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**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH - (MISSOURI SYNOD)**

314 - 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Waseca, MN 56093

Phone: (507) 835-2647

Church Office Hours (Mon-Fri): 9am-1pm Email: [stpaulwa@hickorytech.net](mailto:stpaulwa@hickorytech.net)

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Mission Statement

*“Empowered by God’s Word, we joyfully share the Love of Jesus with all people.”*

Vision Statement

*“We will be a vibrant, welcoming church serving the needs of our members, community, and missions by partnering with other churches and organizations while preaching and teaching the inspired Word of God and our Savior Jesus Christ.”*

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**SUNDAY MORNINGS (SEPTEMBER – MAY)**

† Divine Service w/Holy Communion:

○ 9:00 a.m. (also Facebook Live; and Radio 1170 AM/106.3 FM)

† Sunday School: 10:15 am and Adult Bible Study: 10:30 a.m.

**Pastor: Michael J. Grannis**

**Mobile Phone: 952-686-3046**

**Email: [revgrannis@gmail.com](mailto:revgrannis@gmail.com)**

**Nursery available:** For families with small children, there is a designated room in the basement (down the hall, on the right, from the old Parish Hall). You will find a changing table, crib, a few books and toys. Please feel free to use anytime during the worship service.

**Radio Broadcast:** Today's broadcast (KOWZ 1170 AM or 106.3 FM) is dedicated to the glory of God.

**Lutheran Hour:** The Lutheran Hour can be heard on radio stations WCCO 830AM, Sunday, 6:05 AM; and KDHL920 AM, Faribault, Sunday, 6:00 PM.

**Sunday School:** We will meet every Sunday at 10:15am in the Parish Hall for snacks, and then go downstairs for music and a lesson.



**WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!** If you are a visitor, we look forward to visiting with you today and in the near future. Please write your name, address, and phone number in our visitor's book located at the back of church at the visitor's desk. We invite you to fellowship, coffee & treats following the worship service. Adult Bible Study begins at 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.

**Individual or Family Pastoral Care:** Please remember that Private devotion and Holy Communion are available for individuals or couples that are homebound, at greater risk for COVID, or in times of emergency. Call the church office at 507-835-2647 to schedule an appointment when needed.

- **Live Streaming on Facebook** for the 9:00 worship service for your convenience.
- We are looking for **Volunteers to greet and assist our members at the Handicap Entrance.** A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the elevator. Thanks for your assistance.
- **Christmas Eve Services:** December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm a Christmas Sing-a-long and 6pm for the Candlelight service.
- **Christmas Morning service:** December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9am with Holy Communion
- **The church office will be closed Monday December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**
- Waseca Circuit will be hosting an **Epiphany Service** here at St Paul on Saturday January 6<sup>th</sup> at 4pm followed by a meal. The offerings from the service will go to the Circuit Mission Projects and the free will offering from the meal will go to the Higher Things Convention for youth.
- There will be a **Live Nativity end of event potluck** on Wednesday Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm for all those who helped with this year's event.

**As We Gather: The Diamond Found in the Manger**

Today we remember Mary and Joseph as they come to Bethlehem. We sing with the angels as they fill the sky. We run with the shepherds as they arrive on the scene. We behold the glory of God in the face of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is here we find our peace. Wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, our Prince of Peace is very much the diamond that the everlasting Father gives to us. As we gather to open His Word and sing His praises, let us rejoice in Jesus, the greatest blessing the world will ever know.

**Confession and Absolution**

**Hymn of Invocation: O Come, All Ye Faithful**

*LSB 379 sts. 1, ref, 2-4*

**Divine Service Setting One**

*LSB 151*

**Service of the Word**

*LSB 152*

**Introit**

*Psalm 93:1-2, 5; antiphon: Isaiah 9:2*



- P** The people who walked in | darkness\*  
have seen a | great light;
- C** **those who dwelt in a land of deep | darkness,\***  
**on them has | light shined.**
- P** The LORD reigns; he is robed in | majesty;\*  
the LORD is robed; he has put on strength | as his belt.
- C** **Yes, the world is es- | tablished;\***  
**it shall nev- | er be moved.**
- P** Your throne is established | from of old;\*  
you are from ever- | lasting.
- C** **Your decrees are very | trustworthy;\***  
**holiness befits your house, O LORD, for- | evermore.**
- Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** The people who walked in | darkness\*  
have seen a | great light;
- C** **those who dwelt in a land of deep | darkness,\***  
**on them has | light shined.**

**Kyrie**

*LSB 152*

**Gloria in Excelsis**

*LSB 154*

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

*LSB 156*

**Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 52:7-10*

- P** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, the fifty-second chapter.

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." <sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **SONG: "Christmas Gloria"**

**Sung By Senior Choir**

#### **Epistle**

*Hebrews 1:1-6*

**P** The Epistle is from Hebrews, the first chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

#### **Alleluia and Verse**

*LSB 156*

#### **Verse**

*John 1:14*

**P** Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,

**C** **glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Alleluia.**

#### **Holy Gospel**

*Luke 2:1-20*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" <sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them

concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Nicene Creed**

*LSB 158*

**Hymn of the Day: Peace Came to Earth**



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night  
 2 And who could be the same for hav-ing held  
 3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,  
 4 How else could I have known You, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light  
 The in - fant in their arms, and lat - er felt  
 In flesh and blood You bore our griefs and pain,  
 How else could I have loved You, O my God!



And God em - bod - ied love and sheathed His might—  
 The wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled—  
 In bread and wine You vis - it us a - gain—  
 How else could I em - brace You, O my God!



Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but see Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but praise Im - man - u - el!

**Sermon**

**Offering: "Mary's Little Boy Child"**

**Sung by Contemporary Ensemble**

**Offertory**

*LSB 159*

**Prayer of the Church**

**Service of the Sacrament**

*LSB 160*

**Preface**

**Proper Preface**

**Sanctus**

*LSB 161*

**Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 162*

**The Words of Our Lord**

**Pax Domini**

**Agnus Dei**

**Distribution**

**Distribution Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem**

*LSB 361*

**Distribution Hymn: Angels from the Realms of Glory**

*LSB 367*

**Distribution Hymn: Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising**

*LSB 375*

**Distribution Hymn: Once in Royal David's City**

*LSB 376*

**The Dismissal**

**Nunc Dimittis**

*LSB 165*

**Post-Communion Collect**

**Benediction**

*LSB 166*

**Hymn to Depart: Joy to the World**

*LSB 387*

# Hymn of Invocation: O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379 sts. 1, ref, 2-4



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

## Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

## Hymn of the Day: Peace Came to Earth



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night  
2 And who could be the same for hav-ing held  
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,  
4 How else could I have known You, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light  
The in - fant in their arms, and lat - er felt  
In flesh and blood You bore our griefs and pain,  
How else could I have loved You, O my God!



And God em - bod - ied love and sheathed His might—  
The wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled—  
In bread and wine You vis - it us a - gain—  
How else could I em - brace You, O my God!



Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but see Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but praise Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Timothy Shaw

Text: © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: CPH Advent License no. 110003197

Tune: © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: CPH Advent License no. 110003197



# Distribution Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93

Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

Text and tune: Public domain

# Distribution Hymn: Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in  
△ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,  
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,  
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,  
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.  
Ye have seen His na - tal star.  
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.  
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

## Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1, ref. 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79

Text and tune: Public domain

# Distribution Hymn: Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

LSB 375



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the  
2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending And in  
3 Ja - cob's star in all its splen - dor Beams with  
4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, From sin's



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -  
love our race be - friend - ing; In our need His help ex -  
com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -  
fet - ters that pos - sessed us, From the grief that sore dis -



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.  
tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.  
ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.  
tressed us, We, the cap - tives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
And to You we come confessing  
That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,  
From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join Your choir above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003197

Tune: Public domain

# Distribution Hymn: Once in Royal David's City

LSB 376



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.  
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.  
stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-95, alt.

Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-76

Text and tune: Public domain

# Hymn to Depart: Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

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› **2023 Poinsettias** We thank the following families for beautifying the church for Christmas to the Glory of God, in memory of loves ones.

l Bethke, Shirley Bluhm, Bonnie and Kent DeLong, Barb and David Denn, Denise and Grant  
iffy, Kathy & Jerry Flogstad, Judy Graper, Ann and Steve Jaycox, Cindy Kolander, Jean  
ischel, JoAnn and Jim Larson, Jane and Bob Lau, Bev and Marvin Maass, Pam and Dale  
idolph, Joe Schumacher, Lois Spies, Carol and Mike Ulschmid, Karen Weckwerth, Jeanette  
lliams, Jim Wyffels and Dave Ziegler.

Thank you, Hannah LaCroix, Jen LaCroix and Tyler Paulson for being our instrumentalist today.

The Board of Evangelism delivered 38 pounds of food to the Neighborhood Service Center this week. Thank you for your continued donations.

**OUR PRAYERS:**

***Called Home:***

***Cancer Treatment:*** Debbie Pehrson, Gerald Schroeder

***Hospitalized:***

***Prayer for continued recovery and healing:*** Jacob Williams, Bonnie Ross, Orval Proechel

***Medical Procedure:*** Gary Ross, Jess Klinger, Stan Stiernagle, Karen Thompson

***Illness:*** Cindy Kuschel, Glenda Pooley (sister of Gary Paulson)

***Treatment:*** Terry George, Kirsten Tharp, Randy Gehring, Dixie Flitter, Tim Andree

***Those who are sick and/or in need and wish to remain unnamed.***

***All the service men & women who are serving in the military:*** Gavin Doering, Jacob Lemmen, Aaron & Sarah Lenz, Jason Paschall, David Reinsbach, John Thompson

***Waseca Circuit Missionaries:*** Rev. Edward Naumann & Rev. Dr. Stephen Oliver (Taiwan) & John Wolff (Kenya)



Please contact the church office if you wish to speak with Pastor Grannis and Aimee will be happy to put you on his calendar during his office hours. Thank you

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## **THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: December 24<sup>th</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

### **Sunday (24<sup>th</sup>):**

9:00 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Communion (Facebook Live and Radio 1170 AM/106.3 FM)

10:15 am Coffee hour and Bible Study NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY

5: 30 pm Sing a long and 6pm Candlelight service: **Acolyte:** Nalyce Quillen

Facebook:

### **Monday (25<sup>th</sup>): OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED TODAY**

NO Prayer Team

9am Christmas Morning Service: **Acolyte:** Alex Bethke

Facebook: Geri Kuschel

### **Tuesday (26<sup>th</sup>):**

NO Quilters

### **Wednesday (27<sup>th</sup>):**

NO 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8th grade Confirmation

NO Senior Choir and Contemp. Ensemble

6:00 pm Live Nativity End of the Year project potluck

### **Thursday (28<sup>th</sup>):**

6am Bible Breakfast @ Jonnie Beans

### **Friday (29<sup>th</sup>):**

### **Saturday (30<sup>th</sup>):**

### **Sunday (31<sup>st</sup>):**

9:00 a.m. Divine Service w/Communion (Facebook Live and Radio 1170 AM/106.3 FM)

10:15 a.m. Coffee hour and Adult Bible Study and Sunday School

## **SERVING THE LORD IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICE:**

### **THIS WEEK: December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023:**

**ORGANIST:** Cindy Wood

**ACOLYTE:** Mason Precher

**ELDER/DEACON:** Jerry Flogstad/ Bob Roemhildt and Jim Wyffels

**RADIO MONITOR:** Cindy Gilmore

**FACEBOOK:** Kathy Flogstad

### **NEXT WEEK: December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023:**

**ORGANIST:** Cindy Wood

**ACOLYTE:** Kyler Welander

**RADIO MONITOR:** Ron Wood

**FACEBOOK:** Cindy Gilmore

## **LAST WEEK'S STATISTICS:**

**Worship Attendance on:** Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup>: 53 **General Fund: \$310.00**

**Thursday December 16<sup>th</sup>: Sunday School Christmas Program: 102 General Fund: \$269.00**

**Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>: 103 Bible Study: 20 Sunday School: 22**

**General Fund (in person & Direct Deposit): \$3,304.84 Handicap Entrance Fund: \$250.00**

**Organ Fund: \$20.00 Improvement Fund: \$350.00 Building Fund: \$25.00**

**Organ Fund: In Memory of Lorraine Brase \$600.00 Radio Ministry: \$200.00 in memory of Lee Williams**