

SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH JOY!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022

9:00 A.M.

Order of Worship

Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022 † 9:00 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements & Prayer Concerns

An Advent Litany of Joy

L: Today, three candles light our way; Hope, Peace, and Joy.

All: But there seems to be something missing. Even in the bustle of the season, our energy is lagging and our spirits seem dulled.

L: This is why we light the candle of Joy today. The Savior is coming - rejoice! Let your hearts rest in this simple truth; that a Savior is to be born for you!

All: This is indeed, great news! A Savior is born for us!

L: In the coming days, may your lives be grounded in hope, may your minds be surrounded in peace, and may your hearts be bursting in love. But on Christmas Day and every day, may your spirits take flight in joy!

All: Because a Savior is born for us! Alleluia! May it be so!

Hymn

“Light One Candle To Watch For Messiah”

(hymn) **240**

¹Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

²Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

³Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

All: Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

All: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Greeting & Prayer

Pastor: The God of peace be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: God is stirring our hearts this day as we begin to prepare a pathway for Christ.

All: By his coming we speak and live peace in our lives.

Pastor: By his coming we turn again our hearts toward God.

All: so that God's steadfast love and faithfulness might dwell in all the earth.

Pastor: Let us pray...

All: 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. Amen.

Gathering Song

"You Are the Light of the World"

You are the light of the world
You are the light of the world
So shine, shine, shine where you are
You are the light of the world.

You are a candle in the dark ...
You are a star in the night ...
You are a city on a hill ...

You are the One who is to come.
You are the One who is to come.
So come, come, come Emmanuel.
You are the One who is to come.

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Response

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

(hymn) 264, vs.1

¹Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"Let My Prayer Rise Up"

(hymn) 232

Refrain

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

O God, I call to you, come to me now; oh, hear my voice when I cry to you. *Refrain*

Keep watch within me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright.

Refrain

All praise to the God of all--Creator of life; all praise be to Christ and the Spirit of love. *Refrain*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Offering—*Thank you for your continued support and generosity towards the mission and ministry of St. Paul Lutheran. You're reminded that you can contribute in three ways. You can give electronically on our church website, drop your envelope off at church, or mail in your offering envelope to: St. Paul Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 583, Wyoming, MN 55092*

Prayers of Intercession

Leader: Lord, in your mercy ... **All: Hear our prayer.**

Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: We have confessed our sin and God has forgiven our sin.

All: Amen! We come to the table now for refreshment and renewal.

Pastor: Yes! With joyful anticipation, come! Receive Emmanuel!

All: God is with us! God makes us new this day! God gives us hope for tomorrow!

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our 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 Distribution

A member of our prayer team will be available during communion distribution for individual and private prayer. Please meet them at the prayer station in the back of the sanctuary.

Communion Music

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Leader: Let us pray ... Gracious God, we are thankful for these gifts of love and sacrifice and we are reminded of you and your love for us. May your love fill us with power to become more like you and may your love enable us to make a difference in the coming week.

All: Amen.

Benediction

Sending Song

"Lord, Jesus Come!"

Lord Jesus, come.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come and be born in our hearts.

Come live, come dwell in us Emmanuel.

Come and be born in our hearts.

¹Your people are waiting.

Your people are waiting.

Your people are waiting for you Lord.

²Your people are longing.

Your people are longing.

Your people are longing for you Lord.

³Your people are ready.

Your people are ready.

Your people are ready for you Lord.

Dismissal

Leader: Go in peace! Share the risen Christ's love, with Joy!

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran!

www.sharingchristслоve.org

Thank You to All Involved in Today's Worship

Pastor:	Dale Stiles
Worship Assistant:	Kathie Marabella
Usher:	Marc Marabella
Greeter:	Kathy Mills
Pianist:	Sheila Byl
Tech Team:	Chris Timmons
Altar Guild:	Zella Oswald
Prayer Team:	Kathy Mills
Counters:	Karen Rozeske, Harper Timmons

Please keep in your prayers this week:

Our partners in Tanzania, the Mgoli and Mtera parishes, Arnie Rudenick, Patty Gamnis (Friend of Cindy G.), Doug G. (Friend of Darlene), Dale Brainard, Susan P. (daughter in law of Darlene), Kevin, Reese (friend of Cindy Gruett), Lil (Aunt of Elodee Hudon, Layla (niece of Elodee Hudon), Jim (Dave Schuder's Dad), Bernie & Mikayla (Grandchildren of The Miskas), Family of Elodee Hudson.

Please contact Melissa in the church office if you'd like a prayer concern added, updated, or removed from the list.

Flowers today are given by Wendy Hazzard in memory of her parents. Sign up sheet for flowers is in the narthex.

Refreshments today provided by Darla Peterson. Sign up sheet in Narthex.

“Messengers of Joy!” Advent Midweek Series—5:30 p.m. Soup Supper, 6:30 p.m. Worship with Holden Evening Vespers in sanctuary.

Our Final 2022 Quarterly Finance Report and Meeting will be held immediately after worship **TODAY in the Church Library**. Our Church Treasurer, Chris Timmons, will lead this meeting. Please plan to attend.

Vocal Choir—If you are interested in singing in our new choir please let Fritz Wheatley know. Practices are weekly on Sunday nights from 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Christmas Flower Orders—due **TODAY**. Sign up sheet available on table in narthex.

Children’s Christmas Program! Sunday, December 18, during worship. Plan to attend!

Nominations for Church Council—There are three positions opening on Church Council at the end of January, 2023. They are: *President* (two year term ending 1/25), *Member-at-Large* (two year term ending 1/25), and *Member-at-Large* (two year term ending 1/25). Please contact Pastor Dale if you are interested in serving in any of these positions, and/or for more information. Thank you!

Keenagers—will be meeting on Wednesday, December 14 at 11:00 for a Christmas Lunch at the Village Inn. We hope you can join us!

Fill the pantry box— in partnership with the Scouts, we have a “fill the pantry” box in our narthex. Donations go to Ronald McDonald House Charities. Please grab a list of needed items from the box, and donate if you are able. Donations need to be collected by December 31.

Agape Card Shop in the library is restocked and open for business. All cards are \$.50. Take a look!

**General Fund Financial Offerings Received
(as of December 7, 2022)**

Year-to-Date Actuals	Year-to-Date Budget	Over (Under) Budgeted Giving
\$204,136.70	\$207,761.25	\$(3,624.55)

Monthly Totals (as of 11/15/22)

General Fund Offering: \$174,378
 Total Revenue: \$222,494
 Total Expenses (before mortgage): \$190,413
 Total Expenses (after mortgage): \$243,693
 Net Revenue (after mortgage payment):

This Week

@St. Paul Lutheran



Sunday, December 11

9:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Vocal Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

Monday, December 12

5:30 p.m. Global Missions Meeting
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, December 13

6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

Wednesday, December 14

11:00 a.m. Keenagers
1:00 Adult Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Soup Supper
6:30 p.m. Holden Evening Vesper Service

Saturday, December 17

9:00 a.m. Mobile Food Truck

Sunday, December 18

Children's Christmas Program
9:00 a.m. Worship
6:00 p.m. Vocal Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

LOOKING AHEAD

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24—Worship, 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25—Worship, 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 1—Service of Lessons & Carols, 9:00 a.m.

"Messengers of Joy!"

Advent at St. Paul Lutheran



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Wednesdays during the Advent season, our Holden Evening Vespers services will provide opportunities to take time out from the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations and create some silence and stillness to reflect prayerfully, and meditate on some of the joyful moments in the Christmas story, using Isaiah and the Gospel of Luke.

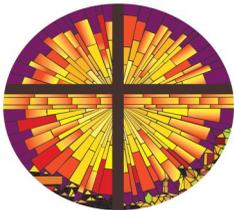
"A Foretelling of Joy!" - November 30

"An Announcement of Joy!" - December 7

"A Meeting of Joy!" - December 14

"An Arrival of Joy!" - December 21

meal at 5:30 p.m. | worship at 6:30 p.m.



Saint Paul Lutheran Church
5879 Wyoming Trail, Wyoming, MN 55092

SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE