

7011ST. 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.

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD **Sunday, January 12, 2025**

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

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 and can be found in the upper right hand corner of the home page, along with a digital copy of this worship folder.

**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 ✘

10 AM Service of Holy Communion



*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

“Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized”

arr. Weber

LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God, whose voice moves over the waters,
immerse us in your grace.

Mark us with your image.

Raise us to live our baptismal vows.

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
let us live the example of Christ our Lord.**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

ELW 310 (harmony)



- 1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
- 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph - et, priest, and king su - preme;
- 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak - ened bod - y, faint - ing soul;
- 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.

Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702

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.

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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.

✠ WORD ✠

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

When you pass through the waters, do not fear, for I am with you

A reading from Isaiah:

- ¹ But now thus says the LORD,
the one who created you, O Jacob,
the one who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
- ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
- ³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
- ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
- ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
- ⁶ I will say to the north, “Give them up,”
and to the south, “Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
- ⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

God has been revealed to us in the word.

Let us wait here and dwell in it.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 29

Antiphon: Ps. 29:3

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters.

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴ The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters.

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶ the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters.

⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters.

SECOND READING

Acts 8:14-17

Prayer and laying on of hands for the Holy Spirit

A reading from Acts:

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

God has been revealed to us in the word.
Let us wait here and dwell in it.

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 3:15-17, 21-22

The baptism of Jesus with the descent of the Holy Spirit

The Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ With a winnowing fork in hand, he will clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into his granary, burning the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Cris Frigm

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Down Galilee's Slow Roadways

ACS 916



1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on
2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;
3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.
it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.
We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,
The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:
But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.



but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.
"You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."
"You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Siblings in Christ, in baptism God cleanses us from sin, and into Christ. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken and God's

kingdom entered our world. Through our baptism we were made citizens of God's kingdom, and freed from the bondage of sin.

Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism. I ask you therefore, once again to reject sin, and to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, in which we were baptized.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Children are invited to join the pastor at the font.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

As a reminder of the gift of baptism, the assembly is sprinkled with water during the singing of the following hymn.

COVENANT HYMN

Song Over the Waters

W&P 127

Refrain



God, you have moved up - on the wa - ters,



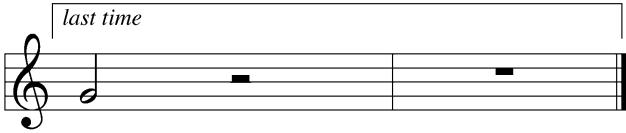
you have sung in the rush of wind and flame;



and in your love you have called us sons and daugh-ters,



make us peo - ple of the wa - ter and your name.

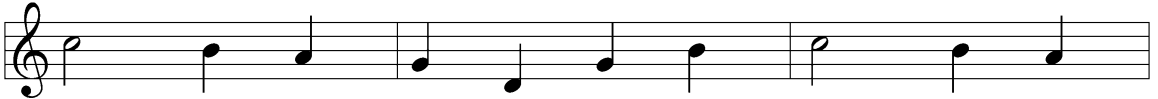


name.

A

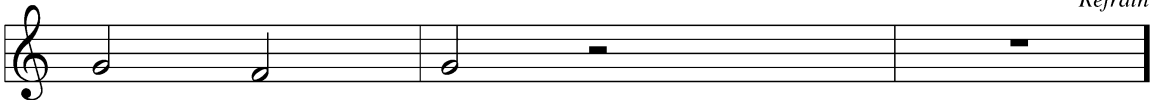


1	Come fill our	wait - ing hearts	with the
2	Give us a	thirst for love,	give us a
3	You are the	breath of life,	you are the
4	Come, o - pen	ev - 'ry heart,	come now and



spir - it of	Je - sus, let us shine	with your
hun - ger for	jus - tice, make us one	with the
hope of the	hope - less, come and fill	us with
wake us to	won - der, make us ves - sels	of

Refrain



light	and	peace.
mind	of	Christ.
light	and	peace.
light	and	peace.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: SONG OVER THE WATERS, Marty Haugen
 Text and music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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Following the sprinkling, the presider addresses the congregation:

Remember your baptism and be thankful.
 In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery, especially Deborah, Dan, Bob, Rich, Kara, Eric, Silas, Jim, Dot, Jenny, Jane, Judy, Stan, Janice, Claude, Nancy, Jane, Paul, Pat, Margaret, Jay, Rob, Marie, Susan, Michael, JoEllen, Elizabeth, Melissa, Ginny, Gary, Isabella, Heyward, Olive and Jim. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You draw us and our partners in ministry, especially Bethel Lutheran Church in North East and Unity Church in Wilmington, into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve, especially the family and friends of Will, Susan, Karen, and Gary. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

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 Work of Christmas Begins”

arr. Vicki Courtney

Sanctuary Choir

Please stand, as you are able, as the gifts are presented and the table is set.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray: God of grace,

your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. 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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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 preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance 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 have heard of you, and will proclaim your glory to all, even as we pray, saying,

Our Father, who art in heaven,

**hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread;

**and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

We come to eat this meal of gladness.

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

O Living Breath of God

ELW 407

Found on p. 16

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

ACS 942

Found on p. 17



*A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved,
 with whom I am well pleased."*

Matthew 3:17

O Living Breath of God



- 1 O liv-ing Breath of God, wind at the be-gin - ning up-on the wa - ters;
- 2 O liv-ing Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth a - mong us;
- 3 O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing us to life through bap-tis-mal wa - ters;



- O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing the cre - a - tion to won-drous birth:
- O liv-ing Breath of God, who to the cre - a - tion gives life a - new:
- O liv-ing Breath of God, sigh-ing with cre - a - tion for free-dom's birth:

Refrain



Come now, and fill our spir - its; pour out your gifts a - bun - dant.



O liv-ing Breath of God, Ho-ly Spir-it, breathe in us as we pray.

Text: Osvaldo Catena, 1920-1986; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: VÄRVINDAR FRISKA, Swedish folk tune
Tr. © 1998 Augsburg Fortress



Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Refrain

Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing

in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the

spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

- 1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,
 2 . . All a - round me looked so fine,
 3 . . Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

out of his mouth came fire and smoke.
 asked my Lord if all was mine.
 chills the bod - y but not the soul.

Refrain

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: PENTECOST, African American spiritual; arr. Melva W. Costen, b. 1933
 Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen, admin. 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.

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,
Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

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

BENEDICTION

The Spirit of the triune God
✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

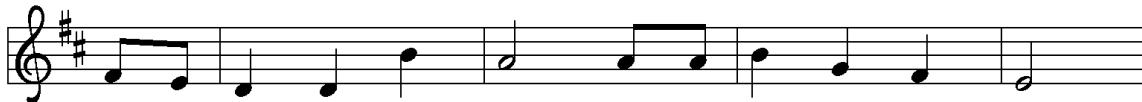
Baptized and Set Free
ELW 453



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun-tain bring-ing heal-ing, and whole-ness and more.
end-less o - cean, al-ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Toccatà on *Wie schön leuchtet*”

arr. Burkhardt

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Marjorie Chin
Lector:	Henry Chisholm
Bread Provider:	Sherry Mench
Altar Guild:	Janet Mease
Flower Guild:	Janet Mease

The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory and praise of God.

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ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 12, 2025

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD (YEAR C)

Baptism is the beginning of a new story. It was for Jesus; it is for us. God claims us as God's children, fills us with the Holy Spirit, and promises to travel the path with us—a path that will bring us home.

ADULT FORUM

No matter how accepting we are towards LGBTQ+ people, the Bible seems pretty clear on “homosexuality”. Or does it? How do we answer that nagging question, “but isn't it a sin?” Plan to attend the Adult Forums on Sundays, January 5, 12, and 19, starting at 8:30 AM in the Blue Room. Join us as we examine what the Bible says about same gender attraction and sex. Hosted by members of the RIC Team.

BOOKS AND BANTER

St. Paul's avid readers meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1 PM in the Youth Room. If you have a book that you would like to share with the group, please let us know. Please join us for conversation and fellowship.

January 22 “I am Malala” by Malala Yousafzai (*Back to fourth Wednesday*)

HOLY HIKE

Love to enjoy walking in the great outdoors? Please plan to join us on Sunday, January 19 at 11:30 AM as we plan our schedule for the coming year. Questions? Please contact Linda Grund at lgrund923@gmail.com or Rudy Schock at rschock324@gmail.com We hope to grow our group this year and welcome input on when and where you would like to hike.

OWLS ON THE TOWN IN 2025

Please join the OWLS (Older Wiser LutheranS) as we kick off the new year with our first outing. It's simple – we're going to dinner (on your own) at La Casa Pasta on Thursday, January 23. We will meet at the restaurant at 6:00 PM for fellowship and food. Please let Bill Saylor (bsaylor2@verizon.net; 302-834-4074) know by Sunday, January 19, if you would like to be included in our gathering, as he needs to make reservations. If you need transportation, contact Bill as well.

PICK UP YOUR POINSETTIAS

The poinsettias you ordered have been moved to the Youth Lounge. Please pick them up after worship. The white ones in the sanctuary can also be taken.

NEW STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Please note the new staff email addresses on the back page of this worship folder. Please start using them as soon as possible. Staff will still be monitoring their old addresses for the time being.

PASTOR CRIS' INSTALLATION

The rescheduling of the installation service for Pastor Cris has yet to be determined. We are waiting to hear back from Bishop Gohl. Thanks for your understanding in canceling the service this past Monday evening due to inclement weather.

AN O-FISH-IAL INVITATION!

If you've been waiting for an invitation to help at St. Paul's, consider your "FISH wish" granted! The January FISH events are coming up and we'd love to have you join us for any or all of them. Our Food Bank pickup will be on Thursday, January 16, at 1 PM, and then at 6:30 PM, we'll gather in Fellowship Hall to pack boxes. On Friday, January 17, we will have the monthly distribution from 2:30 PM until 4 PM, also in Fellowship Hall. Call or email Keith Bart ([302-345-6107](tel:302-345-6107) or keith.m.bart@gmail.com) for more information.

MEMBERS ONLY INFORMATION

If you do not have access to the members only information on our website, www.stpaulsnewarkde.org, please email splcdeonline@gmail.com. Leave your name, email address and/or phone number, and Rich Wallden will provide you with the password.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, St. Paul's usually follows the local school district's determination of whether or not to open or close. We will place our final decision on Facebook but you can also check WDEL.com and click on their SnowWatch listings. Should the county make a poor decision, we will consider re-opening based on the condition of our parking lots and sidewalks.





THE VOICE OF GOD

Are you longing to hear God's voice? What would it be like to hear God call you by name? For many it seems that God spoke to people long ago and far away, but now in this time and place God's voice is much less clear and less audible. Perhaps we cannot hear the voice of God because our world is full of noise?

Perhaps we are not open to the particular frequency in which God chooses to call us? Perhaps we continually tune out this heavenly summons with our daily rush, not taking the time to quiet ourselves, our minds, our inner voices. We can use this time after Epiphany to clear out a corner of our lives for quiet prayer, meditation, or centering. Maybe then we will be able to hear . . . to sense . . . to listen.

Listen! God's voice comes from heaven to call us by name, speak to the earth, shake the wilderness, and to anoint "the Beloved." Listen! God's people speak words of covenant, commitment, and community in the liturgy of baptism. Listen! God's word surrounds this day with power and majesty and "in the temple of the Lord all are crying, 'Glory!'" (Ps. 29:9). In this season of epiphanies, today's miraculous encounter with the living God immerses us in the sound of God's voice and bathes us in God's baptismal promise. All who are splashed by this water gasp, cry, exclaim, sigh, and sing. Let all who have breath, praise the Lord!

COMMENTS FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

At our baptism, a hand is laid on us, invoking and inviting the Holy Spirit through benediction. Over our cleansed and blessed bodies willingly descends from the Father that Holiest Spirit. Over the waters of baptism reposes the Spirit, who glided down on the Lord in the shape of the dove. The very nature of the Holy Spirit was declared by means of this symbol of simplicity and innocence: accordingly Jesus says, "Be innocent as doves." After the waters of the deluge, by which the old iniquity was purged—after the baptism, so to say, of the world—a dove was the herald that announced to the earth the placating of celestial wrath. The dove had been sent from the ark and had returned with the olive branch, which even among the nations is a sign of peace. In the same way, the dove of the Holy Spirit flies to the earth—that is, to our flesh—as we emerge from the font, bringing us the peace of God.

—Tertullian, in *Baptism: Ancient Liturgies and Patristic Texts*, ed. A. Hamman, O.F.M. (Staten Island, NY: Alba, 1967), pp. 36-37.



JANUARY

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Sunday, January 5

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

This year the liturgical calendar includes a second Sunday after Christmas before Epiphany, and the gospel is the Christological poem in John 1. On Christmas Day we heard John 1 in connection with Isaiah and Hebrews, and this Sunday with Jeremiah and Ephesians. For those of us who live in a cold climate, the psalm for the day is for us!

8:30 AM Adult Forum—But Isn't It a Sin? RIC Team
10:00 AM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed
11:00 AM Coffee Social in Fellowship Hall

Monday, January 6

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

The word Epiphany means “showing forth,” and it names the day that the church tells Matthew’s story of the magi from foreign lands who follow the light of the star and thus “see” Jesus as Christ. Their gifts are symbols: gold, because they honor Jesus as the king; frankincense, because they worship Jesus as divine; and myrrh, because they are readying for his death.

*7:00 PM Service of Holy Communion with the
Installation of The Reverend Cris Frigm
Reception Following in Fellowship Hall*

Sunday, January 12

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

The gospel this Sunday is about Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist. A voice speaks from heaven, and the Spirit descends like a dove. This story is also about us: we too have been baptized, we have heard God’s loving call, and we have received the Holy Spirit. What is God’s voice like? Psalm 29 says that God’s voice can break the cedars and strip the trees bare, but also give a blessing of peace.

8:30 AM Adult Forum— But Isn't It a Sin? RIC Team
10:00 AM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed
11:00 AM Coffee Social in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 19

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

In Sunday’s gospel, Jesus provides 175 gallons of wine for a newly married couple. Whatever for?! Come to worship and hear about God’s good news in Christ.

8:30 AM Adult Forum— But Isn't It a Sin? RIC Team
10:00 AM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed
11:00 AM Coffee Social in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 26

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

We now return for much of this year to hear the gospel according to Luke. This coming Sunday we will hear that Jesus is filled with the power of the Spirit, and so are we. Come to worship!

8:30 AM Adult Forum in the Blue Room
10:00 AM Service of Holy Communion—Live Streamed
11:00 AM Coffee Social in Fellowship Hall



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

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: www.stpaulsnewarkde.org

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



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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

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

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 office@stpaulsnewarkde.org.

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

