

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.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
Sunday, January 26, 2025

10 AM Service of
Holy Communion

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory 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 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 assist 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

"O Zion, Haste"

- arr. Sedio

ANGELIC SONGS

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

DIALOG AND INVOCATION

In you, O Lord our God, we find our joy.

**For through your law and your prophets
you formed a people in mercy and freedom,
in justice and righteousness.**

Pour your Spirit on us today, that we who are Christ's body,
**may bear the good news of your ancient promises
to all who seek you.**

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

Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

ELW 314 (harmony)



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

We ignore the needs of our neighbors;

we resist your call to oppose injustice;

we give in to scarcity and fear;

we assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults

and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

Restore our hearts and repair your world,

that we may live in Christ's ways.

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

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.

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

✠ WORD ✠

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

FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Ezra reads the law of Moses before the people

A reading from Nehemiah:

[When the seventh month came – the people of Israel being settled in their towns –] ¹ all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ Ezra read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God,

and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So the Levites read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then Ezra said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

God has been revealed to us in the word.

Let us wait here and dwell in it.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 19

Antiphon: Ps. 19:7

The teaching of the LORD revives the soul.

The teaching of the LORD revives the soul.

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

² One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

³ Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴ their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶ It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about
to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

The teaching of the LORD revives the soul.

⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸ The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

The teaching of the LORD revives the soul.

¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² Who can detect one's own offenses?

Cleanse me from my secret faults.

¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable
in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

The teaching of the LORD revives the soul.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

You are the body of Christ

A reading from First Corinthians:

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one part but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the parts of the body, each one of them, just as God chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body

that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those parts of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable parts are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable parts do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior part, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the parts may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one part suffers, all suffer together with it; if one part is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually parts of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

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 4:14-21

Jesus reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah

The Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

The Lord has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Cris Frigm

*Feel free to take notes or write down your own reflection on this morning's message.
Spirit-led doodling is also acceptable.*

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ELW 843 (harmony)



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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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.

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery, especially Angelo, Deborah, Bob, Rich, Kara, Eric, Silas, Jim, Dot, Jenny, Jane, Judy, Stan, Claude, Nancy, Jane, Paul, Pat, Margaret, Jay, Rob, Marie, Susan, Michael, JoEllen, Elizabeth, Melissa, Ginny, Isabella, Heyward, Olive and Jim. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve, especially our partners in ministry – Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Wilmington and Lutheran housing projects throughout Delaware. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world, especially parish nurses, fellowship hosts, worship leaders, council, and committee members. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church, especially Timothy, Titus, Silas, Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, and beloved friends and family who have died, especially Charlotte, Will and Susan. 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

"I Will Bless the Lord"

Yannerella

Sanctuary Choir

Please stand, as you are able.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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 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.**

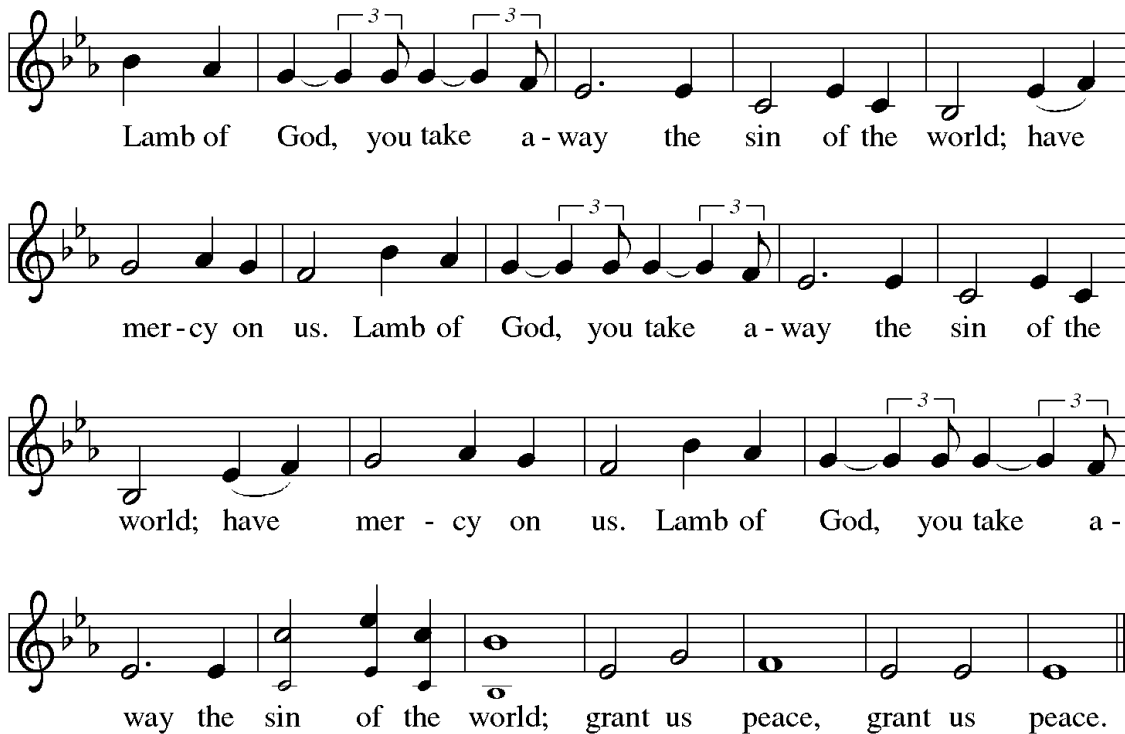
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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.

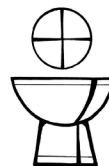
Be seated.

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

One Bread, One Body

ELW 496



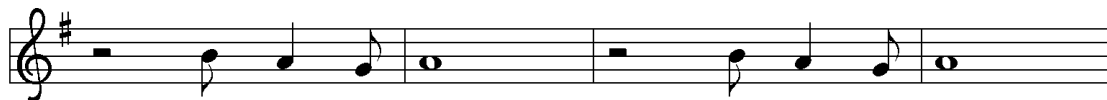
One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1	Gen - tile	or	Jew,	ser - vant	or	free,
2	Man - y	the	gifts,	man - y	the	works,
3	Grain for	the	fields,	scat - tered	and	grown,



wom - an	or	man,	no	more.
one in	the	Lord	of	all.
gath - ered	to	one	for	all.

Refrain

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

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Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

Found on p. 16



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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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

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

ELW 551

Found on p. 18

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

“Jubilation!”

NETTLETON

arr. Wold



The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel

Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
 share a dream and help the blind to see.
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: Jeanine Heath
Lector: Eric Mease
Bread Provider: Linda Radwick
Altar Guild: Janet Mease
Flower Guild: Keith Tyson



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



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*The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor,
and to proclaim release to the captives.*

Luke 4:18

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 26, 2025

LECTIONARY 3 (YEAR C)

Preaching is powerful, and the power is in the word. That word can convict us of sin and raise us to new life. That word can heal divisions in Christ's body and help us appreciate the gifts of others. And that Word has become flesh in Jesus of Nazareth. Let us join with other Christians to pray that we can come together in Christ.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Please submit all committee, small group fellowship, and ministry reports to office@stpaulsnewarkde.org by Friday, February 7, or preferably earlier.

ADULT FORUM

Looking for a "Good Old Fashioned Bible Study?" Well, even if you're not, check out Pastor Greg Johnson's series on the Gospel of Mark, "The Gospel of Mark, According to Greg!" Pastor Greg will take an in-depth look at this the shortest and probably the first of the 4 Gospels. Join the fun on Sunday morning starting at 8:30 in the Blue Room. You'll be glad you did.

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.

Upcoming Books:

February 26	"Eruption" by Michael Crichton/James Patterson
March 26	"Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt

HOLY HIKE

Love to enjoy walking in the great outdoors? Please plan to join us after worship Sunday, February 16, as we hike the trail at Judge Morris Estate, 76 Polly Drummond Hill Road, Newark. This is a four-mile, wooded, mostly flat trail. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Grund at lgrund923@gmail.com or Rudy Schock at rschock324@gmail.com.

20 QUESTIONS(ISH) WITH PASTOR CRIS

As we continue to get to know one another, we will be holding a series of small group conversations for members to get to know Pastor Cris and for him to get to know our members. We'll kick off these sessions with a potluck dinner that will include the Rite of Installation with Bishop Bill Gohl presiding. This won't be a formal worship service, but an opportunity for us to continue to learn about our ministry together. The dinner and installation will happen on **Monday, February 17, at 6 PM.** You will have the opportunity to sign up for one of the follow-up sessions at the dinner (and following).



The hospitality committee will be hosting the potluck supper and asks that everyone bring their favorite appetizer, soup, main dish, side, or dessert to share that evening. Monetary donations would also be appreciated and will be used towards paper goods and drinks. The sign-up is posted in the Narthex Please note the item you will be bringing as well as the number of people attending. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lori Davis via call/text at 302-897-8759 or email at LoriDavis1025@gmail.com.

BREWING THEOLOGY

For everyone 21 and older, please plan to join us on Wednesday, January 29, at 7 PM at the Delaware Saengerbund for a tasty beverage, some snacks, and some hearty conversation. Our topic for this month will be “Differences in Lutheran denominations”.

OLDER WISER LUTHERANS EVENTS

All OWLS are invited to the third annual Progressive Supper held here at the church on Saturday, February 8, at 4 PM. This year we are asking for international dishes - specifically from a country of your ancestry. Register with Lynn Deschere (302-368-6437 home; 302-373-0644 cell; Lynn@Deschere.com) as soon as possible for an appetizer, soup, entree, salad, vegetable or dessert. First come, first options.

Join us on Friday, March 7, at 9:30 AM as we explore the world of Verse Immersive, the only holographic theater of its kind. The experience uses augmented reality headsets. There is no headache or motion sickness with this equipment as there might with a virtual reality experience. Our multi-pass tickets will include two thirty minute experiences with a thirty minute rest break between events. A late lunch (on your own) at the Kountry Kitchen Family Restaurant. Both venues are in Manheim, PA. We will return by 4:30pm. Cost \$39.99 per person. RSVP by Sunday, February 16, to Linda Grund with cash payment of \$40.00. Questions - contact Linda at 302-738-5491 or lgrund923@gmail.com.

YOUTHERAN ACTIVITY

Please join the youth group (Grade 6-12) this afternoon at 5 PM, for a gathering here at St. Paul's, Newark. We'll have some winter fun and look at making Valentine's Day Cards for homebound members in the community.

NOTICE OF ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for St. Paul's Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2025, following the service. Items on the agenda include:

- The annual budget
- Two amendments to the constitution:
 - an amendment to change the number needed for a meeting quorum from 5% to 15%,
 - an amendment to change the amount of money the Council can spend without congregational approval from \$5,000 to 10% of the annual budget.
- An amendment to the bylaws changing the timing of the annual review of the congregational role from May to 90 prior to the annual meeting.
- Other business of the congregation.



	Dec. 2024 Activity (\$)	YTD Balance (\$)	Budget YTD (\$)	Over/Under YTD + (-) (\$)	Dec. 2024 Avg. Sunday Attendance	YTD Average Sunday Attendance
TOTAL INCOME	44,760.62	385,213.48	380,292.00	4,921.48	69 (202 for Christmas Eve)	82
TOTAL EXPENSES	43,398.15	342,859.10	379,654.00	(36,794.90)		
DIFFERENCE	1,362.47	42,354.38	638.00			

- **Income:** YTD is 1% (\$4,921.48) ahead of YTD budget projections. Pledged Offerings are ahead of budget due to several families prepaying for the entire year, while unpledged offerings lag budget forecast by 6%.
- **Personnel Expenses:** YTD are 18% (\$37,791.88) below budget due to the interim pastor continuing into the second half of 2024 and the office administrator position being unfilled in August.
- **Administrative Expenses:** YTD are 21% (\$3,126.53) above budget YTD due to the costs associated with exiting our copier contract and higher than anticipated telephone/internet access, postage, admin, tithely and publications charges.
- **Property Maintenance Expenses:** YTD are 6% (\$3087.71) above budget YTD due to high weekly cleaning service fees and lawn maintenance/snow removal charges.
- **All Other Expense Categories (Worship & Music, Faith Formation, Utilities, Committee, Mortgage and Benevolence):** All these categories are running at or under budget.

COMMENTS FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Jesus began his ministry with these words read from a scroll of the prophet Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” The arrival of the dominion of God was, in those words, inextricably tied to helping the poor, releasing prisoners, healing the sick. And yet the poor remain in our streets, our prisons are overcrowded as never before, and everyone of us will eventually succumb to ill health and physical death. Had Jesus failed? . . . Following in his steps from that early synagogue worship service, to the hills of Galilee, the road to Jerusalem, and the way of the cross, we discover that suffering is not God’s will. Rather, life in the face of suffering is God’s will; courage in the face of fear; faith in the face of doubt and abandonment; love in the face of hatred and prejudice. God’s will is to call these things out of the hurt and brokenness that we are and that we find around us. With Christ, the prophecy is fulfilled, in you and in me.

—Bruce J. Evenson, in *Homilies for the Christian People*, p. 402.

LIVING “WORDS WITH FRIENDS”

Playgrounds still resound with “sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” But those words ring hollow. As adults, and as children, we know only too well the power of words to do harm. In contrast, the scriptures for today point us to the word that bears hope, promise, and life. Human words can hurt or fail, but now we hear this holy word of wisdom, challenge, instruction, and hope that really does form us in God’s promise. Rather than words that tear down, we are invited by the prophets and Jesus into God’s living words with and among friends. Jesus, in coming home and attending the synagogue, reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Jesus announces good news to those struggling economically on the fringes of society, hope to those who are imprisoned, healing to those without sight, a lifting of the burden from those who are weighed down or oppressed, and even the in-breaking of a holy year of favor. Standing in a tradition of prophets and priests who speak, engage, and teach God’s word, Jesus now offers one thing more—fulfillment. The words of those who dream and hope, who work for justice and mercy on behalf of God, are now true. Today as we look around and see people spending time speaking, reading, and even playing games with words, this is an opportunity to ground ourselves in the one full Word that bears life. This word counters sticks and stones and all that oppresses; Jesus address announces God’s liberating actions. This Word sounds promise to all who hear; it is an invitation to see God at work among God’s people





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.



The Reverend Cris Frigm

Pastor

302-368-0064 ext. 104

pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org

Michael Bareham

Director for Music and Worship

302-368-0064 ext. 123

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Nalini Janaki

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302-368-0064 ext. 102

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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

Vacant

Early Education Director

St. Paul's Lutheran School

302-368-0064 ext. 118

stpaulschool@comcast.net

St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

<mailto:prayonstpauls@gmail.com>

office@stpaulsnewarkde.org

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

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

