

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we

have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✝ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C Amen.

GREETING

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.

KYRIE





u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you




this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,




let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

HYMN OF PRAISE

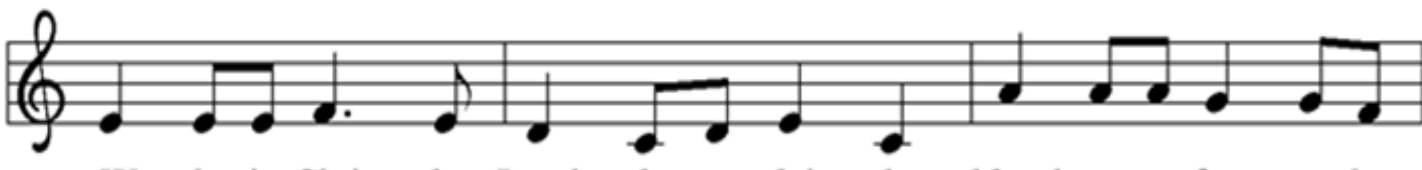
Refrain




This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.




1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

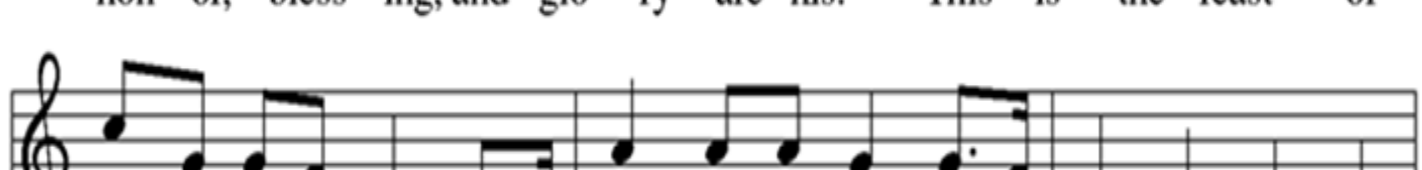


peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -

le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

“Christ Be Our Light”
Lighting of the Advent Candle
(David & Kamille Helming and family)

Congregation Sings (Verse 3):



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



Hope for Those Who Are Watching *(responsive reading)*

P Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

C We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

P Grant us vision to behold your glory.

C We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

P Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

C We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

P Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

C We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

P For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

C **Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

This morning we light three candles. The **first candle** reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The **second candle** is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The **third candle** awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.

Congregation Sings:

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

C Christ, Be Our Light! (sing)

CLOSING PRAYER

God of mercy and compassion, scripture says that if we draw near to you, you will draw near to us. In a shadowy world where human weakness and weariness reside, we ask for you to draw near and dispel the darkness around us. May the light of this season illuminate our hope, strength, and steadfast endurance as we await the coming Savior. We pray this in the name of Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING:

Genesis 35:1-3, 16-20, 37:1-27

¹ God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel, and settle there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.” ² So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods that are among you, and purify yourselves, and change your clothes; ³ then come, let us go up to Bethel, that I may make an altar there to the God who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.” ¹⁶ Then they journeyed from Bethel, and when they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel was in childbirth, and she had hard labor. ¹⁷ When she was in her hard labor, the midwife said to her, “Do not be afraid, for now you have another son.” ¹⁸ As her soul was departing, for she was dying, she named him Ben-oni, but his father called him Benjamin. ¹⁹ And Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath, that is, Bethlehem, ²⁰ and Jacob set up a pillar at her grave; it is the pillar of Rachel’s tomb, which is there to this day.

¹ Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ² These are the descendants of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him. ⁵ Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. ⁶ He said to them, "Listen to this dream that I dreamed. ⁷ There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." ⁸ His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words. ⁹ He had another dream and told it to his brothers, saying, "Look, I have had another dream: the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰ But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his

father rebuked him and said to him, "What kind of dream is this that you have had? Shall we indeed come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow to the ground before you?" ¹¹ So his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind. ¹² Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." ¹⁴ So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, ¹⁵ and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" ¹⁶ "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." ¹⁷ The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸ They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹ They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will

become of his dreams.” ²¹ But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” ²² Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. ²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe that he wore, ²⁴ and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. ²⁵ Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(10 measures organ intro)*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

C Glory to you, O Lord.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone

who takes no offense at me.” ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON *Pastor Timothy Holt*

HYMN OF THE DAY

WOV 633 “Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

APOSTLE'S 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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. *(We pray especially for Joe Alles, Zach Andry, Robin Bauer, Ron Bauer, Karen Bettag, Clint Breitweiser, Angie Danzer, Brenda, Elizabeth Hansen, Juanita Hembree, Jean Hoffman, Lana Hoffman, Ann*

Hopf, Mary Ann Jerger, Katrina, Carol Keller, Jeff Kelley, Karen Kolb, Jeremy Lee, Zach Leinenbach, Bob Lottes, Zander Mann, Logan Musgrave, Pat Opel, Tammy Peek, Remington Rainey, Adam Ramsey, Steve Rothgerber, Melody Saylor, Annette Schepers, Glen Schmitt, Dana Schnarr, Kaine Seitz, Larry Sendelweck, Makenzie VanHoy, and all those we name before you either silently or aloud.) In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

We pray that you guide the military serving to protect us. Grant them safety and wisdom to carry out their assigned duties. *(We pray especially for Austin Breitwieser, Luke Himself, and Cooper Uebelhor.)* God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

“Echo Christmas Joy” *(Chancel Choir)*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION

All who are baptized are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Children who have not yet received instruction about Holy Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. As you approach the communion assistant, the first will hand you the bread. Take and eat it. Then take a communion cup from the tray. After you have taken the wine, place your empty cup in the tray table beside the pillar.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

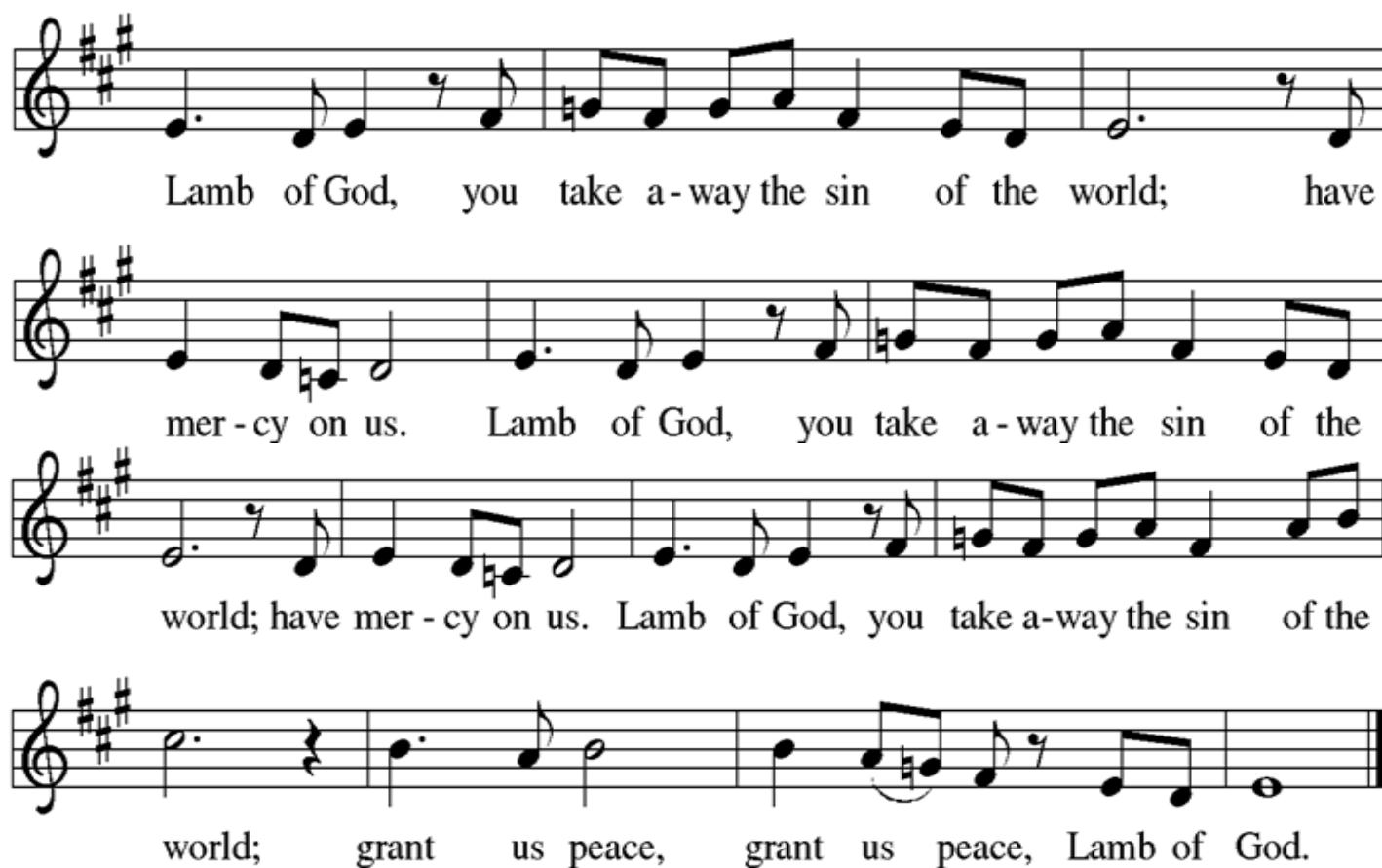
C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMNS

LBW 30 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

LBW 28 "Savior of the Nations, Come"

LBW 270 "God of Our Life, All-Glorious Lord"

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

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

May you run and not be wea - ry. May your

heart be filled with song. And may the

love of God con - tin - ue to

give you hope and keep you strong. And may you

run and not be wea - ry. May your

life be filled with joy. And may the

road you trav - el al - ways lead you home.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray

C Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

WOV 626 "People, Look East"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mission Statement: *Worship Boldly, Empower for Discipleship,
Cultivate Spiritual Maturity, Strengthen Community, Serve.*

.....

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR YOUR SERVICE TODAY:

Greeters: John & Mary Lou Potts
Comm. Asst: Jeff Schmitt
Video: Lori Keller
Organist: Barbara Dell
Lay Reader: Tina Terwiske
Audio: Keith Keller
Acolytes: Will Werner and Kole Kalb

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 172 SS:

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF Dec. 14th - Dec 21st

Sun. Dec. 14 th	8:00 AM	Chancel Choir Practice
	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship Service <i>(Sunday School Christmas Program Practice – after communion until 11:00 AM)</i>
Mon. Dec. 15 th	6:30 PM	Joint Council Meeting
Wed. Dec. 17 th	6:30 PM	Handbell Practice
	6:30 PM	Confirmation
Sun Dec. 21 st	8:00 AM	Chancel Choir
	9:00 AM	Children's Christmas Program
	10:00 AM	LYO Cookie Walk

ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Paul's LYO will be hosting their annual Cookie Walk on December 21st immediately following worship. Items available will be cookies, candies and other treats which will be sold by the pound. This is a great way to pick up a nice assortment of goodies for your Christmas gatherings. If anyone would like to donate items, we would certainly appreciate it. Thanks in advance for your support! -*Tara Betz*

.....

Thank you to all those who were able to sponsor a child through the Northeast Dubois School Corporation Angel Tree Program. With your generosity, twenty children received warm clothes and simple necessities that they may otherwise not have received. -*Julie Breitweiser, Evangelism Committee*

.....

2025 offering envelopes are available to pick-up in the fellowship hall. Please remember envelope numbers can change from year to year, so these should only be used starting in January 2026. If you cannot find a box with your name, please call Marcie Rumfelt in the church office at (812)695-3061 or email at: secretaryst.paul@frontier.com.

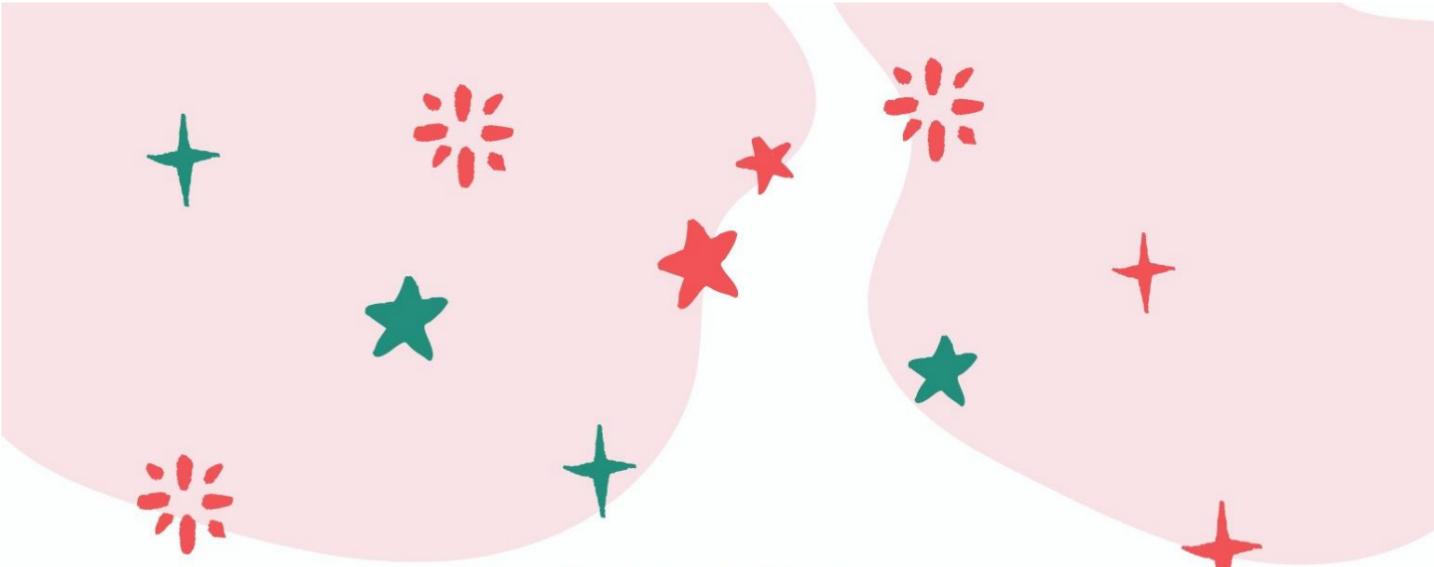
Thank you to everyone for the support that you gave our 'Operation Christmas Child' project. Due to your generosity, 66 filled shoe boxes were delivered to the drop off point. That brings our grand total to 1,813 for the 25 years that we have participated. What an awesome gift to give. - *Many Blessings to you from the St. Paul's Women of the ELCA*

.....

CEMETERY DUES REMINDER: Active members, desiring burial rights, are required to pay cemetery dues of a minimum of **twenty dollars** per family. This includes all members in immediate family, including non-member spouses, and children under the age of eighteen. Every member over eighteen years of age shall be required to pay the minimum cemetery dues as an individual. No additional charge for gravesites shall be made to members of St. Paul's whose dues are current. - *Marvin, Tom, or Harvey*

St. Paul's will be collecting food items for our local food bank during the month of December. This would be a great way to get the whole family involved in giving this Christmas season. Create a box for the whole month or add single items to the grocery cart in the welcome center. See the Reverse Advent calendar for a list. *-Donna Rasche*





SUNDAY SCHOOL
DECEMBER 2025

12/7
Christmas Program Practice

12/14
Christmas Program Practice

12/21
Christmas Program + Party

12/28
Winter Break: No Class





The annual candle lighting service at the Precious Angels Memorial Garden site at the Dubois County 4H fairgrounds will take place on Sunday December 14th at 2:00pm. The service is to unite families to remember children, grandchildren and siblings lost too soon. Anyone who has lost a child, as well as family and friends are invited to attend.



In Service to Our Country

Austin Breitwieser
AMC Luke Himself
Cooper Uebelhor

Redzikowo, Poland
Virginia Beach, VA
Colorado Springs, CO



