

Fourth Sunday of Advent



WNY Church Unleashed

December 20, 2020

*Welcome to WNY Church Unleashed hosted by:
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Rev. Steve Biegner
Parkside Lutheran Church, Rev. Jeremiah Smith
Zion Lutheran Church, Rev. Julius Carroll*

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*Future services will be recorded and aired on YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV.
MeTV will broadcast Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m. on the following channels:
For DirecTV: Ch. 67; For Cable, Fios, and Dish: Ch. 5; For "Rabbit Ears": Ch. 67-1*

Brief order for Confession and Forgiveness

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free.
- C** Amen.
- P** Let us come before the living God in confession. As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,
- C** we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.
- P** Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the righteous God who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly into Advent in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, ✝ Jesus Christ, our Savior and God.
- C** Amen

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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Children's Time and Advent Wreath Lighting

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 1st Chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Hymn: of the Day: O Holy Night

Verse 1

O holy night the stars are brightly shining. It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining till He appeared and the soul felt its
worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and
glorious morn

Chorus 1

Fall on your knees. O hear the angel voices. O night divine. O night when Christ
was born. O night O holy night O night divine

Verse 2

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming. With glowing hearts by His cradle we
stand. So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming here came the wise men from
Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger. In all our trials born to
be our Friend

Chorus 2

He knows our need. To our weakness is no stranger. Behold your King. Before
Him lowly bend. Behold your King. Before Him lowly bend

Verse 3

Truly He taught us to love one another. His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression
shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we. Let all within us praise
His holy name

Chorus 3

Christ is the Lord. O praise His name forever. His power and glory evermore
proclaim. His power and glory evermore proclaim

CCLI Song # 32015

Adolphe Charles Adam | John Sullivan Dwight | Placide Cappeau

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Youth Group Time

Apostles' Creed

P Let's confess the faith of the Church together using the Apostles' Creed:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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

Benediction

P And now as you go on your way, may the Lord go with you. May he go before you to show you the way, behind you to encourage you, beside you to be your friend, above you to watch over you, and within you to give you peace. Go today celebrating in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, and all God's children said...

C Amen.

Sharing the Peace and Sending

P Go in peace, remember the poor, and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: December 20-27, 2020

- TODAY:** 10:00 am: WNY Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:30 am: Zoom Half Hour (Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/950766486>,
Meeting ID: 950766486)
11:00 am: Outdoor Advent Tree Lighting
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study with Mary Wolf at St. Paul's
- Thursday: Christmas Eve**
4:00 pm: Outside Service at St. Paul's
5:00 pm: WNY Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
6:00 pm: Outside Service at St. Paul's
7:00 pm: Outside Service at St. Paul's
8:00 pm: Outside Service at St. Paul's
- Saturday:** 9:00 am-12:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
9:00 am-12:00 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck at St. Paul's
- Sunday:** 10:00 am: WNY Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:30 am: Zoom Half-Hour (Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/950766486>,
Meeting ID: 950766486)
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
5:00-6:00 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck at Windermere Elementary School

Attendance last week: YouTube/Facebook/MeTV: 200+ Offering: \$4,422.00

Prayer List: In our congregational family: (* indicates new names or changes added this week)

Marion Alexander: Tennyson Court, #127 in Memory Care Unit, Williamsville, NY 14221

Neal DeLeo: Brothers of Mercy, 10570 Bergtold Road, Clarence, NY 14031

Susan Epstein: 70 Fairlawn Drive, Amherst, NY 14226

Claire Franke: Elderwood, 225 Bennett Road, #223, Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Christopher Magin: 22 Dale Drive, Tonawanda, NY 14150

Dorothy Menth: GreenField's Rehab Center, 5949 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086

Don Neubauer: 25 Robie Street, Buffalo, NY 14214

Dolores Shearer: Beechwood Continuing Care, 2235 Millersport, Getzville, 14068

Alison Silsby: 4360 Peet Street, Middleport, NY 14105

Norma Stevenson: Weinberg Campus, 2700 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY 14068

Mary Elizabeth Stewart: 69 Washington Highway, Amherst, NY 14226

Scott Vahue: 475 Berryman Drive, Amherst, NY 14226

David Wolf: P.O. Box 198, Clarence Center, NY 14032

Prayer List: In our and extended family: The family of Betty Arbogast; Scott Greenawalt (Marilyn Emerson's nephew); Wendy Coyde (friend of Jean Brundage); Mary Jo Williams and family in the passing of her mother-in-law; Linda Schunak and family in the passing of her cousin; Jeff Keefe (Janelle Franasiak's uncle); Robin Comeau and her family in the passing of their mother; Thomas Maier; Deborah Howe and family in the passing of her father; Cheryl Gillen, Gail Singer, Pamela Wunderlin and their families in the passing of their father

ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship: We have suspended in-person worship until further notice due to Erie County being designated an "orange Covid-19 zone." Please continue to worship with us as WNY Church Unleashed on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am on WBBZ, YouTube, or Facebook. Stay safe, be healthy.

Covid-19 Restrictions: With the current status of Orange/Red zones in Erie County, we ask that you not stop by the Church Office unannounced. If you have a need to come to the office or meet with Pastor Steve, please call ahead and make an appointment (716-835-0407). This way we can help keep you and our staff safe during this difficult time.

Advent Tree Lighting: Each Sunday in Advent, St. Paul's will come together outside church at 11:00 am for a special Advent event. We will be lighting blue spruce Advent trees on the front lawn. The event will last about 15 minutes and include lighting the trees and singing verses of O Come, O Come Emmanuel. Everyone is welcome. Thank you to the following people who sponsored the Advent trees: Richard Elliott in honor of his granddaughter; Bridgette Lowe and Adrienne Leary in honor of family and friends; Sharon Ries in memory of her niece's husband, Kaneil Clarke; and Pastor Steve in honor of the St. Paul's Church Family.

Tigers Den Food Pantry: The Food pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226 or by referral. The December Pantry hours are: Saturday 12/26 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Tiger's Den will **not** be open on New Year's Eve, Thursday 12/31. Instead we will have regular hours on Wednesday 12/30 from 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Donations for December: paper towels, toilet paper, toothpaste, and healthy snacks.

Advent Readings: Mary Wolf put together a booklet of Advent readings entitled "Jesus' Family Tree, Advent 2020." If you would like a copy of the booklet, please contact the Church Office and a copy will be mailed out to you.

WNY's Holiday Needs Drive: We would like to thank everyone who volunteered and/or contributed to our Holiday Needs Drive. Thanks to your efforts, we raised almost \$13,000 in cash and gift card donations, and filled the U-Haul truck from top to bottom, front to back. Half of the food was donated to FeedMore WNY, and the rest of the food went to Tiger's Den and North Buffalo Pantries. Thank you for being partners in battling food insecurity in WNY, and sharing the good news of God's love as we do it!

Christmas Eve Worship Services: We will be worshipping outside on the front lawn around the Advent trees this year (weather permitting). Each service will last about 15 minutes and will begin at: 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm, and 8:00 pm. **Reservations are required for each service (please call the Church Office at 835-0407), and face masks are mandatory in order to adhere to NY State mandates. WNY Church Unleashed will offer Christmas Eve service at 5:00 pm.

*The Sanctuary will be open from 3:30-8:00 pm if you would like to take family pictures with the Christmas decorations. Please, only **one** family at a time in church in order to maintain Covid-19 restrictions.*

Parkside Lutheran Church Announcements – December 20th, 2020

At Parkside we are rediscovering the radical love of Jesus –

Gathering All, Serving All, Caring for All

2 Wallace Ave Buffalo, NY 14214 (corner of Depew)

(716)836-1361 parksidelutheran@gmail.com

There are 3 ways to watch the recorded Service 10am Sundays:

- 1) Watch on your TV: Station METV – channel 5 on Cable, Fios & Dish or channel 67 on DirecTV
- 2) WNY Unleashed Facebook Page
- 3) WNY Unleashed YouTube Page



There will also be a special recorded Service 5pm Christmas Eve!

Indoor Worship is suspended while Erie County is in Orange or Red.

North Buffalo Food Pantry Hours are Saturday 9am-1pm – enter on Depew. Donations can be dropped off at the Pantry during regular Pantry hours or call the office to arrange drop off.

Donations requested for December-Peanut Butter & Jelly

Nonperishable food donations can also be left in our little red “**Blessing Box**”. Please only leave foods that can withstand freezing weather. Granola bars, peanut butter, crackers, instant noodles, etc.

Meals on Wheels Parkside LC location is in great need of volunteers – if you can help 2 or 3 mornings during the week for an hour or two, please contact the office.

Prayer Tree:

Congregation: Mike Miller; Joan Bauer; Tanya Scaccia for her nephew Aubree; Peter Steffan, for knee surgery; Family & friends of Tom Petschke as they mourn his passing; Continued healing for Lina; Marlene & Andrew; Ruth; Joyce & Roman S; Pam; Janet Stout; Becky & Vince; Eileen & Ken Moser; Ron Arnold; Norra Carroll.

Friends & Family: Carol & Ed McAteer; Joan’s son, Donald Railey who is facing multiple health challenges and other family members, Jameson & Kevin; Melanie’s sons Nick and Paul and their families; Jess & Ed Forster; Baby Aubree, who underwent heart surgery on 10/30 and for his parents, Rob and Brandy, to stay strong; Bailey & Family; Donna Durkin; Beverly & Bob; Ed Yeltsis; Cory DeAeth (Ruth’s grandson), and cousin Alan; Catherine (sister of Gigi & Jeff Jankowski), for her multiple myeloma to remain in remission.; Lysander Pope; Jim C. (Cheryl Kinsman's brother in law); Bobby Amann; Pray for Carson to remain cancer-free; Victims of coronavirus, health workers, and those who are most vulnerable at this time; We thank the Lord for Pastor Jeremiah and his ministry among us. Gratitude for the birth of his baby, Eleanor. Baby and Mother are doing well! We offer our prayers for the church, the world & all people in need.

If you would like to add to the prayer list or share some good news, please contact the office.
Parkside For Social Justice – definition and resource for November 2020:

Definition: Redlining primarily refers to the practice of banks and other lenders refusing to grant loans/mortgages to credit worthy persons of color. Red lines would be drawn around whole neighborhoods for which lenders would refuse to do business in or with. This practice prevented minorities from moving into white neighborhoods and led to disinvestment from ‘red lined’ neighborhoods. To learn more about how Buffalo came to be segregated check out https://ppgbuffalo.org/files/documents/data-demographics-history/a_city_divided_a_brief_history_of_segregation_in_the_city_of_buffalo.pdf

Recommended Resource: Have you ever wondered what a modern day Prophet might sound like? I invite you to join your Church Council in reading *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black preacher to the whitest denomination in the Country*.

“Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, *Dear Church* offers a bold new vision for the future of Duncan's denomination and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. Duncan gives a blueprint for the way forward and urges us to follow in the revolutionary path of Jesus.” <https://www.amazon.com/Dear-Church-Preacher-Whitest-Denomination/dp/1506452566>

Have a suggested resource or question about this initiative? Contact Pastor Jeremiah or Alison Smith alisonmsmith07@gmail.com. All are encouraged to sign the ELCA's Anti-Racism Pledge found here: <https://www.elca.org/racialjusticepledge>.



Every fourth Tuesday of the month, volunteers from Parkside hand out Burritos in Downtown Buffalo. We also distribute hats, scarfs, gloves, and masks! Donations will be collected now until spring. Contact the office if you'd like to arrange for drop-off. Thanks for putting love of neighbor into action!

Thank you for all who participated in the Food Drive on December 6th.
It was a HUGE success!

Outdoor Christmas Eve Service at Parkside: Join us for a brief Worship of Lessons and Carols. Wear masks, dress warm and RSVP either by calling the church office or sign up online at <https://reopen.church/r/m6YsuowB>. Each service is limited to 25 individuals. The first service is at 4pm and we will add more services as they fill up.

Want more information about all that is happening at Parkside LC?

Sign up for our weekly email

on our website - parksidelutheran.org Like us on Facebook - Follow us on Instagram

We would like to express our gratitude to the following individuals
who have been gifting their services to help bring you
the Sunday MeTV productions:

Musician:

Michael Hooker

Soloist:

Theresa Kosmowski and
Roger Griffiths

Video and Editing:

Nick Stroczkowski, Brothers and Sisters Film Production Company

Sound:

Andrew Gruszka, The Record DJ Co.

DJs/MCs, SOUND & LIGHTING

