

Third Sunday of Advent—December 17, 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

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



Saint Paul's Official YouTube Channel:

<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
 Lector.....Mary Ann Ferguson
 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

**Please stand as you are able.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE/CANDLES LIT

CHURCH BELL RUNG

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN.....*People, Look East*.....ELW 248**

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way. | 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way. |
| 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way. | 4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way. |

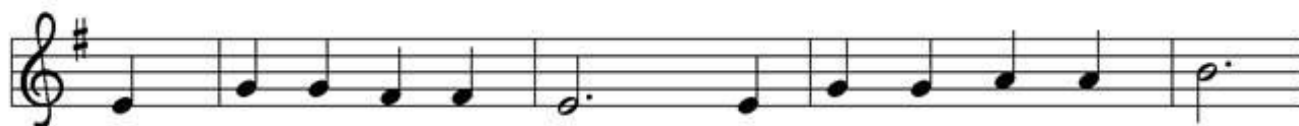
Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

***GREETING (ELW, p. 147)**

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: **And also with you.**

***KYRIE (ELW, p. 203) (Sung)**



- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|----------|----|-----|---------|------|------|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Have | mer - cy | on | us, | Lord, | and | hear | our | sol - emn | prayer. |
| 2 | Have | mer - cy | on | us, | Christ, | and | wash | a - way | our | sin. |
| 3 | Have | mer - cy | on | us, | Lord; | make | sin | and | shame | de - part. |



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.....ELW 257

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Refrain

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

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

***STORY OF THE CANDLES**

The Rimel Family

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Anthem..... **O Holy Night** (Adolphe, Adam—Soloist).....Steve King

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: #126

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our
tongue with shouts of joy.

**Then they said among the nations, "The LORD
has done great things for them."**

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
**will come again with joy, shouldering their
sheaves.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW, p. 205)**



L: The Holy Gospel according to John the first chapter, **1:6-8, 19-28**

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

***THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD**

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMONPastor Phil Beck

Silence for Reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY**..... ***Awake! Awake, and Greet the New MornELW 242

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.</p> <p>2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and blindness.</p> | <p>3 In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.</p> <p>4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.</p> |
|--|---|

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

C: 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 THE CHURCH**

P: ... God, in your mercy, **C:** Hear our prayer.

***The Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING Please place your gift in the offering plate, mail to the church office or consider online giving.

***OFFERTORY HYMN Create in Me a Clean Heart (ELW Pg. 186)**

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*



The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right'. The second staff continues the melody: 'spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take'. The third staff continues: 'not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of'. The fourth staff concludes the phrase: 'your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.' The notation includes various note values, rests, and a final double bar line.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: God our provider,
by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW Pg. 207)

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a half note, the second with a quarter note, the third with a half note, and the fourth with a quarter note. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.'

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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 new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Amen (ELW Pg. 207)



***THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

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

C: 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:

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

COMMUNION HYMN (ELW P. 208)



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together.
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
C: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the
Spirit † remain upon you now and forever.
C: **Amen.**

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry. | 3 The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold. |
| 2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand. | 4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free! |

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

***DISMISSAL**

GO IN PEACE, KEEP AWAKE.
THANKS BE TO GOD.

Announcement regarding livestreaming of the worship services:

St. Paul's intends to continue offering online worship services to share the Gospel through Facebook and Youtube. With the inclusion of in-person attendance during the service, we need to inform you that your presence may be captured in the recording and broadcast through St. Paul's social media platforms. Your comfort and privacy are of utmost importance, if you prefer not to have your image broadcast please contact the office by phone or email or inform the usher as you arrive. The office will keep a list of those wishing NOT to appear in the recording and convey that information to the Media and Technology Ministry.



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.*
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*

How our Prayer List Works:

You may call into the Parish Office (301-845-4600) or email the Office Administrator (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

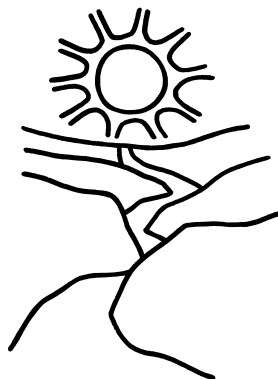
*Do you have need for prayer?
Do you know someone else who has need for prayer?
If so, please know that we have a prayer team at
St. Paul's that is ready to help.
Simply contact the Church Office.
All requests are confidential.*

*****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

It is interesting that the calculation theory of the origin of Christmas places the feast at the winter solstice in relationship to biblical accounts of the birth of the Baptist. The festival of the nativity of John the Baptist is on June 24, the old date for the summer solstice, which is the time of the greatest light in the northern hemisphere. But as the world's light wanes towards the time of greatest darkness at the winter solstice, we come to the feast of the true Light, brighter than the sun, given in the midst of our darkness. Advent is like John when its continuing decrease of light is made to bear witness to the coming of God's grace in the midst our need. John is present in our Advent when we know this about our observances and our days: They are not the light. But it is not that we simply turn toward the still coming One. Advent is not playacting, pretending to be the people waiting for the Messiah. Every Sunday assembly, even and especially during Advent, is a gathering in the power of the Spirit and in the presence of the risen Christ before the revealed face of God. "Waiting" is our human condition. This text heightens our waiting, turning us toward God and connecting us to the darkness that at every time of the year and in all religious systems waits for the transcendent one. —*Gordon Lathrop*

[Gordon W. Lathrop, *Advent/Christmas, Proclamation 4, Series B* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990), 28-29]



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 3, 2023:**

Weekly Contributions:	\$1,409.84
Property Loan Fund:	\$ 270.00
Total:	\$1,679.84

In Worship Offerings

Weekly Contributions:	\$2,435.00
Property Loan Fund:	\$ 410.00
Total:	\$2,845.00

ATTENDANCE: **December 10, 2023**

In person: 48
Virtual: 20

This Week at St Paul's

Sunday, December 17th

Worship (Livestream)	9:00am
Third Sunday of Advent	

Monday, December 18th

FEC	8am-5pm
Cub Scouts	7:15pm

Tuesday, December 19th

Council	7pm
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Thursday, December 21st

Cub Scouts	6pm
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Sunday, December 24th

Worship (Livestream)	9:00am
Fourth Sunday of Advent	
Christmas Eve Worship	7:00pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*******IMPORTANT*******

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7AogT-rEoE>

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 to
the glory of God and in honor of
The Horton Family birthdays and anniversaries
by the Horton family.***



***Today is the last day to
help us decorate for Christmas
by purchasing a Poinsettia!***

Red are available for \$10.00 each.

You can sign up on line at:

<https://forms.gle/o63FE7QbApssKuyw5>, use the
sign up sheet on the side bulletin board or in
person at the Parish Office, with a check or cash.



We are again blessed that an anonymous donor has offered a matching challenge of \$3,000 to assist where most needed by the end of the year. If members of the congregation can contribute \$3,000 over and above their normal giving the anonymous member will match the contribution.

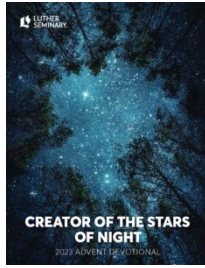
If you are writing a check, please include "Challenge" on the memo line. If you prefer to give on-line, please use the "GIVE NOW" button and choose the undesignated selection in the Fund dropdown and add "Challenge" in the "Note" section.

***The deadline for the challenge is Monday,
December 25th.***



The fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve this year. We will have our 9:00am Sunday Advent service as well as our traditional 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service. Please consider joining us in person to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Advent Devotionals

Have you been taking advantage of the Lutheran Daily Advent Devotionals being posted every day on St. Paul's Facebook page and our Website?

If so, we would **love** to hear your feedback! Please email the office or call 301-845-4600.



**Glade Valley
Community Services**

**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.***

Christmas at Victoria Park

On Saturday, December 23rd, St. Paul's will host a "Cocoa, Coffee, Cookies, and Caroling" event from 3-5 pm.



In preparation for this event, we are collecting gently used (or new) holiday mugs that we will give to the residents as a holiday gift. If you have any mugs to spare, we would love to have them. You can place your donations in either of the boxes marked, "Mugs for Victoria Park." located in the Parish Hall or in the church.

In addition, if you would be interested in caroling, donating cookies or a holiday snack, please use this sign-up link: www.PerfectPotluck.com/MSIM6231.

Thank you all for your continued support. The residents of Victoria Park are extremely grateful for everyone's efforts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Would you like to schedule a date to sponsor Altar flowers?

Please contact Patty Rimel through the Parish Office if you would like to arrange a date to offer flowers.

The 2024 Flower Chart is up in the Church as well.



‘Calling all the helpers!’

We are at that time of year when the outgoing council members are seeking new hands to continue our work as the leadership of St Paul’s. If you have ever felt a calling or curiosity about council leadership and what we do, please seek out Pastor, Trish, Patty, Russ or any council member for answers! We currently have two people committed to running for our five open positions, so we have plenty of room for you!



**Annual Reports are due
12/31/2023**



**Deadline for January
Epistle is Monday,
December 18th**

Staff

Minister–202-497-0584 (pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org).....Pastor Phil Beck
Youth Coordinator-240-315-5030 (youthandfamily@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org).....
Office Administrator- 301-845-4600(officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org).....Joann Valainis
Music CoordinatorNancy Cochran
Flower Coordinator.....Patty Rimel
Administration/PurchasingEd Chaney
SextonLarry Beard
Stephen Ministry.....Linda Yopp
Property Coordinator.....Tom Waters
Financial Secretary.....Troy Keeney