

Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday, January 12, 2025

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

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Of the Father's Love Begotten" D. Cherwien

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh,
the power of the Most High, † one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.
We have not been good stewards of your creation.
We have not shared the gifts you have given to us.
We confess our failure to welcome this light.
We have not treated strangers with kindness.
Forgive us our sins, so that we may live in the light of your grace.
Amen.**

Hear God's good news of peace and salvation.

Through Jesus Christ, the light of the world,

your sins are forgiven, and you have the promise of eternal life! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"

[See back of bulletin]

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



Ⓐ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Ⓑ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit at his baptism and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, so that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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 ISAIAH

¹But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my sight,

and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up,"

and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made." (Isaiah 43:1-7)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29 (Read Responsively)

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;

the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**he makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD ¹ shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.**

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

The LORD shall give strength to his people;
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

A READING FROM ACTS

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:14-17)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:15-17, 21-22)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “Baptized in Water”
[See back of bulletin]

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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You call us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Inspire your faithful people so that everyone may know they are precious in your sight.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You reveal your love for humanity through water and the Spirit. Help us to provide clean water for all people and protect the land from drought and flood.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Raise up world leaders who will defend vulnerable, marginated people, and strengthen all who fight for the sake of mercy and justice.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Remind us that you are with us always, in our joys and in our sorrows. Comfort everyone on our prayer list and bring healing and hope to all who suffer. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Help us to be faithful in our fellowship, worship, evangelism, and service to others.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You created each of us in your image and likeness. We give you thanks for your gift of faith and for all those you have welcomed into your eternal embrace.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes): We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8 AM)

“From Heaven Above”

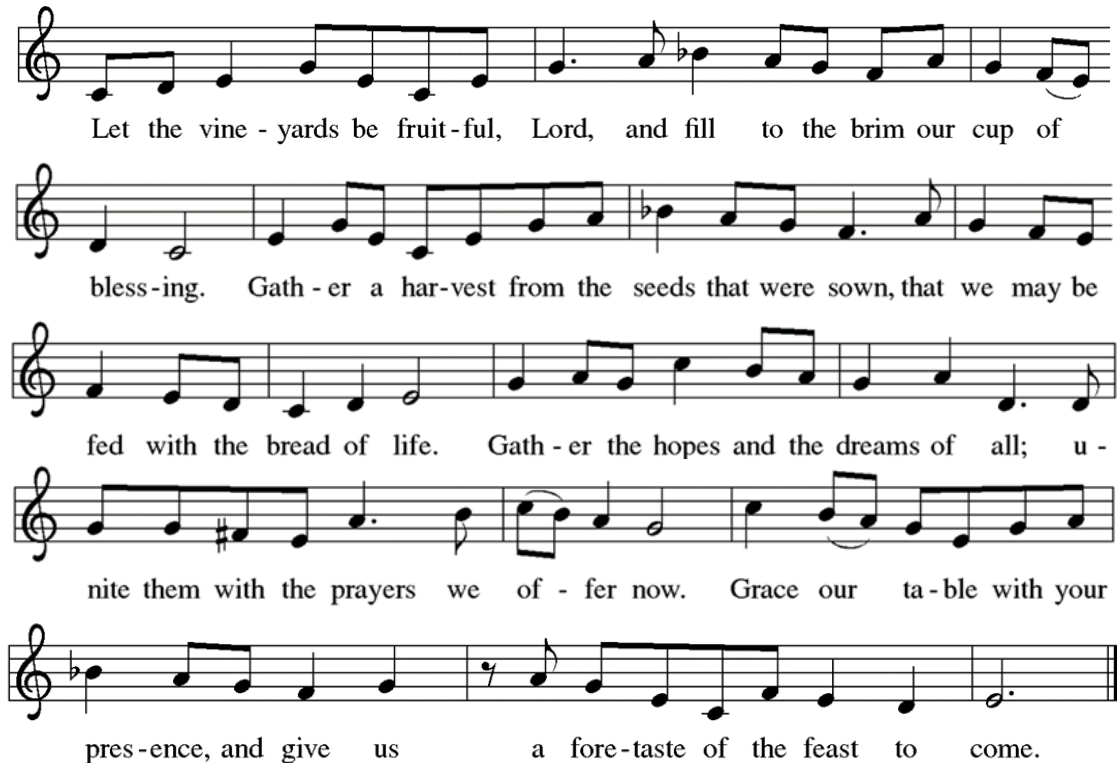
G. Walther

ANTHEM (10:30 AM)

*“Walk in the Light”

arr. A. Thomas

OFFERTORY HYMN “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord”



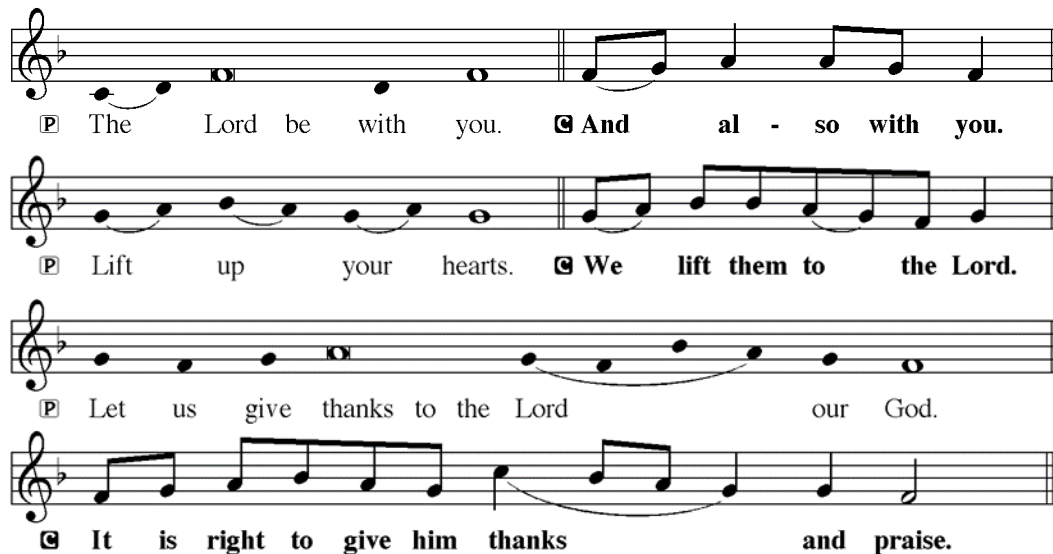
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen.

MEAL

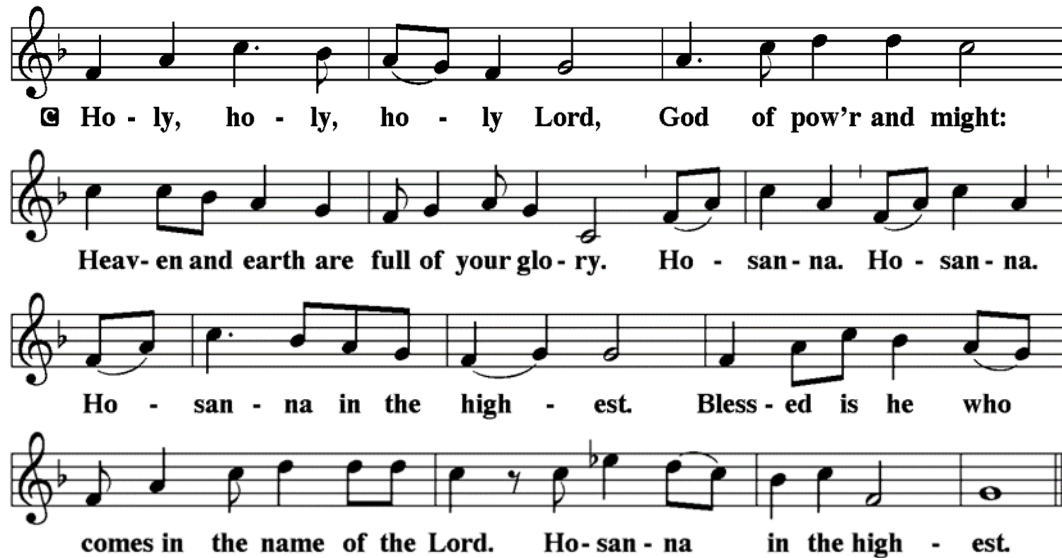
GREAT THANKSGIVING



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so 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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, 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 Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world, you gave your only Son,

that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith

as he comes to us in his holy supper. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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 (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

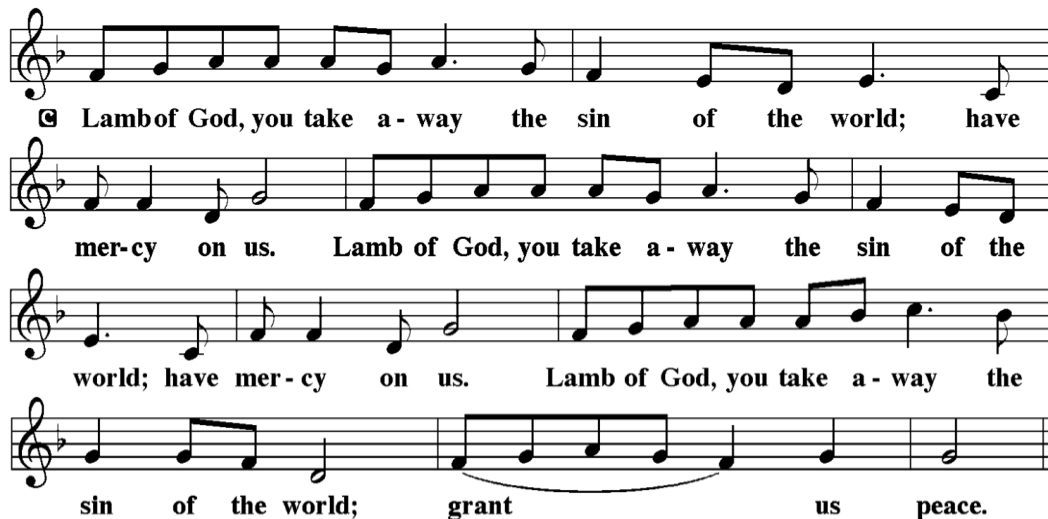
Let us eat at the table of the Lord
and rejoice in the food that comes down from heaven.

INSTRUCTIONS

All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you or your child would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest.

Those who are unable to come forward should indicate that they wish to receive the Sacrament, and they will receive it as they sit in their pew.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN "Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart" [See back of bulletin]

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God, for you have blessed us abundantly. Send us to bring good news and proclaim your favor to all, as you continue to strengthen us by your mercy and grace, through your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May our triune God, One God, who is the Father, and the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless your going out and your coming in, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“God, Whose Almighty Word”
[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into our weary world. Share God’s good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"O Blessed Emmanuel"

J. S. Bach

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Introduction to the Day: Today we celebrate our adoption as children of God, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and God’s presence among us. On this day the heavens open for us, and we receive the gift of God’s beloved Son, through bread and wine.

Altar flowers are presented in memory of my parents, Guy and Frances Lengel, and my brothers G. Roger and Jack A. Lengel, by James Lengel and the Lengel Family.

Bulletins are presented in memory of Loraine Kunkel by his wife, Julia, and family.

Anthem *“Walk in the Light” was presented in honor of Tom and Gwen Wehr by Kathryn M. Snyder.

“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Second Sunday School class will take place TODAY! Children ages 1 through 6 are invited to join us for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Young people aged 7 through 12 are invited to a youth group with Bible study and activities from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Please contact Sarah Eger with questions or to volunteer. (570) 394-3522 (cell) swoodring86@hotmail.com.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, January 12		BAPTISM OF OUR LORD SECOND SUNDAY
	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum and Youth Sunday School
	9 to 10:15 AM	Second Sunday Snacks and Fellowship
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Children's Sunday School
Monday, January 13	6:30 PM	Worship and Music
Wednesday, January 15	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Saturday, January 18	9:30 AM	STiC Planting Event
	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, January 19	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	1:30 PM	"Guardianship of Trees" – Reidler Hall

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (1/12/25)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike; LECTOR: Ruth Ann Withers
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Doug Travor; USHER: Becky Smoot; LECTOR: Mike Lado
COMMUNION ASST.: Chris Long
ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich and Gwen Wehr
COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle and Diane Brobst

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (1/19/25)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike; LECTOR: Amy Dewald
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

GREETER: Sarah Eger; USHER: Wayne Lutsey; LECTOR: Chris Long
COMMUNION ASST.: Jeff Ritschel
ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Lafko and Amy Dewald
COUNTERS: Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

PROGRESSIVE DINNER?

The Evangelism Committee has set the date of Saturday, February 22, 2025, for a “progressive” dinner. Two additional host homes are needed for this annual event. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact our church office as soon as possible.

NATIVITY FIGURES

In 2024, several new Nativity figures were added to figures which had previously been given to the church by Gwen and Tom Wehr. Donors of our new Nativity figures include: Dave and Jill Krewson, Chris Long, Jeff and Cindy Ritschel, Doug and Karen Travor, the family of Lee & Amy Dewald, the Men of St. Paul’s, and the Lutheran Library Ladies (whose donation is in honor of Mr. James Lengel.) Thank you all for your kindness and generosity!

A CALL TO MORE FAITHFUL GIVING

Our church needs your support more than ever. Every donation, big or small, shows your dedication to Christ's teachings of love and service to our neighbors. Your regular contributions keep our church running, help those in need, and provide a welcoming space for all. Please consider increasing your giving!

WINTER NATURE SERIES

On Sunday, January 19 at 1:30 p.m., the Forest Stewards of Schuylkill County Conservancy will offer a presentation on the “Guardianship of Trees” in Reidler Hall. This presentation is one part of a three-part series hosted by local churches. Please contact Sue Reier (570-617-3741) for more information.

SUPER BOWL EVE SOUP & CHILI SALE

As an "appetizer" to Super Bowl Sunday on February 9, 2025, The Men of St. Paul's will host a Super Bowl Eve Chili & Soup Sale on Saturday, February 8 beginning at 8:30 a.m. “on the Square.” Come early for best selection of delicious chilis, tasty homemade soups, and just baked breads and pastries.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SET

Our annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday February 16, 2025, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. Please mark your new calendar for this important meeting! In case of inclement weather (or other emergency), our annual meeting will be held on the following Sunday at the same time.

GATHERING HYMN "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"

1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight - way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be

came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may

ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
give your life for all, to give your life for all.
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

SHOE DRIVE BEGINS

The PTO of Blue Mountain Elementary East is organizing a "Shoe Drive" as a fundraiser and outreach to many families in developing countries. Your donations of gently worn and new shoes will support "micro entrepreneurs" in local communities. This creates new opportunities for small family-owned businesses in these regions.

Justin Durkee, a student at Blue Mountain Elementary East, will collect and deliver the donated shoes to the PTO group at his school. Please bring your gently worn or new shoes with you when you come to worship. A donation box is in the narthex. The deadline for this drive is Sunday, March 1. Thank you for your support.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Baptized in Water”

1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

WELCA PET FOOD AND BLANKET DRIVE

St. Paul's Women of the ELCA are sponsoring a blanket and animal food drive to support our local SPCAs and Red Creek Wildlife Center. Please bring clean, used (but not knitted or crocheted) blankets and dry or canned dog and/or cat food to our choir room prior to rehearsals on Wednesday nights and/or prior to our 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday mornings. Donations will be accepted from Sunday, January 12 through Wednesday, January 29.

Please help us help those who have no voice!

Tina Butler, Sue Reier, Cindy Ritschel, and Sue Schenck

PICK UP YOUR GIVING STATEMENT

Members who use their church envelopes to support our ministry can pick up their 2024 Giving Statements TODAY from a box in our narthex. Any statements not picked up by Monday, January 20, 2025, will be mailed to members via U.S. Mail.

COMMUNION HYMN “Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart”

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

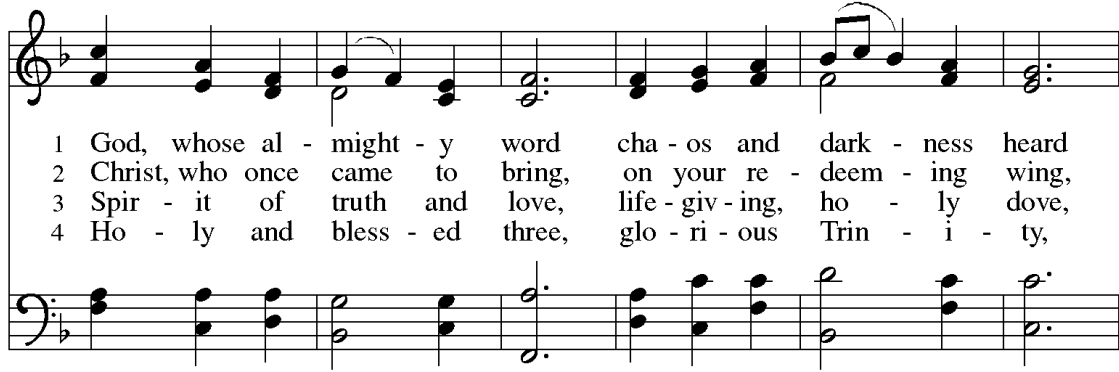
and make me love you as I ought to love.
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

CHRISTMAS WREATH DEDICATIONS

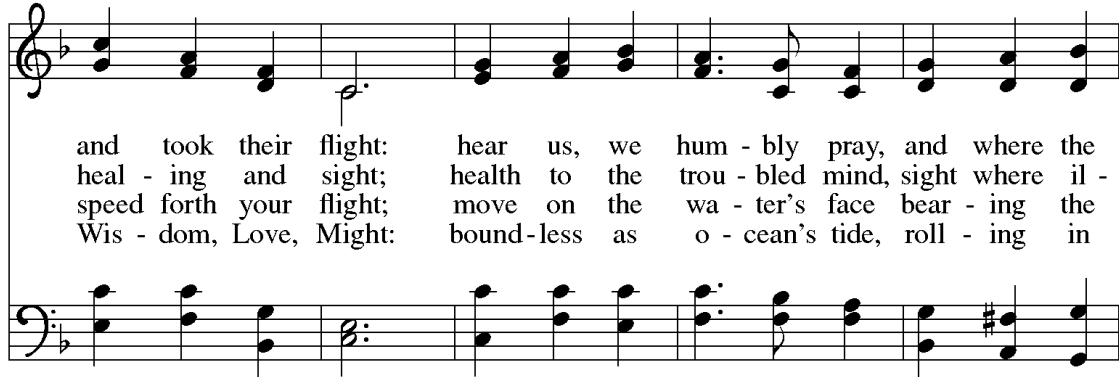
The wreaths on Warren Street were dedicated in loving memory of Harry W. Lafko, Dr. and Mrs. F.S. Olmes, and Mr. and Mrs. William Lafko by the Lafko family. The wreaths on Church Street (Main Entrance) were given to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Ron Rozansky. We apologize for our delay in acknowledging these gifts.

SENDING HYMN

“God, Whose Almighty Word”



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

OUR PASTOR & STAFF

Reverend Michael T. Petresky	570-366-2316 - Ext 11	pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
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Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152	No Email
Karen Travor, Treasurer	610-507-2797	karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-617-9617	cwlutsey@gmail.com
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager	936-648-6809	jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org