

**St. Pauls
United Church of Christ**



First Sunday After Christmas

Sunday, December 29, 2024

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

(* = YOU MAY STAND.)

RINGING THE BELLS AND WELCOMING THE LIGHT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: “On This Day Earth Shall Ring,” arr. Charles Callahan

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Friends, having named so many sources of joy in our lives, join me in the opening litany:

Leader: We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear—

ALL: God is in our joy.

Leader: God is in this room.

ALL: We have reason to celebrate.

Leader: We have a reason to sing.

ALL Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day

***OPENING HYMN:** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” #2

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: Friends, one of the most inherently joyful and beautiful moments in worship comes through the moment of confession. For when we are honest with God in the prayer of confession, we open ourselves up to receive God’s grace and mercy. And that gift—that grace—is full to the brim with good news! So, join me in this prayer of confession, not out of shame or guilt, but because there is a joy on the other side of this prayer that will take your breath away. Let us pray together; let us choose joy.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: Joyful God, You told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must be like children.

ALL: Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy? Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves to delight?

Leader: In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit,

ALL: this often seems easier said than done.

Leader: Forgive us, patient God, for the moments when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good.

ALL Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats instead of jumping for joy.

Leader: We know that even now you are sowing delight in our lives.

ALL: Open our hearts up to it. With gratitude we pray, amen.

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

ALL: We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.

Pastor: That is news worth celebrating! That is news that should make us want to cheer, laugh, cry with relief, dance, and sing all at the same time!

HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LISTEN FOR JOY

Liturgist's Reading: Isaiah 9:2-3 (p.814)

Pastor's Reading: Luke 2:10 (p.1216)

SING WITH JOY Angels we have heard on high #155

PRACTICE JOY | Message for all of God's Children

Loving God, You love when we laugh. You love when we play.

You love when we share. Remind us that your good news is for all people. Amen.

LISTEN FOR JOY

Liturgist's Reading: Psalm 148 (p.750)

Pastor's Reading: Matthew 2:10 (p.1132)

SING WITH JOY O Come, All Ye Faithful #148

PRACTICE JOY | Joy Found in Community (Extended Passing of the Peace)

Pastor: Friend, the peace and joy of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pass joy and peace to one another.

LISTEN FOR JOY

Liturgist's Reading: Psalm 126:1-3 (P. 739)

Pastors Reading: Isa 55:12-13 (P.870)

***SING WITH JOY:** Hark The Herald #150

PRACTICING JOY | Joy Found in Prayer & Giving

(Creative Written Prayer)

On the provided paper squares, write three prayers of gratitude for things that bring you joy. When you are finished writing, we encourage you to come forward and hang your written prayers along the twine that is strung throughout the room. We also encourage you to place your tithes and offerings in the plates on the Communion Table. If it is more graceful for you to remain seated, raise your hand and an usher will collect your prayers and offerings.

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.)

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.

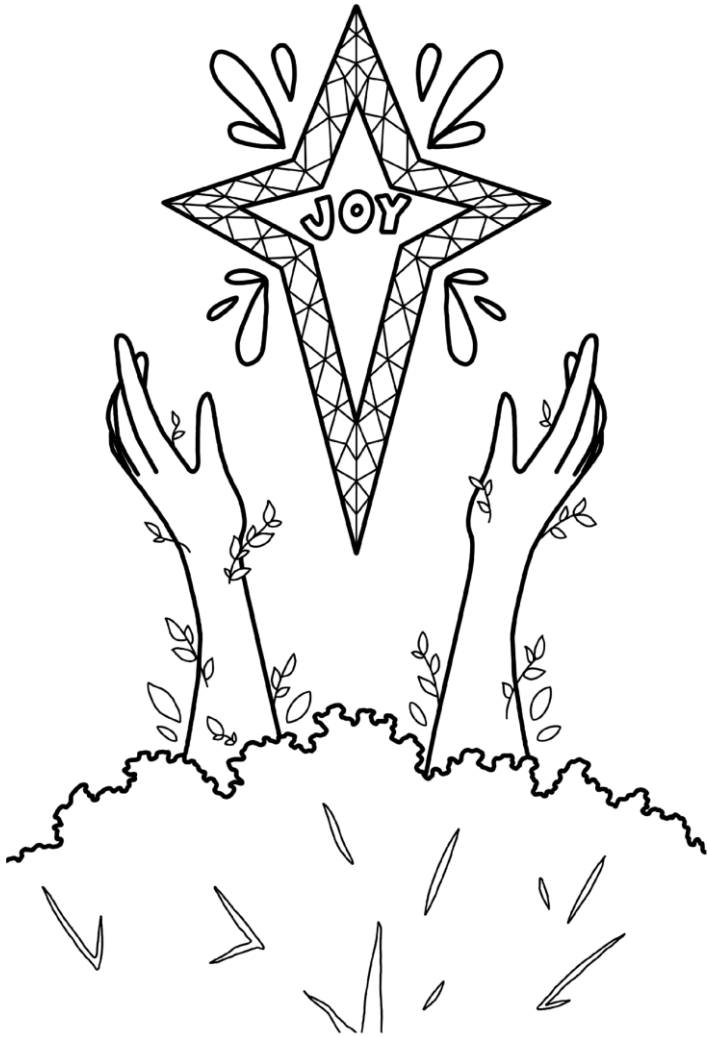
***CLOSING HYMN:** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" #164

***BENEDICTION**

Family of faith, in a hurting and lonely world, in a battered and bruised society, there is good news:

Jesus Christ is born! So, as you leave this place,
may you be quick to laugh and quick to hope.
May you look for reasons to be grateful.
May you not hesitate to join in the dance, or join in the song.
May you extend a hand to your neighbor,
and find God in every moment of joy.
For unto you a child is born. That is good news!
So go in peace trusting in that promise.
Go in peace, and go with joy. Amen.

POSTLUDE: “Postlude on Fum, Fum, Fum,” arr. Russell



ART BY: ANNA STRICKLAND | A SANCTIFIED ART LLC | SANCTIFIEDART.ORG

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

+Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from CCLI, License #A-11468142 (copyright) & #A-20746503 (streaming).
All rights reserved

*Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #734533-A. All rights reserved.

RESOURCES FOR PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

Lectionary Readings for January 5, 2025

First Sunday after Christmas Service

~Jer 31:7-14

~Eph 1:3-14

~Ps 147:12-20

~Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21

LITURGIST SCHEDULE:

Dec 29 Kam Lindow

USHER SCHEDULE:

Dec 29 Team #2: Gibowski, Gardebrecht

GREETER SCHEDULE:

Dec 29 Gibowski

COFFEE HOUR HOST:

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

~~~

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)**

- Julie Loth - Whose cousin, Scott Schwinn, died this past November and for his family going through their first Christmas without him.
- Darlene Eisen - who is home recovering from a broken hip.
- Jaye Gardebrecht - Whose brother, Dale passed away and brother Kurt who is going through 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.
- Steve Hecky - 6-year-old grandson, Graham's continued medical journey.

**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**

### **THANK YOU, DR. KELLY KAZIK,**

We are so grateful for your time here with us at St. Pauls and we wish you the best as you begin a new journey. We not only thank you for your Sunday morning contribution to worship, but the many hours of choir practice and individual rehearsals for special music.

### **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!

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

9:30am - Worship