# Christmas Eve



# December 24, 2024 10:00 am St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus



New to St. Paul's? We're so glad you're here! Fill out this form so we can get to know you better!

> Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church Christmas Eve December 24, 2024

Guest Choir: Seek God First Karen Baptist Church Youth Choir

Musician: Paul Storfer

# Introduction & Gathering

- P We gather together in winter's deepest night to welcome the light of the Christ child.
- C God with us!
- P Blessed be God, who came to be among us.
- C God with us!
- P God made human, born of a woman.
- C God with us!
- P The Word made flesh, the Three-In-One
- C God with us! Amen.

#### Confession & Forgiveness

- P Trusting in God's goodness and love let us confess our sin. God with us, you promise good news of great joy for all people. When we fail to share that joy with others,
- C God with us forgive us.
- P Sometimes our big feelings get the best of us and we lash out at others,
- C God with us forgive us.
- P Sometimes we ignore the feelings and needs of others,
- C God with us forgive us.
- P Sometimes we aren't careful with all that you have given us.
- C God with us forgive us.

- P God, we ask that you turn us from our ways to your ways and give us grace to begin again. Children of God, hear the good news: You are God's chosen ones! You are holy and loved, + forgiven in Christ.
- C Amen!

#### **Opening Hymn: LBW 45**



O, Come, All Ye Faithful

#### Apostolic 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.

# Prayer of the Day

- P God with us, you have made this holy day shine with the brightness of the true Light of Jesus. Help us to walk in the light of Jesus' presence here on earth and to see and share that light wherever we go; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

# First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

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 This is the Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Guest Choir: Seek God First Karen Baptist Church Youth Choir

- P Gospel means good news! What kind of news?
- C Good news!
- P Jesus' life on earth is what kind of news?
- C Good news!
- P We read today from the Spark Story Bible that is filled with what kind of news?
- C Good news!
- P Glory to you, O Lord.

# Gospel: Luke 2: Jesus is Born (From the Spark Story Bible)

"We have to go to Bethlehem," Joseph told Mary. "Emperor Augustus has ordered that all of the people need to be counted." "But Joseph," Mary said, "what about our baby? He will be born soon." So Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem, the City of David, to be counted along with all of the other people. It was cold when they arrived. Joseph knocked on many doors looking for a room, but everyone said no. Finally, an innkeeper answered his door. "I have no room," the innkeeper said. "But you can stay in the little stable in the back. It's warm, and the hay is fresh."

"Joseph," Mary said. "I think it's time for the baby to be born." That night Mary gave birth to Jesus. She laid him in a manger. The animals kept them warm as they waited for morning.

Outside of Bethlehem, shepherds watched their sheep on the hills. Suddenly, an angel appeared. The shepherds looked up at the bright night sky. "Don't be afraid," the angel said. "I bring wonderful news. The child God promised was born tonight." The shepherds listened in amazement. The twinkling stars seemed to echo each of the angel's words. The angel continued, "Go to Bethlehem! You will find the child lying in a bed of hay!" Suddenly many angels filled the heavens. They sang together, "Glory to God in the highest. And peace to all people on earth."

"Let's hurry!" one shepherd said. "The angel said the child was born tonight!" "But what about the sheep?" another shepherd asked. "Let the angels watch them!" the youngest shepherd said. "Yes! Let the angels watch them!" The shepherds happily hurried into Bethlehem.

The angel was right. The shepherds found the baby, Jesus, asleep on a bed of hay. They told Mary and Joseph all the angel had said. "The angel said the baby is the Messiah—the promised one. He is the one we have waited for," they explained. "But this is a stable. Would God be born here among the animals?" "Moo-o-o-o," said the cow. "Baa-a-a-a," said the sheep. "Coo-o-o-o," said the dove. Mary smiled. She knew that Jesus was Immanuel—God with us. Later the shepherds returned to their sheep, praising God for all they had seen and heard. Jesus was born!



- P This is the good news of God.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message and Sermon



#### Hymn of the Day: LBW 71



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Music: GLORIA, French carol

# Apostle's Creed

- A With the whole church, let us proclaim our faith.
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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

P Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people. (Please kneel or sit as you are able.)
 Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. Help us to see the ways in which everything looks different now. God of grace,

#### C receive our prayer.

- P The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation sounds with praise, inspire us to care for all that you have made. God of grace,
- C receive our prayer.
- P The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Bring peace where there is conflict. God of grace,

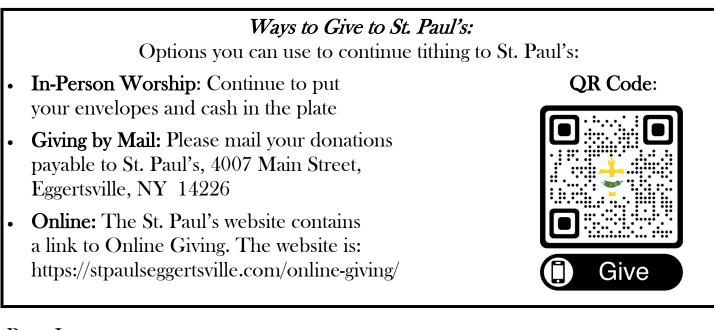
#### C receive our prayer.

- P The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Be with those who seek shelter and those who are alone this holiday season. Help us to be people who make room for all. God of grace,
- C receive our prayer.
- P A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. We pray especially for the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. God of grace,
- C receive our prayer.

- P The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. God of grace,
- C receive our prayer.
- P We lift these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.



Offering Music and Prayer



- P Let us pray,
- C God of heaven and earth, from the beginning you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

# Communion Liturgy based on "I Am the Bread of Life" (WOV 702)

- 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.



#### 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

<u>Holy Communion at St. Paul's</u>: celebrated every time we gather, and is open to all. Please approach by the center aisle, receive the bread and the wine, and return to your seat via the side aisle. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Simply request it from the Assisting Minister holding the wine. Children are welcome! Those who receive elsewhere may receive here. Children who do not yet receive may come for a blessing. If you have difficulty walking, communion will be brought to you at your seat.

# Communion Blessing

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

# Prayer After Communion

- P Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the hurting and share the good news of great joy.
- C Amen.

# Candlelight Benediction

# Introduction/Candle Lighting

- P On this long, dark day of winter, we welcome the light of the Christ child. We have watched and waited for a sign of the joy to come. We have lit the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love in anticipation of the birth of Jesus.
- C The good news is here. The child has come.
- P A child has been born for us, a son given to us; he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace. We light the final candle because the light of the world has come to dwell among us.
- C Behold, Christ is born.

## The Gospel of John 1:1-5

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.)

#### 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!

#### Benediction

P May the good news of God born in a manger open our eyes to see God and ourselves differently. May God of love, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, light your path and increase your joy, today and always.

#### C Amen.

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

Closing Hymn: LBW 39 (on the following page)

#### Sharing the Peace and Sending

- P Christ is born! God is here! So go in peace and serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!

# Joy to the World



# Poinsettias are given to the Glory of the Newborn King ....



#### In Memory of:

Dale & Mary Johnson Beloved Sisters: Susan Robbins & Linda Wilson Marilyn L. Striejewski David H. Striejewski Bill, Dolores & David Skinner Jim & Rita Singer William & Dolores Skinner *Iack Miller* John Pilato, Sr. Jennifer Glassman Rich & Helen Heuer My Jerry Bob & Louise Lenz Clophes & Janette Bulleigh **Our Loved Ones** Fred. Helen. Jerry & Elaine Wertz Arthur, Eleanor & Joan Meyer, Charles Plauman Jim & Judy Meyer Jane & Larry Woodward Rita Zimmer & Ruth Merrill Eva Carlson June & Dean Troutman Grace & Earl Rothenberger **Out Loved Ones** Courtney Brown, My Beloved Husband Jim & Kathryn Begley Dear Aunts Jeanette Cleary & Margie Paddock

#### In Honor of:

Sue & Jim Gustafson Rob, Michele & RJ Vishion All our Service Men & Women Our Wonderful Grandchildren

#### By:

Karen & Bob Brown Karen Ann Deb & Dad. Don & Michele Deb & Dad. Don & Michele The Wunderlin Family Gail & Evan Singer Gail & Evan Singer Sue Miller **Betty Pilato** Suzanne & James Gustafson The Adimey Family Sandy Hoehn Bill & Dee Dee Bulleigh Bill & Dee Dee Bulleigh Wes & Sharon Ries *Jim & Judy Mever* Steve & Michelle Biegner Tom & Mary Merrill Sonja Fernsted & Paul Rokitka Barbara & Martin Troutman Barbara & Martin Troutman Iim & Marsha Glose Kathryn Brown Kathryn Brown, their daughter Kathryn Brown

#### Bv:

Suzanne & James Gustafson Bill & Dee Dee Bulleigh Greg & Sandy Spoth Greg & Sandy Spoth

Poinsettias are given



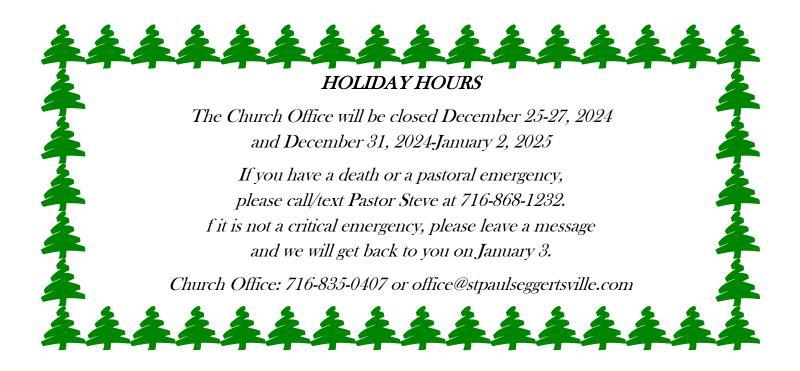
to the Glory of the Newborn King ....

In Celebration of:

*Children and Grandchildren Family—Children & Grandchildren* 

Karen and Bob Brown Kathryn Brown

*Other: Thankful for blessings Family Health*  *By:* Heather Hornung & Paul Winkler Shari & Bob Rembold



#### **NEWANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Daily Bread Food Truck:** The 2024 Monday Meal Share is underway each Monday from 4:15-5:15 pm. If you are interested in volunteering or donating, contact the office at 716-835-0407 or dailybread4007@gmail.com.

**Tigers Den Food Pantry:** The Food Pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226, is associated with St. Paul's Amherst Campus, or by referral. The remaining pantry hours for December are: Saturday 12/28 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for December: toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues.



#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: December 24-29, 2024

\*Unless otherwise noted, all activities will take place at the Eggertsville Campus\*

Christmas Eve
10:00 am: Worship and Communion: Child/Family Focus
5:00-6:30 pm: Recovery on Main (NA)
7:00 pm: Worship and Communion: Traditional Service with choir & soloist
: Christmas: Office Closed
8:00 pm: AA Meeting
Office Closed
Office Closed
7:00-8:30 pm: Traveling and Trudging (formerly Emotional Sobriety II)
9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at AC
9:00 am-12:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
5:00 pm: No Saturday Service at Amherst Campus
9:30 am-1:30 pm: Western New York Church at AC
10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:00 am: Worship and Communion: Lessons and Carols
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

Deacons: 12/29: John Schunak

*Ushers:* 12/24 (10:00 am): Todd Vahue, Scott Vahue, Marissa Vahue; 12/29: Karen & Bob Brown

#### Our prayers and sympathy go out to the family of Bob Schumann.

**Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family:** Richard Elliott; Aaron Torres (friend of Sandy Hoehn); Charles Herschlag; Kathy Greenawalt; Gloria Chaves (Betty Aprile's sister); Jim and Sue Gustafson; Sue Epstein; Rosemond Johnson

Prayer List: Shut-Ins (\* indicates new names or changes added this week)
Ruth Blank: Scofield Residence, 3333 Elmwood Avenue, #121, Buffalo, NY 14217
Neal DeLeo: Greenfield Manor, #D110, 5958 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086
John Hornung: Brothers of Mercy, 10570 Bergtold Road, Clarence, NY 14031 Jan Isaacs: 6
Bush Gardens, Three Rod Road, Alden, NY 14004
Dave Lampe: 829 N Hurff Drive, Elmwood, IL 61529
Elaine Masman: Doseberg Campus, Room 120, 2700 North Forest Rd., Getzville, NY 14068
Dorothy Menth: Elderwood at Basset Park, 245 Bassett Road, #54, Williamsville, NY 14221
Wilma Nantka: Fredonia Place, 201 Reist Street, #238, Williamsville, NY 14051



#### + 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: Robert Simpson Vice-President: Tim Johnson Treasurer: William Niblock Secretary: Scott Vahue Bob Brown David Dahlberg Susan Epstein Sara Hannon Janet Schmidt Vanessa Solomon Barbara Walter

Pastoral Leaders

Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 - cell); Email: steve@stpaulseggertsville.com Kristen Arends: (716-481-8728 - cell); Email: kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com

<u>Directors of Music</u>: Paul H. Storfer (SPEC) and Adam Schmidt (AC) <u>Christian Education Coordinator</u>: June Piette <u>Youth Ministry</u>: Kristen Arends <u>Digital Ministry</u>: Andrew Gruszka <u>Facilities Manager</u>: Jeff Stein

> <u>Church Office Staff</u> Cody Almeter and Adrienne Leary E-mail: office@stpaulseggertsville.com Telephone: (716) 835-0407 Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.com

St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus 4007 Main Street Eggertsville, NY 14226 Worship Service: Sundays at 10:00 am St. Paul's Amherst Campus 5125 Main Street Williamsville, NY 14221 Worship Service: Saturdays at 5:00 pm

#### PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship: St. Paul's has two in-person worship services: Saturday evening at 5:00 pm at the Amherst Campus, 5125 Main Street, Williamsville, 14221, and Sunday morning at 10:00 am at the Eggertsville Campus, 4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, 14226. The Sunday 10:00 am worship service is also livestreamed on St. Paul's YouTube page.

*Church Unleashed:* If you cannot join us for in-person worship, please continue to worship with us as Church Unleashed on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am on WBBZ, YouTube, or Facebook.

**Prayer Team Ministry:** Once a week you will receive an email with a list of people to pray for and specific requests for that person. We ask that you commit to praying for the names on the email. If you'd like to join us, please contact Cody at: Cody@stpaulseggertsville.com

Nursery/Nursing Mom's Room: Located downstairs by the Sunday School room. There is a wall TV for streaming the Sunday worship service. Babies 0-24 months are welcome in the nursery and must be monitored by their parent.

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