

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

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, 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.

Our Church Staff

Pastor: Reverend Rashion “Woody” Santiago

Parish Administrator: Mrs. Leanna D. Wickline

Choir Director/Organist: Mr. Robert Jones

2022-23 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/UCsvvR6FI09zcaiDPY174k5A>

Worship Service

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 11, 2022

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

**Please stand, if able.*

Words in bold print denote congregational response.

Chimes (Call to Worship)

Announcements

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

We gather in preparation

For good news is about to be proclaimed.

We gather in expectation

For joy is about to explode in our midst.

We gather in celebration

**For we are those people who have said yes to the manger, yes to love enfleshed,
yes to the one incarnate for others, yes to the wholeness of God.**

With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

***Confession**

It is Advent. It is the season in which we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, who is the bringer of all peace. We confess to you the ways in which we block the peace of Christ in our lives.

God of peace, hear our prayer.

The rushing and scurrying to get things done,

We confess to you, O God of peace.

The worry about the little details,

We confess to you, O God of peace.

The financial burdens we put on ourselves,

We confess to you, O God of peace.

The impatience and irritability we feel and take out on one another,

We confess to you, O God of peace.

The bickering and quarreling Though we make ourselves less than peaceful at this time of the year, your peace is always there for us.

Instill within us your peace, O God.

When we feel overwhelmed,

Instill within us your peace, O God.

When we are filled with worry,

Instill within us your peace, O God.

When we become irritable,

Instill within us your peace, O God.

When the guilt of our ways threatens to overcome us, help us to remember that we are forgiven in Christ.

Instill within us your peace, O God.

Instill within us your peace, O God. Instill within us your peace and help us to make choices that bring us closer to you. Help us to be more peaceful so that we may spread Christ's peace and love to others.

Amen.

***Absolution**

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps. In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Sharing of Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share a sign of peace with one another. *Please stay in your pew area and share a sign of peace and greeting with one another.*

***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**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Christ, Be Our Light Verse 3 only



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



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.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

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. *(Isaiah 9:2)*

Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. *(The 1st candle is lit.)*

I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I will not forsake them. *(Isaiah 42:16)*

Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord *(The 2nd candle is lit.)*

The Lord says to his servant, “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” *(Isaiah 49:6)*

Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord *(The 3rd candle is lit.)*

(Sing chorus of “Christ Be Our Light”)

***Prayer of the Day** (Lector)

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God’s coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall

return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 146:5-10

⁵ Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,
⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;**

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸ **the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹ The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ **The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel. (Lector)

***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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" ¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear. ¹⁶"But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, ¹⁷'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' ¹⁹The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A Glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

The word of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

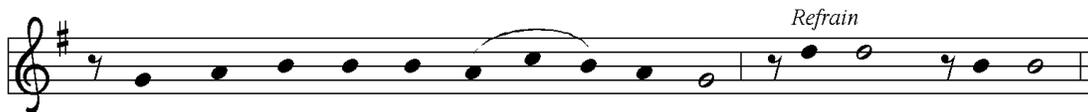
*Hymn of the Day



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

* The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the People (Lector)

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss. Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. At this time, you are invited to share your prayers of thankfulness, joys and concerns. *Pause.* By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

*** Offering Prayer**

Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

***The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.

***Blessing**

Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles: in him, the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (*Romans 15:12-13*)
Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

The King Shall Come

1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'The King Shall Come'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is written in the bass staff. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, with five numbered lines of text corresponding to the five verses of the hymn.

when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
 and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
 the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

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***Choral Benediction** *"Go Now and Pass It On"*

May the Lord _____ walk be - side us _____ as we

6
 leave _____ this qui - et place, _____ for the Lord _____ will al - ways

12
 guide us _____ if we walk in the light of His grace. _____

17
 _____ May we feel God's love a - round us _____ as it

22
 keeps us faith - ful and strong, _____ for the peace _____

27
 _____ of God sur rounds us, _____ and now we must pass it

32
 on. _____ Go now and pass it on. _____

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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

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Readings for next week:

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25



Prayer Requests

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

Sr. Msgr. William F. Allen; Specialist William "Blake" Allen; Tom Altemose; Mark Anthony; Evelyn Arroyo; Daniel Bartron; Diane Berner; Dillon Berenti; Major Matthew Blessing; David Brong; Judi Carman; Elaine Cornelus; Sue Felker; Jamie Fisher; Paul Frantz; Todd & Anna Geil; LilliAnna Daniels; Renee Depuy; Doris Drury; John Drury; Louis Genset; Lynn Gerber; Tim Grover; the family of Chris Haley Jr.; Rick Hamlet & family; Kim Harper; Harrison Herzberg; Matt Herzberg; Charlie Hemple; T. J. Imhof; Carol Jones; Ian Juica; Kris Kent; Robbie Kinsley; Nikolaos Kotretsos; Eleanor Kreuger; Joann Lance; 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.; Kamia Taylor; Greg Theadford; Jim Tomedi; Brenda Van Why; Steve Widdgett; Alice Weaver; Harry Weaver; the Williams family; Jacob Wilson; John Woodling; Pastor Woody; Carolyn Zacharias; for the families and victims of the mass shootings; for all of those struggling with addictions; for all who are traveling; for the people of Ukraine; the members of the Armed Forces of the United States; 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 give written requests and/or updates the church office or leave in the offering plate. 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 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. **We provided Thanksgiving baskets, including a turkey and all the fixings, to 26 families this year! Thanks to you and to Kinsley's ShopRite for the donation of the turkeys for the baskets.**



As you shop for the holidays, don't forget to put St. Paul Lutheran Church Tannersville as your charity before checking out on Amazon. They will send us 1% of your purchase.

Inside Out Church – Wednesday at 6:30pm dinner included!

Join us each Wednesday evening for a delicious meal full of fellowship and then an in-depth discussion of a scripture passage led by Pastor Woody. The discussion reveals a deeper understanding of the scriptures and how it can guide us through our lives and grow our spiritual being.

Pantry Sunday

Today we celebrate Pantry Sunday. Items collected will be used for our client's regular needs and to prepare Christmas dinner baskets for our food pantry clients.

Children & Youth Christmas Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is up for the Monroe County Children & Youth Foster Children is up! Select a tag (or several) shop for the children on the back and return the unwrapped gifts with the tag by **today**. The gifts will be taken to Children & Youth on the 12th for distribution to the children by their caseworkers.

Mitten Tree

It is that time of year when we are all once again getting ready for the special night that our Savior was born. While you are doing whatever special holiday traditions you and your family do, take some time to think of those less fortunate. Once again, we will be collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to keep both children and adults warm this winter. Please consider donating any or all of the items above to decorate our Mitten Tree. The tree will be up from November 27th to January 8th. If you have any questions please contact Dawn Weiss. Thank you in advance.

Emergency Preparedness Team

The Team will be meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 7:00pm in the Parlor.

Advent and Christmas Schedule

December 2nd The Second Sunday of Advent 9:00am Worship Service

December 10th 3:00pm Bach & Handel Chorale Christmas Concert

December 11th The Third Sunday of Advent 9:00am Worship Service

December 18th The Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:00am Worship Service

December 24th Christmas Eve 7:00pm Candlelight Worship Service

December 25th Christmas Day 9:00am Service of Lessons and Carols



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

The sanctuary will once again be decorated with beautiful poinsettia plants this Christmas. Pastor feels safe doing this, with an artificial tree. If you would like to donate a plant in memory of or in honor of someone special or just simply to the Glory of God, please complete the form below and return it to the office no later than Sunday, December 18, 2022. Each poinsettia will be \$4.00

Your Name: _____

Phone# _____

Number of Plants: _____

Amount Attached: _____

In memory of...	In honor of....	To the Glory of God	Name(s) of those being honored