

St. Paul Lutheran Church
“Let’s Make a Difference Together”



Fish Hill Road
PO Box 196

Tannersville, Pennsylvania

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 (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.

Our Church Staff

Pastor: Vacant – in Call Process

Parish Administrator: Mrs. Leanna D. Wickline

Choir Director/Organist: Mr. Robert Jones

2020 Council Members

Grant Allen
Bill Below
Terry Fouts
Chris Kinsley Sr.
Nicole Kresge
Carl Reindl
Deb Storman
Ingrid Unternahrer
Beth Werkheiser

We welcome the Rev. Dr. Dan Baugess. Thank you for leading us in worship this morning!
Special thanks to Jane Baugess & Shannon Pepitone for blessing us with their musical talents!

Worship Service

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 13, 2020

+Late Seating

**Please stand, if able.*

Words in bold print denote congregational response.

Prelude

Chimes (Call to Worship)

Announcements

*Confession

Blessed be God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,

we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God.

Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ.

Amen.

*Absolution

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free— free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God's love, ✝ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*+ Opening Hymn

Christ, Be Our Light



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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*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 the unity of 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.

***Prayer of the Day**

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

The third candle symbolizes joy and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy. This candle is colored pink to represent joyfulness and rejoicing.

As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus. O ransomed people of the Lord, come,

let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.

Light the third candle.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel – vs 7

O come, O King of nations, come;

O Cornerstone that binds in one:

Refresh the hearts that long for you,

Restore the broken, make us new.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Chrismons

Chrismon is a combination of two words Christ and Monogram. These ornaments are just that, a monogram of Christ. In 1957 Frances Kipps Spenser created for the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, Virginia, a tree decorated in ornaments she designed to honor the Christ Child using these monograms of Christ. A few early Christian symbols were added to tell a more complete story. The first tree had only a dozen designs, which told the story of Christ symbolically. As the faith of the congregation grew and deepened, more symbols were added reflecting their deeper understanding and relationship with God.

All Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold. White the liturgical color for Christmas, refers to our Lord's purity and perfection; gold refers to his majesty and glory. We point to Christ as the Light of the world by using tiny white lights on the tree.

The Chrismon tree is only complete when those who see it understand its meaning.

Some of the symbols are from the seasons of the Christian year, such as the 5-pointed Epiphany Star, others such as the cross remind us of God's saving grace. Monograms are the Chi and Rho, the first letters of Christ in Greek, or for Latin *Christus Rex*, Christ the King and Alpha and Omega, the beginning and ending letters of the Greek alphabet from Revelations 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.'"

Symbols that represent the Triune God are the equilateral triangle, triangle and trefoil and Triquetra. The crown of thorns represents his suffering on Good Friday and his death; the

crown also represents Christ's victory over sin and death. Stars remind us of his birth in Bethlehem and when formed by crosses set at angles, reflect the close relationship between the birth and death of our Lord.

The fish is one of the earliest symbols of Christianity. In Greek, ichthus is an acronym of "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior." The descending dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit and the ascending dove, a symbol of the resurrection. The shell with three drops of water represents baptism. Angels foretold of the Christ-child's birth and of the resurrection.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

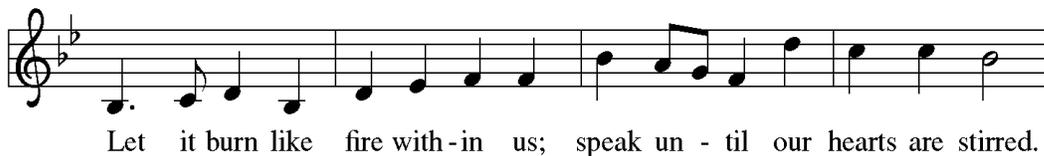
¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



***Gospel**

The holy gospel according to
Glory to you, O Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Rev. Dr. Dan Baugess

Special Music *Duet – “Breathe of Heaven- Mary’s Song”- Grant/Eaton*

*** 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.

***Pastoral Prayer**

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

*Blessing

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✝ now and forever.

Amen.

*Closing Hymn

People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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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. _____

The musical score is written on a single staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of seven lines of music, each with a measure number (6, 12, 17, 22, 27, 32) at the beginning. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with blank lines for breath or phrasing. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the 32nd measure.

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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

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Prayer Requests

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

Ryan Ace, Sr.; Msgt. William F. Allen; Grant Allen; Private William "Blake" Allen; Tom Altemose; Mark Anthony; Evelyn Arroyo; Daniel Bartron; Dawn Bartron; Wynne Below; Nancy Besecker; Dillon Berenti; Cptn. Matthew Blessing; David Brong; Vicki Burnett; Jack Callahan; Judi Carman; Elaine Cornelus; LilliAnna Daniels; Don Deibler; Renee Depuy; Doris Drury; John Drury; Louis Genset; Lynn Gerber; Jean Gerstlauer; Joe & Mary Gill; Barbara Grosch; T. J. Imhof; Carol Jones; Ian Juica; Mason & Addison Kapun; Richard Kernan; Robbie Kinsley; Eleanor Kreuger; Esther Laurito; David Leith; James Meckes; Ruth Mitchell; Mattie Morales & family; Bruce Orłowski; Dr. Kenny Pearson; Annabelle Peechatka; Shirley Pensyl; Faye Reiner; Sandy Richards; Anna Rivera; Jean Ross; the family of Fred Rugen at his passing; Gloria Russell; Jack Russell; Pastor Santiago; Alice Schambra; Claudette Segear; Lynn Seip; Shirley Singer; Samuel Smith, Jr.; Gerald Staples; David & Lisa Stirling; Greg Theadford; Kelly Wickline; Charles Zuccarelli; Fran Zuccarelli; for all who are traveling; for all of those struggling with addictions; the families of those killed and wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan; the members of the Armed Forces of the United States; for the 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 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. **Items of particular need are: canned vegetables like peas, carrots, corn, green beans, kidney beans, pinto beans, canned fruit, canned potatoes, and canned meats like tuna, chicken, beef and other protein sources.** ***Our Food Pantry remains open, although it is functioning as a curb-side service. This limits the contact to others and protects our food pantry staff and our building while still serving the needs of those in need. This week, we served 15 families, 46 adults and 29 children, totaling 1542 people this year!***

As the COVID numbers climb, **please be mindful** of social distancing in your seating and during communion. We have “roped off” sections of seating to assist in maintaining appropriate spacing. During communion, please come down the aisle single file to receive the sacraments, alternating sides even if this means you are not standing next to an immediate family member. There should be a single file row down the center aisle, spaced 6 feet apart, to receive Communion.

Adult Sunday School

Following worship, the Adult Sunday School will meet in Spies Hall to maintain social distancing.

God’s Global Barnyard

The Global Barnyard includes a family farm for \$750, a cow for \$500, and a herd of goats for \$300, as well as many other “Good Gifts” to support economic independence and good nutrition. Our plan is to launch our Global Barnyard campaign next Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent and continue it through the end of the year. Please consider giving to this effective and proven program that has demonstrated positive results of self-sufficiency throughout the world! Check out the easel in the narthex for more information and progress toward our goal.

The Sheriff of Monroe County is collecting new, unwrapped toys for distribution to those in need in Monroe County. A box will be in the narthex on Sunday, November 29 through December 13, at which time they will be taken to the Sheriff’s Office Monday, December 14, for wrapping and distribution. Please give generously as Toys for Tots is not collecting toys this year. We will also be collecting children’s hats, mittens, and scarves.

Men’s Retreat

January 7 & 8, 2021 at Spruce Lake. “An ‘undercover’ story of redemption and second chances” presented by Mark Whitacre. Mr. Whitacre is the highest-ranked Fortune 500 whistleblower in U.S. history, who helped the FBI uncover a multi-billion-dollar price-fixing scandal. He provides one-of-a-kind insight into corporate ethics, corporate greed and the warning signs of a flawed corporate leadership and how God brought him through this adversity to the other side.

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. On a Weis receipt it is below the Weis Club Savings and above the Weis Reward Points. It looks like this: "1/06/2020 12:12 166 306 10 229" Your numbers will be different. If in doubt, don't tear off the bottom of the receipts.

Gentle Yoga

Gentle yoga classes are appropriate for all including those who want a softer, nurturing, slow-paced, well-supported and relaxing practice. The approach includes carefully orchestrated movements, controlled pressure, and well-measured stretches, including range of motion exercises. The class will include breathing techniques and meditation. Please wear loose clothing and bring a mat and water bottle to the class. Members of the congregation can try their first class for \$5.00. After that, class cards can be purchased for \$55.00 and are good for 6 consecutive Mondays. For further information, contact: Lois Silver Zini at 718-986-9502 or email at Loissilver1@mac.com

Worship Schedule

December 20, 2020	4th Sunday of Advent- Rev. William Thompson 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:30am Sunday School
December 24, 2020	Christmas Eve – Candlelight Communion 4:00pm Rev. William Thompson 8:00pm Rev. Dr. Dan Baugess
December 27, 2020	Carols and Readings 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

The sanctuary will once again be decorated with beautiful poinsettia plants this Christmas. 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 20, 2020.

Each poinsettia will be \$5.00

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