

# St. Paul Ladies

Please join us for a special evening

Feb. 17, 2025 6:00-8:00pm

Salad, sandwiches, soup, dessert, tea (wine and coffee available too), conversation and a craft!  
St. Paul Fellowship Hall

RSVP To Sue Dirks in the church office  
(815.625.3069) by Sunday, February 9th

“TODAY THIS  
SCRIPTURE HAS  
BEEN FULFILLED IN  
YOUR HEARING.”

LUKE 4:21

**Sunday, February 2, 2025  
9:00 a.m.**

## Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

It is a joy to gather together for worship!

### St. Paul Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

### Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. In-person worship with Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. In-person Sunday School – September – May

### Communion

We celebrate Jesus' presence each week in Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Supper and Jesus invites us: whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, or just considering Christianity; if you are an infant or elderly; if your family has been in the United States for generations, or has only recently arrived; if you are LGBTQIA+ or straight; if you live with disabilities, chronic illness, or are able-bodied and currently healthy; if you are home-blessed or homeless; ... YOU are welcome at God's meal of grace at St. Paul.

### Accessibility

Handicap parking, entrance, wheelchair, and restrooms are available. Sound amplifiers and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

### Children's Offering

The February children's offering will be going to the Lutheran Disaster Relief California Wildfire campaign. Wildfires in California are devastating communities, leaving families in urgent need of help. Homes, schools, businesses and churches have been destroyed, with entire neighborhoods reduced to ashes.

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim

[pastormark@stpaulsterling.com](mailto:pastormark@stpaulsterling.com)

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### Prelude

*"Jesus Messiah"*

Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Daniel Carson, Ed Cash

### Welcome/Announcements

#### GATHER

### Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

**All: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: 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.

**All: Amen.**

P: 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.

**All: Amen.**

### GREETING

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

**All: And also with you.**

## Gathering Hymn

### "This Little Light of Mine"

ELW #677

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

**All: Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for

you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD."

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

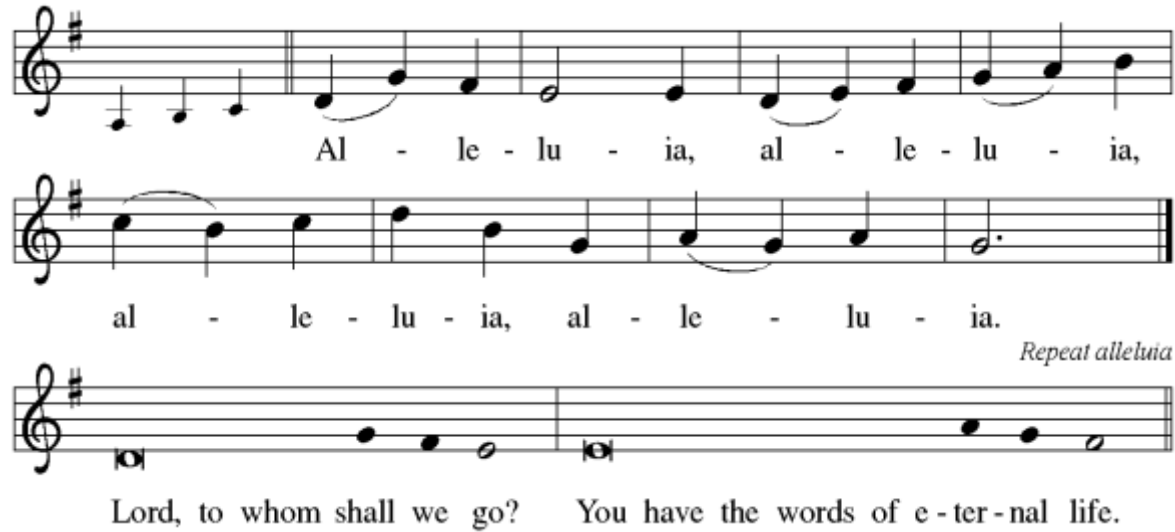
<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup> Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” <sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” <sup>23</sup> He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” <sup>24</sup> And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. <sup>25</sup> But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; <sup>26</sup> yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. <sup>27</sup> There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” <sup>28</sup> When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which

their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Children’s Message

### Sermon

“The Greatest Gift of Love

### Hymn of the Day

“*Although I Speak with Angel’s Tongue*”

ELW #644



1 Al - though I speak with an - gel’s tongue, my faith, my  
2 For love is pa - tient, love is kind, and nev - er  
3 For now we peer at dark - ened glass; our vi - sions  
4 The gifts are man - y, the Bod - y one, and in - to  
knowl - edge all sur - pass, but have no love, my gifts are  
vain with boast - ing pride; love bears all things, all things en -  
end; our tongues all cease. In part we know, in part now  
one are all bap - tized. Be - lov - ed, share one heart, one  
vain as clang - ing gong or blar - ing brass.  
dures. All things must end; love will a - bide.  
see: then we will see love face to face.  
mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951  
Music: O WALY WALY, English traditional  
Text © 1995 Andrew Donaldson.

## Apostles Creed

P: Trusting in Christ's life, death, and resurrection, let us profess our faith through the words of the apostles creed:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of 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.**

**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. Amen**

## Prayers of Intercession

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

*Each petition ends with these words:*

P: God of grace,

**All: hear our prayer.**

## Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you!**

P: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace in whatever way you are comfortable.

## MEAL

### Offering

*"Open the Eyes of My Heart"*

Paul Baloche

## Offering Prayer

P: 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.

**All: Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

## Words of Institution

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:

## *"Holy, Holy, Holy"*

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



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.

### Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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 Communion

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

### Communion

### Communion Music

#### "Lamb of God"



## “When Memory Fails”

ELW #792



1 When mem - 'ry fades, and rec - og - ni - tion fal - ters,  
2 As frail - ness grows, and youth - ful strengths di - min - ish,  
3 With - in your Spir - it, good - ness lives un - fad - ing.



when eyes we love grow dim, and minds con - fused,  
in wea - ry arms which worked their ear - nest fill,  
The past and fu - ture min - gle in - to one.



speak to our souls of love that nev - er al - ters;  
your ag - ing ser - vants la - bor now to fin - ish  
All joys re - main, un - shad - owed light per - vad - ing.



speak to our hearts, by pain and fear a - bused,  
their earth - ly tasks, as fits your mer - cy's will.  
No val - ued deed will ev - er be un - done.



O God of life and heal - ing peace, em - pow'r us  
We grieve their wan - ing, yet re - joice, be - liev - ing,  
Your mind en - folds all fi - nite acts and off - rings.



with pa - tient cour - age, by your grace in - fused.  
your arms, un - wea - ried, shall up - hold us still.  
Held in your heart, our death - less life is won.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957

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## Prayer after Communion

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

All: Amen.

P: 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,

All: Amen

## Blessing

P: The Spirit of the triune God † bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

All: Amen.

## Sending Song

### “O Lord, Now Let Your Servant”

ELW #313



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n - ly peace,  
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:  
till earth - ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,  
till rap - tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*“The Glory of the Lord”*

Colin Mawby

**The flowers on the altar** are given to the glory of God in honor of all February birthdays by Nancy Eilers.

**Coffee Fellowship** will be served following worship in the Fellowship Hall hosted by Nancy Eilers in honor of all February birthdays. All are welcome!

**We Remember in Prayer;** those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Dianne Miller, Steven Julifs, Phyllis Jacobson, JoAnn Garcia, Barb Lenn, Lori Dewey, Betty Steinke, Larry Wahler, JoDell Cruz, Sandy Julifs, and Lila Edeus.

**Worship Assistants:**

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Greg Zeigler

Acolytes – Arians family

Greeters – John Renner, Diane Yoeckel

Ushers – Nancy Beck, Keith Peugh

Reader – Keith Peugh

Sound – Braydn Arians

Altar Guild – Judy Bartel, Donna Kendall

**Musicians:**

Julie Woessner

Dawn Zeigler

**Next week – February 9**

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean

Acolytes – Ordean family

Greeters – Bob & Judy Bartel

Ushers – Gary Fields, Dan Bartel

Reader – Marilyn Geiger

Sound – David Carrillo

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*

Altar Guild – Judy Bartel, Donna Kendall

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