

Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 5, 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"

R. Anderson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure, and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

We praise you, Almighty God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

"Christ, Be Our Light"

[The second candle is lit.]

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with the word 'Refrain' and contains the melody for 'Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the'. The second staff continues with 'dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your'. The third staff concludes with 'church gath - ered to - day.' The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some dotted rhythms.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Have mercy on us, O God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor.

We have built walls to keep away strangers.

We have hoarded earthly treasures and are not satisfied.

We have thought better of ourselves than we should.

Help us to love as you love,

to welcome everyone you send,

and to treasure mercy and demand justice for all people. Amen.

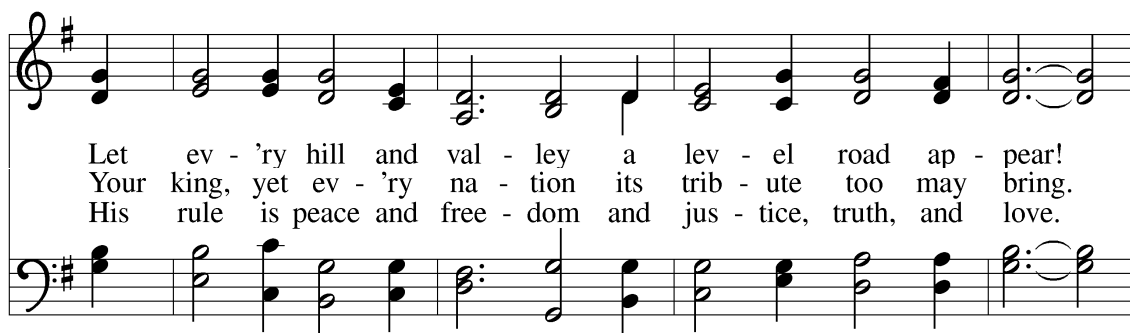
Know that for the sake of Jesus Christ, God has forgiven all your sins and remembers them no more. Rejoice and be glad for the kingdom of God is yours!
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“Prepare the Royal Highway”



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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.**

KYRIE

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your
word, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have
Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.
mer - cy. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming, strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

A Reading from Malachi

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

(Malachi 3:1-4)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Responsive Reading from Luke

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us

in the house of his servant David,

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

that we would be saved from our enemies

and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and has remembered his holy covenant

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,

might serve him without fear,

in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

to give knowledge of salvation to his people

by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

to give light to those who sit in darkness

and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:68-79)

A Reading from Philippians

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

(Philippians 1:3-11)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

(Luke 3:1-6)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“On Jordan’s Bank”

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

THE NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)

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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. May their words and deeds witness to your grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your spirit upon all of creation. Teach us to treasure fresh air, clean water, productive soil, and life in every form and kind. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send leaders to work on behalf of justice, reconciliation, and peace within our community, throughout our nation, and around the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your servants to care for all who suffer and help us to reach out to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send believers to speak difficult truths, ask hard questions, and challenge accepted ways. Open our hearts and minds to your everlasting wisdom and unconditional love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send us into the world, Almighty God, as you have sent saints before us. Help us to trust in your goodness and be confident that every good work will one day be complete. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

(The Pastor concludes): God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC (or ANTHEM)

(8:00 AM)

"Prepare Thyself Zion"

J. S. Bach

(10:30 AM)

"Waiting"***

P. Choplin

OFFERTORY HYMN

“As the Grains of Wheat”

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics. The third staff continues the melody for the third line of lyrics and ends with a double bar line.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Patient God, we offer the gifts of our hearts and lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Jesus Christ, our pathway and our peace.

Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

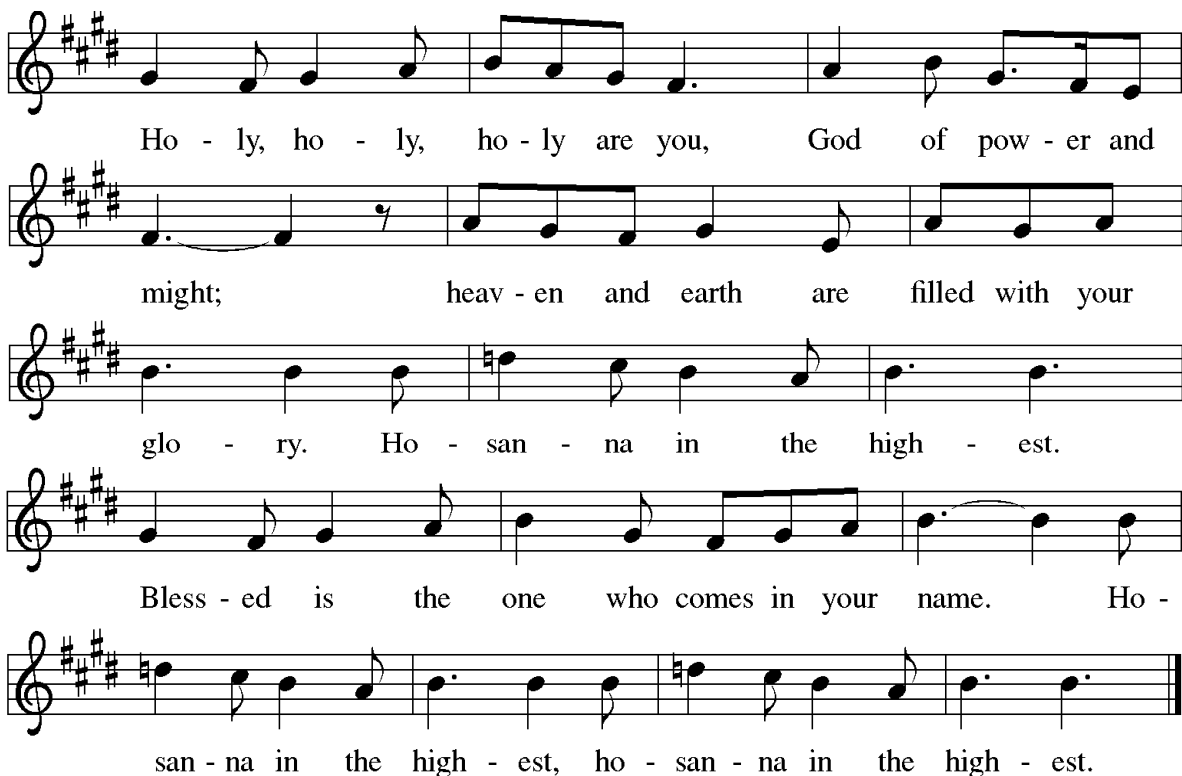
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your living Word who dwelled among us,
full of grace and truth.

In his death and resurrection, we rejoice in our new birth
and we look with hope for his coming again in glory.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Dwell among us and bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people
and fill us with your light.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Read in Unison)

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.

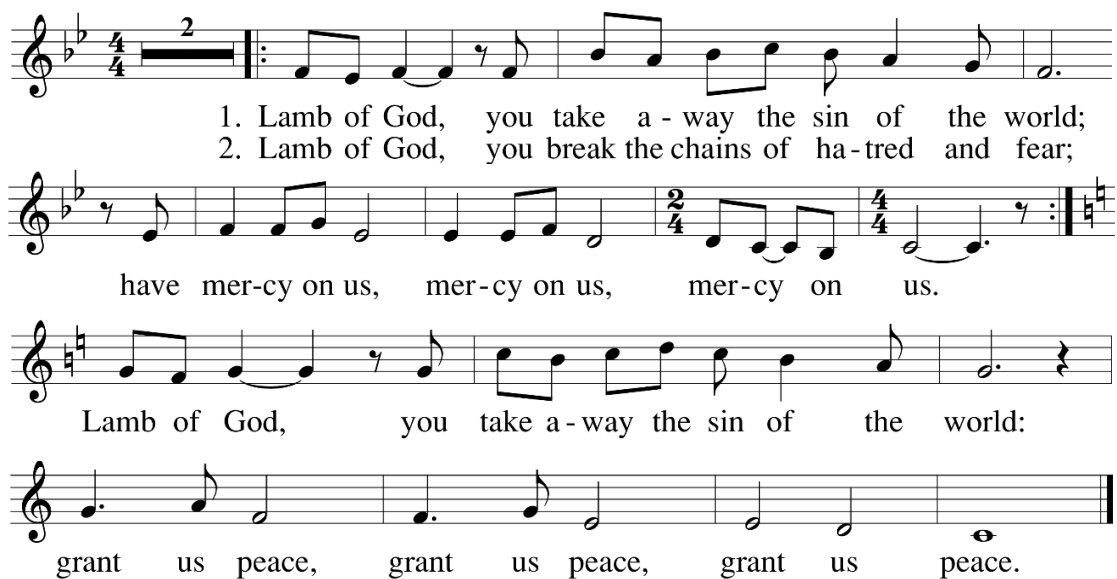
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. There is heavenly food and drink for all!

INSTRUCTIONS

If you wish to receive the Sacrament, please move into the center aisle when instructed to do so. When you stand before the Pastor, please open your hand to receive a wafer of bread, and then move toward the Communion Assistant to dip the tip of the wafer into the chalice of wine. After you have eaten the wafer, you may return to your seat by the side aisle. Those unable to come forward to receive the Sacrament may receive in their pews. If you would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please stand before the Pastor and say, "A blessing."

AGNUS DEI



1. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha-tred and fear;

have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:

grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty and eternal God, you have come to us at this table. By the Spirit's power, help us to carry your word into the world so that everyone might know your abundant mercy and amazing grace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May Almighty God protect you from all evil.

May you abide in hope and abound in faith.

May you love God and serve your neighbor with great joy
until that day when Christ comes again. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Fling Wide the Door”

1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen

comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -

Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly

The image shows a three-system musical score for the hymn "Fling Wide the Door". Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next two lines. The third system contains the final two lines. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in the bass clef.

to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We

praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is near.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"O Blessed Emmanuel"

J. S. Bach

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Altar flowers are presented in honor of our grandchildren: Kristen and Patrick O'Donnell, Thomas John, and Victoria Wagner, and Gavin Wehr by Tom and Gwen Wehr

****Waiting** is presented in memory of Dick Foltz by friends and family. (2015)

Introduction to the day: Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally, all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

AN ANGEL TREE REMINDER

Please return your wrapped gift, the Angel Tree tag, and filled stockings by Sunday, December 12th! Call Deb Bolinsky at (570) 789-3540 or send an email to her at bolinsky5@verizon.net with questions. Thank you for your continued generosity!

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (12/05/21)

8:00 AM

GREETER: TBA; LECTOR: Kay Weidensaul

COMMUNION ASST.: Connie Teter

10:30 AM

GREETER: Evan Davis; USHER: Doug Travor; LECTOR: Wayne Lutsey

COMMUNION ASST.: Tom Wehr

ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel

COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr, Tom Wehr, and Glenda Bright

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (12/12/21)

8:00 AM

GREETER: TBA; LECTOR: Amy Dewald

COMMUNION ASST.: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

GREETER: Evan Davis; USHER: Jeff Ritschel; LECTOR: Jeff Ritschel

COMMUNION ASST.: Sue Schenck

ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel

COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle, Diane Brobst, and Marlene Eidam

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, December 5	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:30 AM	STiC
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, December 6	6:30 PM	Finance
Wednesday, December 8	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Thursday, December 9	7:00 PM	Adult Forum via Zoom
Saturday, December 11	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, December 12	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

OUR NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will continue to host a Sunday School for children every second Sunday of the month. Children ages 1-10 are invited to join us during the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 12 for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship. Teenagers are also invited to participate as helpers. Please read our “Second Sunday” article in the December newsletter for more information.

PLEASE GIVE TO HELP US REACH OUR PLEDGE

Every year our congregation makes a pledge of financial support for the work of the ELCA which reaches far beyond the walls of our congregation. This year we pledged \$9,000.00 in benevolence to help fund world hunger, efforts, support our missionaries, fund our seminaries, provide for refugees, and continue many ministries in our synod, throughout our nation, and around the world. Please consider increasing your benevolence giving so we can meet this year’s pledge!

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Our WELCA Christmas luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 14th from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Roman Delight Restaurant on Route 61. You may select your meal from the regular menu at your own expense. If you can attend, please place your name on the sign-up sheet at the WELCA bulletin board area by Sunday, December 12th. Your in-gathering offering received at this time will be given to the Suicide Prevention task Force

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve will again be ordered from
Blue Mountain Farms in New Ringgold, PA.

The cost of an 8+ bloom plant is **\$8.50**.

Please indicate red or white blooms and to whom you wish to dedicate.
If you choose not to dedicate the plants, you will be listed as a sponsor.

THE DEADLINE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS IS DECEMBER 5

Please complete this form and return it with payment to the plate marked
“Poinsettias” in the Gathering Room.

YOUR NAME: _____

I would like to order _____ red poinsettia(s),

I would like to order _____ white poinsettia(s),

at \$8.50 each. I wish to dedicate my flowers(s) “in honor/memory of.”
(Please circle one for the lines you complete below.) Please write legibly.

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Total # of Poinsettias: _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____