

*St. Paul's Announcements*

*January 2nd—St. Paul's will be having our Annual Family Blessing Service.*

*Bring the entire family!*

*The Staff and Volunteers of St. Paul's, The Daily Bread Food Truck and The Tiger's Den Food Pantry want to wish you a very blessed and Merry Christmas!*

*+ St. Paul's Mission +*

*To empower others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

*We do that by: Seeking Connections, Enriching Faith, Nourishing Lives,  
and Demonstrating Love in God's Name.*

*St. Paul's Congregation Council*

*President: Kathryn Francis*

*Vice-President: David Schunak*

*Treasurer: William Niblock*

*Secretary: Gerri Horton*

*Janelle Andersen   Susan Epstein   Matt Fricano  
Nick Hazlett   Debbie Regan-Howe   Robert Simpson*

*Pastor Rev. Steve Biegner (868-1232 - cell)*

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# *Christmas Eve*



*December 24, 2021*

*Pre-Service Music:*  
*Chorale Prelude on “In dulci julio”—J.S. Bach*  
*Interlude on the Coventry Carol—W.S. Lloyd Webber*

*The First Noel—LBW 56*

*The first Noel the Angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter night that was so deep.  
Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.  
They look-ed up and saw a star Shining in the East, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued, both day and night. Refrain*

Welcome to Christmas Eve Worship!

*Confession and Forgiveness*

- P

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.
- C

Amen.
- P

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*  
Holy God,
- C

We confess our sin before you.  
We replace compassion with competition.  
We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.  
We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.  
We have not put on love in harmony with you.  
Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.  
Swaddle our hearts with your peace,  
that all we do, in word or deed,  
may reflect your love born among us.  
Amen.
- P

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. ☩ In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.
- C

Amen.



*Poinsettia's are given to the Glory of the  
Newborn King...*

**In the Memory of...**

**Dolores Shearer from her loving daughter, Deb Delgato**

**Larry Woodward from his loving wife, Jane**

**Noah John Hannon from Dad, Mom, & Addie**

**William, Dolores & David Skinner from  
The Wunderlin Family**

**Richard & Helen Heuer from The Adimey Family**

**William, Dolores, & David Skinner from Gail & Evan Singer**

**Harry & Martie Thomalla; Mike & Martie Groff from  
Terri & Allen Thomalla**

**All of our loved ones from Wes & Sharon Ries**

**Jack Miller from his loving wife, Sue**

**Fred, Helen, Jerry, & Elaine Wertz;  
Arthur, Eleanore, & Joan Meyer from Jim & Judy Meyer**

**The deceased members of the Glose & Tesnow Families  
from Jim & Marsha Glose**

**ALSO  
With Gratitude for the minor miracles from  
Heidi Ginal & Kevin Koestler**

*Closing Hymn*

*Joy to the World!* (LBW 39)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing!  
Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.  
No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground.  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

*Dismissal*

A Go in peace, Christ is born.  
C Thanks be to God!



*Opening Hymn LBW 45—O Come All Ye Faithful*

*O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:*

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

*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.

*The Prayer of the Day*

P Let us pray:  
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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C Amen.

*(please be seated)*

*First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7*

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. 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. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. 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.

A The Word of the Lord.  
C Thanks be to God.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter

C Glory to you, O Lord.



*Gospel Luke 2:1-20*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

*Sermon—Pastor Steve Biegner*

*Candlelight Hymn LBW 65*

*“Silent Night”*

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!

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love’s pure light Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

*THE BENEDICTION*

P 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. May this good news, born for you, keep you in God’s peace.

C Amen.

*(As the lights are turned on please extinguish your candles, taking care not to drip hot wax.)*



*Music—Solo*

*{Thank you to our special guest soloists, Steve Copps (at our 4 pm service) and Emily Helenbrook (at our 7 pm service)}*

*Post Communion Blessing*

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

C Amen

*Post Communion Prayer*

A Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.



*Candlelight Benediction*

**The Gospel of John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

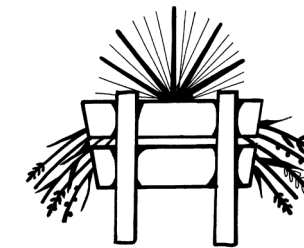
(The light is passed back through the community. Please leave burning candles upright and light one another's candles down the row. When all the candles are lit, we will sing together.)

*Sermon Song LBW 41*

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great, glad tidings tell,  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Immanuel!*



*The Creed:*

A Let's join our voices together to proclaim 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



### *The Prayers of the Church*

A Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night (especially). Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love (especially). Merciful God, **receive our prayer**

P Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

### *The Peace*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

### *Music—Solo*

#### *Offertory Prayer*

A Gracious God,

C God of grace, we give you thanks for all the blessings you have poured into our lives. Thank you for the opportunities to share those blessings through and beyond St. Paul's. Use the gifts we offer here today and in our planned giving to bless the world with your hope, your presence and your love. **Amen**

### *The Bread of Life*

P I AM the bread of Life. You who come to me shall not hunger, and who believe in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me unless the Father beckons.

C **And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, And I will raise you up on the last day.**

P The bread that I will give Is my flesh for the life of the world, And if you eat of this bread, You shall live forever, you shall live forever.

C **And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, And I will raise you up on the last day.**

P In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took a loaf of 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.

C **And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, And I will raise you up on the last day. Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, Who has come into the world. And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, And I will raise you up on the last day.**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

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.**

{DISTRIBUTION: The Sacrament will be offered by intinction.

Please come down the center aisle, receive the wafer, dip the wafer into the wine, consume wafer and return to your seat via the side aisle.

If you are unable to come forward, communion will be brought to your seat.}