



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH - (MISSOURI SYNOD)

314 - 4th Ave NE, Waseca, MN 56093

Phone: (507) 835-2647

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

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.”

SUNDAY MORNINGS (SEPTEMBER – MAY)

✠ Divine Service w/Holy Communion: 9:00 a.m.

(Also Facebook Live; and Radio 1170 AM/106.3 FM)

○ 10:15 – 11:15 am Sunday School

○ 10:30 am Adult Bible Study and Coffee Hour

Pastor: Rev. Bob Lund (Vacancy Pastor)

Mobile Phone: (651) 324-9229

Email: bltpbj@yahoo.com

ANNOUNCEMENT'S:

- *Welcome* **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.
- **Church Offering Envelopes for 2023** are ready to be picked up in the Parish Hall.
- **Women's Bible Study** will not meet in December. In January we plan to meet as usual on the first and third Wednesdays from 9:30 – 10:45 -- January 4 and January 18.
- **There will be NO Prayer Team on December 26 or January 2.**
- **There will be NO Quilters on Dec 27th. We will see you all back in January 3rd, 2023.**
- There will be **NO RADIO BROADCAST** Sunday December 25th and January 1st due to radio staff shortage. Services will be live streamed on Facebook.
- **2022 Poinsettias** We thank the following families for beautifying the church for Christmas to the Glory of God, in memory of loves one:
Dick Arnold, Karen Baerg, Shirley Bluhm, Duane Brase, Kent Delong, Denise Duffy, Kathy & Jerry Flogstad, Sharone Goetz, Judy Graper, Aimee Hill, Connie & David Krause, Bill Kuschel, Jean Kuschel, Marvin Maass, Tyler & Amalia Paulson, Bob Roemhildt, Ron Roemhildt, Beryl Ross, Suzi Ross, Jared Ross, Dale Rudolph, Lila Schaal, Gene Schwarz, Lois Spies, Karen Weckwerth, Jeanette Williams, Jim Wyffels and Dave Ziegler.
- **There will be NO New Years Eve service Saturday December 31st, 2022.**
- **The Church office will be closed** Friday December 23rd and Monday December 26th 2022 and Monday January 2nd, 2023.
- **January 15th, 2023 at 2pm** there will be a **SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING** to determine a call for our next Pastor.
- On behalf of the Stewardship Board, we delivered 82 pounds of food from our Church to the Food Shelf. **Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible.**
- **THANK YOU to our Instrumentalist,** Hannah LaCroix on Flute, Addie Bomsta on Clarinet, Tyler Paulson on Trombone and Jen LaCroix on Trombone, **for sharing your time and talents this Christmas!!**
- **Thank you** to Cindy Wood, Kelli Lenz and to all of our Choir members for sharing your time and talents with us this Christmas!!
- **January 8th, 2023 will be the Installation of all Board members** during service. New members please feel free to come to your January meetings as scheduled.

CHRISTMAS DAY

The Lord Has Bared His Holy Arm

December 25, 2022

AS WE GATHER

The long wait is over—the Savior is born! For many people, the days, weeks, and even months have been filled with anticipation for Christmas. For children, it may be an anticipation of gifts; for others, it may be long-awaited family time enjoyed and all the season brings. For all, we pray the Good News of a Savior born this day in the city of David is the overarching reason to celebrate. Others in history had to wait a much longer time for their Christmas joy. Approximately seven centuries before “the Word became flesh” (John 1:14), Isaiah would be inspired by the Spirit to proclaim to the people, “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” (Isaiah 52:10). Though the people of Isaiah’s day would not experience Christmas as we do, they would hold on by faith to the anticipated promise of salvation through our Savior who was to come. For us, we give thanks that salvation has come. In the Son of God wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, and with the mission for humanity set before Him, “The LORD has bared His holy arm” (Isaiah 52:10). May this promise fulfilled increase our Christmas joy as God still comes to us today in His Means of Grace, that we not only see but often celebrate the salvation of our God.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN: “Once in Royal David’s City”

[LSB 376]

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE WREATH

Pastor: On this holy day, we light the Christ Candle as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Child of Bethlehem. The Christ Candle is a symbol of His presence among us. In the words of the psalmist, we, the people of His pasture, celebrate the birth of our Good Shepherd. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

People: Serve the LORD with gladness!

Pastor: Come into His presence with singing!

People: Know that the LORD, He is God!

Pastor: It is He who made us, and we are His;

People: we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Pastor: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

People: Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

Pastor: For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

People: and His faithfulness to all generations.

The candles are lit.

OPENING SENTENCES *John 1:1, 4–5, 9; Isaiah 9:6; 52:10*

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word,

People: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Pastor: In Him was life,

People: and the life was the light of men.

Pastor: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

People: and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

Pastor: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

People: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Pastor: The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

People: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *John 1:4–5; Isaiah 52:10*

Pastor: Jesus, Word made flesh, You came to dwell among us, but the darkness of our sin separates and we often fail to bask in the light of Your presence.

People: We are sinful and unclean; we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.

Pastor: John writes in our Gospel lesson, “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Heavenly Father, too frequently we live in the darkness of unbelief.

People: Forgive us, Lord, for those sins we know, and those sins we do not know.

Pastor: For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

People: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

People: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

WORD

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” [LSB 367]

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

SONG: “Mary’s Little Boy Child” Contemporary Ensemble

OLD TESTAMENT *Isaiah 52:7–10* (The Lord’s coming salvation)
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.”⁸ 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.⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.¹⁰ 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

Pastor: To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

People: and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

Pastor: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

People: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Pastor: Sing to the Lord a new song,

People: for He has done marvelous things!

SONG: "Adore"

Senior Choir

EPISTLE *Hebrews 1:1–12*

(The supremacy of God's Son)

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² 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. ³ 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, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵ 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"? ⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷ Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire." ⁸ But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." ¹⁰ And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹ they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹² like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they

will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *John 1:14*

Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 1:1–18* (The Word became flesh.)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever

seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" [LSB 384]

SERMON

CATECHISM *The Second Article*

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray in song and in words spoken for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs.

HYMN: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” [St. 4: *LSB* 361]

Pastor: Father, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, sending Your Son into our world as an infant, to be our Savior and to forgive our sins.

People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

HYMN: “Away in a Manger” [St. 3: *LSB* 364]

Pastor: Jesus, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us; You came from heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin.

People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

HYMN: “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” [St. 13: *LSB* 358]

Pastor: Holy Spirit, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, gathering us together through the water of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.

People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received, and kept unto life eternal.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, You have bared Your holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, that the ends of the earth shall see Your salvation. Even amid Christmas peace and joy, we experience the hurt and harm of this world. We lift up all those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, [*especially . . .*]. Reach out to them with Your holy arm and the light of our Savior that they may be comforted in their time of need, seeing the salvation You have prepared for all through faith.

All these things we bring before You, through Jesus Christ,
the Word made flesh.

People: Amen.

HYMN: "Let All Together Praise Our God" [St. 7: LSB 389]

SACRAMENT

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we by faith give thanks for the salvation You have bestowed upon Your people, baring Your holy arm before all the nations; for You came from heaven to earth as one of us, as an infant for the hope of humanity and restoration as Redeemer. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS HYMN: "Holy, Holy, Holy" [LSB 507 vs 1]

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord our God, for You have had mercy on us and entered human history bringing the Good News. Through the gracious gift of Your Son, Jesus, we with joy and in faith receive Your gifts. We give thanks that Your Word

has been fulfilled through the prophets, and thank You that in Christ the assurance of heaven has been won for us. Grant us now that we may faithfully receive Him as the gift for us wrapped in, with, and under bread and wine, together with the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation. To You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all praise and glory, now and forever.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night...

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: Our Father who art in heaven....

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI: "Lamb of God"

[LSB 550 vs 2]

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“What Child Is This”	[LSB 370]
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”	[LSB 380]
“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”	[LSB 358]

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that we have seen Your salvation in our Savior born this day, and in His body and blood given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. We implore You that of Your infinite love, mercy, and forgiveness, You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You, that we would share the gifts of grace and be the beautiful feet with the Good News of Christ the Savior born, in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

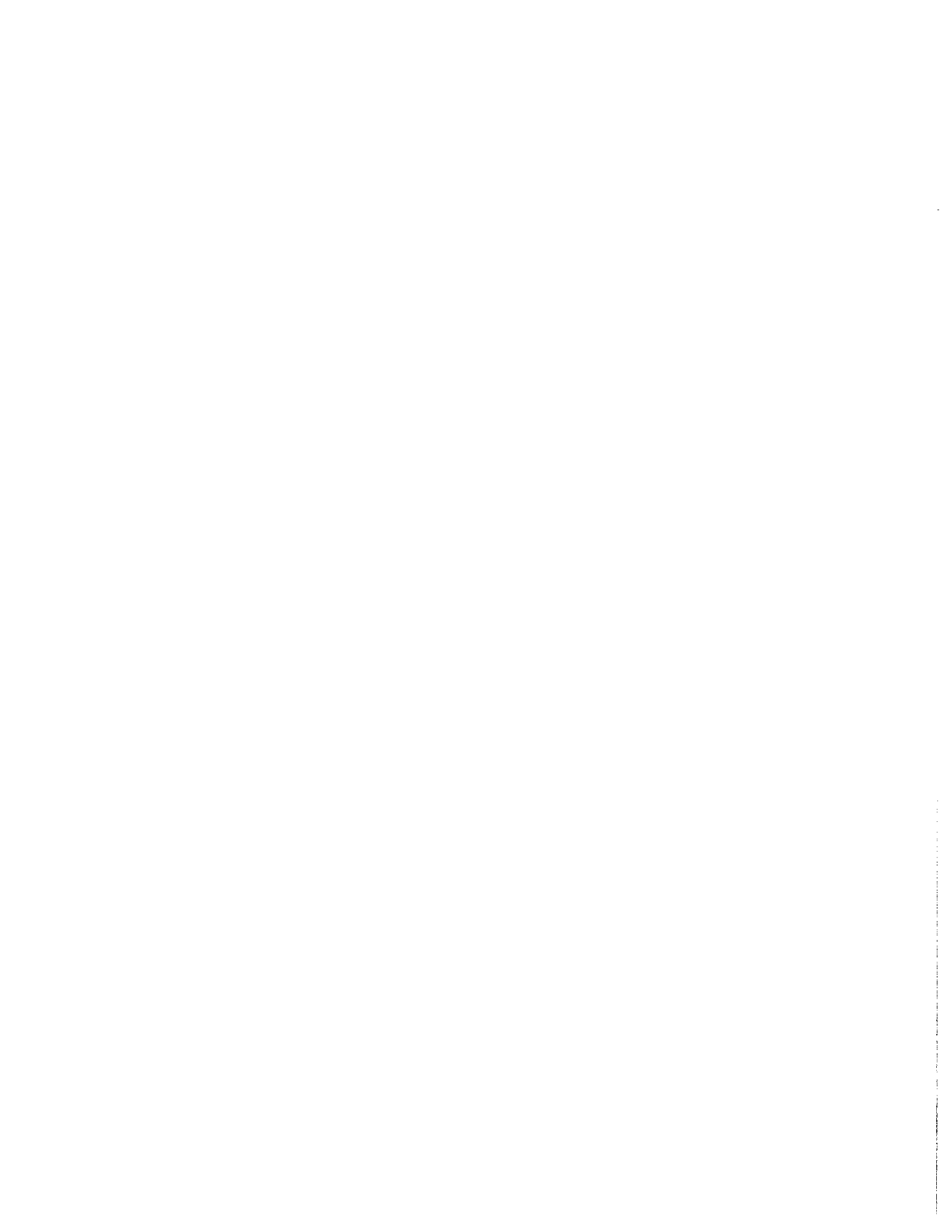
People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: Christmas peace and joy through Christ, His only-begotten Son, be yours; and the blessing of God Almighty—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be and abide with you forever.

People: Amen.

HYMN: “Go Tell It on the Mountain” [LSB 388]



IN OUR PRAYERS:

- **Called Home:**
- **Hospitalized:** Anita Risto's
- **Medical Procedure:** Karen Thompson (Kathy Flagstad's Sister) waiting for available kidney.
- **Illness:** Cindy Kuschel, Pastor Loeslie from Bethlehem Lutheran Morristown
- **Up Coming Surgeries:**
- **Thanksgiving & Continued Recovery:** LeeAnn Paulson, Kathy Lenz, Tony Jelinek (son in law to Vivian Bohmbach), Margret Schwarz
- **Treatment:** Loy Spies, Tim Andree (friend of Matt Klinger), Dixie Flitter (sister of Shirley Bluhm)
- **For those with Covid-19**
- **Those who are sick and/or in need and wish to remain unnamed.**
- **All the service men & women who are serving in the military:** Noah Berg, Matthew Gilmore, 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)

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St. Paul Lutheran Church

- **Preparing for Holy Communion:** To assist in a time of preparation, prayers are located in the front cover and on pages 329-330 of your hymnal. For anyone with alcohol concerns, diluted cups are located in the center of the tray. Gluten free communion wafers are available upon request.
- **Facebook Live-stream and Radio Broadcasts:** Our worship service is live-streamed on Facebook each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. (in Facebook search for: @stpaulwaseca to locate our Facebook page.) Our worship service is also Radio Broadcast each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. on Radio 1170 AM or 106.3 FM, and www.newstalk1170.com
- **Prayer Chain:** If you would like to add someone or something to the prayer chain, please call the church office at 835-2647.
- **Sunday School:** please join us for Sunday School at 10:15-11:15, for ages 3 through grade 8.

The Lord's Supper

- ✚ We believe, teach, and confess in accordance with Holy Scripture that the Lord's Supper is a precious gift from God, in which Christ gives us His true body and blood, in, with, and under the bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith.
- ✚ The Bible teaches that this sacrament may also be spiritually harmful when misused, (*For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. Therefore, whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason, many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 1 Corinthians 11:26-30*)
- ✚ The Lord's Supper is a testimony of the unity in faith. We ask that only those who have been instructed and who are in fellowship with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod come with a contrite and joyful heart to the Lord's Table. (Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers)
- ✚ Any guest wishing to receive communion here at St. Paul Lutheran Church, please speak with the Pastor or the Elder on duty, prior to the church service. Thank You.

✚

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: December 25th - January 1st, 2023

Sunday (25th):

9:00 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Communion (also Facebook Live)

NO Sunday School

Monday (26th):

Church office Closed

No Prayer Team

Tuesday (27th):

NO Quilters

NO Adult Confirmation

Wednesday (28th):

NO Confirmation 6th - 8th grade

NO Senior Choir and Contemporary Ensemble practice

Thursday (29th):

6:00 a.m. Bible Breakfast at Jonnie Bean

Friday (30th):

Saturday (31st):

Sunday (1st):

9:00 am Divine Service w/ Holy Communion (also Facebook Live)

NO Sunday School

SERVING THE LORD IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICE:

THIS WEEK: December 24th & 25th:

ORGANIST: Cindy Wood

ACOLYTE: Joel Hammer (25th)

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

RADIO MONITOR: No Broadcast

**FACEBOOK: Cindy Gilmore (24th @4pm)
(25th @ 9am)**

READER: Cindy Gilmore

NEXT WEEK: January 1st, 2023:

ORGANIST: Matt Groskreutz

ACOLYTE: Josie Ross

ELDER/DEACON: Andrew Gilmore/ Jim Wyffels

RADIO MONITOR: No Broadcast

FACEBOOK: Kathy Flogstad

READER: Cindy Gilmore

LAST WEEK'S STATISTICS:

Worship Attendance on Wednesday December 14th: 66

Sunday December 18th: 126 Bible Study: 16 Sunday School:

General Fund (in person & Direct Deposit) December 14th: \$377.00

December 18th: \$ 2700.00