

**SERVING TODAY**

Minister.....Pastor Phil Beck  
Lector.....Kate Stottlemyer  
Organist.....Jeff Gentry  
Ushers.....Kate Stottlemyer and Linda Yopp  
Acolyte.....Camden Plog & Annabelle Bush



We are again blessed that an anonymous donor has offered a matching challenge of \$2,000 to assist where most needed by the end of the year. If members of the congregation can contribute \$2,000 over and above their normal giving the anonymous member will match the contribution.

If you are writing a check, please include “Challenge” on the memo line. If you prefer to give on-line, please use the “GIVE NOW” button and choose the undesignated selection in the Fund dropdown and add “Challenge” in the “Note” section.

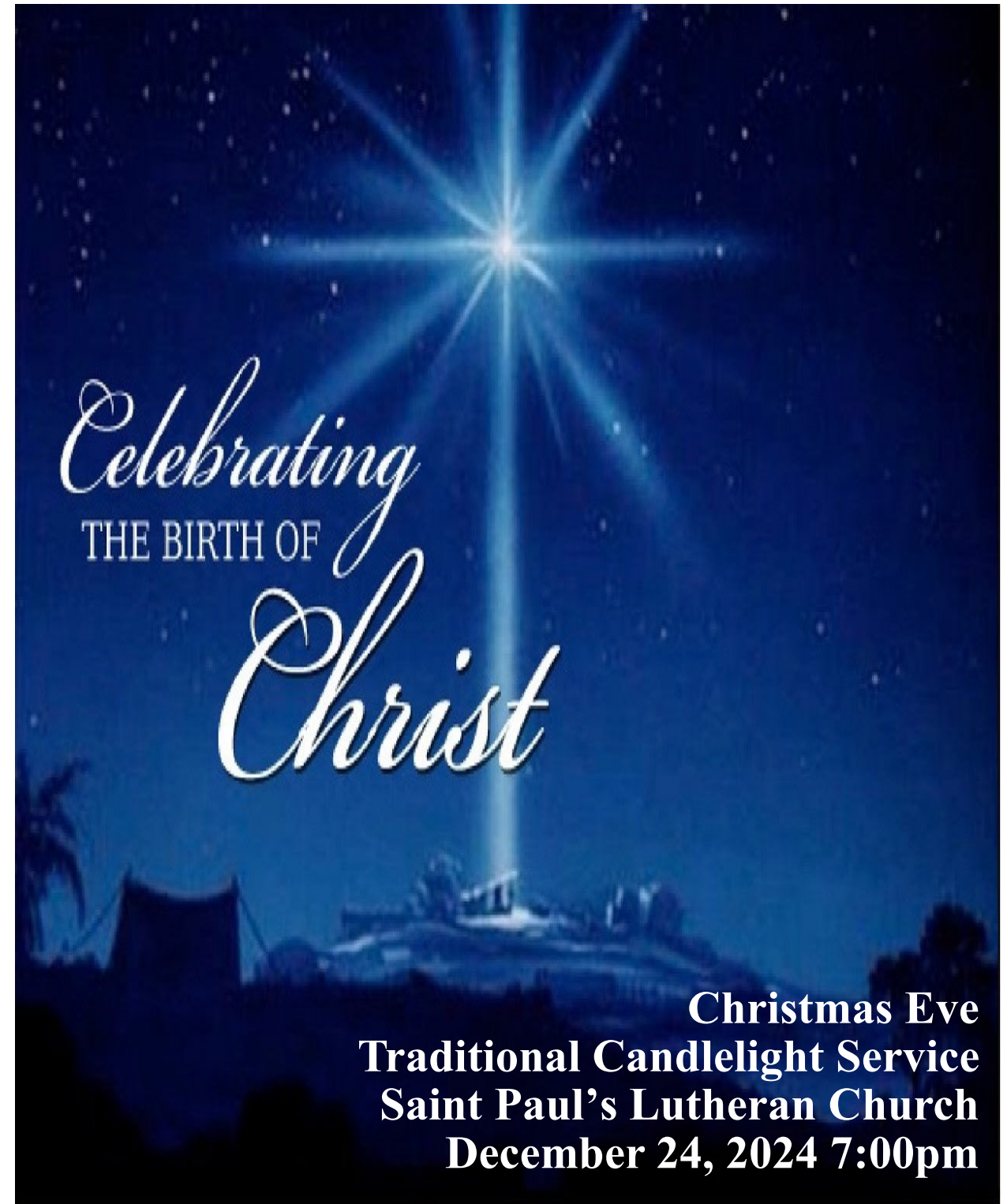
***The deadline for the challenge is Sunday, December 29th.***

**Staff**

Minister:202-497-0584 (pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org).....Pastor Phil Beck  
Office Admin:301-845-4600 (officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org).....Joann Valainis  
Music Coordinator .....Jeff Gentry  
Flower Coordinator.....Patty Rimel  
Administration/Purchasing .....Ed Chaney  
Sexton .....Larry Beard  
Stephen Ministry.....Linda Yopp  
Property Coordinator.....Tom Waters  
Financial Secretary.....Troy Keeney

**Announcement regarding livestreaming of the worship services:**

St. Paul's intends to continue offering online worship services to share the Gospel through Facebook and Youtube. With the inclusion of in-person attendance during the service, we need to inform you that your presence may be captured in the recording and broadcast through St. Paul's social media platforms. Your comfort and privacy are of utmost importance, if you prefer not to have your image broadcast please contact the office by phone or email or inform the usher as you arrive. The office will keep a list of those wishing NOT to appear in the recording and convey that information to the Media and Technology Ministry. From sundaysandseasons.com | Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved | License # SAS103410, Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #736745-A. All rights reserved. CCLI Copyright © 2024 License 21412874, Streaming 21412867 All rights reserved



**Christmas Eve Service**  
December 24, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

*We extend a warm welcome to all who gather here this night.  
Jesus brings God's light into the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN**      *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*      **ELW 288**

**\*THE GREETING AND PRAYER**

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

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

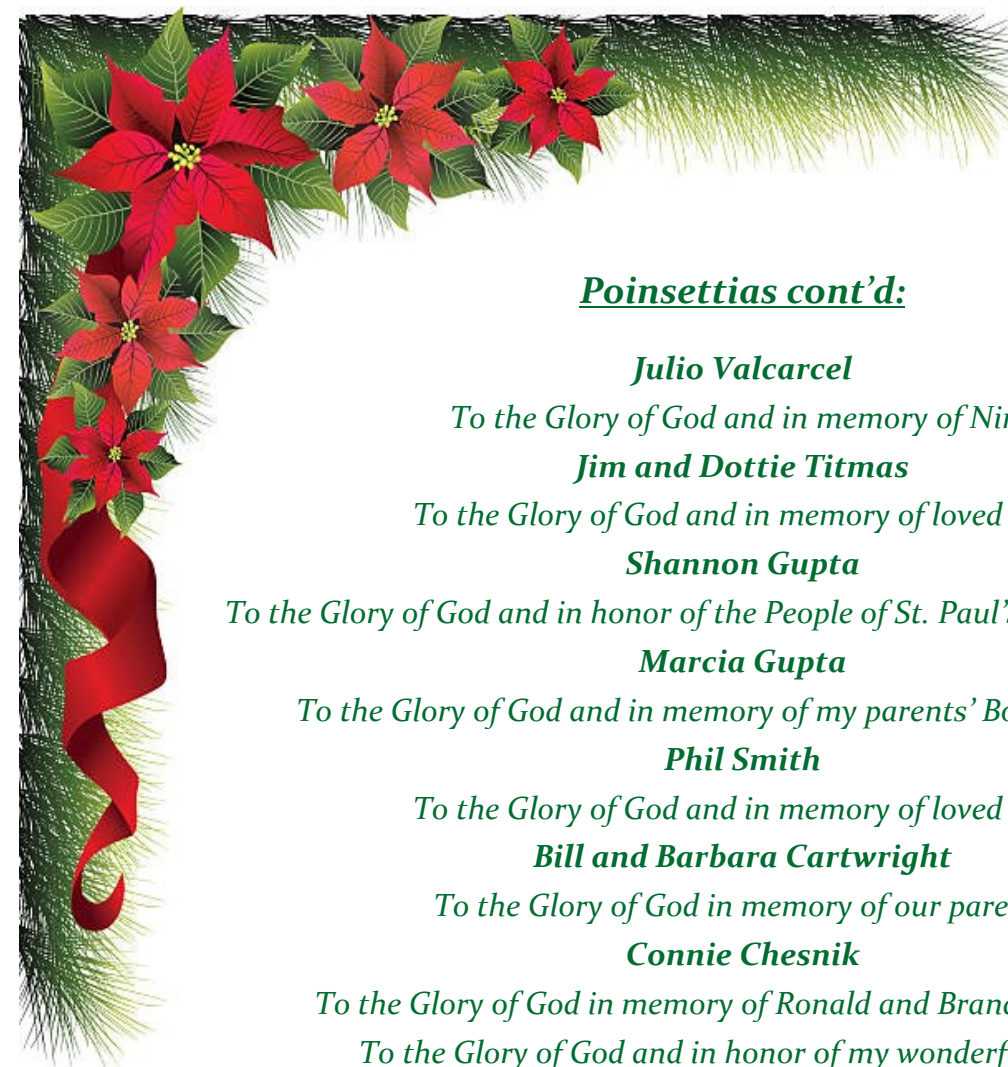
**ANTHEM**      *Sussex Carol by David Mutti*      *Sung by Choir*  
Copyright 2024 by HAL LEONARD LLC

**FIRST LESSON**      **Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**



**Poinsettias cont'd:**

**Julio Valcarcel**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of Nina*

**Jim and Dottie Titmas**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones*

**Shannon Gupta**

*To the Glory of God and in honor of the People of St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

**Marcia Gupta**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of my parents' Bob and Evelyn*

**Phil Smith**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones*

**Bill and Barbara Cartwright**

*To the Glory of God in memory of our parents*

**Connie Chesnik**

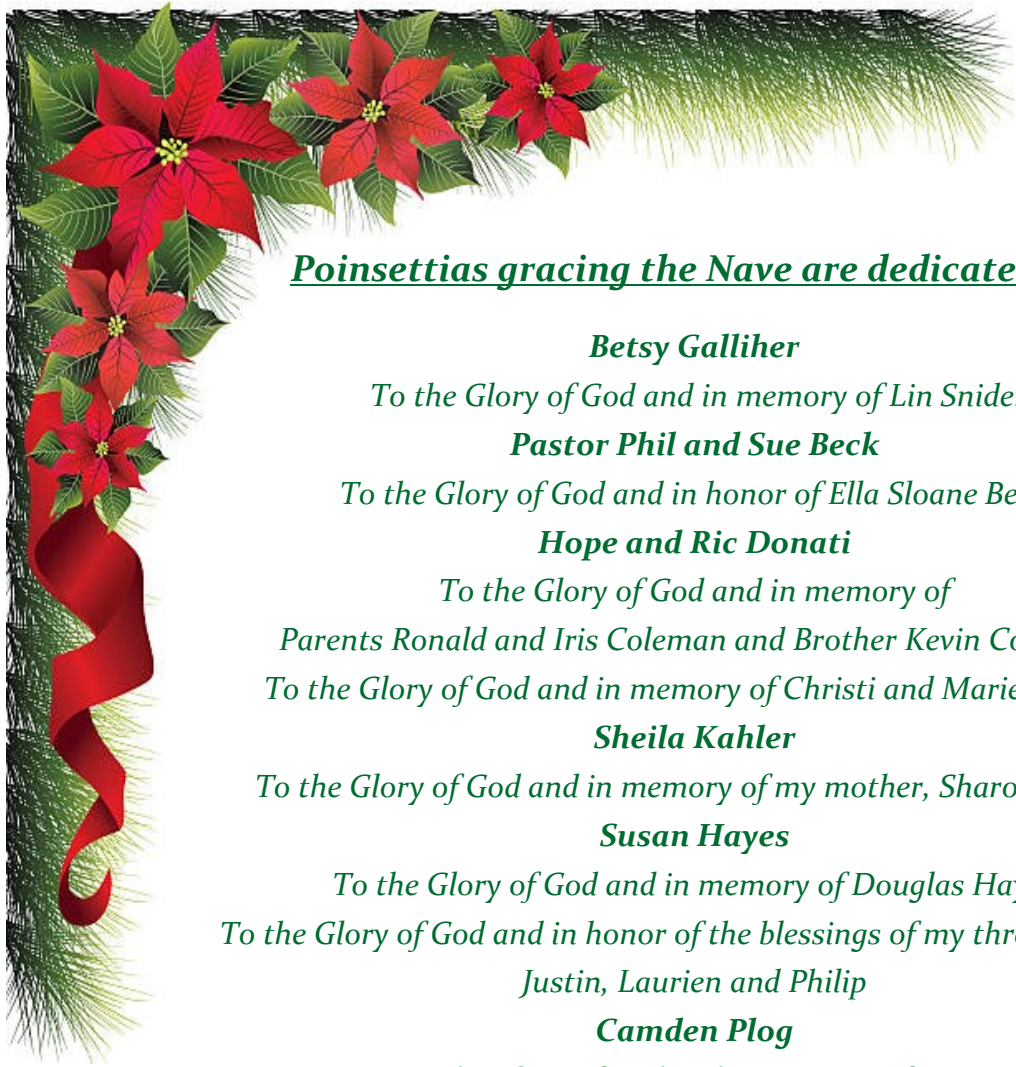
*To the Glory of God in memory of Ronald and Brandon Chesnik*

*To the Glory of God and in honor of my wonderful family*

**Erica Wendt**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of my husband Elmer*





**Poinsettias gracing the Nave are dedicated by:**

**Betsy Galliher**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of Lin Snider*

**Pastor Phil and Sue Beck**

*To the Glory of God and in honor of Ella Sloane Beck*

**Hope and Ric Donati**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of*

*Parents Ronald and Iris Coleman and Brother Kevin Coleman*

*To the Glory of God and in memory of Christi and Marie Donati*

**Sheila Kahler**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of my mother, Sharon Kahler*

**Susan Hayes**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of Douglas Hayes*

*To the Glory of God and in honor of the blessings of my three children,*

*Justin, Laurien and Philip*

**Camden Plog**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of Nana*

*To the Glory of God and in memory of GG*

**Roxanne Smith**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of Ben and Jeanne Smith*

*To the Glory of God and in memory of Jim and Lois Smith*

**Kate Stottlemeyer**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of John Stottlemeyer*

**SECOND LESSON**

**Titus 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia*

*Sung*

(p. 151) **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**\*GOSPEL**

**Luke 2:1-20**

**P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.**

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

**P: The Gospel of our Lord.**

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

**SERMON**

Pastor Phil Beck

*Silence for reflection*

**\*HYMN**

*What Child is this?*

ELW 296

**\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**C: 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 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 THE CHURCH

P: ... Hear us, O God.  
C: **Your mercy is great.**

### \*THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.  
C: **And also with you.**

## THE OFFERING

*Please place your gift in the offering plate, mail to the church office or consider online giving.*

### \*OFFERTORY HYMN

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross.  
As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend  
your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray.  
C: **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

\**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING* (ELW, p.152)

P: The Lord be with you.  
C: **And also with you.**  
P: Lift up your hearts.  
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**  
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## OFFERINGS

We are so blessed and grateful for your continued offerings during these unprecedented times. It is only with your support we can maintain the everyday activities of the church and our work in the community. Please consider mailing your offering to the church or if you have access to the website, there is an online giving option as well.

<https://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org/give/>

### This Week at St Paul's

#### Sunday, December 29th

Worship (Livestream) 9:00am  
*First Sunday of Christmas*  
Lessons and Carols  
Faith Formation 10:00am

#### Tuesday, December 31st

*New Years Eve*

#### Wednesday, January 1st

*New Years Day, Parish Offices Closed*

#### Sunday January 5th

Worship (Livestream) 9:00am  
*Second Sunday of Christmas*  
Faith Formation 10:00am  
Ministry Sunday 10:00am  
Cub Scout Committee Mtg 7:00pm

### LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS:

Current Fund Weekly Need: \$3,145.00

Property Renovation Loan Fund Need:  
\$360.00

#### Electronic/Mail-ins Income December 22, 2024

Weekly Contributions: \$  
Property Loan Fund: \$  
Total: \$

In Worship Offerings  
Weekly Contributions: \$  
Property Loan Fund: \$  
Total: \$

#### ATTENDANCE: December 22, 2024

In person: 50  
Virtual: 14



### Prayer List

Joe Collins, *Cousin of Joann Valainis*  
Mark Holloway, *Husband of Kate Stottlemeyer*  
Marion Lawrence, *Cousin of Kate Stottlemeyer*  
Jones Family, *Family friends of Joann Valainis*  
Gil Eiker, *Husband of Rebecca Eiker*  
Doug Ashbrook, *Family Friend of Pastor Phil*  
Roger Stottlemeyer, *Uncle of Kate Stottlemeyer*  
Sue Snyder, *Member*  
Shannon Smith, *Friend of the Mildenstein Family*  
Bob Schmidt, *brother of Dottie Titmas*  
Marea Palmer, *Niece of Marcia Gupta*  
Parker Bazarewski, *extended family of Ed Chaney*  
**Joseph Moschella**, *friends of the Plowman Family*  
**Gary Wachter**, *Member*  
Bert Fiske, *Friend of Sue Snyder and Lin Snider*  
Dottie Titmas, *Member*  
Florence Schell, *Member*  
Bonnie Kay Cartwright, *Daughter of Bill & Barbara Cartwright*  
Dixie Lynch, *Sister of Connie Chesnik*  
Mark Spaseff, *Son in law of Nancy & Graham McIntyre*  
**Dakota Monn**, *friend of Joann Valainis*  
Jack Lotwick, *friend of Dianne and Robb Port*  
Ken Martz, *Member*  
Betsy Galliher, *Member*  
Joanne and Dudley Cate, *Friends of Ed Chaney*  
Sara Reitz, *Sister of Patty Rimel*  
Charlie Knapp, *Friend of Pastor Phil*  
Joi Decker, *Friend of Pastor Phil*  
Tom Waters, *Member*  
Family of Lillian Foucart, *Member*  
Cliff Kilmon, *Friend of Betsy Galliher*  
Family of Bruce Wertz, *Family of Betsy Galliher*  
Debbie O'Brien & Matt Lukos,  
*family of Dennis & Regina Cavell*  
Dorothy and Benjamin Cavell  
*family of Dennis & Regina Cavell*  
**Gail Mays**, *cousin of Marcia Gupta*  
**Billy Welty**, *Friend of Betsy Galliher*

## PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES

+Admiral Lisa Franchetti, U.S. Navy,  
niece to Linwood Snider  
+Zachary Williams, U.S. Airforce,  
grandson of Jim & Dottie Titmas  
+U.S. Navy Corpsman Matthew Kasik,  
grandson of Sam Purswell  
+Dan Beck, Captain., U.S. Army, son of  
Pastor Phil & Susan Beck  
+Carlin Rabie, U.S. Navy, Son-in-law of  
Marcia & Raj Gupta  
+Eric Fong Sam, U.S. Army, friend of  
Mary Ann Ferguson  
+Leo Tanja, U.S. Airforce, nephew of  
Mary Ann Ferguson's sister in  
law

Do you or someone you know  
have need for prayer?  
If so, please know that we have a prayer  
team at St. Paul's that is ready to help.  
Simply contact Merle Anderson at  
301-845-2317.  
All requests are confidential.

**\*\*Please remember all the names on our  
prayer list, and especially those that are bold.  
They have specific current need for Christian  
love and support.**

### PREFACE

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. 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 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

(ELW, p.153)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### \*WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

P: 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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: **Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. Amen.**

### \*THE LORD'S PRAYER:

P: Gathered into One with the Holy Spirit, we now pray as Jesus taught us...  
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.**

**HOLY COMMUNION:**

**P:** All are welcome at Christ’s Table, come as you are. The feast is prepared, the table is set, come and eat.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give us your  
 peace. Pre-pare us to re- ceive your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-  
 joice! Re- joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra - el.

**\*P:** May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*Quiet Reflection*

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear v. 1, 2, 4  
Angels, from the Realms of Glory  
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

**ELW 282  
ELW 275  
ELW 276**

**\*COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

**P:** On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**\*LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.....*ELW 257*

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.*

**\*Blessing of the Nativity Scene**

*Baby Jesus is added to the manger as candles are lit.*

**O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence, and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. Amen.,**

**HYMN**

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

**ELW 281**

**THE CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now the light is shining on them.

From the very beginning the Word was with God. The Word was the source of life, and this brought light to humankind. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out.

Seeing a vision of heaven, John wrote “The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. There shall be no more night and they will not need lamps or sunlight, because the Lord God will be their light, and they will rule as kings forever and ever.”

And Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. A City built on a hillside cannot be hid.

No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl, instead it is put on a lamp stand, where it gives light for everyone in the house.

Let your light so shine before people that everyone will see the good things that you do and will praise your Heavenly Father.”

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**P:** God almighty send you his light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; His Holy Angels accompany you. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit cause his Grace to be mighty upon you. **Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**ELW 270**

**\*DISMISSAL**

**GO IN PEACE. SHARE THE JOY OF CHRIST.  
THANKS BE TO GOD!**