



SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH JOY!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

9:00 A.M.

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# Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

January 28, 2024 ☩ 9:00 a.m.

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## Prelude

## Welcome, Announcements & Prayer Concerns

## Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**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: Gracious God,

**All: 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.**

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**All: Amen.**

## Gathering Song

“Christ, Be Our Light ”

(hymn) 715

<sup>1</sup> Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

## Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

<sup>2</sup> Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

<sup>3</sup> Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

<sup>4</sup> Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

## Greeting

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

## Kyrie

(page) 147

## Canticle of Praise

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## Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray.

**All: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Special Music

*"Come, Now Is The Time To Worship"*

Bell Choir

## First Reading

## Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." <sup>17</sup>Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## Second Reading

### 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him. <sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. <sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## Gospel Acclamation

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## Gospel

### Mark 1:21-28

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

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

## Children's Sermon

### Sermon

#### Hymn of the Day

"Shout To The North"

<sup>1</sup>Men of faith rise up and sing, of the great and glorious King  
You are strong when you feel weak, in your brokenness complete.

#### *Chorus*

Shout to the north and the south, sing to the east and the west  
Jesus is Savior to all, Lord of heaven and earth

<sup>2</sup>Rise up women of the truth, stand and sing to broken hearts  
Who can know the healing pow'r of our awesome King of love. *Chorus*

<sup>3</sup>Rise up church with broken wings, fill this place with songs again  
Of our God who reigns on high, by His grace again we'll fly. *Chorus*

#### *Bridge*

We've been through fire, We've been through rain  
We've been refined by the pow'r of His name  
We've fallen deeper in love with You, You've burned the truth on our lips. *Chorus*

## Apostles' Creed

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**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.**

## Sharing of the Peace

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

**All: And also with you!**

## Offering

### Offering Music

## Offering Prayer

Leader: Let us pray ... Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

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

## Great Thanksgiving

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### 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

"What Feast of Love"  
"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

(hymn) 487

(hymn) 502

## Communion Blessing

## Prayer after Communion

Leader: Let us pray ... Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

**All: Amen.**

## Benediction

## Sending Song

### “Let’s Go Out”

Let's go out into the world,  
and make it a loving place to live.

Let's go out into the world,  
and tell ev'ryone the Savior lives.

Let's go out! Let's go out!  
And make it a loving place to live

Let's go out! Let's go out!  
And tell ev'ryone the Savior lives.

Let's go out!

## Dismissal

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude

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# Thank You to All Involved in Worship Leading!

<b>Pastors:</b>	Dale & Carrie Stiles
<b>Worship Assistant:</b>	Zella Oswald
<b>Usher:</b>	Cindy Gruett
<b>Greeter:</b>	Kimberly Bahls
<b>Organist :</b>	Jeanne Richards
<b>Prayer Corner:</b>	Rosie Quale
<b>Tech Team:</b>	Chris Timmons
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Brandy Timmons
<b>Counters:</b>	Arlie Post, Will & Katie Fetterly



Welcome to  
**St. Paul Lutheran!**

[www.sharingchristslve.org](http://www.sharingchristslve.org)

**Thank you for worshiping with us at St. Paul Lutheran today,  
where it is our mission “To Share Christ’s Love, With Joy!”**

We hope your experience with us is meaningful and spiritual. If visiting, please don’t hesitate to introduce yourself to the pastors and others. We enjoy getting to know you and we hope you return. At St. Paul Lutheran all are truly welcome and invited to receive Holy Communion. A gluten free option is available (if needed, let the pastor know when you come forward). Gender-neutral restrooms are available in our education/preschool wing.

We look forward to seeing you again!

**Please keep in your prayers this week:**

Our partners in Tanzania, the Migoli and Mtera parishes, Pat Crawford, Ruth Koehly, The Tilly Family, Rachel & TJ (daughter & son in law of Wendy Hazzard), Freddie (grandson of a friend of Deb Cowing), Georgiana (friend of Darlene Petrey).

**Flowers** today are provided by Linda Welch in honor of her grandson Steven, and by Carole England in honor of Dee’s 94th birthday. The flower sign up form is on the wall in the narthex. Thank you for signing up!

**Annual Meeting & Potluck**—TODAY after worship is our Annual Congregational Meeting with a potluck lunch to follow.

**2024 Lenten Devotional Book!** If you are interested in sharing your writing or artwork as part of our printed Lenten Devotional book this year, please contact Pr. Carrie. Submissions will be due by February 1 in order to have ready to hand out on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14.



**The Faith Club Book Study Continues THIS Tuesday**—All are invited to join with Pr. Carrie in discussing Christianity, Muslim, and Jewish relations through the framework of the book *“The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew—Three Women Search for Understanding.”* Reading the book is not necessary and you don't have to commit to all the weeks. The study will meet the following Tuesdays, in-person at 1:00 p.m. and at 6:30 p.m. virtually. Contact Pr. Carrie or the church office for the link. The remaining dates are: January 30, February 6 and 13.

**Senior Group Interest Meeting**—Join us THIS Wednesday, January 31 at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. At this meeting we will brainstorm ideas for a monthly meeting for seniors (55+) in our congregation. Meeting days and times and ideas will all be up for discussion. Snacks will be served. For more information, talk to Carole England.

**Join us at The Table this Wednesday!** We'll explore how Jesus heals the outcasts. Meal begins at 5:30 p.m. Worship at 6:00 p.m. Faith Formation for all ages at 6:30 p.m.

**Upcoming First Communion Instruction**—At St. Paul Lutheran, First Communion instruction can be done at any time and any age. It is left to the discretion of the parents as when they would like this to happen in their child's life. During the upcoming Lenten season, we will offer a time of learning in preparation for anyone who chooses to have first communion during our Maundy Thursday worship of Holy Week on March 28. If you are interested in having a child participate, please contact Pastor Carrie. Mark the following dates on your calendar. (if you have a conflict with a date please reach out to talk about alternatives.) **Learning Times: Sundays, March 3 and 17 at 10:30 a.m. Celebration of First Communion, Maundy Thursday, March 28, 6:30 p.m.**

**Lenten Mentor Program**—Our confirmation students will be meeting with mentors during the Wednesdays of Lent. Pastor Carrie is looking for adults who are willing to meet to talk with them during soup suppers and then worship together at the Lenten Mid-Week worship services. Mentors will be provided discussion guides and support. This is a time to build intergenerational relationships and learn from each other. If you are interested in ministering in this way, please reach out to Pastor Carrie. Thank you!

**Tanzania Mission Trip 2024!** Sixteen members of our congregation are currently planning to visit our two partner congregations in Tanzania—Mtera and Migoli. Our trip dates are July 17-31. Participants include: *Katie Edwards, Arlie Post, Pastors Carrie and Dale Stiles, Steve and Carole England, Katie and Will Fetterly, Chris and Kim and Caleb and Gabe Clark, and Tyler and Joanna and Nova and Sam Kroschel.* Please keep this group in your prayers. **The group will meet next Sunday, February 4 for additional planning and team building.** We are so excited for this opportunity since it has been since 2014 that a group from St. Paul Lutheran has visited.





**Our New Congregation Photo Directory** has been proofread, edited, and sent back for final printing! We are excited for the final product! When we know more about when it will be completed and mailed out we'll let you know!

Watch for more information!

## Weekly Financial Stewardship Update

2024 General Fund Offering Received	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under) Budgeted Giving
YTD Totals	\$ 11,189.75	TBD	TBD
2024 Total Revenue Received	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under) Budgeted Revenue
YTD Totals	\$ 12,255.75	TBD	TBD

Bridge the Gap Matching Funds Received - **\$10,298.00**



*The Total Revenue Received includes ALL revenue received by SPLC (including Bridge the Gap funds). General Fund Revenue is the portion of Total Revenue Received through undesignated offerings from members and guests. Please contact our Church Council Treasurer, Chris Timmons, with any questions.*

LENT 2024



# “Once Upon A Tree...”

This Lenten season will introduce a unique exploration of faith with the theme of trees, echoing the traditional start of tales with “*Once Upon A Time ...*” Transitioning to the life and teachings of Jesus, our learning will delve into reflections on faith, hope, loss, and love, using children’s books about trees, as symbols of life’s journey.

Starting on **Ash Wednesday, February 14**, this theme will aim to connect our personal faith journeys with the profound story of Jesus. “*Once Upon A Tree ...*” will be for us an opportunity for spiritual renewal and a new beginning, encouraging us to intertwine our journey of faith and life with the rich symbolism of trees during this Lenten season of reflection and spiritual renewal.

*Sundays - 9:00 a.m. | Wednesdays - Soup Suppers, 5:30 p.m., Holden Evening Vespers, 6:30 p.m.*

**Sunday, February 18**

**“The Three Trees”**

**Wednesday, February 21**

*For times when we cannot see the purpose in our lives*

**Sunday, February 25**

**“The Singing Fir Tree”**

**Wednesday, February 28**

*For times when we feel disconnected from God*

**Sunday, March 3**

**“The Fall of Freddy the Leaf”**

**Wednesday, March 6**

*For times when we don’t understand death or loss*

**Sunday, March 10**

**“The Tree”**

**Wednesday, March 13**

*For times when hope seems out of reach*

**Sunday, March 17**

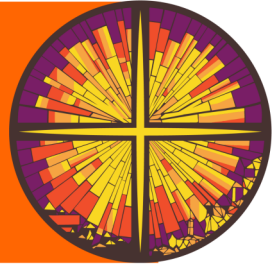
**“The Giving Tree”**

**Wednesday, March 20**

*For times when we are in need of God’s provision*

# This Week

@St. Paul Lutheran



## **Sunday, January 28**

Worship, 9:00 a.m.

Annual Congregational Mtg, 10:00 a.m. (Potluck to follow)

Vocal Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 p.m.

Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.

## **Monday, January 29**

Boy Scouts, 6:30 p.m.

## **Tuesday, January 30**

Faith Club Book Discussion, 1:00 p.m.

Cub Scouts, 6:00 p.m.

## **Wednesday, January 31**

Senior Group Interest Meeting, 11:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

The Table, 5:30 p.m.

## **Sunday, February 4**

Worship, 9:00 a.m.

Vocal Choir Rehearsal, 10:30 a.m.

Tanzania Trip Meeting, 10:30 a.m.

Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN**  
**CHURCH**

SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH JOY!

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