



**PRAYER LIST REMINDER:**

*As of January 1, 2026 our prayer list will begin anew. If there is anyone on the list currently that you would like to remain on the list going into 2026, please email or call the Parish Office.*

**How our Prayer List Works:**

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

**SERVING TODAY**

Minister.....Pastor Phil Beck  
Lector.....Sheila Kahler, Linda Yopp, Amy Mildenstein, Marie Purswell  
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



**The First Sunday of Christmas,  
Lessons and Carols  
December 28, 2025**

**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/UCSP6I9JEggsBUXlow117\\_-Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSP6I9JEggsBUXlow117_-Q)



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

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS**

President—Sheila Kahler  
Vice-President—Lauren McCloskey  
Treasurer—Patty Rimel  
Secretary—Kate Stottlemeyer

**First Sunday of Christmas  
Readings and Carols  
December 28, 2025**

**PRELUDE:** *In the Bleak of Midwinter* by John Michael Stevens  
Tune: CRANHAM by Gustave Holst

**WELCOME**

P: The angel said the shepherds, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)

As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed; God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem’s manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God’s forgiveness, grace and love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

**C: Forgive our lack of faith and trust.**

P: Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

**C: Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

P: The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

**C: Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

P: With great joy the angels proclaimed, “Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” In +Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God’s forgiveness is good news of great joy!

**C: Amen.**

*\*Please stand as you are able*

**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=MSjMt2zt0KM> December 21, 2025. Please look for future notices regarding live streaming and YouTube videos at St. Paul’s Official YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@saintpaulslutheranchurchof7880>

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving remembrance of our family members who have gone to be with the Lord by Sam and Marie Purswell.*



**Choir rehearsals will  
be Tuesday, December 30th  
at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.**



COMMUNITY DINNER

**ALL ARE WELCOME!  
Bring Family and Friends  
Tuesday, January 6, 2026 and  
Saturday, January 17, 2026 5pm-7pm  
Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
101 S Main St., Woodsboro, MD  
Please see Roxanne Smith with any questions.**



**Annual Reports  
are due  
12/31/2025**

**REMINDER**



**JANUARY 18TH, 10:00AM**

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**

**JANUARY 25TH, 10:00AM**

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

**UPDATED ITEMS  
OF NEED ARE:**

cereal, boxed  
crackers, tuna,  
spaghetti sauce and  
peanut butter.



**This Week at St Paul's**

**Sunday, December 28th**

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

**Wednesday, December 31st**

New Years Eve

**Thursday, January 1st**

New Year's Day

**Sunday, January 4th**

Worship (Livestream) 9:00am  
Second Sunday of Christmas  
Faith Formation 10:00am

**LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS:**

Current Fund  
Weekly Need: \$3,110.00  
Property Renovation  
Loan Fund Need: \$350.00

**Electronic/Mail-ins Income**  
**December 21, 2025**

Weekly Contributions: \$  
Property Loan Fund: \$  
Total: \$

**In Worship Offerings**

Weekly Contributions: \$  
Property Loan Fund: \$  
Total: \$

**ATTENDANCE:**

**December 21, 2025**

In person:  
Virtual:

**PRAYERS  
FOR OUR MILITARY  
AND THEIR FAMILIES**

- †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
- †Aaron Martz, U.S. Navy, Grandson of Ken Martz

*\*\*Please remember all the names on our prayer list, and especially those that are **bold**. They have specific current need for Christian love and support.*

*Do you or someone you know have need for prayer? If so, please know that we have a prayer team at St. Paul's that is ready to help. Simply contact Merle Anderson at 301-845-2317. All requests are confidential.*

**THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.  
C: **And also with you.** *(Please share God's peace with those around you.)*

**CAROL** *Joy to the World* ELW 267

**THE GREETING**

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.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**  
*Angels We Have Heard on High* ELW 289

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C: **Amen.**

**READINGS AND CAROLS**

**PSALM 8** *Amy Mildenstein*

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
- <sup>2</sup> **you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**
- <sup>3</sup> When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- <sup>4</sup> **what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?**
- <sup>5</sup> Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.
- <sup>6</sup> **You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:**
- <sup>7</sup> all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,
- <sup>8</sup> **the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**
- <sup>9</sup> O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## FIRST READINGS

**Isaiah 12:2-6** *Sheila Kahler*

<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. <sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. <sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. <sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL** *Pastor Phil Beck*

**Matthew 1:18-21**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the Child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

**CAROL**

*That Boy-Child of Mary*

ELW 293

## SECOND READINGS

**Isaiah 61:1-3, 11** *Linda Yopp*

The 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 broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup> to 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. <sup>11</sup> For 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.**



*Betsy Galliher, Member*

**Joe Collins**, *Cousin of Joann Valainis*

Mark Holloway, *Husband of Kate Stottlemeyer*

Sue Snyder, *Member*

Bert Fiske, *Friend of Sue Snyder and Lin Snider*

**Joseph Matthew Moschella**, *Friend of the Plowmans*

Jack Lotwick, *Friend of Robb and Dianne Port*

Bob Schmidt, *Brother of Dottie Titmas*

Parker Bazarewski, *Extended family of Ed Chaney*

Dudley Cate, *Family friends of Ed Chaney*

Patty Plitt, *Cousin of Ed Chaney*

Regina Baker, *Member*

Leanne Colwell, *Friend of Sue Snyder*

Geraldine Hills, *Friend of St. Paul's*

Charlie Snow, *Friend of Sue Snyder*

Kira Wynne, *Friend of Sue Snyder*

**Ariana Christ**, *Family Friend of Pastor Phil Beck*

Marion Lawrence, *Cousin of Kate Stottlemeyer*

Pastor Phyllis Haynes, *A colleague of Pastor Phil Beck.*

Elizabeth Krouse, *Friend of Nancy Cochran*

Nancy Wynne, *Friend of Sue Snyder*

Ellen Bucheimer, *Member*

Shirley Eyler, *Member*

Anne Barstow, *Sister of Dan Carroll*

Jamie Sulima, *Member*

Linda Koelsch, *Friend of Ed Chaney*

**Joseph Evans**, *Father of Patty Rimel*

**Lauren McCloskey**, *Member*

**Mark Wichtendahl**, *Friend of Sue Beck*

**Marion Lawrence**, *Cousin of Kate Stottlemeyer*

**Emily Kilmon**, *daughter of Betsy Galliher*

**Dawn Lee Knoebel**, *daughter of Robb and Dianne Port*

### **How our Prayer List Works:**

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## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION cont'd

P: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, † bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING CAROL *Go Tell It On the Mountain* ELW 290

## DISMISSAL

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: **And peace to God's people on earth!**

P: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *Let Us Adore Him!* By Rob Roy Peery  
Quoting fragments of "I Adeste Fideles and Gascon carol

## GOSPEL Pastor Phil Beck

### John 1:1-5, 14-18

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth <sup>5</sup> came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CAROL

*Love Has Come*

ELW 292

## THIRD READINGS

### Isaiah 6:1-8 Marie Purswell

<sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." <sup>4</sup> The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" <sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup> The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL** *Pastor Phil Beck*

**Luke 1:26-35**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God."

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CAROL** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* ELW 276

**THE OFFERING** *Lo, How a Rose*

by Mark Hayes, Tune: ES IST EIN ROS ENTSPRUNGEN, by KOLNER GESANGBUCH, 1599,  
Arranged by Marvin Gaspard

**OFFERTORY HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem"** *by David Paxton*

**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**

**P:** Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

**P:** God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the Shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

**P:** God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

**P:** God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

**P:** God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

**P:** God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones (especially). Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**