

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Welcome - Once again we stand amazed at the miracle of the Incarnation -- Immanuel, God with us. Let us fill the sanctuary of the Lord with praise, "Glory to God in the highest." Welcome, friends! May all who have come to this Christmas Eve service know that we want you to feel a part of this family of God. May the full meaning of Christmas be real to us all...now and always.

Visitors - Please sign our guest book found in the narthex (entrance). Our church has a few nooks and crannies, so don't be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastors and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available near the guest register.

COMMUNION

As you prepare to receive the Lord's Supper, we invite you to turn to pages 329-330 in the front of the hymnal and review section 4: "Christian Questions and their Answers." and to page 308 as well as the inside front cover of the hymnal and use the appropriate prayers before and after communion.

As we celebrate the LORD'S SUPPER today, we confess the REAL PRESENCE

We come to the Lord's Table because we have sinned and want the Lord's assurance of His forgiveness of our sins as well as His strength for living the new life of His Resurrection. As we eat the bread and drink the wine, because Jesus says so, we also receive His very Body and Blood. Doing this in repentant faith, we receive His forgiveness. With forgiveness also must come the repentant new life, seeking and using His power to overcome and forsake sinful ways. This includes any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, and unfaithfulness in regular worship and attendance at the Lord's Table. Only in such faith do we properly and profitably receive the Sacrament and not misuse it to our judgment.

As we celebrate the Sacrament, we also give public confession to our unity in the Christian Faith. We invite communicant members of this congregation, or another congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to commune. Prompted by love and caring, we ask that guests who wish to receive the sacrament please speak with the pastors or lay minister before the service.

Directional Notes:

- Please follow the indications of the ushers as they direct you to the communion rail.
- The wine is offered by the common cup and individual cup. If you prefer the common cup, please let the individual cup pass and reach out for the common cup as it comes to you.
- Individual cups should be placed in the plastic lined baskets at the end of the communion rail.
- If you are allergic or cannot drink full strength wine, the two (2) cups in the center of each tray have water with a drop or two of wine.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2021, 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.

“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education.”

AS WE GATHER..Merry Christmas! The prophet Isaiah foretold, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:2). Let us celebrate the Light of the Christ Child who has come into our world to dispel the darkness of sin forever. Candlelight, carols, Scripture, a sermon and prayers reveal the Good News that our Great Light has dawned: Jesus Christ is born; let us rejoice!

7:00 & 10:00- Pre-Service Music: “On A Night Of Wonder” Hosanna Choir

7:00 & 10:00- Pre-Special Music: “Joyous Light, Holy Child within the Manger”
Handbell Choir

Ringing of the Bells, Welcome, Announcements, Greeting

Before worship prayer

Heavenly Father, with joy we enter into the contemplation of the holy mystery of your Son’s incarnation for us and our salvation. Open our minds to understand, our hearts to believe, and our mouths to proclaim the glory of Him who took on our human flesh and blood through the blessed virgin in order to suffer and die in our place. Prepare our hearts to be fitting manglers to cradle Your Son that He may dwell in us and we in Him today and throughout all eternity. AMEN.

We’re So Glad God Brought You Here This Christmas Eve!

Entrance Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” LSB, hymn #379
(Please rise and face the Processional Cross as it leads the procession.)

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him Born the king of angels:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n!
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.
P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.
C: **We have beheld Christ's glory as of the only Son from the Father.**
P: For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.
C: **In Him was life, and the life was the light of all.**
P: O little town of Bethlehem,
C: **How still we see thee lie!**
P: Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
C: **The silent stars go by;**
P: Yet in thy dark streets shineth
C: **The everlasting light.**
P: The hopes and fears of all the years
C: **Are met in thee tonight. Amen!**

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: It was into a world made dark by sin that God gave His gift of light and life. We recall that our Lord Jesus came among us as one of us because we could not find light and life on our own. Let us humble ourselves before the Child of Bethlehem, confess before Him the darkness of sin in our hearts and lives, and ask for God's forgiveness.

(Silence for personal confession)

P: Loving God, who sent Jesus as Savior of the world,

C: We confess that our busy minds and lives have shrouded our Christmas and caused us to lose our focus on the Christ Child. Forgive us for shaping the celebration to fit our desires.

P: O God, on this holy night we gather to celebrate the gift of Your answer to our sin and need.

C: Even before we ask it, You have provided for us what we need the most. You give us the gift of Your forgiveness as we confess all our sin.

P: Seize us by Your Spirit, focus our eyes and hearts on the coming Christ.

C: Inspire us with that coming so that we shout from the rooftops the Good News proclaimed by the angels and shared joyfully by the shepherds. Make us into your joy-filled Christmas messengers, sharing Your powerful message of salvation for all. Amen.

P: Dear friends in Christ, Rejoice in His Good News! Jesus is Immanuel, which means "God with us." Jesus has promised that the sins we forgive on earth will also be forgiven in heaven.

Trusting that precious promise, as a called and ordained minister of the Gospel, I confidently declare to you that, in Jesus Christ, all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. As God's Children, you are also privileged to share that same forgiveness with all the others in your life.

C: We are filled with Jesus' light of life so that we can reflect His Good News amidst the sin and darkness of this world. Amen!

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray, . . . O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Christmas Carol: " O Little Town of Bethlehem" LSB, hymn #361

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

+ WORD +

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-14 *(He Will Be Called - Immanuel!!)*

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

7:00 & 10:00pm - Special Music: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" *Handbell Choir*

Epistle Lesson: 1 John 4:7-16 *(God Sent His Son!!)*

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

Stand

Alleluia Response: *tune: LSB, hymn #367 - "Angels from the Realms of Glory"*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ unto this world has come.
Alleluia! Alleluia! God's own Son makes here His home.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Offspring of a virgin's womb.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C: **(Sung) Glory to you, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

(Today Your Savior Has Been Born!)

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **(Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.**

Gospel Response: *tune: LSB, hymn #367- "Angels from the Realms of Glory"*

Unto God on high be glory; Peace on earth and mercy mild.
Now fulfilled the ancient story: God and sinners reconciled.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Unto us is born a Child!

(Please be Seated)

Sermon Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High” LSB, hymn #368

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Sermon: “Stop . . . Be Amazed” Luke 2:8-12

CHRISTMAS CREED

P: Let us confess our faith:

C: I believe in God the Father, Creator of all things who sent His Son as my Savior.

And in Jesus Christ, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshiped by the wise men, who lived to suffer, die and rise again, to free me from sin, death, and the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who brought me to faith in Christ, and by whose continuous work in my heart, I am led to lay before the feet of Christ my continuous worship, my life, and my love; to live under Him as my King, both now and forevermore. Amen.

(Please be seated)

Offering & Attendance Cards *(Each family please fill out an Attendance Card, listing the **individual names** of those attending worship. Please pass them toward the center aisle for a Lay Minister to collect)*

7:00pm & 10:00pm - Special Music: “Sleep, Little Lamb” *Hosanna Choir*

PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

P: Dear people of God, once again we have heard the message of the angels, visited Bethlehem with shepherds and Magi, and beheld the Son of God in human flesh, born of the Virgin Mary and lying in a manger. Now let us respond with praise and prayer, rejoicing to offer Him our petitions and prayers on behalf of ourselves and everyone according to their need, confident that He will answer with all that is good, right, and best for us all.

Merciful Father, we have lived through a time of great uncertainty and fear and now come again into Your presence on this most holy of nights. Deliver us from all epidemics, from the perils of war and violence, and from the loss of job and home. Open our hearts to receive with faith the joy of our Savior’s coming and to trust in His salvation forevermore.

C: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

P: Father, with joy and wonder we gather around the manger on this night as we recall how great is Your love for us, sending Your Son into our world wrapped in our flesh as a tiny child to forgive our sins.

C: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

P: Jesus, on this night we recall how great is Your love for us. You gave up heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin.

C: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

P: Holy Spirit, on this night we recall how great is Your love for us, gathering us together through the waters of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and by the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.

C: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

P: Gracious Lord, we pray that we not shut the Lord Jesus out of our hearts, but be ever ready to welcome Him as He comes to us still today, while awaiting the Last Day when He comes as a thief in the night, not born in our flesh but to resurrect all flesh and to make all things new.

C: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

P: Everlasting Lord, we pray that we see Jesus not only as the baby of Bethlehem, but also honor Him as the Christ of the cross and recognize the majesty of the King of kings and Lord of lords, both humbly adoring and proudly proclaiming Him as our King and Lord.

C: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

P: Renewing Lord, let the Good News of Christmas inspire a renewing of hope, faith, joy, wonder, and witness in our hearts, our homes, in this congregation, and in the Church throughout the world.

C: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

P: Comforting Lord, we lift up all those who lack joy this Christmastime due to afflictions spiritually, mentally, and physically. We pray for those we name in our hearts now (*Silence*). Grant that the hope and promise found in a Savior born for them will give peace in times of trial.

C: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through the Savior born for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *tune: LSB hymn #364 - "Away in a Manger"*

Our Father in heaven, All praise to Your name
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same:
By mortals and angels. Come reign Lord alone:
Oh hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day.
As we forgive others, our sins take away.
In times of temptation to lead us be near.
From evil deliver Your children most dear.

For Yours is the kingdom, o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power, all things You maintain.
To You be the glory resounding again:
From all of creation, forever, Amen.

SACRAMENT

(In preparation to receive the Sacrament, please read the Communion notes on page 2)

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalm 136

C: It is right and proper for us to do so.

P: It is good and right for us to give thanks to God for all of His blessings, but tonight especially we give thanks for God's gift to us of Himself, wrapped in human flesh and blood. God is faithful, and we remember how He kept the promise made of old to forgive our sinful rebellion against Him, and to restore us once again to His family. Therefore it is our duty and delight to join our voices with the saints and angels to praise Him as we sing:

Sanctus: *tune: LSB, hymn #367- "Angels from the Realms of Glory"*

Lo, the heav'nly host rejoices: "Holy, holy, holy Lord!"
Lo, God's people join their voices: "God of hosts, by all adored,
Heav'n and earth proclaim Your glory, Sing Your praise with one accord!"

Blest is He who now draws near us In the name of God the King!
Blest is He who comes to cheer us Let our welcome joyful ring:
"Hail! Hosanna! Hallelujah!" Highest praises echoing.

Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Agnus Dei: *tune: LSB, hymn #364 - "Away in a Manger"*

O Jesus, Messiah, the True Lamb of God,
The sin of the whole world You take away.
O Jesus, Messiah, the True Lamb of God,
Grant mercy and peace to Your people, we pray.

(Please be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB366 - It Came upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.

For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.

LSB387 - Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

LSB365 - Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

LSB370 - What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
 The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
 Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

LSB376 - Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
 Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:
 Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
 And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
 With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.

For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
 He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
 And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
 For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above;
 And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by
 Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.
 Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Stand

Nunc Dimittis: *tune: LSB, hymn #367 - "Angels from the Realms of Glory"*

At Your Word, Lord, let Your servant Go in Peace, for with my eyes
 I have seen Your bright salvation, Israel's Light, begin to rise
 As the Glory of the nations, Leading on to Paradise!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray, . . . Gracious God and Father, thank You for this gift of Your Son and for the message of the angels that announced His arrival.

C: **Jesus, thank You for caring so much for us that You came to be one of us. O Holy Spirit, thank You for carrying the song of the angels to our ears, that we might be lifted up in hope and joy.**

P: For all the blessings of this night and the life You give to us,

C: **O Lord, we praise and glorify You without end.**

P: Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born; He is Christ the Lord!

C: **Glory to God in the highest! Amen and Alleluia!**

BLESSING

P: Dear friends in Christ, the reality is that the Lord's benediction is not a wish. As I speak this blessing of the Lord, the gift is yours. Receive it with joy on this holy night, as the Holy Spirit opens this gift and reveals its truth to you:

May God Almighty - the Father, who gave His Son for the life of the world, the Son (+), who has revealed to us God's grace, mercy, and love, and the Holy Spirit, by whose blessed work in us we are seen to be children of God - bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(please tip the unlit candle when passing the light)

(Pastor will give light from his candle to the ushers. They will in turn give light to the worshiper nearest the aisle, who will pass it on to the others in that pew. Please keep lighted candle upright to avoid dripping wax on the floor and yourself.)

P: As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it reminds us of Christ, our Light, the child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice! The Light of the World has come. That light transforms us with the brightness of His glory.

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaimed to you: that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. *1 John 1:5*

C: If we say we have fellowship with Him but still walk in darkness, we lie, and do not live according to the truth. *1 John 1:6*

P: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another;

C: And the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all our sins. *1 John 1:7*

P: Jesus said: *“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:14-16 NIV)

P: Let us pray, . . . O God, as You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Children of God, Rejoice! Go forth this night with God’s blessing:

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
The obedience of Joseph, The joy of the angels,
The eagerness of the shepherds, The determination of the Magi,
And the peace of the Christ Child.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen! Glory to God in the Highest! And peace to His people on earth!

Recessional: “Silent Night, Holy Night” *LSB, hymn #363*

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

See You In Worship This Weekend!

Postlude: “The First Noel with Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Marilyn Bottorff & Nadine Engel - Piano/Organ

After worship prayer

O God, We give You thanks for the treasure of Your grace in the gift of Your Son to be our Savior and Redeemer. Help us so that we may rejoice in the birth of Jesus, recognize the great riches of Your grace in His birth, believe in Him and trust in Him for our salvation. AMEN.

| Church Holiday Service Schedule | |
|---|--|
| Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25 | 10:00 a.m. - Communion . . (Downtown Church) |
| Saturday, December 25 | 5:00 p.m. NO WORSHIP SERVICE |
| Sunday, December 26 | 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. (School Site in Bourbonnais) |
| New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31 | 6:00 p.m. - Communion . . . (Downtown Church) |
| Saturday, January 1 | 5:00 p.m. NO WORSHIP SERVICE |
| Sunday, January 2 | 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. (School Site in Bourbonnais) |

Serving In God's House Today

Preacher: Pastor Karl Koeppen **Liturgist:** Pastor Roger Drinnon

Organist: Nadine Engel

Lay Ministers: 5:00: Bob Carruthers, Rich Engel, Kevin Kurtz, and John Veers
7:00: Hal Bryant, Greg Deck, and Steve Ploteska
10:00: Brent Eden, Rich Engel, and Greg Deck

Acolytes: 5:00: Alena LaGesse, Joshua Cherry
7:00: Madison LaMontagne, Andrew Kubal
10:00: Ryan Sarkozi, Archie Schutters

Cross Bearer: 5:00: Natalie Cherry
7:00: Benjamin Kubal
10:00: Hailey Porter

Brass:
Diane Dyche, Gail Ferreebee, Rev. David Bottorff, and Nora McHugh

Handbell Choir:
Gail Ferreebee, Judy Krones, Lynda Koeppen, Heidi Ostrowski, Nancy Eden,
Christie Rahn, Donna Nordmeyer, Diane Dyche, Liz Lesch, Bill Dyche

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Music: LSB379 - O Come, All Ye Faithful: Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-4) and Music: Public domain; LSB361 - O Little Town of Bethlehem: Text (sts. 1-4) and Music: Public domain; LSB367 - Angels from the Realms of Glory: Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-5) and Music: Public domain; LSB368 - Angels We Have Heard on High: Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3) and Music: Public domain; LSB364 - Away in a Manger: Text (sts. 1-3) and Tune: Public domain; LSB366 - It Came upon the Midnight Clear: Text (sts. 1-4) and Music: Public domain; LSB387 - Joy to the World: Text (sts. 1-4) and Music: Public domain; LSB365 - Away in a Manger: Text (sts. 1-3) and Tune: Public domain; LSB376 - Once in Royal David's City: Text (sts. 1-5) and Tune: Public domain; LSB370 - What Child Is This: Text (sts. 1-3) and Music: Public domain; LSB363 - Silent Night, Holy Night: Text (sts. 1-3) and Music: Public domain.

*Christ
Is Born!*

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School
Announcements - December 24, 2021

Electronic Giving and Offering Envelopes - Have you considered signing up to give to St. Paul's using our electronic giving? St Paul's is continuing to make an effort to move towards electronic giving as much as possible. Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. To sign up, go to the church website www.stpaulslutheran.net and click on "giving".

Also, you have probably noticed the envelopes are out for those of you that still prefer this method of giving. If you haven't yet, ***please be sure to pick up your envelopes soon.*** If you don't see your envelope box, please contact the church office.

Voter's Assembly Meeting - A regular meeting of the Voters' Assembly will be held Sunday, January 23, 2022 at 12:30pm in the School Gym after worship.

Altar Flower Chart for 2022 - The chart will be posted at the downtown church through December and then will be moved out to the school site. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers in honor of or in memory of someone or some special occasion, please sign up on the chart for your desired weekend. **When you sign up for flowers please include your phone number next to your name.** Thank you! The cost is \$25.00 for one vase or \$50.00 for two. **Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.** Checks can be put in the offering plate or turned in to the church office. If you have any questions regarding altar flowers, please contact Lynda Koeppen at 932-1545 or lykoeppen@comcast.net.

Lynda and I want to extend our thanks to everyone at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School for the many cards, notes, and gifts over the Christmas season. We are truly humbled by your encouragement and thoughtful generosity. We are so very thankful for the blessing of our church family here at St. Paul's May the joy of the Prince of Peace be yours in this New Year.

In Christ, Pastor Karl and Lynda Koeppen

A big thank you from the Drinnons to all from St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School who sent cards, candy, and gifts this Christmas season. We are certainly blessed to be apart of this church family. May the gift of Jesus Christ this season fill your hearts with joy into the New Year. ~ Love, Pastor Drinnon and Katrina

Altar Flowers - Altar flowers this weekend are given in loving memory of our parents George and Edith Lueth, by Jerry & June Hoekstra, Jim & Jenny Mossman and Rod & Alexis Lueth and families.

Poinsettias - Additional flowers for the Christmas services are given in loving memory of family members and to the glory of God by the following people.

Note: *Poinsettias may be picked up after the 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day service or at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 27th in the atrium at church (downtown). When picking up your plant, please do not take the altar flowers. These have been purchased separately from the others. Thank you.*

Larry & Kelli Arseneau
In memory of Kelly & Sue Milton

Hal & Jan Bryant
In memory of our parents, The Hartkes and The Bryants

The Baudino/Pequette's
In memory of our grandparents

William & Syliva Burger
In memory of Leslie Schade, Hartzell Bloomstrand, Harold & Lois Burger

Bill & Pat Benner
In memory of our beloved brother-in-law, James McNabney

Mike & Debi Callan

Connie Blacklock
In memory of Carl & May Smith

Mike & Kay Clendenin
In memory of our mothers, Helen Weerts and Beulah Morris

Tom & Karla Breitenbucher
In memory of our parents

Chris & Lori Curtis & family
In memory of Eileen Zufall and Bill Curtis

LuAnn Brock
In memory of Bill Brock and parents, Mr. And Mrs. Al Ronna

Mark & Karen Devine and Kathy Sage
In memory of our parents, Fred & Dorothy Sage and our grandparents, Herman and Josephine Gerberding

Paul & Kelly Drake & family
In memory of Sharon Ehlke

Rev. Roger & Katrina Drinnon
In memory of Roger Allen Drinnon and James Sitze

Bill & Diane Dyche
In memory of Bettigail Dyche

Kenneth & Shari Ebert

Rick & Sherry Einfeldt and Hannah & Brian Sloma
In memory of Harold & Venita Einfeldt and Richard & Lorraine Bell

Richard & Nadine Engel
In memory of our parents and grandparents

Deanna Ervin, Nicole Wilson & Andrea Denault
In memory of Grandpa MacDonald, Grandpa Kritselis and Grandpa Schlosser

Duane & Gail Ferrebee
In memory of Charles & Agnes Ferrebee and George & Ellen McKibben

Sharon & Daniel Friesner
In memory of Lois & Dwain Grohler

Barry & Linda Gadbois
In memory of family members that have been called to meet the Lord

Carol Ginger
In memory of Winona June Harris

Betty Goldenstein & family

Lynn & Jill Graveline and Tom & Kathy Marcotte
In memory of John & Frances Schierholz

Mardene Henderson
In memory of Elwyn & Velma Bauer and Ronald Bauer

Jerry & June Hoekstra
In memory of our parents, George & Edith Lueth and Bill & Katherine Hoekstra

Darrin & Gina Holmes
In memory of Carla Richmond, Myrna Clayton and Susie Smith

Rev. Karl & Lynda Koeppen
In memory of John & Elaine Koeppen and Lori Duesenberg

Mario, Colleen, Nathan & Alena LaGessee

Ruth M. McIntosh
In memory of Earl McIntosh

Freeman & Nancy Mietzner
In memory of our brothers

Jim & Jenny Mossman
In memory of our parents, Edith & George Lueth and June & Virgil Mossman

The Page Family
In memory of our loved ones

John, Christie & Layna Rahn
In memory of our grandparents, Louis & Wanda Wolfe, Alexander & Mable Cox, Melvin & Lorraine Rahn and Dale & Leola Bauer and cousin/godson, Caleb Hoggins

Scott & Sheila Renewanz
In memory of our son, Alexander Renewantz and our parents, Bernie & Sharon Riley and Bob & Betty Renewanz

Dennis & Amy Rettke & family
In memory of Eugene & Elizabeth (Bette) Rettke

The Styck Family

Dawn Marie Tierney
In memory of Helen Smith

Janice & Jack Tomblin
In memory of Julius & Verneal DalCanton and Melvin & Lena Tomblin

Ellana Turrell

Scott & Donna Wascher
In memory of our parents, Ray & Bonnie Wascher and Roger and Iraena Brown

Kim Williams
In memory of my parents, Chuck & Bonnie Estes and my mother, Jerri Herchick

Rob Wood
In memory of my wife, Cathy Wood and my parents, Robert & Eugene Wood

