

SERVING TODAY

Minister.....Pastor Phil Beck
 Lector.....Ed Chaney
 Organist.....Jeff Gentry
 Ushers.....Kate Stottlemeyer & Linda Yopp
 Acolyte.....Camden Plog & Annabelle Bush



St. Paul's will have our traditional 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Please consider joining us in person to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

Staff

Minister:202-497-0584 (pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org).....Pastor Phil Beck
 Office Admin:301-845-4600 (officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org).....Joann Valainis
 Music CoordinatorJeff Gentry
 Flower Coordinator.....Patty Rimel
 Administration/PurchasingEd Chaney
 SextonLarry 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



**Third Sunday of Advent
 December 15, 2024**

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

14 West Pennsylvania Avenue, Walkersville, Maryland 21793

Worship Service—9:00 a.m.

Church Phone: 301-845-4600 E-mail: info@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org

Web Site: <http://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org>



Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

President—Patty Rimel
 Vice-President—Sheila Kahler
 Treasurer—Bill Cartwright
 Secretary—Kate Stottlemeyer

**Stand as you are able*

This is the time we QUIET our HEARTS for WORSHIP.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Christ’s presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent. “

CHURCH BELL RUNG

CANDLES LIT

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



Advent Devotionals

We will be using the devotional published by Luther Seminary this Advent season. You can access it several ways:

1. Go to this link: <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/advent-devotional/> and download the regular or large print to print at home.
2. Click Subscribe to God Pause to receive the devotion through your email each day in advent (put in your name and email, and check the "God Pause Daily Devotions" box.)

Would you like to schedule a date to sponsor Altar flowers?

Please contact Patty Rimel through the Parish Office if you would like to arrange a date to offer flowers.



‘Calling all the helpers!’

We are at that time of year when the outgoing council members are seeking new hands to continue our work as the leadership of St Paul’s. If you have ever felt a calling or curiosity about council leadership and what we do, please seek out Pastor, Patty, Sheila or any council member for answers!



The Christmas Season is here. Food Bank shelves tend to get bare and the need for help grows. Donations for Glade Valley Food Bank are always accepted!

****UPDATED ITEMS OF NEED ARE:****

Spaghetti noodles, spaghetti sauce, boxed crackers, Peanut butter and cereal

Please bring them to the donation bin on the side of Town Hall, or you can put them in the basket by the side door and we will get them to the food bank for you!



Deadline for January Epistle is Friday, December 20th

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*******IMPORTANT*******


For those without Facebook please tune into our YouTube channel for live streams of last week's service. Video link <https://youtu.be/iZFulEpOF7o> , November 24, 2024

Please look for future notices regarding live streaming and YouTube videos at

St. Paul's Official YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEpgsBUXlow1I7-Q>

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*The altar flowers are
 given to the glory of God
 and in thanks and appreciation to all who help with
 the Food Ministry by Brian and Roxanne Smith.*



* * * * *




ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TOMORROW



***Today is the last day to
 Help us decorate for Christmas
 By purchasing a Poinsettia!***

Red are available for \$10.00 each.

You can sign up on line at:
<https://forms.gle/PMstwNs4xzYbcR5ZA>,
 use the sign up sheet at the side door
 bulletin board or in person to Betsy
 Galliher with a check or cash.



***End of the Year
 Giving Challenge***

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.***

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN.....People, Look East.....ELW 248
 V. 1-4*

Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965, Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

***GREETING**

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.**

***KYRIE (p. 147)**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

****FAMILY LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH The Isennock Family**

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

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
 as to your tribes on Sinai's height
 in ancient times you gave the law
 in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

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

Text: *Psalterium Cationum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite, Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

*** STORY OF THE CANDLES**

Anthem.....Sweet Little Jesus Boy by Robert MacGimsey.....Soloist-Steve King
 (Copyright MCMXXXIV by Carl Fischer, Inc.)

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³ With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 151)**

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon.....JOY?.....Pastor Phil Beck

Silence for Reflection

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;

let this be known in all the earth.

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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

December 15th

Worship (Livestream) 9:00am

Third Sunday of Advent

Faith Formation 10:00am

December 16th

FEC 8am-5pm

Cub Scouts 6:00pm

Caroling at Bell Court 6:00pm

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

December 17th

FHS 10am-3pm

Council 7:00pm

December 18th

FEC 8am-5pm

FEC Christmas Celebration 2:00pm

Confirmation 7:00pm

December 19th

FHS 10am-3pm

Cub Scouts 5:30pm

Choir Practice 7:00pm

December 22nd

Worship (Livestream) 9:00am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Faith Formation 10:00am

LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS:

Current Fund Weekly Need: \$3,145.00

Property Renovation Loan Fund Need:
\$360.00

Electronic/Mail-ins Income

December 1, 2024

Weekly Contributions: \$

Property Loan Fund: \$

Total: \$

In Worship Offerings

Weekly Contributions: \$

Property Loan Fund: \$

Total: \$

ATTENDANCE:

December 8, 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*
The Jones Family, *Close 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 M. 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*

**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.**

*HYMN OF THE DAY..... **Hark, the Glad Sound!**.....ELW 239

V. 1-4

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

P: We affirm our faith in the words of the Apostle's 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: ... God of grace, C: **Hear our prayer.**

***The Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

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

***OFFERTORY HYMN LET THE VINYARDS BE FRUITFUL (ELW 184)**

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923, Music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING, MEAL (sung, 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.**

***THE PREFACE:**

P: 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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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 (p. 153)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

***THE LORD’S PRAYER:**

P: Gathered into One with the Holy Spirit, we now pray as Jesus taught...
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: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION HYMN (p.154)

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

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray,
God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN..... Come, We That Love the LordELW 625**
V. 1-4, Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826-1899, refrain

***DISMISSAL**

**GO IN PEACE, CHRIST IS WITH YOU.
THANKS BE TO GOD.**