

St. Paul Lutheran Church



A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols December 31, 2023

**158 Fish Hill Road
PO Box 196**

Tannersville, Pennsylvania 18372

Telephone: (570) 629-1992

Website: www.stpaultannersvillepa.org

Parish Administrator's Email: parishadmin@stpaultannersvillepa.org

Worship Services: Sunday at 9:00 A.M.

Holy Communion: 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month & Festivals

Christian Education: Sunday's at 10:15 A.M.

Air Conditioned & Handicapped Accessible

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Grounded in faith and growing in grace, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ by word and deed in our local community and throughout the world.



Are you visiting St. Paul? Are you interested in membership or just looking to see if St. Paul is a good fit for you and/or your family? Please call (570-629-1992) or stop by our office during regular business hours (Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 1:00pm) and speak to our Parish Administrator, Sherry Gallagher, who will be happy to guide you through the membership process and help you find information on all of the great programs at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

SILENT MEDITATION... Please note – silent meditation is a part of the morning worship service. This is a time for individual reflection; a time for communicating with God, as well as a time of preparation for the service of worship. We encourage you to use it in a meaningful way.

Please respect the prayerful atmosphere of this holy place. We ask that you turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

Our Church Staff

Pastor: Reverend Rashion “Woody” Santiago
Parish Administrator: Mrs. Sherry Gallagher
Choir Director/Organist: Mr. Robert Jones

2023 – 2024 Council

Dawn Bartron
Bill Below
Chris Kinsley Sr.
Nicole Kresge
Carl Reindl
Deb Storman
Beth Werkheiser
Dawn Weiss
Linda Carrisquillo

Website: www.stpaultannersvillepa.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaultannersvillepa

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsvvR6FI09zcaiDPY174k5A>

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 31, 2023

9:00 am Service

Chimes

Announcements

Prelude

***Confession**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

Amen.

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

***Absolution**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. † In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

Amen.

Carol #288 – “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15; 17-19

Hymn #276: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Second Lesson: Genesis 22: 15-18

Carol: #282 – “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Carol: #292 – “Love Has Come”

Fourth Lesson: *Isaiah 11: 1-9*

Carol: #279 – *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

Fifth Lesson: *Luke 1: 26-35, 38*

Carol: #296 – *“What Child Is This?”*

Sixth Lesson: *Luke 2: 1, 3-7*

Carol: #277 – *“Away in a Manger”*

Seventh Lesson: *Luke 2: 8-16*

Carol: #289 – *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

Eighth Lesson: *Matthew 2: 1-12*

Carol: #300 – *“The First Noel”* verse 1-4

Ninth Lesson: *John 1: 1-14*

Choir *“A Carol Celebration”*

Prayers of Intercession

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ’s coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all who lead the church’s worship. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

In Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. We give thanks for those in every generation who reflect the light of Christ. May their witness shine forth in our time. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

At this time, you are invited to share your joys and concerns, either silently or aloud. *(Pause.)* Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

Amen.

Offering Prayer

God of abundance,

receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit; let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, "For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses. Amen.

***Blessing**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

Carol: #270 – "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

Thanks be to God.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a worship service celebrating the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmastime. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with singing of Christmas carols, hymns and music. The format was drawn up by Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use on Christmas Eve 1880. The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world. The best-known version is broadcast from King's College in Cambridge, MA, which has held the service annually on Christmas Eve since 1918.



Prayer Requests

Prayers have been requested for the following brothers and sisters in Christ who have concerns needing God's help...

Sr. Msgt William F. Allen; Francis Anderson; Specialist William "Blake" Allen; Tom Altemose; Mark Anthony; Evelyn Arroyo; Daniel Bartron; Dillon Berenti; Major Matthew Blessing; Captain Katy Blessings; David Brong; Judi Carman; Elaine Cornelus; Jamie Fisher; LilliAnna Daniels; Renee Depuy; John Drury; Louis Genset; the family of Chris Haley Jr.; Charlie Hemple; Carol Jones; Ian Juica; Kris Kent; Robbie Kinsley; Eleanor Kreuger; the family of Dawne Ladeas at her passing; Esther Laurito; David Leith; James Meckes; Steven Moore; Ada Morales; Nelson Morales; Donna Myers; Dr. Kenny Pearson; Annabelle Peechatka; Norman Rinker; Anna Rivera; Jean Ross; Gina Santiago; Pastor "Woody" Santiago; Rafael Santiago; Claudette Segear; Samuel Smith, Jr.; Greg Theadford; Jim Tomedi; the family of Rene Vonk at his passing; the family of Ruth Werkheiser at her passing; Jacob Wilson; for the people of Ukraine; for all who are traveling; for all of those struggling with addictions; the members of the Armed Forces of the United States; for the families and victims of the mass shootings, for all those around the world and here at home suffering from the coronavirus pandemic.

Have your prayers been answered? Or do you still need God's help? Please let us know. Please leave requests and/or updates in the basket labeled "Prayer Requests" located in the church office. Please renew your request monthly if you or your loved one is still in need of our prayers. Thank you to everyone who prays with us for those in need.

Thank you to all who have helped to support St. Paul's Food Pantry! Your commitment to help is a true blessing to those who are struggling to feed their families. The pantry is always in need of basic food supplies, and we need your continued support to keep this program going strong. All donations are very much appreciated and welcome. This year, we distributed 30 Christmas food baskets.

This office will be closed tomorrow, January 1, 2024