



# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas -- December 31, 2023

## ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

14 West Pennsylvania Avenue, Walkersville, Maryland 21793

**Worship Service LIVE—9:00 a.m.**

Church Phone: 301-845-4600 E-mail: [info@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:info@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)

Web Site: <http://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org>

Saint Paul's Official YouTube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEpgsBUXlow1I7\\_-Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEpgsBUXlow1I7_-Q)



*Through Christ, we joyfully feed the body, mind, and spirit of all.*

### SERVING TODAY

Minister.....Pastor Phil Beck  
Lectors.....Kate Stottlemeyer, Susan Hayes, Betsy Galliher  
Organist.....Jeff Gentry  
Ushers.....Patty Rimel & Roxanne Smith  
Acolyte.....Camden Plog, Kay Wachter

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

President—Trish Valcarcel  
Vice-President—Patty Rimel  
Treasurer—Amy Mildenstein  
Secretary—Jackie Waas

## A Service of Readings and Carols

## Announcements

# Prelude

## Proclamation of the Christmas Story     Luke 2: 1-7

Hymn *Let All Together Praise Our God* ELW 287

## Dialogue

Who are these angels who come to earth, bearing the news of the Christ Child's birth?

Who are these shepherds who run to see, and worship the babe on bended knee?

Who is this child, so small, so slight, of whom the angels sang that night?

Who is this king, a manger his throne, who humbles himself to make us his own?

Who is this God who sends a Son into our midst, the promised one?

## Greeting and Prayer

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Incarnate God, on this day we give you thanks for sending your Son to bring light to our darkness. Grant that we, like the angels over Bethlehem, may sing your praises in our hearts and lives. **Amen.**

## Who Are These Angels Who Come to Earth?

Reading: Luke 2:8-14

Response following the Reading:      **Glory to God in highest heaven,  
who unto us the Son has given.**

Carol *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* ELW 275

## Who Are These Shepherds Who Run to See?

Reading: Luke 2:15-20

Carol *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* ELW 276

Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4

Carol *Angels, We Have Heard on High* ELW 289

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

**Anthem** *Sing a Joyous Glad Noel* **Choir**

Reading: John 1:1-14

Carol *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* ELW 282

## Prayers of Intercession

3

Offering

Offertory Hymn

*What Child is This v. 3*

ELW 296

Offertory Prayer

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus took bread, And gave thanks; broke it, And gave it to his disciples, Saying, Take and eat; This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, And gave it for all to drink, Saying: This cup Is the covenant in my blood, Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, And ascension, We await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us The Spirit of your love, O Lord, And unite the wills Of all who share this heavenly food, The body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; To whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, Be all honor and glory, Now and forever. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

Gathered into One with the Holy Spirit, we now pray as Jesus taught us...

**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.**

Holy Communion: All are welcome at Christ's Table, come as you are. The feast is prepared, the table is set, come and eat.

## Distribution of Communion

## Blessing and Prayer after Communion

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

Let us pray. Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Benediction

May the God who comes from heaven above Be born in your hearts and lives this day and always. **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

ELW 288

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with us. **Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude



# PRAYER LIST

Joe Collins, *Cousin of Joann Valainis*  
**Mark Holloway**, *Husband of Kate Stottlemeyer*  
Bob Schmidt, *Brother of Dottie Titmas*  
**Gary Wachter**, *Member*  
**Michael Wachter**, *Son of Gary and Kay Wachter*  
The Wynne Family, *Friends of Lin Snider and Sue Snyder*  
**Lin Snider**, *Member*  
Sue Snyder, *Member*  
Kim Currier, *Daughter of Sam Purswell*  
Barb Callow, *friend of Marie Purswell*  
Susan and Paul Holloway, *Family of Kate Stottlemeyer*  
**Robert Hoff**, *Member, son of Betty Walker*  
Lillian Foucart, *Member*  
Hank Holiday, *Friend and neighbor of Kate Stottlemeyer*  
Chris Muesing, *Family of Jacki Waas*  
Parker Bazarewski, *member of Ed Chaney's extended family*  
John Baker, *Member*  
**Marion Lawrence**, *Cousin of Kate Stottlemeyer*  
Elyse Acosta, *friend of Dianne and Robb Port*  
Shannon Smith, *Friend of the Mildenstein Family*  
Caroline Dunning, *Daughter of John and Regina Baker*  
The Jones Family, *Close family friends of Joann Valainis*  
Greg, Dani and Dax Sorge, *Family of Trish Valcarcel*  
Bishop Gohl, *Bishop Delaware/Maryland Synod*  
Gil Eiker, *Husband of Rebecca Eiker*  
Sue Jones, *friend of Pastor Phil*  
**Ellen Hatgi**, *Member*  
Doug Ashbrook, *Family Friend of Pastor Phil*  
Family of Doris Alexander, *Member*  
**Marc Johnson**, *Brother of Deb Horton*  
**Roger Stottlemeyer**, *Uncle of Kate Stottlemeyer*

## How our Prayer List Works:

You may call into the Parish Office (301-845-4600) or email the Office Administrator ([officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)). When a prayer list request is added, the request will stay on the list for three consecutive weeks. First week it will be noted in **Super Bold**, the second week it will be noted in **Bold**, and then the third week it will be noted in regular text. Then the request will be removed from the prayer list unless you specifically ask for your request to remain on the prayer list until otherwise noted by you. The power of prayer is amazing! "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." **Matthew 18:20**

## PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES

- † Admiral Lisa Franchetti, U.S. Navy,  
niece to Linwood Snider
- † Zachary Williams, U.S. Airforce,  
grandson of Jim & Dottie Titmas
- † U.S. Navy Corpsman Matthew Kasik,  
grandson of Sam Purswell
- † Dan Beck, Captain., U.S. Army, son of  
Pastor Phil & Susan Beck
- † Carlin Rabie, U.S. Navy, Son-in-law  
of Marcia & Raj Gupta
- † Eric Fong Sam, U.S. Army, friend of  
Mary Ann Ferguson
- † Leo Tanja, U.S. Airforce, nephew of  
Mary Ann Ferguson's sister in  
law

*Do you have need for prayer?  
Do you know someone else who has need for prayer?  
If so, please know that we have a prayer team at  
St. Paul's that is ready to help.  
Simply contact the Church Office.  
All requests are confidential.*

*\*\*Please remember all the names on our prayer list,  
and especially those that are **bold**.*

*They have a specific current need for  
Christian love and support.*

### Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

Sometimes it seemed to Marie d'Oignies that for three or more days she held Christ close to her so that he nestled between her breasts like a baby. St. Jerome testified that when St. Paula came to Bethlehem, she saw him as a baby lying in a crib, and he manifested himself also to Marie in a form that was in keeping with the feast. Thus he showed himself at the Nativity as though he were a baby sucking at the breasts of the Virgin Mary or crying in his cradle. At the Feast of the Purification she saw the blessed virgin offering her son in the temple and Simeon receiving him in his arms. In this vision she exulted no less from joy than if she had been present herself when this happened in the temple. Thus she was transformed throughout the course of a whole year in different ways and was wondrously filled with love.

—*Jacques de Vitry*

[Jacques de Vitry, trans. Margot King, in *Medieval Women's Visionary Literature*, ed. Elizabeth Alvilda Petroff (New York: Oxford, 1986), 182]



## **OFFERINGS**

We are so blessed and grateful for your continued offerings during these unprecedented times.

It is only with your support we can maintain the everyday activities of the church and our work in the community.

Please consider mailing your offering to the church or if you have access to the website, there is an online giving option as well.

<https://www.saintpaulslutheranchurch.org/give/>

### **LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS:**

Current Fund Weekly Need: \$3,825.00

Property Renovation Loan Fund Need: \$360.00

#### **Electronic/Mail-ins Income**

**December 24, 2023:**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Weekly Contributions:	\$1,231.41
Property Loan Fund:	\$ 105.00
Total:	\$1,336.41

#### **Electronic/Mail-ins Income**

**December 24, 2023:**

**Christmas Eve**

Weekly Contributions:	\$1,340.00
Property Loan Fund:	\$ 0.00
Total:	\$1,340.00

#### **In Worship Offerings**

Weekly Contributions:	\$1,246.00
Property Loan Fund:	\$ 200.00
Total:	\$1,446.00

### **ATTENDANCE:**

**December 24, 2023 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

In person: 55

Virtual: 20

**December 24, 2023 Christmas Eve**

In person: 60

Virtual: 10

### **This Week at St Paul's**

#### **Sunday, December 31st**

Worship (Livestream)	9:00am
First Sunday of Christmas	
Lessons and Carols	

#### **Monday, January 1st**

New Year's Day  
Parish Offices Closed

#### **Tuesday, January 2nd**

Executive Council	7pm
-------------------	-----

#### **Thursday, January 3rd**

Frederick Home School	9am-3pm
Cub Scouts	5:30pm

#### **Sunday, January 7th**

Worship (Livestream)	9:00am
Baptism of Our Lord	
Ministry Sunday	10:00am



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*\*\*

For those without Facebook please tune into our YouTube channel for live streams of last week's services.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7AogT-rEoE> (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

<https://youtu.be/kOZf960F2K0> (Christmas Eve)

Please look for future notices regarding live streaming and YouTube videos at

St. Paul's Official YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEpgsBUXlow1I7-Q>



***The altar flowers are given the glory of  
God and in celebration of the New Year by  
Brian and Roxanne Smith***



On behalf of Bethel, Pastor Phil would like to invite you to his Installation Service at Bethel Lutheran Church, 9664 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, MD 21702 on ***January 14, 2024 at 2:00pm***. Let us rejoice that the Lord has brought our congregations together and we are looking forward to celebrating this occasion as the family of God.

**Those who would like their Poinsettias,  
please take them home after today's service.**

Thank you so much for your donation and your part in making our church look and feel so welcoming during the season of our Savior's birth.



**Donations for *Glade Valley Food Bank*  
are always accepted!**

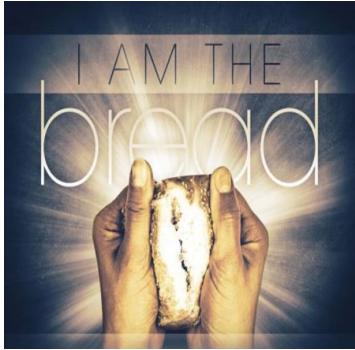
**\*\*Updated Items of need are\*\*:**

Cereal, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, boxed crackers, baked beans, canned pasta, canned tuna and mac 'n' cheese

***Please bring them to the donation bin on the side of Town Hall,  
or you can put them in the basket by the side door and we will get  
them to the food bank for you.***

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BREAD IS COMING BACK!



The Worship and Arts Committee has voted to reinstitute bread at communion, starting with the Lenten season. We'll need members of the congregation to volunteer to provide bread on a weekly basis. Bread used will be white only, unsliced/ unbroken, fresh baked or purchased, no nuts or seeds please, and a soft crust rather than hard, please, to lessen the crumbs that fall.

Please contact Candy Foucart at [cafoucart@yahoo.com](mailto:cafoucart@yahoo.com) if you are interested and she will get back to you with all with possible dates. If there are any questions please ask Candy or any Worship and Arts Committee member.

If no bread is available on a Sunday we will use the wafers.

Thanks for your commitment to St. Paul's!

*Candy Foucart, Communion Coordinator*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

January 21, 2024  
Town Hall



January 28, 2024  
Annual Meeting



### Staff

Minister-202-497-0584 ([pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)).....Pastor Phil Beck  
Youth Coordinator-240-315-5030 ([youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)).....  
Office Administrator- 301-845-4600([officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org](mailto:officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org)).....Joann Valainis  
Music Coordinator .....Nancy Cochran  
Flower Coordinator.....Patty Rimel  
Administration/Purchasing .....Ed Chaney  
Sexton .....Larry Beard  
Stephen Ministry.....Linda Yopp  
Property Coordinator.....Tom Waters  
Financial Secretary.....Troy Keeney