



1st Sunday of Christmas -- December 29, 2024

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

14 West Pennsylvania Avenue, Walkersville, Maryland 21793

Worship Service LIVE—9:00 a.m.

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

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

Saint Paul's Official YouTube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEpgsBUXlow1I7 -Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEpgsBUXlow1I7-Q)



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

SERVING TODAY

Minister.....Pastor Phil Beck
Lectors.....Marie Purswell, Pat Fellows, Kate Stottlemyer, Phil Smith,
Stephen King and Susan Hayes
Organist.....Jeff Gentry
Ushers.....Patty Rimel & Roxanne Smith

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

President—Patty Rimel
Vice-President—Sheila Kahler
Treasurer—Bill Cartwright & Amy Mildenstein
Secretary—Kate Stottlemyer

Lessons and Carols

December 29, 2024

PRELUDE: *In the Bleak Midwinter* by Gilbert Martin

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WELCOME

The angel said the shepherds, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)

As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed; God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem’s manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. Welcome to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God’s forgiveness, grace and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, “Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

In +Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God’s forgiveness is good news of great joy! **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hymn:

Joy to the World

ELW 267

THE GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Reading *Luke 1:26-35 (Marie Purswell)*

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Prayer

L. Let us pray. Almighty God, in choosing the virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the poor and lowly. Grant us grace to receive your Word in humility, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CAROL

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

ELW 490

Second Reading *Matthew 1:18-21 (Pat Fellows)*

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah [a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Prayer

L. Let us pray. O God, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the spouse of his virgin mother: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CAROL

O Come All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

Third Reading *Matthew 2:1-2, 7-10 (Kate Stottlemeyer)*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer

L. Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your Glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CAROL

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276

CAROL

That Boy-Child of Mary v.1,2,5,6

ELW 293

Fourth Reading *Luke 2:1-7 (Phil Smith)*

²In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered: ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer

L. Let us pray. Almighty God, you have made yourself known in your Son, Jesus, redeemer of the world. We pray that his birth as a human child will set us free from the old slavery of our sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Fifth Reading *Luke 2:8-14* (Stephen King)

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, [a] the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³and suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, [b] praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer

L. Let us pray. O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sixth Reading *John 1:1-5, 14-18* (Susan Hayes)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, “He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me”) ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer

L. All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE OFFERING**THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends “Hear us, O God.”

The response is “Your mercy is great.”

BENEDICTION

SENDING CAROL

Go Tell It On the Mountain

ELW 290

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve our Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming by Mark Hayes

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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*
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 have need for prayer?
Do you know someone else who has need for prayer?
If so, please know that we have a prayer team at
St. Paul's that is ready to help.
Simply contact the Church Office.
All requests are confidential.*

***Please remember all the names on our prayer list,
and especially those that are **bold**.*

*They have a specific current need for
Christian love and support.*

Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

The great God, while abiding in the divine nature, is born a child according to the flesh and grows for a certain space of time and after the manner of the flesh. This is so that we who are children in mind, and almost without mind[!], may be spiritually reborn, and so that we may grow up according to the grades of the spiritual ages and advance in wisdom and grace. Jesus' bodily growth is our spiritual growth. So let his corporeal birth be our spiritual birth, that is, the beginning of our conversion. Let his growing up in Nazareth express our advancement in perfection.

—Aelred

[Aelred, in *Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, I, 252-53.]



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/>

LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS:

Current Fund Weekly Need: \$3,145.00

Property Renovation Loan Fund Need: \$360.00

Electronic/Mail-ins Income

**December 24, 2024:
Christmas Eve**

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

In Worship Offerings

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

ATTENDANCE:

December 24, 2024, Christmas Eve

In person: **
Virtual: **

This Week at St Paul's

Sunday, December 29th

Worship (Livestream)	9:00am
First Sunday of Christmas Lessons and Carols	

Monday, December 30th

New Year's Day
Parish Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 31st

New Years Eve

Wednesday, January 1st

New Years Day

Sunday, January 5th

Worship (Livestream)	9:00am
Second Sunday of Christmas	
Ministry Sunday	10:00am
Faith Formation	10:00am
Sub Scouts Comm. Mtg.	7:00pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

For those without Facebook please tune into our YouTube channel for live streams of last week's services.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7AogT-rEoE> (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

<https://youtu.be/kOZf960F2K0> (Christmas Eve)

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

St. Paul's Official YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEggsBUXlow1I7 -Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEggsBUXlow1I7-Q)



***The altar flowers are given the glory of
God and in honor of our St. Paul's Family
by Brian and Roxanne Smith***

**Those who would like their Poinsettias,
please take them home after today's service.**

Thank you so much for your donation and your part
in making our church look and feel so welcoming
during the season of our Savior's birth.



**Donations for *Glade Valley Food Bank*
are always accepted!**

****Updated Items of need are**:**

Cereal, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, boxed crackers,
baked beans, canned pasta, canned tuna and mac 'n' cheese

***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.***

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 19, 2025
Town Hall



January 26, 2025
Annual Meeting



Staff

Minister–202-497-0584 (pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org).....Pastor Phil Beck
Office Administrator- 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