW Setting 6

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Be seated.*

## HOLY COMMUNION

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.



All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.

Non-alcoholic grape juice and gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

**There Is a Longing in Our Hearts**

ACS 1078

*Found on p. 16*

**We Are Waiting for Jesus**

ACS 905

*Found on p. 17*

# There Is a Longing in Our Hearts

*Refrain* — All



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

*Leader or All*



1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our



hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955

Music: LONGING, Anne Quigley

Text and music © 1992 Anne Quigley. Published by OCP, 5536 N. Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.



# We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

*After all have returned to their places, please stand, as you are able.*

## **BLESSING AND PRAYER**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

**Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**BENEDICTION**

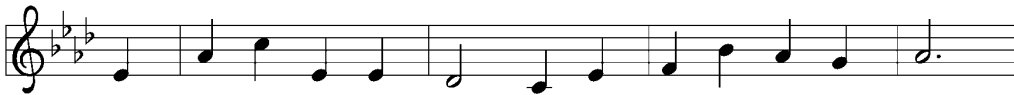
God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**

**Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**  
ELW 244 (harmony)



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending” - arr. Kenneth T. Kosche

PICARDY

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Ping-An Tjoa
Lector:	Victoria Kenyon
Bread Provider:	Bob Weidman
Altar Guild:	Cheryl Johnson
Flower Guild:	Janet Mease



The greens are given to the glory and praise of God  
in honor of their twenty-first wedding anniversary  
by Keith and Cindy Bart.



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***Stand up and raise your heads—your redemption is drawing near.***

Luke 21:28

# **ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE**

## **IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, 2024**

### **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)**

In prayer and song, the liturgy of Advent announces God's vision of a world transformed by grace: justice will triumph, love will abound, the earth will be a place of safety. The power of evil, sin, and death will be utterly vanquished in the dawning light of redemption. Yet already the church experiences the vision in word and sacrament, in the communion of believers, in every gesture and word of justice and peace. A righteous branch springs up from David: in baptism we have been grafted into Christ's life and mission.

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Confusion. Foreboding. Fear. These words from the Gospel of Luke kick off the first Sunday of Advent in year C. It's hard to find a place for these heavy emotions in either the secular or religious traditions that precede Jesus' birth, but this year's Advent texts remind us that healing can be a painful, complicated process, even—or especially—with the promise of comfort and joy to come. Luke, both evangelist and physician, would have known that fractured bones sometimes need to be rebroken in order to heal properly.

### **A MEANINGFUL ADVENT**

Although the historical record is sketchy, it appears that our Advent arose out of a season of fasting to prepare for baptisms at Epiphany. By the sixth century, an eschatological emphasis was present. Our Advent comprises the four Sundays before Christmas. Each year, the first Sunday deals with our readiness for divine judgment, the second Sunday the ministry of John the Baptist, the third Sunday the Baptist's call to a repentant life, and only on the fourth Sunday a narrative concerning the birth of Jesus. God comes, in the past in the history of Israel and the incarnation of Jesus, in the present in the word and sacrament of each Sunday and in the sufferings of our time, and in the future at the end of all things. The lectionary appoints readings to fit this pattern, and its tone stands in stark contrast to our society's weeks of preparation for Christmas. Liturgical advice to keep a meaningful Advent without a December-long celebration of Christmas is meant not to be a kill-joy, but to awake our longing for the surprising ways that God comes to us. We mean to be a people who know what time it is and are willing to wait for what will come—a people who do not sing Easter hymns during Lent nor Christmas hymns in Advent.

## **PASTORAL CONCERNS**

Moving forward until our new pastor starts mid-December, Pastors Greg Johnson and Tara Magoon will be available to handle pastoral concerns. You can reach Pastor Greg by calling 302-563-5150, or if he is not available, Pastor Tara by calling Grace Lutheran Church, 302-239-6481.

## **ST. PAUL'S NEW PASTOR**

The Reverend Cris Frigm will begin his ministry here at St. Paul's on Monday, December 9, and his first Sunday with us will be the Third Sunday of Advent, December 15.

## **ROWAN FUNERAL MONDAY**

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Karen Rowan, daughter of Lois Ross, will be held on Monday, December 2, at Spicer-Mullikin Funeral Home, located at 121 W. Park Place in Newark. Visitation with the family will start at 11 AM, followed by a service at 12 Noon. Interment will be private.

## **WEEKLY EMAIL BLAST**

Starting the week of December 2, the weekly e-mail of announcements will look a little different. If you should not receive your email, please contact Jerilynn Hinrichs, Office Administrator, at [splcstaff@gmail.com](mailto:splcstaff@gmail.com) so we can ensure you continue to receive it.

## **HILLTOP THANKSGIVING BASKETS**

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed either food, money, and/or time to make this year's Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center Thanksgiving basket drive a success! We collected a total of 106 turkeys to form baskets for families in need in the Hilltop area of Wilmington. All of your contributions are greatly appreciated!

## **ADULT FORUM**

We continue our Adult Forums about *New Sweden: The Lutheran Colony* on Sunday, December 8, with a discussion titled, "The Swedes, The Finns, and Native Americans Missions." Join the Rev. Greg Johnson at 8:30 AM in the Blue Room.



## **BOOKS AND BANTER**

St. Paul's avid readers will gather for conversation and fellowship at Sue Wallden's home on Wednesday, December 11 at 1 PM. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Sue at [slwallden@gmail.com](mailto:slwallden@gmail.com) by Monday, December 9.

Upcoming Books:

December 11 "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles  
(*Second Wednesday this month*).

January 22 "I am Malala" by Malala Yousafzai (*Back to fourth Wednesday*).

## **HOLY HIKE**

Outdoor adventurers of any age are invited to hike on Sunday, December 15, after worship, at the Judge Morris Estate. The 4.5 mile trail, located at 76 Polly Drummond Hill Road in Newark, is wooded and mostly flat. Questions? Contact hike leader Linda Grund at 302-824-5780 or [lgrund923@gmail.com](mailto:lgrund923@gmail.com).

## **HERE AND BEYOND**

We're in the final approach of our rocket ship trip (also known as the Pledging Campaign!) and we're still hoping for a few more of you to turn in your pledge cards - which will allow us to welcome Pr. Cris with the happy news that we've reached our goal. So far the HERE part has received 55 pledges for \$283,180 and the BEYOND portion has gone well "beyond" its target with an amount of \$15,020!

If you haven't made your pledge yet, a link to the online pledge card is included below, and there are cards on the Communications Table. You can mail them in, put them in the Offering Plate on Sunday, or drop them in the Gold Box any time.

One more appeal: This weekend started off with Thanksgiving, and then was followed in quick succession by Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and then Cyber Monday. Please don't forget Giving Tuesday – a chance for you to contribute to some deserving cause (not necessarily St. Paul's) and make a difference in the lives of people who need it.

[https://stpaulsnewarkde.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Pledge-Card-Sept\\_2024-1-1.pdf](https://stpaulsnewarkde.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Pledge-Card-Sept_2024-1-1.pdf)

## **DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT**

Help the Delaware-Maryland Synod reach their *Giving Tuesday* matching \$25K goal by December 3. Every dollar you give will stay local and will be doubled, ensuring that vital ministries across Delaware and Maryland continue to thrive, nurturing faith, growing leaders, and strengthening congregations. Questions? Contact Pastor Micah Krey, Assistant to the Bishop, at [mkray@demdsynod.org](mailto:mkray@demdsynod.org). For more information or to select the DE-MD Synod as your charity, please visit: [www.givingtuesday.org](http://www.givingtuesday.org).

## **PHOTO DIRECTORY DEADLINE**

Sunday, December 1, is the final day to have your photo taken or update your information. The new directory will be available to all by next Sunday, December 8, in two ways. You may view it in a password protected area on the website. (Please email Rich Wallden at [rwsilvercoins@gmail.com](mailto:rwsilvercoins@gmail.com) for the password.) Or you may request a PDF copy via email from Jerilynn Hinrichs in the church office at [splcstaff@gmail.com](mailto:splcstaff@gmail.com). Questions? Please contact Linda Grund in person or at [lgrund923@gmail.com](mailto:lgrund923@gmail.com).

## **BREWING THEOLOGY**

Fun-loving adults, age twenty-one and over, are invited to join in conversation and laughs while enjoying a beverage on Wednesday, December 11. Join us at 7 PM at the home of Rick and Kris Cassar, located at 438 Pierce Run in Newark, for fun and fellowship.

## **YOUTHERAN HOLIDAY GATHERINGS**

The Young Lutherans of the Delmarva North Conference will meet Sunday, December 2, at 5 PM for a Christmas Tree Lighting service at Bethel Lutheran Church, located at 24 Cameron Road in North East, Maryland.

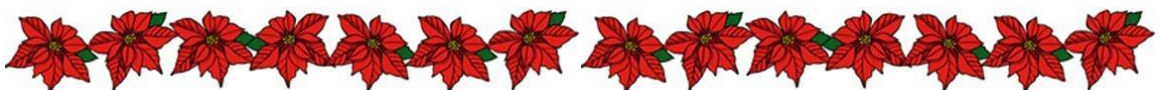
A Christmas Party and Gift Exchange will be held on Sunday, December 22, at 5 PM here at St. Paul's. Youth in grades 6–12 will make Christmas cookies and exchange gifts of \$10 value. Questions? Contact Pastor Zachary Wright ([pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com](mailto:pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com)).

## **CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS**

Every Advent season we receive requests for Christmas gift cards from some of our neighbors to help them purchase gifts for their families. Please consider contributing a gift card or two from Walmart, Target, or other retail store of your choosing. Just put it in an envelope marked “Gift Cards” and place it in the Sunday offering plate, or make a donation through *Tithe.ly* using the QR Code found at the end of this bulletin.

## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM**

A reminder that you need to place your Poinsettia order by next Sunday, December 8. Order forms can be found on the narthex information table. The poinsettias will be used to adorn the sanctuary throughout the Christmas season. The flowers you order can be picked up after the *Sounds of the Seasons* concert on Sunday afternoon, January 5.





# St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: [www.stpaulsnewarkde.org](http://www.stpaulsnewarkde.org)

*Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.*



**The Reverend Cris Frigm**

*Pastor*

*Beginning on Monday, December 9*

**Jerilynn Hinrichs**

*Office Administrator*

302-368-0064 ext. 101

[splcstaff@gmail.com](mailto:splcstaff@gmail.com)

**Michael Bareham**

*Director for Music and Worship*

302-368-0064 ext. 123

[splcmusmin@gmail.com](mailto:splcmusmin@gmail.com)

**Nalini Janaki**

*Business Administrator*

302-368-0064 ext. 102

[stpaulsoffice@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulsoffice@comcast.net)

## Church Council

Anne Sullivan, *President*

Barb Rhodes, *Vice President*

Heidi Burch, *Secretary*

Mary Collins, *Treasurer*

Kristine Cassar, Winnie Hull, Greg Johnson,

Susie Olson, Emily Pierce

*Early Education Director*

St. Paul's Lutheran School

302-368-0064 ext. 118

[stpaulschool@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulschool@comcast.net)

## St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

[prayonstpauls@gmail.com](mailto:prayonstpauls@gmail.com)

Articles due by Wednesday morning at 10 AM. Late submissions will be shared the following week. Please send articles to the church office at [splcstaff@gmail.com](mailto:splcstaff@gmail.com).

## Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

**WISH TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES  
OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH?  
THEN SCAN THIS QR CODE**

