



SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH JOY!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023

9:00 A.M.

Order of Worship

Commitment Sunday
November 19, 2023 † 9:00 a.m.

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

“Shout to the North”

¹Men 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

²Rise up women of the truth, stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing pow'r of our awesome King of love

³Rise 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

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

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 *(page) 149*

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray.

All: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading **Malachi 3:10-12**

¹⁰Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. ¹¹I will rebuke the locust for you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil; and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the Lord of hosts. ¹²Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Response

“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

(hymn) 512

Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

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

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“Blessed Assurance”

(hymn) 638

¹ Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

² Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

³ Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*

Apostles' Creed

(page) 127

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!

Processional Offering

Offering Music

“We Are An Offering”

¹We lift our voices. We lift our hands. We lift our lives up to You. We are an offering.

²Lord use our voices. Lord use our hands. Lord use our lives, they are Yours.
We are an offering.

All that we have. All that we are. All that we hope to be—We give to You. We give to You.

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.

Blessing of Commitments

Pastor: God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for the daily blessings of life. Continue to bless the ongoing offerings of our treasure that they may be used wisely in your service. We now dedicate these new commitments to You, O God.

All: In support and sacrifice, we pray our commitments will be used to glorify You; to be vessels of Your work in our community and throughout our world.

Pastor: Bless these commitments, Lord, and those who offer them out of the generosity of their hearts.

All: Guide us as we prepare financially for the work you have, and will continue to, call us to contribute to in this upcoming year.

Pastor: Use us all, O God, to do Your work in this community of faith, our surrounding communities, and beyond.

All: Inspire us. Encourage us. Challenge us. Reveal Yourself to us. Use us, and the gifts You have first given us, for your service.

Pastor: We pray over these gifts now, O God, asking for your blessing on them, in Your triune name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

Prayers of Intercession

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

Great Thanksgiving

(page) 152

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, 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

“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.....

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude



Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran!

www.sharingchristsllove.org

Thank You to All Involved in Worship Leading!

Pastors:	Dale & Carrie Stiles
Worship Assistant:	Kimberly Bahls
Usher:	Cindy Gruett
Organist:	Jeanne Richards
Greeters:	Kimberly Bahls
Tech Team:	Chris Timmons
Altar Guild:	The Maeckelberghs
Counters:	Paulette Miller, Jan Taylor

Please keep in your prayers this week:

Our partners in Tanzania, the Migoli and Mtera parishes, Brian Fashner, Gordy (Friend of Janelle Albee), Marge (friend of Pat Chevron), Pat Crawford, Tom (friend of Kathy Mills), Don Juelich, The Tilly Family.

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

Flowers today are provided by The Kroschel's in honor of Sam's 14th birthday and by Cindy Gruett in memory of her husband Glenn. The flower sign up form is on the wall in the narthex. Thank you for signing up!

Refreshments today are provided by Zella Oswald. Sign up sheet is available on the table in narthex. Thank you for signing up!

Today is Commitment Sunday! During our processional offering this morning you are invited to drop both your weekly offering and your 2024 Statement of Intent Card in the offering box in front of the altar. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

Sponsor a Tanzanian Student! It costs \$450 for a Tanzanian student to attend school for one year. As part of our long-time and ongoing partnership with Mtera and Migoli parishes in Tanzania you are invited to contribute towards these scholarships. Any amount is appreciated. We currently sponsor seven students—all donated funding. Thank you, in advance!

Creation Care Team Meets Today After Worship—If you are interested in being part of our new Creation Care Team, please meet in the Library right after worship. A reminder that the Team has created a survey of best environmental stewardship practices at St. Paul Lutheran that you are encouraged to take. You can find the link on the homepage of our church website or in your latest ReFresh & ReNews Weekly E-Newsletter. Thank you!

Advent Soup Suppers Are Back! Wednesday nights in Advent (beginning Nov. 29) you are invited to Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m. A short, contemplative worship using Holden Evening Vespers, will be at 6:30 p.m. A sign up sheet for making soup (for 40 people) is on the table in the narthex.

Bridge the Gap! We are almost ready to take our next step over the bridge to matching our \$30K donation! **\$172 is needed to reach \$4000!** Every \$2000 received we can take another step! Our first Bridge the Gap Sunday is coming up on December 10 as we explore “Bridging the Gap—From Fear the Faith”. Jesus’ mother, Mary, knew something about this. We’ll learn from her how to respond to God’s call when we’re afraid. #bethebridge!

Church Council Positions Opening. A Treasurer and three Members-at-Large positions on the Church Council will be open and needed to be filled at our 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting. These are two-year terms. The Church Council meets every third Tuesday of the month. Please pray about if this might be a way for you to serve St. Paul Lutheran. Speak to a Pastor or a current Council member for more information. Thank you!

Our Preschool (Discovery Center) Is Seeking to Hire an Assistant-Support Toddler Teacher
Hours needed are: 11:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., assisting team with site tasks and assisting young toddlers. \$17.00-\$20.00/hour depending on education level and experience. This is a Part-time Position and includes up to 64 PTO (accrued) Hours, 8 Paid Holidays, \$250 Annual Education Refund and Paid Professional Development. Contact Site Director, Lily Strain, if interested or for more information—651-301-0290

Annual Children’s Christmas Program and Story of the Yule Log! December 17



Our church youth, in partnership with the children of our Discovery Center, will once again perform our annual **Children’s Christmas Program** during worship on Sunday, December 17. We are excited to welcome many of our Discovery Center families to worship that day! Following the program, **Dee Wilkinson will once again read her story of the Yule Log** and all will have an opportunity to make and decorate their own yule logs to take home with them.

Christmas Eve Flower Orders Will Begin Next Sunday!

Once again this year you are invited to purchase from an assortment of plant options in memory/honor/celebration of loved ones to decorate our altar and chancel. The order forms will be available next week. Contact Melissa in the church office for more information.

Weekly Financial Stewardship Update

2023 General Fund Offering Received	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under) Budgeted Giving
YTD Totals	\$ 188,478.99	\$ 194,972.08	\$ (6,493.09)
2023 Total Revenue Received	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under) Budgeted Revenue
YTD Totals	\$ 270,737.03	\$ 250,040.07	\$ 20,696.96



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.



A Weekly Food Donation Reminder

The Food Donation Grocery Cart is in the narthex each Sunday ready to receive your non-perishable food truck donations which are distributed the third Saturday of each month.

Cans For Christ!

Your donated aluminum cans become additional funds to help us meet our general operating expenses at the church. Our last check received (8/1/23) for cans was \$230.00!



- September 24** - The Sharing of the Peace
- October 15** - The Confession
- November 12** - The Offering
- January 7** - The Prayers
- February 4** - The Kyrie
- March 10** - The Benediction
- April 21** - The Creed

reFresh

reNews

A Weekly Digital Newsletter



To help children engage and to teach the importance of worship, families are invited to use our Prayground.

Our Advent Theme at St. Paul Lutheran this year is “God With Us.”

Experience the power of the Advent season with us at St. Paul Lutheran this year as we reflect on the promise that God is with us. The season begins on November 26.

Join us on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Join us on Wednesdays for Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m. and for Worship at 6:30 p.m.

We use the Holden Evening Vespers service for our Advent Midweek Worship.



Advent at SPLC

November 26 & 29

Every Family Has A Story

December 3 & 6

There's Power In A Name

December 10

Bridge the Gap Sunday
“From Fear to Faith”

December 13

Leaping For Joy!

December 17

Children's Christmas
Program

December 20

The Power of Love

December 24

Christmas Eve

Advent begins

November 26

Midweek Soup Supper

5:30 p.m.

**Midweek Holden
Worship**

6:30 p.m.

Meal Train[®] for The Tilly Family

Adam, Jessica, Eli, and Anna have welcomed little baby David into their family. For this we are grateful!

Given David's congenital heart and lung condition, we want to help support the Tilly family by providing dinner a few evenings each week. If you are interested in contributing, there are a few different options for you.

On a computer visit David's Caring Bridge site where you can find the link to their Meal Train:
www.caringbridge.org/visit/heartwarriortilly

Contact Melissa in our Church Office directly at 651-462-5212 and she can get you signed up.

You can choose to send an electronic gift card via email to Tillyjadam@gmail.com.



Our Creation Care Team has placed receptacles beside each garbage can in the narthex **for our new compostable coffee cups only.**

Also, please note that **used paper towels only should be discarded in the bathrooms.** These too, can be composted.

Both these paper towels and cups will be picked up weekly and brought to a local compost site by members of our Creation Care Team.

This Week

@St. Paul Lutheran



Commitment Sunday, November 19

9:00 a.m. Worship

6:00 p.m. Vocal Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

Monday, November 20

12:30 p.m. Humble Bees

6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, November 21

5:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

Wednesday, November 22

1:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship

First Advent Sunday, November 26

New Member Reception

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Greening of the Church

7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

LOOKING AHEAD

Bridge the Gap Sunday, December 10

“From Fear to Faith”

Sunday, December 17

Children’s Christmas Program

“Story of the Yule Log” by Dee Wilkenson

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

Candlelight Worship, 4:00 p.m.

Thank You LORD

Thanksgiving Eve Worship | 7:00 p.m.

people • places • things





Saint Paul Lutheran Church

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SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH JOY!