

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



158 Fish Hill Road  
PO Box 196

Tannersville, Pennsylvania 18372

Telephone: (570) 629-1992

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Website: [www.stpaultannersvillepa.org](http://www.stpaultannersvillepa.org)

Parish Administrator’s Email: [parishadmin@stpaultannersvillepa.org](mailto:parishadmin@stpaultannersvillepa.org)

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

Holy Communion: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:** Rev. Rashion Santiago (Pastor Woody)

**Parish Administrator:** Mrs. Leanna D. Wickline

**Choir Director/Organist:** Mr. Robert Jones

## 2021 Council Members

Grant Allen

Bill Below

Terry Fouts

Chris Kinsley Sr.

Nicole Kresge

Carl Reindl

Deb Storman

Beth Werkheiser

Leanna Wickline

**Website:** [www.stpaultannersvillepa.org](http://www.stpaultannersvillepa.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/stpaultannersvillepa](https://www.facebook.com/stpaultannersvillepa)

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsvvR6Fl09zcaiDPY174k5A>

# Worship Service

## Fourth Sunday in Advent

### Sunday, December 19, 2021

*Words in bold print denote congregational response.*

*\*Please Stand, if you are able.*

#### **Prelude**

Soloist René Vonk "*Ave Maria*" – Bach

#### **Announcements**

#### **\*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.**

#### **\*Confession**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace.**

**Amen.**

#### **\*Absolution**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✝ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**Amen.**

\*Hymn

# In the Bleak Midwinter

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed,  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894  
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

## \*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.**

## \*Hymn of Praise

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and  
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of  
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

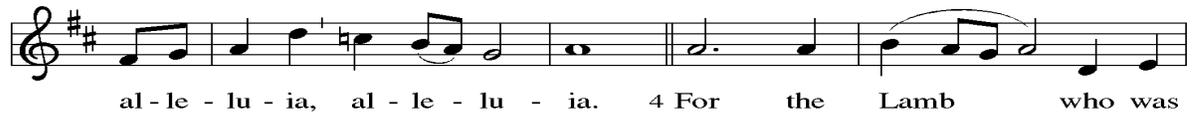


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

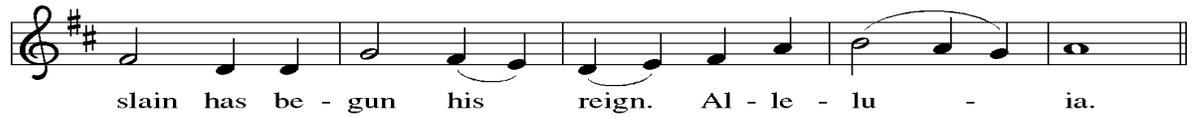
*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

## Christ, Be Our Light verse 4



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.

*Refrain*



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  
 Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.  
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## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent is a time to bind up the broken hearted.

**Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:

**Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

For any bitterness that scratches our soul:

**Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

For relationships left in decay and neglect:

**Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:

**Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

This morning we light the four candles. The first candle is the light of hope for those in times of waiting. The second candle is the light of hope for those who are wearied by the circumstances of life. The third candle is the light of hope for those eagerly watching for God's promised glory. The fourth candle is the light of hope for those who carry the wounds of life. Today we acknowledge our pain and the pain we have caused others. As the light shines, we turn to the Savior who came to rescue the lost, to help the hurting, and to bind up the broken.

*All sing the refrain to "Christ Be Our Light"*

### \*Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a**

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm: Psalm 91:9-16**

<sup>9</sup>Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation,

<sup>10</sup>**no evil will befall you, nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

<sup>11</sup>For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.

<sup>12</sup>**Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

<sup>13</sup>You will tread upon the lion cub and viper; you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

<sup>14</sup>**I will deliver those who cling to me; I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

<sup>15</sup>They will call me, and I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

<sup>16</sup>**With long life will I satisfy them, and show them my salvation.**

## **Chancel Choir "Hark the Glad Sound" – Kohrs**

## **Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10**

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law),

<sup>9</sup>then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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: Luke 1:39-55**

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

\*Hymn of the Day

# My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat  
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958  
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.  
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### **\*The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 Intercession**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

### **\*The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

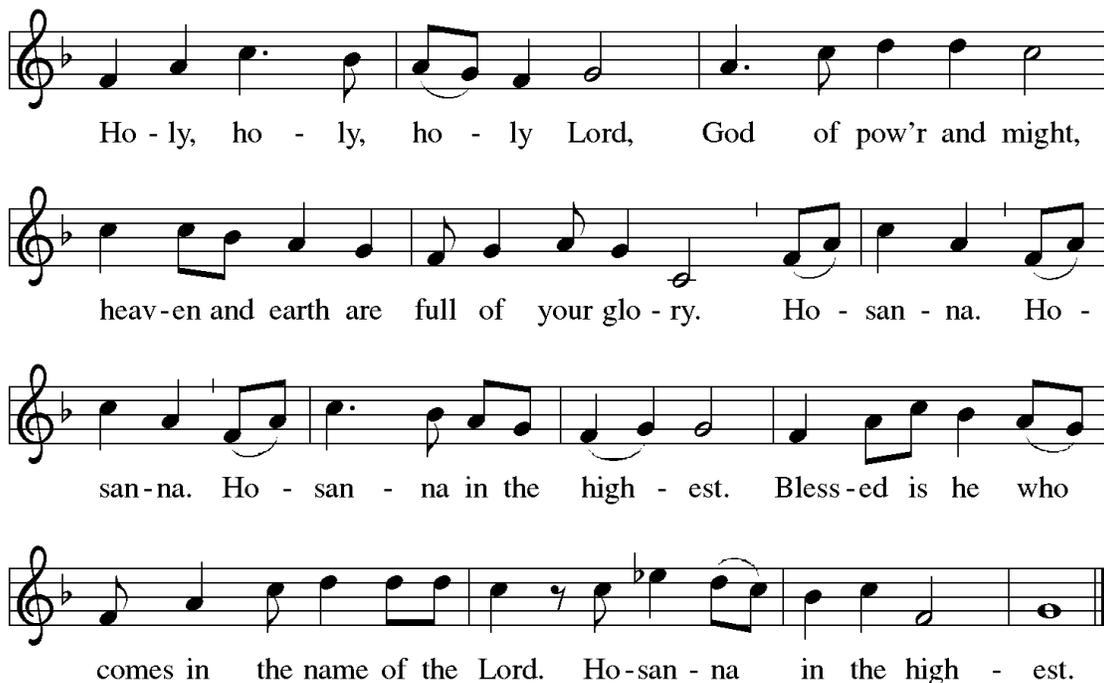
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is indeed right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **\*Proper Preface**

#### **\*Holy, Holy, Holy**



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.

### **\*Words of Institution**

#### **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 to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

#### **Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen.**



\*Sending Hymn

# Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

## \*Choral Benediction



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.**

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

## Postlude

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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...**

Sharen Ace; Msgt. William F. Allen; Private William "Blake" Allen; Tom Altemose; Mark Anthony; Evelyn Arroyo; Daniel Bartron; Wynne Below; Diane Berner; Dillon Berenti; Cptn. Matthew Blessing; David Brong; Judi Carman; the family of Rich Catalano at his passing; Elaine Cornelus; Todd Geil; LilliAnna Daniels; Renee Depuy; Doris Drury; John Drury; Paul Fancher; Louis Genset; Lynn Gerber; the family of Chris Haley at his passing; Barry Hartshorn; Charlie Hemple; T. J. Imhof; Tiffany Johnson; Carol Jones; Ian Juica; Ed Kenderdine and family, at the passing of Mary Ann; Richard Kernan; Robbie Kinsley; Margaret Kinsley & family at the passing of her brother; Nikolaos Kotretsos; Eleanor Kreuger; Dawne Ladeas; Joeann Lance; Esther Laurito; David Leith; James Meckes; Tom Miller; Sue Neumann; Steve Oberman; Dr. Kenny Pearson; Annabelle Peechatka; Shirley Pensyl; Sandy Richards; Anna Rivera; Jean Ross; Gloria Russell; Jack Russell; Claudette Segear; Vaughn Sensinger; Phyllis Sensinger; Shirley Singer; Samuel Smith, Jr.; Kamia Taylor; Greg Theadford; Jim Tomedi; Alice Weaver; Harry Weaver; Dan Wickline; Leanna Wickline; Kelly Wickline; Jacob Wilson; John Woodling; Charles Zuccarelli; Fran Zuccarelli; for all who are traveling; for all of those struggling with addictions; 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 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.

## Mitten Tree

Once again we will be having our annual "Mitten Tree". Please bring any mittens, gloves, hats and scarves, for all ages, and decorate our tree. It will run from Sunday, December 5th thru Sunday, January 2nd. Your donations will be helping the needy in the community through either "My Brother's Keeper" or "Children and Youth". If you have any questions please see Dawn Weiss.



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.

### **Today is the last day to turn in your Poinsettia order**

Would you like to honor a loved one by purchasing a poinsettia to grace our sanctuary on Christmas Eve? The cost is \$4.00 per plant. The plants will adorn the sanctuary Christmas Eve, and can be taken home by their donors either after the Christmas Eve service, or any time thereafter. Use the form on the back of this page to place your order and list how many plants and who you are honoring or memorializing.

## **Upcoming Service Schedule**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00pm with Communion**

**Sunday, December 26 9:00am Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols**

**Website: [www.stpaultannersvillepa.org](http://www.stpaultannersvillepa.org)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stpaultannersvillepa](https://www.facebook.com/stpaultannersvillepa)**

**YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsvvR6Fl09zcaiDPY174k5A>**



# 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 19, 2021. 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