

ADVENT
REJOICE!



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
HOWARDS GROVE, WI
DECEMBER 13 & 14, 2020



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**ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
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**St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a
Congregation in the Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Synod.**



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We want to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending this worship service! Especially to you who are guests and visitors, WELCOME!

We at St. Paul's Lutheran share a common belief in **Jesus** as **our Savior** from sin and as the Lord of our lives. Our faith is based on God's Word, revealed in the Bible. We want to share God's Word with as many people as possible because we know that Jesus lived, died and rose from death to save us and all people. We're happy to have the opportunity to share the saving truths of the Bible with you!

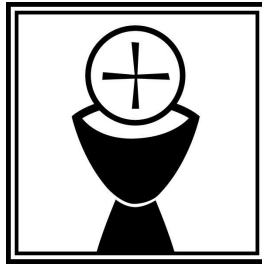
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Worship during these times: We offer distanced seating on one side of the sanctuary. We also encourage compliance for all who are able to wear a face covering to honor God's representatives in our state government. Door handles and pew backs are cleaned between Sunday services. Hand sanitizer is available in the narthex. All responses and songs are printed in your bulletin, which should be taken with you or discarded after worship. Offerings may be placed in the designated boxes in the narthex.

Communion is offered in worship each month on the 2nd and 4th weekends. Members who are not yet comfortable returning to worship during the pandemic may schedule a communion appointment with a pastor.

DVDs: DVDs of our worship services can be made per request. Please contact the office to make arrangements. In order to ensure cleanliness, you do not need to return a DVD. Please consider a small monetary donation (\$2) to cover the cost of the DVD if you request one.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (The WELS) and was founded in 1862. We have our Lutheran elementary school (pre K-grade 8) on site and are part of a federation of churches to support our own high school, Manitowoc Lutheran High School.



THE COMMON SERVICE

Today's Worship Focus: *Advent is a season of repentance. That was the stirring and powerful message that John preached by the Jordan River, which all the people of Jerusalem and the whole Judean countryside went out to hear as they confessed their sins. Yet today, a theme of joy runs through the lessons as well. The One to come is our Lord and our Light. He comes with healing in his rays. He leads us to rejoice always and to give thanks in all circumstances, even to leap and frolic with gladness. Today, we rejoice, for Jesus is coming!*

WELCOME

ANTHEM

Sung by Small Group

Prepare Ye the Way

Refrain: Prepare ye the way, prepare ye the way,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

Prepare ye the way, prepare ye the way,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

Ev'ry valley shall be filled.

Ev'ry mountain be made low.

Ev'ry crooked place be made straight,

And the rough ways shall be smooth. *Refrain*

Please stand.

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray. Almighty God, Judge and King, you sent John the Baptist to proclaim the message of salvation in Christ. Come, Lord Jesus, with your grace and help us all our days to proclaim your salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

[10:30 SERVICE] SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Apollos Shan Lambrecht

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Malachi 4:1-6

The LORD would send the prophet ahead, and when the sun of righteousness rises, those who revere his name will frolic like well-fed calves.

¹“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. ²But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. ³Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,” says the LORD Almighty.

⁴“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. ⁶He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”

ANTHEM

Long-Awaited One

Sung by Small Group

Come now, Child of promise, hope of all the earth. This broken world will be healed by your most humble birth. Come now, Child of mercy, Prince of Peace and grace. Your life will silence our fears and all our sins erase.

Refrain: Long-awaited One, we will find rest in your love. We have walked in darkness; let us see light from above. Emmanuel, God with us, hope has begun. Emmanuel, you are the Light, God’s only Son. You will come to save us all, O long-awaited One.

Come now, Child of heaven, Savior, King, and Friend. O living Word of the Father now to us descend. Come now, Child of wonder, reign in majesty. Awaken all of creation, set our spirits free. *Refrain*

Come now, Child of promise, long-awaited One. Come now, Child of promise, long-awaited One.

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Test prophecies. God will keep us blameless at Jesus' coming.

⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 11:10

M: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: The Gospel according to John chapter 1.

C: **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John testified that, although he was not the Christ, the Christ was among them and they should believe. What a reason to rejoice!

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
 He ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped
 and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Arise, O Christian People | 14

- 1 Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today.
 Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away.
 To us by grace alone The truth and light was given;
 The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.
- 2 Prepare the way before him; Prepare for him the best.
 Cast out what would offend him, This great, this heav'nly guest.
 Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,
 The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.
- 3 The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
 Beneath his feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie.
 The heart sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation
 And makes true preparation—It is the Lord's delight.
- 4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
 And help me to receive you This blessed Adventtide.
 From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
 I'll sing your praises gladly And forth your glory show.

SERMON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Blameless at Jesus' Coming

This is God's will for you - This is God's work in you

OFFERING

Online giving options available



In thanks to our gracious Lord and his gift of forgiveness in Jesus, we bring to him a generous portion of all we have received from him. Offerings for the Lord's work may be placed in one of the designated boxes in the narthex today. They may also be mailed in, dropped off in the office, or given online.

Please stand.

SPECIAL PRAYERS AND LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

THE SACRAMENT

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ✝ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✝ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - - - - - men.

Be seated.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: *St. Paul's invites up to Communion instructed and confirmed members of this congregation and the Wisconsin Synod (WELS). If you are visiting us and are not a member of either, we would love to have you join us - just after we have established a shared faith in Jesus with you on the basis of God's Word. Please speak with one of our pastors after the service so we can make this happen.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You | 19

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, How welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, My Hope, my heart's Delight.
O Jesus, let your Word be A lamp to light my way,
To show me how to please you, To guide me ev'ry day.

- 2 Love caused your incarnation; Love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling That led you to embrace
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race!
- 3 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, Who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn o'er joys departed And tremble at your doom.
Despair not; he is near you, He's standing at the door
Who best can help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.
- 4 Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Let not your souls distress;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by his grace.
He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing A heritage in heav'n.
- 5 He comes to judge the nations, A terror to his foes,
A light of consolations, And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth your beams most cheering, And guide us safely home.

Please stand.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee | 316

- 1 **O Jesus, blessed Lord, to thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me thy body and thy blood.**
- 2 **Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart—
How blest am I! How good thou art!**

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SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PASTOR: Rev. Adam Bode

LECTOR: Samuel Eickhoff (Sophomore at Martin Luther College in Preseminary studies)

ORGANIST: Marilyn Toepel

MUSICIANS: Luke Bramstedt, Ann Doro, Bev Gumm, Ann Marohn, Lisa & Marissa Marten, and Kerri Rathsack

ALTAR GUILD: Marilyn Eirich, Karen Kuhn, Jenny Walleser, Sandy Bolz, Stefani leverenz

USHERS: 8:00 a.m.- Eric Specht, Doug Mattek, Steve Strassburg, Dexter Porter, Mike Austreng;
10:30 a.m.- Chad Hayner, Mike Heilman

**OFFERING: 11/29, 11/30, & THANKSGIVING - \$18, 150 (WEEKLY BUDGET GOAL: \$15,700) \$5,000
- FAITH FOR THE FUTURE FUND.**

**12/06 & 12/07 - \$14, 324 (WEEKLY BUDGET GOAL: \$15, 700) \$130 - MEMBER ASSISTANCE
FUND.**

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE 11/29 & 11/30 : 145 - 8:00AM SERVICE; 108 - 10:30AM SERVICE;
18 - 6:00PM MONDAY SERVICE.**

**12/06 & 12/07 : 156 - 8:00AM SERVICE; 204 - 10:30AM SERVICE; N/A - 6:00PM MONDAY
SERVICE.**

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

1. Apollos Lambrecht, baptized on Sunday.
2. Bob Johnson, continuing to recover.
3. Roxy Coward's aunt has been having health issues regarding her blood sugar.
Please keep Barbara Washington in your prayers.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Sunday Bible Study Series: Relationships:** The Bible Study will wrap up on Sunday, December 13 in the sanctuary as we explore what Jesus and his Word teach us about relationships. Bible study begins at 9:20 and will be livestreamed.
- 2. Children's Christmas Service:** This year's Christmas service will be Sunday, December 20. Worship times are 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00. The 8:00 service will be livestreamed. Thank you to all the children who participated this year: learning your individual lines and finding time to record so that we can carry on our St. Paul's tradition of having children proclaim the great news of the birth of our Savior, Jesus! There will be no in-person Monday evening service on December 21.
- 3. Christmas Services:**
 - Christmas Eve Services: 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00
 - Christmas Day Service: 9:00am
- 4. New Year's Eve Worship:** On December 31, we will partner with Calvary in Sheboygan and St. John's / St. Peter's in Cleveland to offer several opportunities to conclude the year in God's house. Each service will have the same theme and preacher as well as offering communion. The service at Calvary will be at 2:00 pm; SJSP will be at 4:00 pm; and St. Paul's will be at 6:30 pm. The 6:30 service will be livestreamed.
- 5. The office will be open** Monday - Friday from 7:15 am - 4:00pm. You can contact Erin at: secretary@stpaulshowardsgrove.org.
- 6. 2021 Offering Envelopes** are in your mailboxes. Please stop in the member room to pick up your box.
- 7. Grow in the basics!** Starting January 10 a basic Bible course will be offered Sunday afternoons from 1:30 - 3:30 pm. Babysitting will be offered. The course is an 8 week course to refresh in God's Word or learn what he says and join as a member of our congregation. The course is free. Contact Pastor Mueller if interested: 920.203.2316.
- 8. Celtic Christmas Concert:** Join us for a night of relaxing Irish Christmas music with The Lutheran Ceili Orchestra Friday, December 18 @ 6:30 pm! Free and Open to Public! The concert will be livestreamed.
- 9. Sunday School** continues this weekend from 9:15 to 10:00 am. Procedures and registration are available here. Sunday School will not meet on December 20th or 27th!
- 10. Wednesday 9:00 am Bible Study** looks at a book called Prepared to Answer. Join if you like, we meet in the commons and spread out. Dec. 16th is the last meeting we have this semester.
- 11. Thursday evening Bible study** continues this week on the topic of Law and Gospel. Dec. 17th is the last class this semester.

12. **Women Writing the Word** This week we studied John 14:27. What circumstances in your life make Jesus' peace necessary? How do you stay focused on Jesus' peace throughout the day? "Afraid" has to do with being cowardly or timid. We can face any situation with courage even when we can't see Jesus among us. He is truly with us always to the very end of the age! (Mt. 28:20) Contact Alycia Cameron (alycia.cameron@gmail.com, 414-736-8966) for information on how to get connected.
13. **Financial Class** - Are you among the nearly 80% of American workers who report living paycheck to paycheck? Are you feeling overwhelmed with holiday shopping and other bills? Would you simply like to be more organized and disciplined in your approach to money matters? Do you want to be better positioned to be generous toward supporting ministry? The Lord, who has richly provided for our eternity in Jesus, entrusts his wealth to us to manage to his glory. Pastor Bode will lead a 9 week class called Financial Peace University on Thursdays at 6:30 pm, beginning January 7. The \$130 cost (per participant or couple), will quickly pay for itself when following the practical plan laid out in the class. Speak with Pastor Bode or go to fpu.com/1129440 for more information.
14. **Christmas Cards** - The girl pioneers are selling Christmas cards. They are in the narthex on a table for purchase with the prices listed on the boxes. Proceeds help the girl pioneers. Thank you for supporting the girl pioneers.
15. **Sharing Love and Jesus** At St. Paul's, we have several people who have been unable to have family or pastors visit them much in person since March. Many are lonely and yearning for more comfort from God's Word. Mindful Moms has put together a craft bag with all the materials and directions needed to make the craft at home with your child(ren) to be distributed to those who can't be reached in person right now. **Please return it to the school office by December 14th** for us to deliver. Craft bags are located in the member room. Please contact Amanda Bode (mrsabode@gmail.com, 920-750-8437) with any questions.
16. **Mindful Moms** Come play with us! Our next playdate is December 16 at 10am. Kids have the opportunity to do crafts, hear stories, and run around while moms get a chance to talk and encourage each other. Contact Megan Bramstedt (920-627-3819) with any questions and we will see you then!
17. **Called Worker Gift Box** - If you would like to remember our Called Workers with a monetary gift for Christmas, a box is located in the narthex for you to do so. This box will remain out for the month of December.
18. **Did You Know?** This Sunday Sam Eickhoff, sophomore at Martin Luther College in Preseminary studies, is our guest lecturer. There are several sons and daughters of St. Paul's who have entered the public ministry, and we'll highlight a few: Pastor John Gierach, confirmed at St. Paul's in 1980, is pastor at St. John's Lutheran, Ann Arbor, MI. Pastor Tom Schneider, confirmed in 1972, is pastor at Christ Lutheran, Grand Island, NE. Pastor Mark Bitter, confirmed in 1966, recently retired as pastor of Christ the King Lutheran in Tulsa, OK.