

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

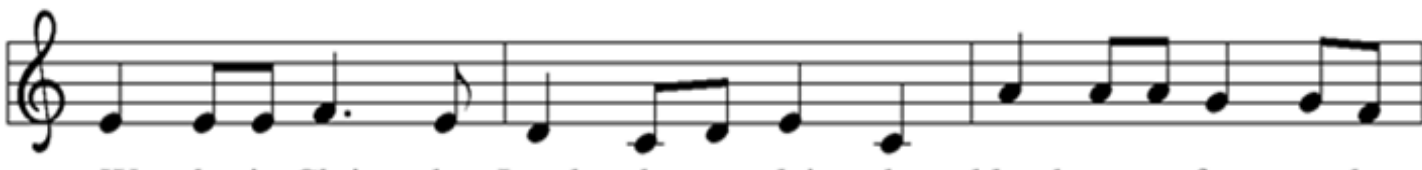
Refrain




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

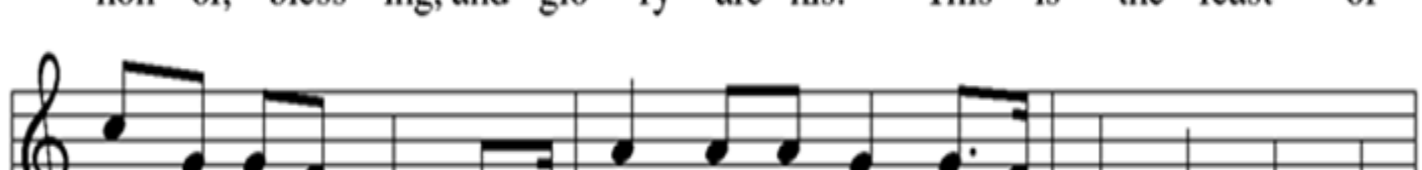


peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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
(Conner and Ali Kempf and Family)

Congregation Sings (Verse 2):



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.



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



Hope for Those Who Are Weary (*Responsive Litany*)

P The Light shines in the darkness,

C **but the darkness has not overcome it.**

P During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.

C **The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**

P We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

C **The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**

P We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

C **The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**

P For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:
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.**

Today we light two candles. The **first candle** illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The **second candle** extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of this world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.

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 32, 33:1-4

¹ Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him; ² when Jacob saw them he said, “This is God’s camp!” So he called that place Mahanaim. ³ Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom, ⁴ instructing them, “Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, ‘I have lived with Laban as an alien and stayed until now, ⁵ and I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male and female slaves, and I have sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight.’ ”

⁶ The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, “We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet

you, and four hundred men are with him.” ⁷ Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed, and he divided the people who were with him and the flocks and herds and camels into two companies, ⁸ thinking, “If Esau comes to the one company and destroys it, then the company that is left will escape.” ⁹ And Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD who said to me, ‘Return to your country and to your kindred, and I will do you good,’ ¹⁰ I am not worthy of the least of all the steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two companies. ¹¹ Deliver me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I am afraid of him; he may come and kill us all, the mothers with the children. ¹² Yet you have said, ‘I will surely do you good and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted because of their number.’ ” ¹³ So he spent that night there, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau, ¹⁴ two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, ¹⁵ thirty milch camels and their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male

donkeys. ¹⁶ These he delivered into the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass on ahead of me, and put a space between drove and drove." ¹⁷ He instructed the one in the lead, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, 'To whom do you belong? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?' ¹⁸ then you shall say, 'They belong to your servant Jacob; they are a present sent to my lord Esau, and moreover he is behind us.' " ¹⁹ He likewise instructed the second and the third and all who followed the droves, "You shall say the same thing to Esau when you meet him, ²⁰ and you shall say, 'Moreover your servant Jacob is behind us.' " For he thought, "I may appease him with the present that goes ahead of me, and afterwards I shall see his face; perhaps he will accept me." ²¹ So the present passed on ahead of him, and he himself spent that night in the camp. ²² The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket,

and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed."²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved."³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.³² Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh muscle that is on the hip socket, because he struck Jacob on the hip socket at the thigh muscle.

¹ Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids.² He put the maids with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all.³ He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother.

⁴ But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a 10-measure organ introduction. The lyrics are: 'Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the'. The second staff continues: 'words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.'. The third staff continues: 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.'. The fourth staff concludes: 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.'.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the

way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ” ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON *Pastor Timothy Holt*

HYMN OF THE DAY

WOV 629 "All Earth Is Hopeful"

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.

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,
C hear our prayer.

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. *(We pray especially for Joe Alles, Zach Andry, Robin Bauer, Ron Bauer, Karen Bettag, Clint Breitweiser, Angie Danzer, Juanita Hembree, Brenda, Jean Hoffman, Lana Hoffman, Ann Hopf, Mary Ann Jerger, Katrina, Carol Keller, Jeff Kelley, Tammy Kieffner, Karen Kolb, Zach Leinenbach, Bob Lottes, Zander Mann, Logan Musgrave, Pat Opel, Tammy Peek, Remington Rainey, Adam Ramsey, Steve Rothgerber, Melody Saylor, Annette Schepers, Glen Schmitt, Kaine Seitz, Larry Sendelweck, Makenzie VanHoy, and all those we name before you either silently or aloud.)* Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. 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.

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. 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

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

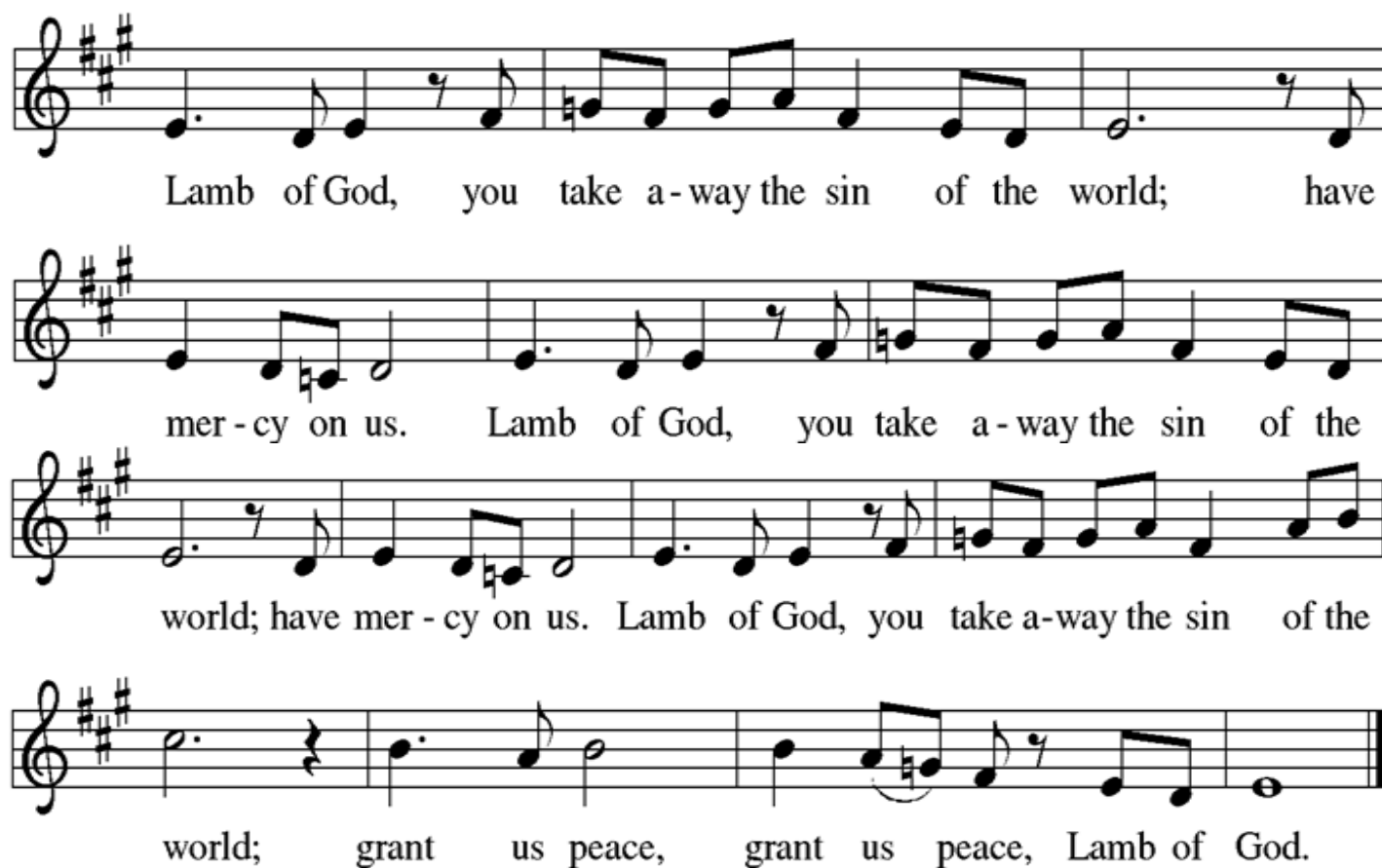
C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is 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 36 "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"

LBW 29 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

LBW 35 "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

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

LBW 26 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

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.*

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THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR YOUR SERVICE TODAY:

Greeters: Bryan Buchta
Comm. Asst: Jeff Schmitt
Video: Lori Keller
Organist: Arlene Vonderheide
Lay Reader: Tina Terwiske
Audio: Keith Keller
Acolytes: Blair Buse

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 163 SS:

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF Dec. 7th - Dec 14th

Sun. Dec. 7 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>
Tues. Dec. 9 th	6:30 PM	Property Meeting
Wed. Dec. 10 th	6:30 PM	Handbell Practice
	6:30 PM	Confirmation
Sat. Dec. 13 th	2:00 PM	Wreaths Across America <i>(St. Paul's Cemetery)</i>
Sun Dec. 14 th	8:00 AM	Chancel Choir
	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship Service <i>(Sunday School Christmas Program Practice – after communion until 11:00 AM)</i>

ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the altar this Sunday are presented in celebration of Judy Kieffner's 80th birthday!

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Reminder: LYO Christmas Caroling is today! We will meet at Brookside Village at 11:15 a.m. to allow our Sunday School kids to sing with us after their Christmas program practice. We'll be spreading Christmas cheer at Brookside Village, Northwood Good Samaritan (nursing home & assisted living), and The Timbers. Wear your favorite Christmas gear or your best ugly sweater and come be part of the fun! **We invite everyone to join us** as we share the joy of the season!!! ~ *Tara Betz*

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Annual reports for each committee will need to be dropped in office or emailed to Marcie at secretaryst.paul@frontier.com no later than December 7th. Contact Marcie if you need assistance.

The Evangelism committee has put together an angel tree for local children who might otherwise go without on Christmas. The children range from the age of 3 through 18. Anyone is welcome to adopt/sponsor a child, you could do it solely, with your extended family or with another family. We are just asking that you spend approximately \$100 on the child's needs. The Evangelism Committee will have a tree setup for your choosing, along with a donation box if you would rather donate money and the committee will do the shopping for you. All donations must be turned in on or before December 7th.

See Julie Breitwieser with questions

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Visit with Santa

Sunday December 7

11:00 – 1:30

At Firehouse

Join the Fun

Sponsored by Haysville Ruritan Club

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





You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

Where: St Paul's Lutheran Church
556 W Haysville Rd
Jasper, IN 47546

When: Tuesday, December 9, 2025



Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings.**

Trusted by over 11 million customers.

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend: Anyone **age of 40+**

Special Pricing for \$129

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Scan here:



Call 800-324-9458
and use promo
code: HABC001

Visit
LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC

Text the word
"circle" to
216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

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*

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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*



WREATHS *-across-* AMERICA

Wreaths Across America is a program dedicated to the placement of Christmas Wreaths on the gravesites of Veterans buried in Arlington Cemetery and elsewhere in our nation. St. Paul's Church similarly participates.

Artificial wreaths are provided thanks to cemetery donations, and will be placed on the gravesites of Veterans buried at St. Paul's Cemetery.

The Cemetery Board is asking for volunteers on Saturday, December 13th at 2:00 PM. The event will go on rain or shine since it is in conjunction with the national event being held on this same date.

Everyone is invited to attend to remember those who served our country.

Wreaths will be removed from the graves on Saturday, January 3rd, 2026 at 12:30 PM. Please plan to participate or observe this patriotic event to honor our Veterans. The date and time again, is **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH AT 2:00 PM.**

If you have any questions, call Marvin, Harvey, or Tom.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN HILL CHURCH

Invites you to join us
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th
3:30 in the afternoon



Come participate in singing old fashioned Christmas hymns at Hill Church
Church will be decorated in the Christmas spirit
Fellowship
Light Refreshments
Be sure to dress warm
Restroom facilities will be available



In Service to Our Country

Austin Breitwieser
AMC Luke Himself
Cooper Uebelhor

Redzikowo, Poland
Virginia Beach, VA
Colorado Springs, CO

