



From the staff at St. Paul Lutheran – to all of you!

Sue Dirks

Pastor Mark Luepke

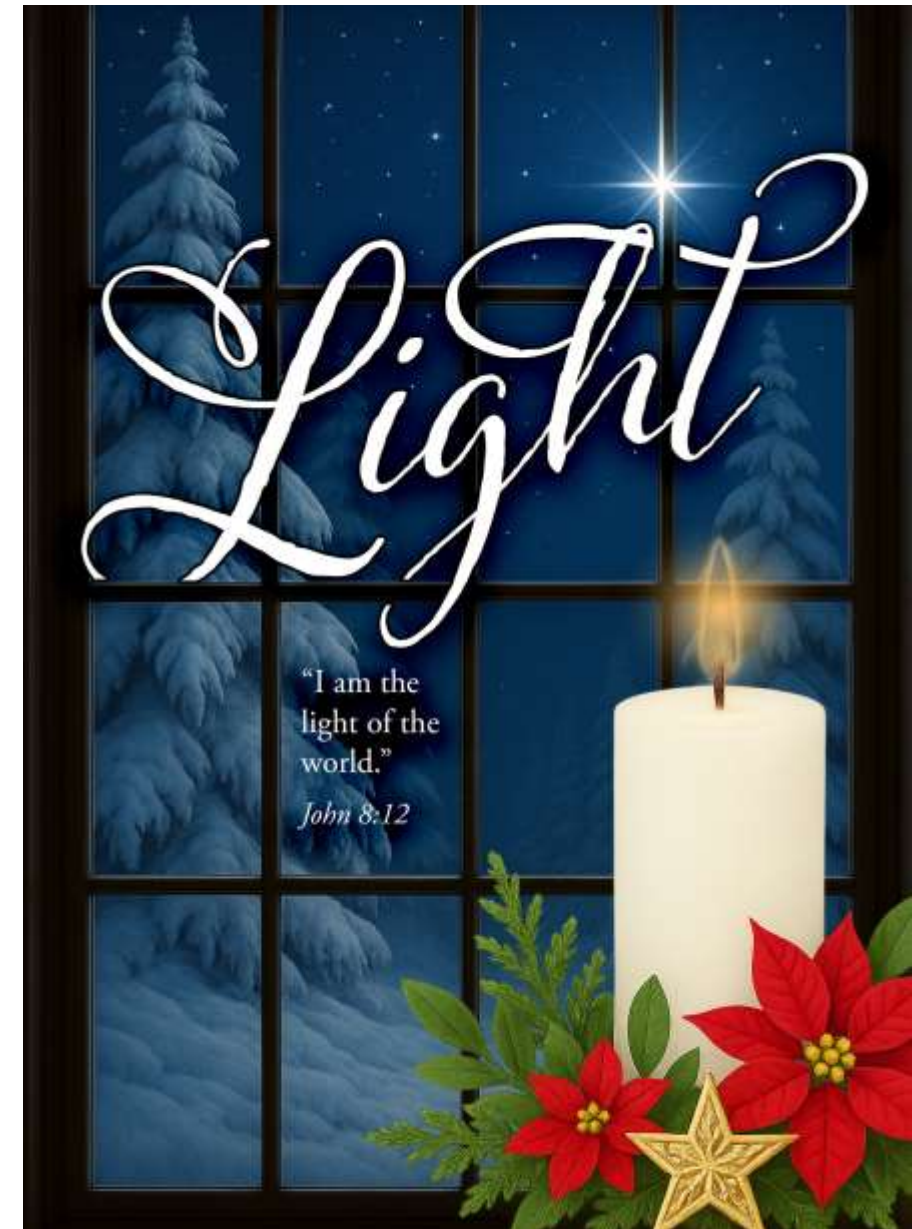
Joanie Whipple

NANCY EILERS

Dawn Zeigler

Gabby Law

Julie Woessner DeJonge



Wednesday, December 24, 2025
8:00 p.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

10:15 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 December children's offering will be for the God's Global Barnyard through the ELCA Good Gifts. A gift to God's Global Barnyard will be used where needed most to support livestock, agriculture and other sustainable-development projects, which help farmers and families with the resources they need to thrive.

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim

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Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Prelude

"O Holy Night"

transcribed by Celeste Avery

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,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

All: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

All: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

P: God’s grace upon grace flows over you. ✚ Christ’s presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

ELW #283



1

O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O

2

The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,

3

Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

4

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;

born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;

sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!

Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:

Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:

Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

Leader: This is the last time this year we will light the Advent candles.
(Light all four candles)

Leader: On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle, representing the light of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who has come into the world.

All: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5).

The Christ candle is lit.

Leader: May the light of Christ shine in our hearts this Christmas as we celebrate His birth.

All: We light this Christ candle, celebrating the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Advent Song

“On Christmas Night”

ELW #274



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels
an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then
sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which
hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and
made the an-gels sing this night: “Glo-ry to God in high-est
mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king’s birth.
free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
sing, all for to see the new-born king.
heav’n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men.”

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.
Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

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.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

All: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might

redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,
All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation
“Angels We Have Heard on High”
ELW #289

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains,
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20
P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 2nd chapter
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

“What Child Is This”
arr. Chris Rice

Hymn of the Day

ELW #270

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

P: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

P: Hear us, O God.

Peace

All: And also with you!

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

Special Music

Amy Grant and Chris Eaton

P: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, 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,
Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Institution

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: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Communion

Communion Music

“Lamb of God”



“In the Bleak Midwinter”

arr. Mark Hayes

“Away in a Manger”

arr. Christopher Ruck

“Coventry Carol”

arr. Joel K. Boyd

Prayer after Communion

P: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

All: Amen.

The Candlelighting

P: The Gospel of John the 1st chapter.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness,

All: and the darkness did not overcome it.

Lighted candles should be held upright. Dip unlit candles toward the lighted candle

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

ELW # 281 (candle lighting)

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
(*raise candles here*)

radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

P: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,

All: the glory of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.

Extinguish your candle

Sending Song
“Joy to the World”
ELW #267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin, and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the
ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -
room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Dismissal

P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child”

arr. Anna Laura Page

We Remember in Prayer; those hospitalized this week: Ron Billings; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Lori Dewey, Maggie N., John Renner, the Woodworth family, Michelle Klinger, Pastor Bree, Matt Friel, Sandy Julifs, Mike, Dylan Wescott, Phyllis Jacobson, and Betty Steinke

Tonight’s Worship Assistants
8:00 p.m.

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – David Carrillo

Acolytes – Altar Guild

Greeters – Bob & Judy Bartel

Ushers – Bill & Carolyn Duncan

Advent Readers – Gale family

Reader – Bill Duncan

Sound – Greg Zeigler

Communion Assistant – Greg Zeigler

Altar Guild – Debbie O’Brien, Diane Yoeckel

A special thank you to tonight’s musicians!

Sue Dirks

Luke Steinke

Julie Woessner DeJonge

Amy Zeigler

Gabe Zeigler

Dawn Zeigler

Sunday, December 28 Worship Assistants

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean

Acolytes – Ordean family

Greeters/Ushers – Dan Dir, Gary Fields, Keith Peugh

Reader – Keith Peugh

Sound – Bradyn Arians

Communion Assistant – Janie Billings

Altar Guild – Debbie O’Brien, Diane Yoeckel

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*

Part of the ministry we share includes providing a worship space that gives glory to God. Especially in this, one of our highest festival occasions, we decorate with particular detail. Thanks to the following people for the donation of poinsettias, a symbol of the season:

Pat Glafka in memory of James Glafka, Paul and Ono Andersen

Jerry & Khe Crofts in memory of Heather Crofts

John Renner in memory of Julie Renner and parents, Ronald & Julia

Dianne Stern Miller in honor and in memory of all families

Leta VanZuiden in memory of Merwyn VanZuiden, Harry & Ann Landheer, Richard Landheer

Nancy Beck in memory of loved ones

Ron & Janie Billings in memory of our parents

Gary Fields in memory of Marcia Fields

Bob & Judy Bartel & family; Dave & Donna Kendall & family in memory of Ruth & Don Stern and Mabel Rohde

Jim & Cheryl Gorman in memory of Geraldine Chismarick, Bob & Shirley Gorman

Sharon & Dale Worley in memory of our parents

Verges & Noreen Aageson & family in memory of Ken & Miriam Chubb, Dr. Carl & Minna Wiederanders

Sandra Julifs in memory of Harold Julifs

Sandra Julifs in memory of Steven Julifs

Julie Randy DeJonge in memory of Bob Woessner, Bob Wasmund, & Rhonda DeJonge

Patty & Mark Arians in memory of our parents; Mary & John Doty, Vernon Johnson, Marv & Betty Arians

Ron & Karol Gerken in memory of Lisa Gerken Lee

Jeff & Jul, Jacy & family, Jennifer, and Jessica Woodworth in memory of son and brother, Jacob Woodworth

Shirley Dodd in memory grandson, Jacob Woodworth

Debbie Riggins in memory of Ed & Barb Hussung, Harry & Winnie Riggins

Audrey & Cathy Cox in memory of Dick, Harold, Hazel & Bob Cox

Mike & Debbie O'Brien in memory of Rocky Hasbrouck, Jim Herzing

Greg & Dawn Zeigler in memory of parents, Charles Steinke and Sandra Zeigler

Ann Beswick in memory of Loren Beswick, Bob & Lila Gomsrud

Ann Beswick in memory of Ruthie T. Loud, Ted, Tom & Marion Beswick

If you ordered a poinsettia and would like to take it home, you may do so following the worship service.

WELCA TRI-CHURCH KICK OFF EVENT

Calling all Women of
Immanuel * St. John's * St. Paul

This is our Year!

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026
5:30PM**

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

At this kick off party you will be able to
connect with other women spiritually, in
fellowship and in service.

- Form WELCA Groups/Circles
- Fellowship
- Supper
- Craft

**Take this opportunity to make a difference in your
faith life and grow the WELCA Tri-Church Initiative**

Sign up in your church office by January 5, 2026
to help the committee plan for food
and supplies for this kick-off event.

Women of the **ELCA** 

