

# 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.*

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**Sunday, December 8, 2024**

**10 AM Service of**  
**Holy Communion**

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."



**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

“Emanuel, El Shaddai”

arr. Sondra K. Tucker

Handbell Ensemble

### 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

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

ELW 249

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

## 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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.

*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.

## RESPONSIVE LITANY

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

For a world overrun by meaningless war

**Christ is coming to bring peace.**

For brothers and sisters divided by anger

**Christ is coming to bring peace.**

For a world bound up in political turmoil

**Christ is coming to bring peace.**

For those of us battling inner turmoil

**Christ is coming to bring peace.**

## CANDLELIGHTING

Today we light two candles. The first is the light of hope. The second is the symbol of peace. We remember what God said to the shepherds on the night of Christ's birth promising peace on earth and goodwill to all the people on the earth. May we become the instruments to fulfill this promise.

*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

O Lord, in this troubled world we live in, bring us the peace that was promised through the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. Calm our anxious souls and let us live in harmony with our family, our neighbors, and ourselves. We pray this in Christ's name.

**Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

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

**FIRST READING**

**Malachi 3:1-4**

*My messenger is a refiner and purifier*

A reading from Malachi:

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to the temple. Indeed, the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Lord, we wait impatiently for you.

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

**RESPONSIVE READING**

**Luke 1:68-79**

*Antiphon: Lk.1:78*

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

**In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

<sup>68</sup> Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.

<sup>69</sup> You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.

**In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

<sup>70</sup> Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,  
<sup>71</sup> from the hands of all who hate us,

<sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.

<sup>73</sup> This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup> to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship you without fear,

<sup>75</sup> holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

**In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

<sup>76</sup> And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,  
<sup>77</sup> to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
 by the forgiveness of their sins.  
<sup>78</sup> In the tender compassion of our God  
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
<sup>79</sup> to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

**SECOND READING**

**Philippians 1:3-11**

*A harvest of righteousness on the day of Jesus Christ*

A reading from Philippians:

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Lord, we wait impatiently for you.

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

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW Setting 6

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

### **Luke 3:1-6**

*Prepare the way of the Lord*

The Gospel according to Luke.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> And John went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight the paths of the Lord.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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**

**Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!**

ELW 246



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.  
 2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, come with par-don down from heav'n.  
 4 So, when next he comes in glo-ry and the world is wrapped in fear,  
 5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son

"Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"  
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.  
 Let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all, to be for-giv'n;  
 he will shield us with his mer-cy and with words of love draw near.  
 with the ev-er-last-ing Spir-it while un-end-ing a-ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878  
 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Greg Johnson



*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.*

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering, especially Jim, Dot, Jenny, Addison, Cindy, Judy, Stan, Janice, Claude, Nancy, Jane, Paul, Pat, Margaret, Sheri, Jay, Rob, Marie, Susan, Michael, JoEllen, Elizabeth, Melissa, Ginny, Gary, Isabella, Heyward, Olive and Jim. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Reforming God, fill this congregation and our partners in ministry, especially St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Wilmington and Grace of God Lutheran Church in Millsboro, with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you, especially Karen, Gary, and Ruth. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. 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

“Send Us Emmanuel”  
Sanctuary Choir

Robert Lau

*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.

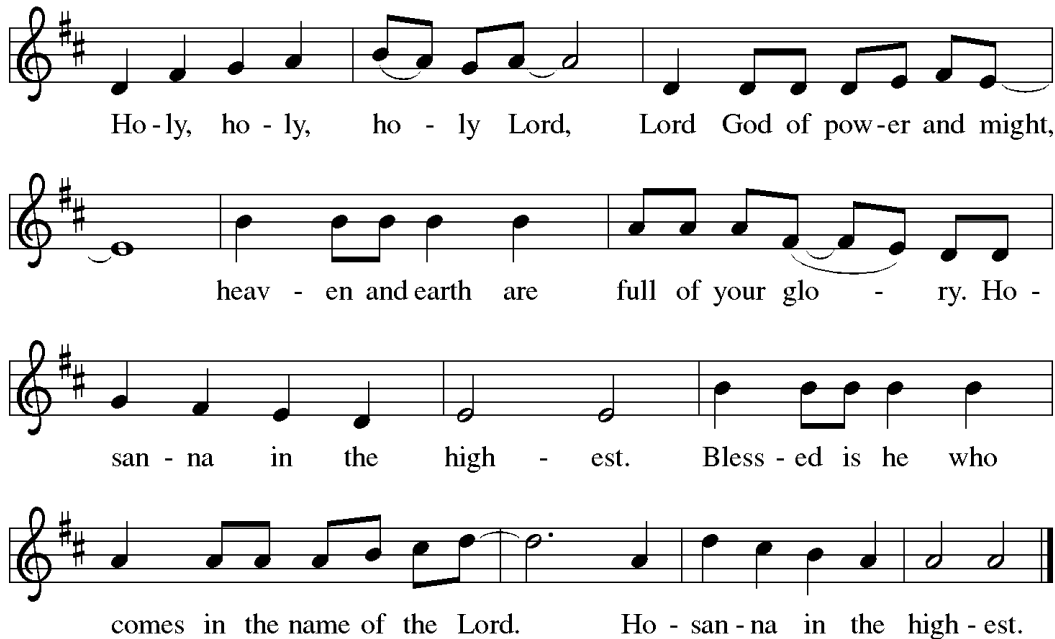
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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

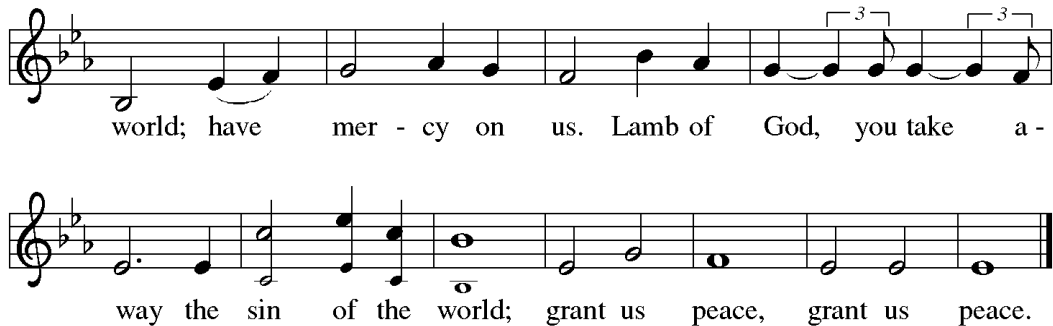
God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

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

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

ELW Setting 6

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have". The second staff contains the lyrics: "mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the". There are two triplet markings (indicated by a bracket with a '3' above) over the notes "a-way" in both staves.



*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

**All Earth Is Hopeful**

ELW 266

*Found on p. 16*

**We Are Waiting for Jesus**

ACS 905

*Found on p. 17*



# All Earth Is Hopeful



1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.





# 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**

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

ELW 254



1 Come, thou long-ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“People, Look East”

arr. Kenneth L. DeJong

BESANÇON

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Kaye Tyson
Lector:	Kaye Tyson
Bread Provider:	Heidi Burch
Altar Guild:	Janet Mease
Flower Guild:	Gale Paul



The greens are given to the glory and praise of God  
in honor of her children Victor and Cynthia  
by Kaye Tyson.



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***Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.***

Luke 3:4, 6

# ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

## IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 8, 2024

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

During this week of Advent, John the Baptist walks onto the stage and calls people to a new beginning. Our baptism is also a new beginning. Day after day, as we are renewed in our baptism, God who began a good work in us continues to prepare us for the day of Jesus Christ.

### ST. PAUL'S NEW PASTOR

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

### WEEKLY E-BLAST

As of this week, the weekly e-mail of announcements looks a little different. If you did not receive your email, please contact Jerilynn Hinrichs, Office Administrator, at [splcstaff@gmail.com](mailto:splcstaff@gmail.com) so she can update your email address in our database.

### POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE

A reminder that this Sunday, December 8, is the deadline to place your poinsettia order. The poinsettias will be used to adorn the sanctuary through the Christmas season. The flowers you order can be picked up after the *Sounds of the Seasons* concert on January 5.

### ADULT FORUM

New Sweden, which made up most of present-day Delaware, was the only Lutheran colony in North America. On Sunday, December 15, we continue our discussion about the colony with information around the Swedish and Finnish Churches. The Rev. Greg Johnson will begin class at 8:30 AM in the Blue Room.

### PHOTO DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

Our updated Membership Directory, including photos, is now available. You may view it in a password protected area on the website or you may request a PDF copy via email from Jerilynn Hinrichs in the church office at [splcstaff@gmail.com](mailto:splcstaff@gmail.com). If you do not know the members-only password, please email Rich Wallden at [splcdeonline@gmail.com](mailto:splcdeonline@gmail.com). Any questions please contact Linda Grund at [lgrund923@gmail.com](mailto:lgrund923@gmail.com).

## HERE AND BEYOND

As we approach the last week before Pastor Cris arrives, we've already received 57 pledges in the amount of \$285,260 towards the HERE campaign target of \$341,000, and gone "BEYOND" our initial goal of \$12,000 for Endowment by collecting \$15,520 for that effort.

*To everyone who has already pledged, thank you!*

For those who have not yet pledged, we hope that you will grab a card from the Narthex on your way out this morning, or print it at home using the link below for the online pledge card. Fill it out and return it, either by mailing it in, putting it in the Offering Plate, or dropping it in the Gold Box at any time.

Please consider that your pledge makes our planning easier, for next year and the years to come.

[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)

## 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 Book:

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

## HOLY HIKE

Outdoor adventurers of any age are invited to hike next 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).

## HILLTOP CHRISTMAS GIFTS

We are coming into the home stretch for Christmas and the annual Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center Christmas gift drive for some of the Center's neediest children. There are still some outstanding gifts for the students at Hilltop. Please make a much-appreciated selection using the Sign-Up Genius link below. Then, please bring your **new, wrapped, and labeled** gifts to church on Sunday, December 22, by 10:00 AM for transport to Hilltop.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C44A5A62CA20-53313339-hilltop#/>

## 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. Please email Kris Cassar if you are coming at [Kriscassar@icloud.com](mailto:Kriscassar@icloud.com)

## GOOD GIFTS TREE

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference. ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love. Choose an ornament from the tree in the narthex, make your contribution to ELCA Good Gifts by check or phone (800-638-3522), and receive a greeting card to send to a friend or loved one, to tell them about your gift in their honor. Visit [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) and click on the ELCA Good Gifts header for more information, as well as an order form with more giving options.

## LUNCH AND LEARN

LGBTQA+? Confused by all those letters? Join us Sunday, December 15, after church for lunch and to learn about the *Lutheran Introduction to Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression* published by Reconciling Works. Winnie Hull will use the introduction to guide a conversation covering what all those letters mean, and to learn about lived experiences of people behind those labels and much more.

Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or email Heidi Burch ([hidburch@gmail.com](mailto:hidburch@gmail.com)) before 5:00 PM on Thursday, December 12. Signups are graciously requested so we can arrange to have enough food for lunch.

## YOUTHERAN HOLIDAY GATHERING

The Young Lutherans of the Delmarva North Conference will have a Christmas Party and Gift Exchange on Sunday, December 22, at 5 PM here at St. Paul's. They will make Christmas cookies and exchange gifts of \$10 value. Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to this evening of holiday fun. Questions? Contact Pastor Zachary Wright ([pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com](mailto:pastorzach.blcne@gmail.com)).



# Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

In the United States, the flower most symbolic of the Christmas season is the poinsettia. This lovely Christmas flower will be used to adorn the sanctuary on Christmas Eve and throughout the Christmas season. The flowers you order may be picked up after the *Sounds of the Season* concert on Sunday afternoon, January 5.



*Please return this order form to the Church Office no later than Sunday, December 8.*

*Payment can be made by cash, check, or by clicking the "Christmas Poinsettia" tab on the drop down menu using *Tithe.ly*, accessed by the QR Code below.*

I/we would like to order a total of \_\_\_\_\_ 6" poinsettias (5-6 blooms) at \$9.00 each.

Color and quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Red \_\_\_\_\_ White

I/ we would like to order a total of \_\_\_\_\_ 8" poinsettias (12-18 blooms) at \$21.00 each.

Color and quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Red \_\_\_\_\_ White

I/ we would like to order a total of \_\_\_\_\_ 10" poinsettias (16-24 blooms) at \$32.00 each.

Color and quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Red \_\_\_\_\_ White

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

Paid by:  Cash  Check # \_\_\_\_\_

*Tithe.ly* online giving



Given By:

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In Memory of:

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In Honor of:

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# 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*

302-368-0064 ext. 104  
[cdfrigm@live.com](mailto:cdfrigm@live.com)

**Jerilynn Hinrichs**  
*Office Administrator*  
302-368-0064 ext. 101  
[splcstaff@gmail.com](mailto:splcstaff@gmail.com)

## 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

**St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry**  
Send prayer requests to:  
[prayonstpauls@gmail.com](mailto:prayonstpauls@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)

**Early Education Director**  
St. Paul's Lutheran School  
302-368-0064 ext. 118  
[stpaulschool@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulschool@comcast.net)

## Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

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).

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

