St. Paul Lutheran Church "Let's Make a Difference Together"



158 Fish Hill Road PO Box 196

Tannersville, Pennsylvania 18372

Telephone: (570) 629-1992

Fax: (570) 629-2038

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

<u>OUR MISSION STATEMENT:</u> 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 (Mon – Thurs 9:00am – 1:00pm) and speak to our Parish Administrator, Leanna Wickline, 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 – the 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.

Pastor: Reverend Rashion "Woody" Santiago Parish Administrator: Mrs. Leanna D. Wickline Choir Director/Organist: Mr. Robert Jones

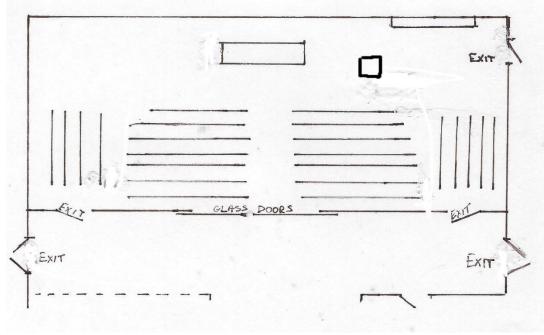
2023 Council Members

Grant Allen, Dawn Bartron, Bill Below, Chris Kinsley Sr., Nicole Kresge, Carl Reindl, Deb Storman, Beth Werkheiser, Leanna Wickline

Website: www.stpaultannersvillepa.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaultannersvillepa

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsvvR6Fl09zcaiDPY174k5A



Worship Service Fifth Sunday After Epiphany Sunday, February 5, 2023

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

+Late Seating

*Please stand, if able.

Words in bold print denote congregational response.

Chimes

Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

God of light and truth, you are beyond our grasp or conceiving. Before the brightness of your presence the angels veil their faces. With lowly reverence and adoring love we acclaim your glory and sing your praise, for you have shown us your truth and love in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

*Confession

Gracious God,

Our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive shat our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgement. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

*Absolution

Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

*Opening Hymn

Here I am To Worship

Light of the world, You stepped down into the darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore you
Hope of a life spent with you

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that, You're my God
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days, oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly you came to the earth you created
All for your loves sake became poor

Refrain

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that, You're my God
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
To see my sin upon that cross

*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 (Lector)

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹ "Cry out loudly, don't hold back! Raise your voice like a ram's horn. Tell my people their transgression and the house of Jacob their sins. ² They seek me day after day and delight to know my ways, like a nation that does what is right and does not abandon the justice of their God. They ask me for righteous judgments; they delight in the nearness of God." ³ "Why have we fasted, but you have not seen? We have denied ourselves, but you haven't noticed!" "Look, you do as you please on the day of your fast, and oppress all your workers. ⁴ You fast with contention and strife to strike viciously with your fist. You cannot fast as you do today, hoping to make your voice heard on high. ⁵ Will the fast I choose be like this: A day for a person to deny himself, to bow his head like a reed, and to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast and a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶ Isn't this the fast I choose: To break the chains of wickedness, to untie the ropes of the yoke, to set the oppressed free, and to tear off every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, to bring the poor and homeless into your house, to clothe the naked when you see him, and not to ignore your own flesh and blood? 8 Then your light will appear like the dawn, and your recovery will come quickly. Your righteousness will go before you, and the Lord's glory will be your rear guard. ⁹ At that time, when you call, the Lord will answer; when you cry out, he will say, 'Here I am.' If you get rid of the yoke among you, the fingerpointing and malicious speaking, ¹⁰ and if you offer yourself to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted one, then your light will shine in the darkness, and your night will be like noonday. ¹¹ The Lord will always lead you, satisfy you in a parched land, and strengthen your bones. You will be like a watered garden and like a spring whose water never runs dry. 12 Some of you will rebuild the ancient ruins; you will restore the foundations laid long ago; you will be called the repairer of broken walls, the restorer of streets where people live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 112:1-10

¹Hallelujah! Happy is the person who fears the Lord, taking great delight in his commands.

² His descendants will be powerful in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

- ³ Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.
- ⁴ Light shines in the darkness for the upright. He is gracious, compassionate, and righteous.
- ⁵Good will come to the one who lends generously and conducts his business fairly.
- ⁶ He will never be shaken. The righteous one will be remembered forever.
- ⁷ He will not fear bad news; his heart is confident, trusting in the Lord.
- ⁸ His heart is assured; he will not fear. In the end he will look in triumph on his foes.
- ⁹ He distributes freely to the poor; his righteousness endures forever. His horn will be exalted in honor.
- ¹⁰ The wicked one will see it and be angry; he will gnash his teeth in despair. The desire of the wicked leads to ruin.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, announcing the mystery of God to you, I did not come with brilliance of speech or wisdom. ² I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not be based on human wisdom but on God's power. ⁶ We do, however, speak a wisdom among the mature, but not a wisdom of this age, or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ On the contrary, we speak God's hidden wisdom in a mystery, a wisdom God predestined before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age knew this wisdom, because if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But as it is written, What no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no human heart has conceived — God has prepared these things for those who love him.

¹⁰ Now God has revealed these things to us by the Spirit, since the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except his spirit within him? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who comes from God, so that we may understand what has been freely given to us by God. ¹³ We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people. ¹⁴ But the person without the Spirit does not receive what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually. ¹⁵ The spiritual person, however, can evaluate everything, and yet he himself cannot be evaluated by anyone. ¹⁶ For who has known the Lord's mind, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel. (Lector)

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father. 17 "Don't think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished. 19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

The word of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

*The Nicene Creed

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 the People (Lector)

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. A brief silence.

Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness. Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

At this time, you are welcome to share your joys and concerns, either silently or aloud. *Pause.* We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

Offering Prayer

Liberating God,

you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.

*The 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.

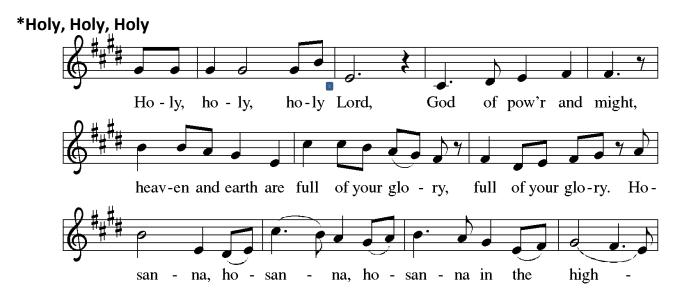
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Words of Institution

Why do we give thanks and praise before this table?

We give thanks for God's work of creation, liberation and salvation.

It is indeed right, our duty and our delight, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O holy Lord, eternal God. You created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them; you made us in your own image; and in countless ways you show us your mercy. Therefore, with choirs of angels and the whole company of heaven, we worship and adore your glorious name, joining our voices in their unending praise:





All glory and blessings are yours, O holy God, for in your mercy you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ. He took our human nature and suffered death on the cross for our redemption. There he made a perfect sacrifice for the sins for the whole world. We praise you that before he suffered and died, our Savior gave us this holy sacrament and commanded us to continue it until he comes again.

Why do we eat bread at this table?

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Why do we drink from the cup at this table?

The same night Jesus took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

What do we remember at this table?

We remember God's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Dying, you destroyed our death; rising, you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory. Merciful God, pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine that in eating and drinking we may be made one with Christ and on another.

Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer

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 and taste the joy of God!

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

*Table Blessing

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

*Prayer After Communion

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

*Blessing

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod

→ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Light Of The World

You are the light of the world You are the light of the world So shine, shine, shine where you are You are the light of the world.

You are a city on a hill
You are a city on a hill
So shine, shine, shine where you are
You are a city on a hill

You are a candle in the dark
You are a candle in the dark
So shine, shine, shine where you are
You are a candle in the dark

You are a star in the night
You are a star in the night
So shine, shine, shine where you are
You are a star in the night

You are the light of the world
You are the light of the world
So shine, shine, shine where you are
You are the light of the world
So shine, shine, shine where you are
You are light of the world.



*Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"The worship ends. . .the service begins."

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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

Sr. Msgt. William F. Allen; Specialist William "Blake" Allen; Sr. Master Sargent William F. Allen; Tom Altemose; Mark Anthony; Evelyn Arroyo; Daniel Bartron; Diane Berner; Dillon Berenti; Major Matthew Blessing; Captain Katy Blessings; David Brong; Dennis Bushkofsky; Linda Bushkofsky; Judi Carman; Elaine Cornelus; Jamie Fisher; Todd & Anna Geil; LilliAnna Daniels; Renee Depuy; Doris Drury; John Drury; Louis Genset; Lynn Gerber; Tim Grover; the family of Chris Haley Jr.; the family of Matt Herzberg; Charlie Hemple; T. J. Imhof; Carol Jones; Ian Juica; Robbie Kinsley; Nikolaos Kotretsos; Eleanor Kreuger; Esther Laurito; David Leith; James Meckes; Steven Moore; Ada Morales; Nelson Morales; Dr. Kenny Pearson; Annabelle Peechatka; Anna Rivera; Jean Ross; Gina Santiago; Claudette Segear; Vaughn Sensinger; Phyllis Sensinger; Shirley Singer; Samuel Smith, Jr.; Greg Theadford; Jim Tomedi; Brenda Van Why; Steve Widgett; Alice Weaver; Harry Weaver; Jacob Wilson; John Woodling; Carolyn Zacharias; 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. Thank you to everyone who prays with us for those in need.



Thank you to all who have helped to support St. Paul's Strunk 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

Souper Bowl of Caring

Calling all Souper Bowl of Caring fans, it is that time of year again to help fill the Strunk Food Pantry. Until February 12th, we will be collecting non-perishable items for the Strunk Food Pantry. This year's goal is 400 items. **Items of particular need are: boxed pasta, mac & cheese, cereal, peanut butter, soup, canned vegetables, beans of all types, canned tuna and chicken, canned fruit and canned potatoes.** Once again, we will be serving soup after the service on February 12th to say thank you for all your generosity. Anyone interested in making soup please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

Grocery Tapes

If you shop at Kinsley's Shoprite or Weis markets we get a percentage of your purchase. Just bring your receipts in and put them in the box on the table in the Narthex. In order for us to receive credit, the receipts must include the date and store number. Please don't tear off the bottom of the receipts.

Inside Out Church

Inside Out Church is held at 6:30pm on Wednesday, in Spies Hall. We join together with a meal and a deep dive into the scriptures. This is an opportunity to grow your faith and increase your knowledge and understanding of God's Word and the Bible.

Synod Assembly June 1-3, 2023

The Bishop requires two voting members from each congregation as well as the Pastor attend the Synod Assembly. It is local, so there is no need for overnight stays. This is the first inperson assembly since COVID struck in 2020. Small group information sessions and the wonderful worship opportunities make it worth attending!

		February	Worship	Assistant	Schedule	
	Acolyte	Ushers	Lector	Communion Assistants	Counters	Altar Guild
2/5/2023	Emily	Charlie Hempel	Bill Below	Linda Below	Deb Storman	Beth Reindl
	Kresge	Donna Warner		Deb Storman	Beth Werkheiser	Leanna Wickline
2/12/2023	Deb	Carl Reindl	Linda Below		Dawne Ladeas	
	Storman	Beth Reindl			Barbara Allen	
					Judy Michael	
2/19/2023	Eli	Linda Below	Kris Kent	Dawn Weiss	Deb Storman	Beth Reindl
	Kresge	Deb Storman		Dawn Bartron	Barbara Allen	Leanna Wickline
2/26/2023	Dawn	Charlie Hempel	Joan Rinker		Beth Werkheiser	
	Weiss	Donna Warner			Barbara Allen	

If you are unable to serve at your scheduled time, please contact the office.

Next Week's Readings:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37