

**St. Pauls  
United Church of Christ**

The Candle of

*Hope*



**First Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday, December 1, 2024**

St. Pauls United Church of Christ  
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

(\* = YOU MAY STAND.)

## RINGING THE BELLS AND WELCOMING THE LIGHT

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE:** “Prelude on Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”, arr. Smith

**CENTERING SONG:** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” vrs. 1 #119

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Inspired by Isaiah 43:1-4 and Luke 1:26-29)

Leader: God says,

**ALL: “Do not be afraid.”**

Leader: God says,

**ALL: “I have called you by name.”**

Leader: God says,

**ALL “I will be with you.”**

Leader: God says,

**ALL: “You are precious and honored in my sight.”**

Leader: At the beginning of this season,

**ALL: at the start of this week,**

Leader: at the top of this hour,

**ALL: may we wrap ourselves in these words.**

Leader: May we begin again.

**ALL: Let us worship our Holy God!**

**\*OPENING HYMN:** “We Gather Up the Ancient Cloth”

**(SEE BACK PAGES OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)**

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE:**

Pastor: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Leader: Let us begin with the good news! Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God. Let us begin with music and singing! Let us begin with warmth and welcome. Let us begin with hope.

Pastor: Yes, let us begin with hope.

Leader: Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world. May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start. May this be our new beginning.

Pastor: May hope flow forth from here. Amen!

## **CALL TO CONFESSION:**

Leader: In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel tells Mary two things: that she is highly favored, and that she is going to have a child. Mary's response to this news is simple. With awestruck authenticity, she asks, "How can this be?" Every time we approach the prayer of confession, I ask myself this same awestruck question, "How can this be?" How can God's mercy know no end? How can God be so gracious with someone as fickle as me? Regardless of the week we've had, this good news never changes. So, join me in speaking the truth of our lives. Join me in the prayer of confession, and may God's mercy leave you awestruck. Let us pray:

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**Affirming God, Your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, “It is good.” You spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ. At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society’s measuring stick instead of yours. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ’s name we pray, amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

Pastor: Family of faith, I don’t know the last time someone told you that you are good, just as you are. I don’t know the last time you heard that you are loved and created in the image of God. I don’t know the last time you trusted those words and truly believed that you are a blessing. However, in case it has been a while, hear these words from Isaiah: God says,

**ALL: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”**

Pastor: We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck. Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.

## **\*SHARING OF GOD’S PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**ALL: And, also, with you.**

## **READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE**

**Liturgist’s Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7 (P. 851 )**

**Pastor’s Reading: Luke 1:26-38 (P. 1214 )**

**SERMON**

*“You are a Blessing”*

**Pastor Emma Sancomb**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

...We ask these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to say when we pray:

## **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**\*SERMON HYMN: "A Word Went Out to Mary"**  
**(SEE BACK PAGES OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

We believe in a blessing God  
who calls us Beloved.

We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary,  
and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman,

the poor in spirit,

the children,

the crowds,

the Jews,

the Gentiles,

the faithful and the doubting.

So in faith,

we trust that God's blessing,

like ripples on the water,

forever reaches toward us.

And with wild hope,

we believe

that because of this blessing,

we are covered in love.

We are more than enough.

Thanks be to God!

Amen.

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Leader: God continues to increase love in our hearts for our neighbors within our congregation, community, and world. Through our various gifts, we are able to strengthen our connections and grow with our God, Holy Crafter of Gifts.

## OFFERTORY



(Please place your offering in the plates as they are passed, give through your usual method, or click on the QR code to the left by using your cell phone camera and clicking on the St. Pauls Giving website.)

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** “O Come, Lord Jesus,” J. Michael Haydn, arr.  
Liebergen *St. Pauls Adult Choir*

## \*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God for all that love has done  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one. Amen.*

## \*DEDICATION

**ALL:** Joyous God, Originator of all Gifts, this day and always, we celebrate the gifts of our hands and hearts. We share our talents and time, knowing our energy builds the world with love. We share our treasures, knowing that all gifts we entrust to your Church will build your Realm. With joy, we devote our first fruits to loving you and your children. Amen.

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*The United Church of Christ practices open communion in which all baptized Christians attending are invited to commune together regardless of Church affiliation. Once served, please hold each communion element until all are served so that we may commune together.*

*The bread trays contain gluten free bread in the center cup. The wine trays contain grape juice in the center ring.*

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION:**

Friends, Advent is a season of waiting.

We wait for Christ to be born.

We wait for the feeling that love is near.

We wait for God's promised day.

Advent is a season of waiting.

And while we humans are good at many things, waiting is not high on that list. We are an impatient and anxious bunch, eager for the hope of what comes next. Maybe that's why this Table is such a gift. For when we come to this Table, for just a moment, the waiting stops. When we come to this Table, for just a moment, we get a glimpse of God's promised day...

...So come to this Table.

Come catch a glimpse of what could be.

Come end your waiting, for love is hovering close.

This is what it's all about.

God is all around us.

So, come. This good news is for you.

All are welcome here.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Loving God, we come to this Table today longing for a new beginning. In a world that so often feels like it's ending, we crave the hope of a new beginning. We long to heal from the endings and crash landings of our hurting world and start again, rooted in your good news. So, week by week, bit by bit, we return to your Word. Week by week, bit by bit, we return to each other. Week by week, and bit by bit, we repeat the truths that we so often need to hear, trusting that by your grace, it is never too late to start again. So, in this spirit of beginnings, we come to your Table. Once more we ask that you would meet us here.

Pastor: Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary meal, that in this bread and cup we may glimpse a new day. May the sight of everyone being welcomed at this Table remind us that all are loved by you.

**ALL:** May the evidence that there is food for all remind us that no one is meant to go hungry. May the fact that our own sin, shame, and doubt do not keep us from this Table remind us that you welcome and love us as we are. And may all of these Communion truths serve as building blocks for a new day, for a new beginning.

**ALL:** With hope in our hearts, we pray. With hope in our hearts, we gather. With hope in our hearts, we begin again. Meet us here.

Pastor: Allow this joyful feast to be the start of something new.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS**

*(Please wait until all elements have been distributed)*

Pastor: Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen.**

Pastor: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you. **Amen.**



## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**ALL:** Nourishing God, sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin again. We think the world is too far gone. We think we have made too many mistakes. We tell ourselves that we couldn't possibly begin again. But then we come to this Table and we get a glimpse of your kingdom. We come to this Table and all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed. And just like that, we have hope. Just like that, we begin again. Thank you for the gift of this fresh start. Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones. Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice to remind us that it's never too late to build your kingdom here. We are grateful. We are so grateful. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN:** "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came," (SEE BACK PAGES OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

### **\*BENEDICTION:**

As you leave this place,  
may you have the wisdom to lean on one other.  
May you have the courage to hold onto hope,  
the compassion to do the good that is yours to do,  
and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing.  
For in a world full of dead ends,  
Advent invites us to begin again.  
So, start here.  
Start now.  
Start with love and begin again.  
In the name of Christ,  
our new beginning,  
go in peace.

**POSTLUDE:** Fugue no. 25 in e minor, Johann Pachelbel

+Liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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## **RESOURCES FOR PERSONAL DEVOTIONS**

### **Lectionary Readings for**

**December 8, 2024**

*Second Sunday of Advent*

~ Bar 5:1-9

~ Ruth 1

~ Luke 3:1-6

~ Eccles 4:9-12

**LITURGIST SCHEDULE:**

- Dec 1** Mike Nooyen
- Dec 8** Gladys Hoagland
- Dec 15** Blaine Harris
- Dec 22** Jeff Jegl
- Dec 24** Amy Krohn
- Dec 29** Kam Lindow

**USHER SCHEDULE:**

- Dec 1** Team #3: David, Lindow
- Dec 8** Team #4: Medrow, Schweigert, Maury
- Dec 15** Team #5: Nooyen, Toebe, Tracy
- Dec 22** Team #6: Dethloff
- Dec 24** Team #1: Maury, Martin, Rubatt
- Dec 29** Team #2: Gibowski, Gardebrecht

**GREETER SCHEDULE:**

- Dec 1** Schuelke & Gresen
- Dec 8** Chris Sparrow
- Dec 15** Mike Maury
- Dec 22** Kam & Tom Lindow
- Dec 24** Julie Loth
- Dec 29** Gibowski

**COFFEE HOUR HOST:**

- Sue Schuelke & Mike Gresen
- Lincoln Lodge Masons
- The Cookie Crew
- Kam Lindow
- None
- Sue Schuelke & Mike Gresen

**OUR STAFF:**

- Pastor: Rev. Emma Sancomb
- Minister of Music: Dr. Kelly Kazik
- Bell Choir Director: Chris Sparrow
- Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Russell Knoth
- Admin. Asst.: Stephenie Osuji

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You can reach the office at 262-251-5160 or  
email [saintpaulsinthefalls@gmail.com](mailto:saintpaulsinthefalls@gmail.com)

Pastor Emma's email: [pastor@stpaulsucc.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsucc.org)

Kelly's email: [music@stpaulsucc.org](mailto:music@stpaulsucc.org)

**OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor Emma: **Wednesday 9:30am-3pm or by appointment**  
Church Office: **Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 10:00am-2:00pm**

## **CPR (Church and Pastor Relations Committee) MEMBERS**

|                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Julie Loth        | jmhloth@gmail.com             |
| Mike Dethloff     | mdethloff62@gmail.com         |
| Terry Tracy       | terencepatricktracy@gmail.com |
| Amy Krohn         | jakrohn@sbcglobal.net         |
| Sue Schuelke      | sschuelk@charter.net          |
| Jennifer Seehaver | jennifer@seehaver.com         |

## **SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Andy Toebe  
Pam Gibowski  
Drew Olson  
Chris Sparrow  
Paul Martin

## **PRAYER REQUESTS (To be added to the prayer chain, please contact Julie Loth 262-422-0267)**

- Darlene Eisen - who is home recovering from a broken hip.
- Jaye Gardebrecht - Her brother, Kurt has started treatment for his cancer that has returned.
- Carol Rubatt - We celebrate that her CT scans came back good.
- Jean Lipenski - Brother, Dan, is recovering from a stroke.
- Jegl Family - Jeff's mother-law-law, Jannette, had surgery on Tuesday for her breast cancer.
- Steve Hecky - 6-year-old grandson, Graham's continued medical journey.
- Juile Loth - Dear friend/pastor (Jim Martin), who married her and her husband has a new cancer diagnosis.

**Don't forget to complete the Who's in the Pew form located on the end of the pew near the main aisle. PLEASE put completed forms in the offertory plate.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



St Paul's Church directory photos  
& personal family photos!

Church directory photos:  
Dec. 8th, 15th, 22nd.  
Choir room, after church.



Personal holiday family photos-  
Message Katie at 414-659-1365 or talk to me in  
person to book.

Indoors at my studio in Menomonee falls!



[Katie Elizabeth Photography](#)



# St. Pauls UCC Annual Cookie Walk

December 14th

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.



\$12/pound

Wide variety of cookies!



Sponsored by  
St. Pauls UCC  
Women's Fellowship

# Urgently Needed

## Snow Removal Help



**St. Pauls UCC is in need of help during the winter for sidewalk snow removal. Shoveling would need to be done at entrance areas. Light salting of the sidewalk and entrance areas is also needed. This is a paid position. A snowblower and shovels are provided. Any interested individual(s) should call the office for more information.**  
**(262)251-5160**

### **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSALS**

St. Pauls is looking for adults and confirmands to participate in this year's Children's Program to be held on **Sunday, December 15th**. Not an actor? No worries! Opportunities to narrate, help with props, help children offstage, etc. would be appreciated as well.

**Practices after church will be held on the following Sundays:**  
**December 1**  
**December 8**

## **ADOPT A FAMILY**

The tree in Guild Hall contains tags for the family St. Pauls has adopted for Christmas. Please consider taking a tag and buying the suggested gift for a family member in our community who could use the assistance to make their Christmas a little brighter. Wrap the gift, put the identifying tag on it and return it under the tree by December 15th.

## **REVERSE ADVENT TREE**

Just like in past years, we will have the Falls Food Pantry Reverse Advent Tree in Guild Hall. The list and more information will be printed on our website, in the Evangel, and copies are next to the “tree”.

## **COLLEGE STUDENT CARE PACKAGES**

We are putting together care packages for our college students. If you have a student, please let the church office know and please provide their address. If you'd like to donate small snacks, gift cards, or a note of encouragement, we have a box in Guild Hall. We will plan to ship in January in time for the start of the second semester. Thank you!

## **MITTEN TREE**

St. Pauls annual mitten tree is up in Guild Hall. It is that time of year when it is chilly outside and people could use a hat, scarf or pair of mittens/gloves to help them keep warm. Please consider donating new items to the St. Pauls Mitten Tree in Guild Hall. Only new store-bought items or newly knitted or crocheted items please. All donations will be sent to St. Bens for distribution in January. Deadline for donating is December 24th at the Christmas Eve service. Any questions please contact Julie Loth at 262-422-0267 or [jmhloth@gmail.com](mailto:jmhloth@gmail.com)



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1**

- 8:30am - Choir Practice
- 9:30am - Service
- 10:45am - Fellowship
- 10:45am - Children's Program Rehearsal

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3**

- 6:30pm - Choir Practice
- 7:30pm - Bell Choir Practice

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4**

- 4:30pm - Bible Study
- 6:15pm - Cabinet Meeting
- 7:30pm - Board Meetings
- 7:30pm - Bell Choir Practice

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**

- 9:00am - Meditation Group  
(for more info, contact Terry Tracy,  
[terencepatricktracy@gmail.com](mailto:terencepatricktracy@gmail.com))

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**

- 9:30am - Service
- 10:45am - Fellowship
- 10:45am - Children's Program Rehearsal

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10**

- 6:30pm - Choir Practice
- 7:30pm - Bell Choir Practice

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11**

- 4:30pm - Bible Study

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**

- 9:00am-9:00pm - Cookie Baking

## **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13**

- 9:00am-9:00pm - Cookie Baking

# We Gather Up the Ancient Cloth

1. We gath - er up an an - cient cloth, each  
2. What fra - grance - es and dust un - fold from  
3. May faith - ful hearts and guide skill - ful hands as  
4. Come mar - vel at the warp and weft, the

length well - marked by wear and moth, from wood - en chest and  
fab - rics we are blessed to hold, a tes - ta - ment in  
shapes are traced up - on the strands so piec - es from our  
pat - terns made from what was left. Come add a stitch to

chap - el stone to claim the fi - bers as our own.  
ev - 'ry thread we dare to wash, re - pair, and spread.  
past might form a patch - work, beau - ti - ful and warm.  
trim and bind new par - a - ments to leave be - hind.

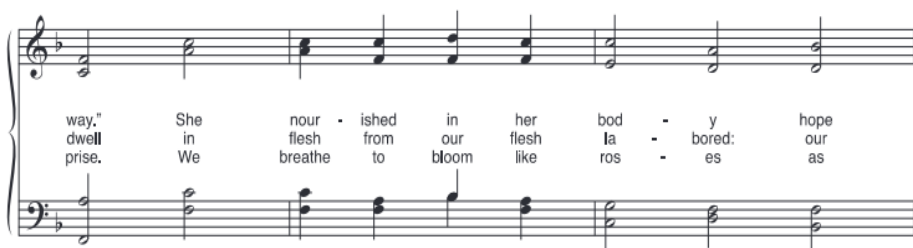
# A Word Went Out to Mary

ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

7 6 7 6



1. A word went out to Mar - y; "God's pow'r wings on its  
2. A great and might - y won - der, that ho - li - ness should  
3. May souls like flow - ers o - pen to bear this sweet sur -



way." She nour - ished in her bod - y hope  
dwell in We flesh from our flesh la - bored: our  
prise, We breathe to bloom like ros - es as



for our hearts to - day.  
gift Em - ma - nu - el. Good news for all the earth: joy  
sa - cred love ar - rives.



quick - ens deep with - in us that Christ may come to birth.

## The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came 972

1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, With  
 2. "How blest a - mong all wom - en you shall be, Whom  
 3. Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head. "To  
 4. Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born In

wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame. "All  
 ev - 'ry age will praise con - tin - ual - ly. Your  
 me be as it pleas - es God," she said. "My  
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn. And

hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Mar - y, Most  
 Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told, Most  
 soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name." Most  
 Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say: "Most

high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Gló - - ri - a!  
 high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Gló - - ri - a!  
 high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Gló - - ri - a!  
 high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Gló - - ri - a!