

# *Christmas Eve*

## *Friday, December 24, 2021*

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

[www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)

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### GATHERING

#### PRELUDE

(5:00 PM)	“Carol Medley”	J. McClure
(9:00 PM)	“Our Eyes Have Seen the Lord” “Christmas Medley”	Sounds of Heaven
(11:00 PM)	“The First Noel”	Julianne Schenck, <i>bassoon</i>

#### WELCOME

#### BLESSING OF THE CRECHE (5:00 PM)

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**

#### CAROL

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”  
[See back of bulletin]

#### RESPONSIVE READING

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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. **Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

## **WORD**

### **A Reading from Isaiah:**

<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.

*(Isaiah 9:2-7)*

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

*(Please stand if you are able.)*

**CAROL**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”  
[See back of bulletin]

Verse 1

## **GOSPEL**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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.

<sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

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

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:1-20)

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CAROL**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”  
[See back of bulletin]

Verse 3

## **SERMON**

## **APOSTLES CREED**

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 INTERCESSION**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space,  
let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth  
to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and  
sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Bring healing and wholeness to your broken and abused creation. Help us to truly  
value all that you have made good. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night (*especially everyone on our prayer list*). Bring comfort to those who find the Christmas season difficult. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your eternal and unconditional love. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

At the birth of Christ, the angels sang a song of peace and good will. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY**

**(5:00 PM)**

“O Holy Night”  
Maddie Swick, *soprano*

L. Larson

**(9:00 PM)**

“Hope of the World”

Sounds of Heaven

**(11:00 PM)**

“Angel’s Carol”  
Doug Travor, Mary Timpany, & Justin McClure

J. Rutter

*(Please stand if you are able.)*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

“What Child Is This?”

Verse 1

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**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 our thanks and praise.**

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, Creator of all that is good,  
in the beginning, your word brought life into the whole world.  
In the fullness of time, you send your living Word, born of Mary,  
to shine in the darkness so that we might become your children.

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.

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER (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.

## **CANDLELIGHTING CAROL**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”  
[See back of bulletin]

*(Please keep your candle burning until after the dismissal.)*

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.  
May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.  
May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.  
And the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be  
upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **THE DISMISSAL**

Filled with the joy of Christ’s birth, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

*(Please carefully extinguish your candle, keeping it upright until the wax has cooled.)*

### **CAROL**

“Joy to the World”  
[See back of bulletin]

#267 vs. 1 & 4

*Please exit through the side (or ramp) door.  
Holy Communion will be available to you as you leave.  
May God bless you and yours during this joyous season!  
Merry Christmas to all!*

**POSTLUDE** “Angel’s We Have Heard on High” L. Smith

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**SERVING CHRISTMAS EVE (12/24/21)**

**5:00 PM**

LECTOR: Deb Bolinsky; GREETER: Evan Davis

USHERS: Kate Bolinsky and Danika Bolinsky

**9:00 PM**

LECTOR: Samantha Clarke; GREETER: Wayne Lutsey

USHER: Victoria Spitler and Tina Butler

**11:00 PM**

LECTOR: Amy Dewald; GREETER: Doug Travor

USHER: Sonny Teter and Connie Teter

**SERVING THIS SUNDAY (12/26/21) at 9:30 AM**

GREETER: Evan Davis; USHER: Jessica Swick; LECTOR: Jason Swick

COMMUNION ASST. Wayne Lutsey

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Diane Brobst

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

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**Introduction to the Day:** In winter’s deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus’ birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

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## THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Thursday, December 24	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve worship w/Communion
	9:00 PM	Christmas Eve worship w/Communion
	11:00 PM	Christmas Eve worship w/Communion
Friday, December 25		Christmas Day – No worship scheduled
Saturday, December 26	5:30 PM	No worship scheduled
Sunday, December 27	9:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

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### CHANGES IN OUR WORSHIP

Pastor Mike will be on vacation the last weekend of December and will not be able to conduct our worship service as normally scheduled. Our 5:30 p.m. Saturday service on December 25 and our 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 26 will be cancelled, and in their place, a single service with Holy Communion will be conducted at 9:30 a.m. on the morning of December 26. These changes were necessary due to a shortage of available supply pastors in our synod. Please warmly welcome Pastor Joyce Seip from Reading, PA, who will lead our worship at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 26.

### PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR PLEDGE GOAL

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!

### 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, January 9, 2022, 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.

## **POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS**

Please take your plant(s) with you after 11:00 PM worship.

### **Poinsettias presented in honor of:**

My son, Kurt, and daughter, Juli, by Sue Schenck. (Delivery fee)

James P. Withers by Ruth Ann and Wayne Withers. (1 Red)

The glory of God, and in honor of our Pastor, Mike Petresky, and his family by Tom and Gwen Wehr. (2 Red)

Our children: Jeffry, Amanda, Joel, Cristi, Kevin, and Lindsay, and our grandchildren: Jayda, Lily, Jackson, and Josephine by Jeff and Cindy Ritschel. (2 Red)

Hope, Samantha, and Joshua, for whom I care dearly, by Pastor Diefenderfer. (1 Red)

My family by Kay Weidensaul. (1 White)

Deborah Moyer, Bill & Cindy Moyer, Sandra & Scott Ludwig, and Fern & Rodney Houser by Fern Moyer. (1 Red)

Grandchildren Tyler & Ashlie, Francis & Hayley, Troy, Samantha & Kyle, Jeremy & Rebecca, and Bryan & Amanda, and greatgrandchildren, Kelti, Braylon, and Natalie by Fern Moyer. (1 Red)

Our Daughter, Heather Lynn, by Barry and Dana Jenkins. (1 Red)

Joy A. Wolfe and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schuld and family by Scott R. Wolfe. (2 Red)

Pastor Diefenderfer by Danielle Richards. (1 Red)

In honor of our five grandchildren by Darin and Crystal Brensinger. (1 Red)

Alexander and Alyssa by Greg and Cindy Sklar. (1 Red)

Our Momma, Tina Butler, and our Nanny, Elaine Kamp, by Victoria and Alexandria Spitler (1 Red, 1 White)

Our grandchildren, David E., Dominique, Jessica, and Julianna, and our great-grandchildren, Royal and Juniper, by David and Cheryl Witman, Sr. (3 Red)

### **Poinsettias presented in memory of:**

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pitts, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Withers by Ruth Ann and Wayne Withers. (2 White)

Bill Bieber, Gloria Bieber, and Billy Bieber by Ed and Cheryle Foulk. (2 Red, 1 White)

Michelle Kunkle by Pat Kunkle. (1 Red)

Our Parents, Richard & Florence and Eugene and Elizabeth by Cindy and Jeff Ritschel. (1 White)

**Poinsettias presented in memory of:**

Lauren and Butchie by Pastor Diefenderfer. (1 Red)

Lauren Dow, Brian Miller, and my parents by Hope Clarke. (1 White, 2 Red)

Our parents, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Rohrer and Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Emerich, by Joanne and Jim Emerich. (1 Red)

My parents and grandparents by Kay Weidensaul. (1 White)

Lawrence Heintzelman, Jr. by Ardell Heintzelman. (1 Red, 1 White)

**Poinsettias presented in memory of:**

Great grandparents, George W. & Elizabeth Lengel, grandparents, William R. & Lottie Lengel and George & Frieda Sommers, parents, Guy R. & Frances Lengel, and brothers, G. Roger and John A. Lengel, by James W. Lengel. (5 Red)

Reta Antalosky, Russel Rarick, Ethel Rarick, and Andy Rarick by Fern Moyer. (1 White)

Loved ones by Barry and Dana Jenkins. (1 White)

Robert C. F. Wolfe and Dennis A. Wolfe by Scott R. Wolfe. (2 White)

My parents, Francis and Margaret Piacine, by Danielle Richards. (1 White)

Eric C. Shaud, Robert Shaud, Francis Schweikert, John & Pearl Frantz, and Carl & Shirley Brensinger by Darin and Crystal Brensinger. (2 Red, 3 White)

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Callaghan and Mr. Charles W. Weidensaul by Al and Krista Callaghan. (1 Red, 1 White)

Loved ones by Lester and Constance Teter. (1 Red)

Loved ones by Jean Premich. (1 Red, 1 White)

Parents, H. Clair & Jane Zimmerman and Kermit & Cathlene Krammes, and Jody & Kevin Krammes, and Kirsten Edmonds by Steve and Robin Zimmerman. (3 White)

Our grandparents by Alyssa and Alexander Sklar. (1 Red)

Our parents by Cindy and Greg Sklar. (1 White)

Earl and Dorothy Witman, Willis and Elizabeth Miller, Christine, Anna Hutira, Amelia Otruba, Stephen Otruba, and George Otruba by David and Cheryl Witman, Sr. (3 White)

## CHRISTMAS 2021

This is our second pandemic Christmas.  
We thought this would be over so long ago.  
And still, we wear masks; we're physically distant;  
we can't be with friends and family  
as we used to do.

And also, there's so much that's broken in this world,  
so much that tells us, "Why have hope? Just give up."

But we have a hope that's stronger than any of this,  
stronger even than death.

The hope of God comes in the form of a tiny baby,  
a helpless child; nevertheless,  
who grew to a man and in his fragile strength  
was willing to die on the cross and was raised again.

I don't know what next Christmas will bring.

I don't know what New Year's will bring.

But I do know we have hope.

St. Paul put it this way:

"May the God of fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may ABOUND IN by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Merry Christmas, dear church.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

CAROL

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#283 vs. 1 & 4

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

CAROL

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

#289 vs. 1 & 3

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*  
Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

CAROL

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

CAROL

“Joy to the World”

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,