

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of  
God by Brian and Roxanne Smith*



### **SERVING TODAY**

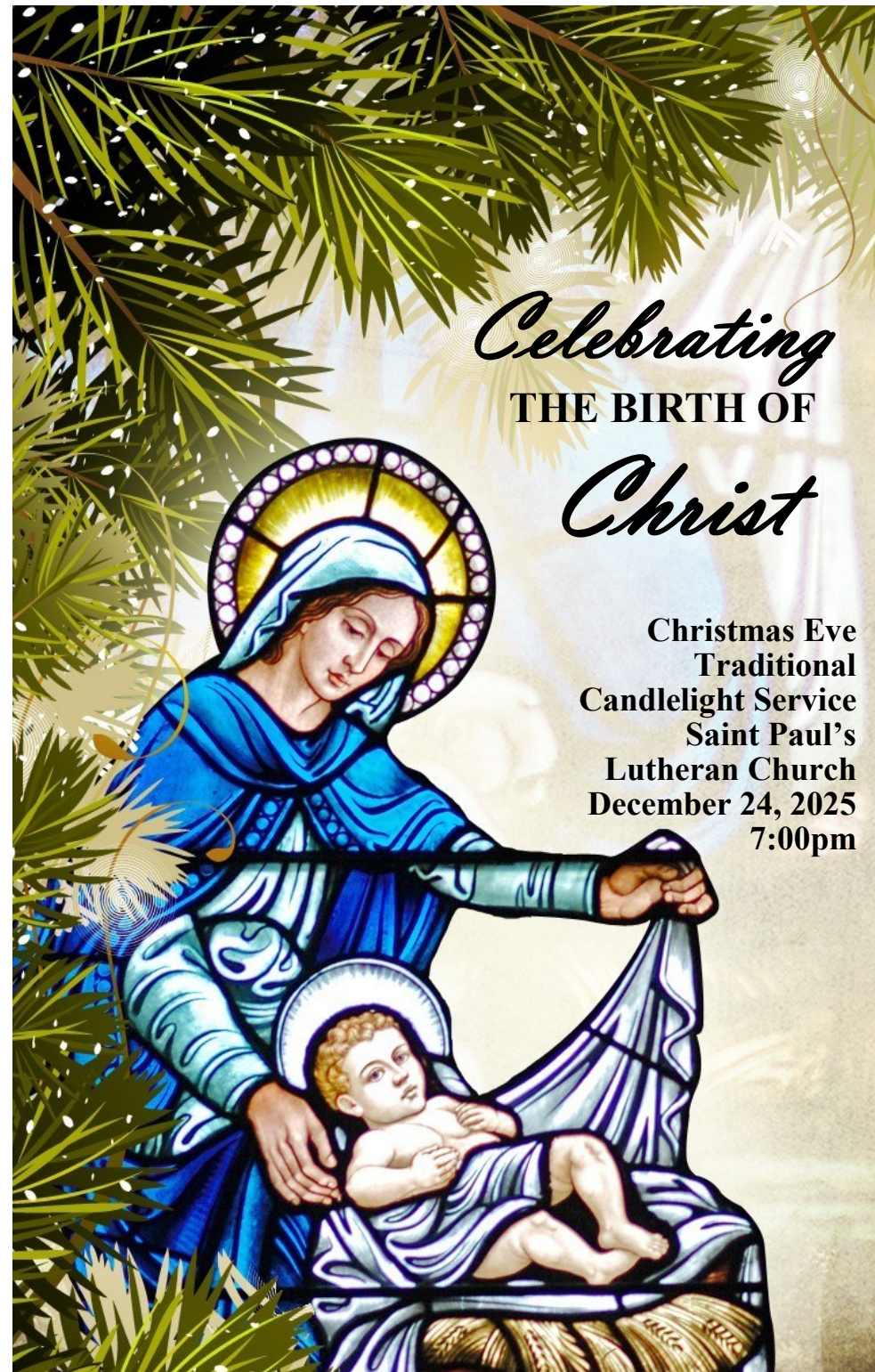
Minister.....Pastor Phil Beck  
Lector.....Kate Stottlemeyer  
Organist.....Jeff Gentry  
Ushers.....Sam and Madelyn Carroll  
Acolytes.....Camden Plog, Journey Gardner & Kay Wachter

#### **Staff**

Minister:202-497-0584 (pastor@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org).....Pastor Phil Beck  
Office Admin:301-845-4600 (officeadministrator@saintpaulslutheranchurch.org).....Joann Valainis  
Music Coordinator .....Jeff Gentry  
Flower Coordinator.....Patty Rimel  
Administration/Purchasing .....Ed Chaney  
Sexton .....Larry Beard  
Stephen Ministry.....Linda Yopp  
Property Coordinator.....  
Financial Secretary.....Troy Keeney

#### **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. From sundaysandseasons.com | Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved | License # SAS103410, Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #736745-A. All rights reserved. CCLI Copyright © 2024 License 21412874, Streaming 21412867 All rights reserved





Christmas Eve Service  
December 24, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

*We extend a warm welcome to all who gather here this night. Jesus brings  
God's light into the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**PRELUDE**                      *Carols of the Stable*                      Edward Broughton  
Based on traditional carols

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN**      *O Come, All Ye Faithful*                      ELW 283

**\*THE GREETING AND PRAYER**

**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.**

**P:**      Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of  
         the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of  
         Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory;  
         through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns  
         with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:**      **Amen.**

**ANTHEM**                                      *Emanuel*                                      Choir  
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**FIRST LESSON**                                      **Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup>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.  
<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they  
rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when  
dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across  
their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the  
day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the  
garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a  
child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his  
shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow  
continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David  
and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with  
righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the  
LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

**C:**      **Thanks be to God.**

*\*Please stand as you are able*



**Poinsettias gracing the Nave  
are dedicated by:**

**Erica Wendt**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of my husband, Elmer.*

**Connie Chesnik**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of Loved ones  
To the Glory of God and in honor of  
my children and grandchildren.*

**Susan Hayes**

*To the Glory of God and in honor of my sisters in Christ  
To the Glory of God and in memory of Doug Hayes*

**Dave and Cindy Hofflinger**

*To the Glory of God and in thanks for all of His blessings.*

**Julio Valcarcel, Sr.**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of Nina Valcarcel*

**Doug Campagnoli**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones.*

**Phil Smith**

*To the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones.*

**Robb and Dianne Port**

*To the Glory of God and in honor of our family.*



*Poinsettias gracing the Nave  
are dedicated by:*

***Kate Stottlemyer***

*To the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones.*

***Patty Rimel***

*To the Glory of God and in memory of Mark Rimel*

***Hope Donati***

*To the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones.*

***Bill and Barbara Cartwright***

*To the Glory of God and in memory of*

*Mary and Michael Decrow*

*To the Glory of God and in memory of*

*Alma and Joe Wells*

***Jim and Dottie Titmas***

*To the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones.*

***Beth and Cody Plog and Family***

*To the Glory of God and in memory of Misti Green*

*To the Glory of God and in memory of Jackie Doten*

***Brian and Roxanne Smith***

*To the Glory of God and in memory of Ben and Jeanne Smith*

*To the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones.*

## Anthem

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## "Welcome Child of Light"

Choir

## SECOND LESSON

## Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,  
<sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,  
<sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**\*GOSPEL**

**Luke 2:1-20**

**P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.**

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were

shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.  
<sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of our Lord.

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

**SERMON**

Pastor Phil Beck

**\*HYMN**

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

**ELW 270**

**P:** We affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C:** **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Joy to the World!*

**ELW 267**

### Joy to the World

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

**\*THE SENDING**

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE:**

*Angels We Have Heard on High* By Tom Birchwood  
 Tune: Gloria, a tradition French carol

## \*THE CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE

**Narrator:** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. But, Mary, the young humble maiden mother of the Christ-child, treasured up all these things as she pondered them in her heart...(Luke 2:19)

...prophets, angels, shepherds...(music begins)...a census calling them to the remote village of Bethlehem, and here, in a lowly stable, a newborn child- her child. And yet...not exactly her child, at least not in the usual manner.

Into a dark and cold world, heaven's glorious light had shined. In the most unlikely manner, in the most unlikely way, God had sent His very own to redeem the world; to provide life and life abundant.

This was indeed a holy moment, a holy night.

**Anthem.....A Holy, Silent Night.....Choir**

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**Anthem Hymn          *Silent Night, Holy Night*          arr. Lorenz**

1 Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

3 Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

## \*THE BENEDICTION

P: God almighty send you his light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; His Holy Angels accompany you. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit cause his Grace to be mighty upon you. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: ... Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

## \*THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

**THE OFFERING          *The Coventry Carol*          by Robert J. Hughes**  
*Based on an English Melody*

## \*OFFERING RESPONSE          *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

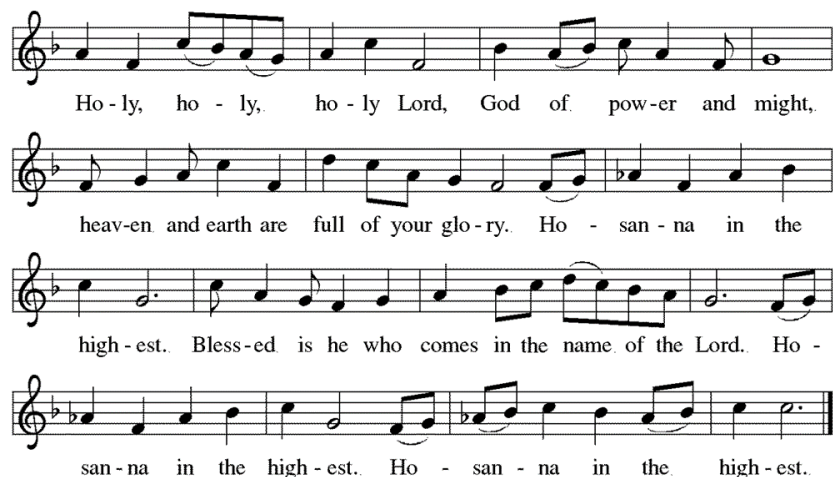
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



## 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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



## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophet's hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
The Word made flesh.  
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.  
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- 5 C: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word. Dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
- C: **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C: **Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, One God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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.**

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*At the Table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. We believe that in this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is truly present. You are welcome to join us in accepting Jesus' invitation to receive Holy Communion.*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

<i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i>	ELW 282
<i>What Child Is This</i>	ELW 296
<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>	ELW 294
<i>I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve</i>	ELW 271

## \*THE POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

- P: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- Amen.**