

**St. Pauls
United Church of Christ**

The Candles of

Hope

Peace

Joy

**Third Sunday of Advent
Christmas Pageant**

Sunday, December 15, 2024

**St. Pauls United Church of Christ
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin**

(* = YOU MAY STAND.)

RINGING THE BELLS AND WELCOMING THE LIGHT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” vrs. 3 #119

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: “Teacher,” the crowd asked, “What should we do?”

ALL: If you have two shirts, give one away.

Hold onto hope.

Live like we belong to one another.

Speak the truth.

Look for God.

Do the good that is yours to do.

Leader: It’s all that easy, and it’s all that hard.

ALL: Let us worship our present and active God.

***OPENING HYMN:** “Angels from the Realms of Glory” #149

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE:

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

Leader: Let us start small. Let us begin with what is right in front of us. Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!

Pastor: Yes, let us begin with joy.

Leader: Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy. May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

Pastor: May it be so! Amen.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: Friends, there are times when the weight of the world can feel so heavy on us. Fortunately, when we come before God in confession, God removes that weight. God sees our shame, our guilt, our sin, and offers us grace. So join me in the prayer of confession. Come and allow yourself to be freed. Come and allow yourself to begin again.

Let us pray:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ALL: Liberating God, There are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling. There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference. I ask myself, What could these two hands do? What could this one voice say? Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt. Remind me that I am not called to fix everything. I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do. With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray. Amen

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: Friends, no matter how many times we lose momentum, doubt our own ability, or tell ourselves that the problems of the world are simply too big, God sees what we cannot. God calls us by name, surrounds us in grace, and invites us to begin again.

Trusting in this good news, join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

ALL: We are loved. We are forgiven. We are invited to do the good that is ours to do. Thanks be to God. 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 58:9b-12 (P. 873)

Pastor's Reading: Luke 3:7-16 (P. 1218)

ST. PAULS CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"The Christmas Window"

A Christmas Musical By: half-a-hundred Acre Wood

Narrator: Gabe Seehaver

Child Caroler 1: Lily Seehaver

Child Caroler 2: Charlotte Seehaver

Child Caroler 3: Evelyn Seehaver

Child Caroler 4: Griffin Lindow

Musical Accompaniment by Dr. Kazik

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.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

Pastor: John the Baptist's followers once asked him, "What shall we do?" Church, knowing the state of the world, what is your answer?

ALL: In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we say:

Do not be discouraged by the weight of the world.

Instead, hold fast to hope.

Roll up your sleeves.

Feed the hungry.

Tend the garden.

If you have two coats, give one away.

Do the good that is yours to do.

In doing so, you will see God.

For this we believe: small acts of love can make a difference.

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Leader: We believe in the God of peace, and God's confidence in us to carry forth the mission of loving and caring for this community and the wider community. Let us now share our gifts and resources so that we may continue to walk humbly with God and our neighbors.

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.)

***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**

Leader: Loving God - we dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the welfare of your beloved community. May they bring peace into the world and serve as a signal that God is with us, that a day of peace can be known as we become peacemakers in the name of Christ. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Forth in Thy Name I Go” INSERT

***BENEDICTION**

As you leave this place,
may you have the wisdom to lean on one another.
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: “And the Glory of the Lord, *from the Messiah*,”
G.F Handel

+ "The Christmas Window" A Christmas Musical By: half-a-hundred Acre Wood

- Carol of the Bells, Ukrainian Carol, arr. M. Scott
- Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Robert L. May, Johnny Marks, arr. James Kazik,
- St. Nicholas Music Inc.
- O, Christmas Tree, traditional German Carol
- Santa Claus is Coming to Town, J. Fred Coots and Haven Gillespie, arr. James Kazik, EMI Music
- O Little Town of Bethlehem, Brooks and Redner, trad.
- Away in a Manger, Anonymous and Murray, trad.
- The First Noel, English Carol trad.
- We Three Kings, Hopkins
- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Wesley and Mendelssohn
- What Child is this, English Carol trad.
- O Holy Night, Adam, arr. Jame Kazik

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

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RESOURCES FOR PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

Lectionary Readings for December 22, 2024 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

~Luke 1:46b-55

~Mic 5:2-5a

~Heb 10:5-10

~Matt 1:18-25

LITURGIST SCHEDULE:

Dec 15 Blaine Harris
Dec 22 Jeff Jegl
Dec 24 Amy Krohn
Dec 29 Kam Lindow

USHER SCHEDULE:

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 15 Mike Maury
Dec 22 Kam & Tom Lindow
Dec 24 Julie Loth
Dec 29 Gibowski

COFFEE HOUR HOST:

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.
- Julie 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

## **REVERSE ADVENT TREE**

Just like in past years, we 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!

## **THANK YOU TO THE COOKIE CREW**

Thank you to the cookie crew for your hard work and dedication to make the cookie walk a great success!



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

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“ ...the Glory of God  
shone around them...  
Luke 2:9 ”

Be the Light

## The Christmas Fund

*"And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them..." —Luke 2:9*

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

You will find a Christmas Fund envelope in today's bulletin. We will be accepting an offering for The Christmas Fund on Sunday, December 22nd. As always, offerings can be put in the offering plate or mailed to the office any time before the 22nd.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**

- 9:30am - Children's Christmas Program
- 10:45am - Fellowship
- 10:45am - Directory Pictures
- 11:00am - Women's Fellowship

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17**

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

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18**

- 4:30pm - Bible Study

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21**

- 8:00am-1:00pm - Blood Drive

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**

- 9:30am - Worship
- 10:45am - Fellowship

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

- 7:00pm - Christmas Eve Service

## Forth in Thy Name, O Lord

1. Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my dai - ly  
 2. The task thy wis - dom hath as - signed, O let me  
 3. Thee may I set at my right hand, whose eyes mine  
 4. For thee de - light - ful - ly em - ploy what - e'er thy

6

la - bor to pur - sue; thee, on - ly thee, re -  
 cheer - ful - ly ful - fill; in all my works thy  
 in - most sub - stance see, and la - bor on at  
 boun - teous grace hath given; and run my course with

11

solved to know in all I think or speak or do.  
 pres - ence find, and prove thy good and per - fect will.  
 thy command, and of - fer all my works to thee.  
 e - ven joy, and close - ly walk with thee to heaven.