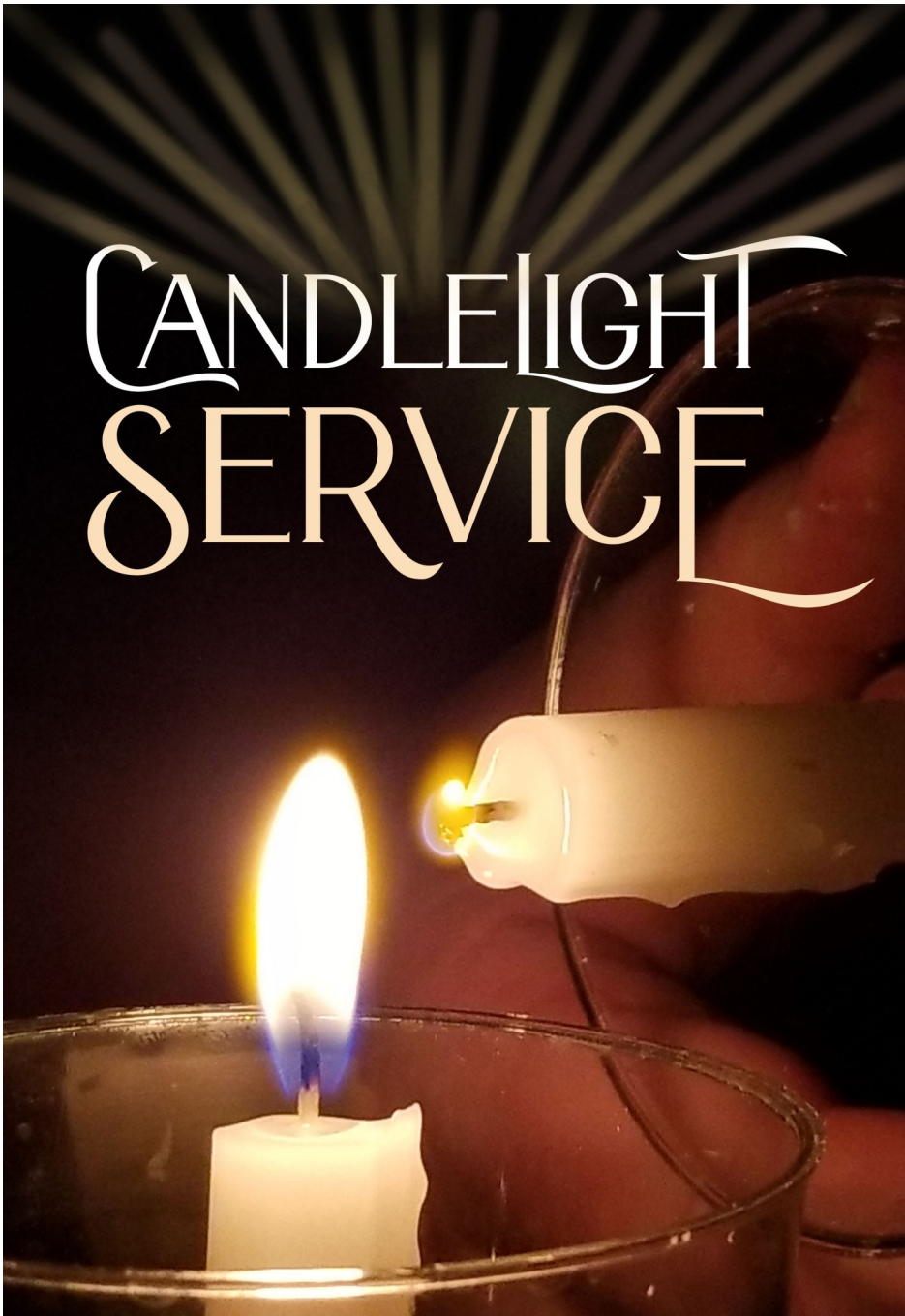


St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
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Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325
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CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



December 24, 2021 Candlelight Service 11 p.m.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- a Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

(11 p.m. Friday, December 24, 2021)

Servants of God's House

Pastor: Rev. Henry Witte **Organist:** Ruthie Witte

Missionaries: Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump, Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf,
Rev. Paul Flo, Rev. Charles Cortwright

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

AS WE GATHER The shepherds had a sudden awakening when angelic light dispelled the darkness of night. God was entering human history in Bethlehem then, but for centuries He had been shedding light on His plans. This evening we thank God that His grace has dawned within us, giving us believing hearts to joyfully celebrate His birth. We not only recall what God has done in the past, but also we light our own candles to spread the warmth of God's love to one another. And then we go out into a world where many people still walk in darkness. What joy there will be when they see the Light!

Worship Service

(The congregation is invited to respond with the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

The Wave of Fellowship

THE INVOCATION *Matthew 28:19b; (18:20)*

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENIGN HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357 Sts. 1, 6

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on
high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to
flight. *Refrain*

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OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 9:2-7*

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: You have multiplied the nation;

C: You have increased its joy;

P: they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest,
C: **as they are glad when they divide the spoil.**

HYMN "The People That in Darkness Sat" *LSB 412 Sts. 1–2*

¹ The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.

² To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness,
The gath'ring nations come;
They joy as when the reapers bear
Their harvest treasures home,
Their harvest treasures home.

P: For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor,
C: **You have broken as on the day of Midian.**

P: For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood
C: **will be burned as fuel for the fire.**

P: For to us a child is born,
C: **to us a son is given;**

P: and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
C: **and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

HYMN "The People That in Darkness Sat" *LSB 412 Sts. 3–4:*

³ To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.

⁴ His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.

P: Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom,
C: **to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**

HYMN "The People That in Darkness Sat" *LSB 412 Sts. 5–6*

⁵ His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.

⁶ Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

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RESPONSORY READINGS *Matthew 1:21; Isaiah 9:6*

P: She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus,

C: To us a child is born, to us a son is given.

P: for He will save His people from their sins.

C: To us a child is born, to us a son is given.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: To us a child is born, to us a son is given.

EPISTLE *Titus 2:11–14* (Our blessed hope is the appearing of Jesus.)

<p>¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the</p>	<p>appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.</p>
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L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD *Luke 2:1–20*

HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem” *LSB 361 Sts. 1–2*

¹ O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

² For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!

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P: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 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.

HYMN “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” LSB 374 St. 1

¹ Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined,
To the world a stranger.

Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.

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P: And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

HYMN “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice” LSB 386 St. 1

¹ Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav’n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;

Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!

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P: 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.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful” LSB 379 St. 1

¹ O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels:

ref O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

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P: And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High” *LSB 368*

¹ Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

² Shepherds, why this jubilee?

Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song?

³ Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

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SERMON “The Grace of God Has Appeared” Titus 2:11

OFFERING

Offering of God’s People to their Beloved Savior

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul’s members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings.
Please place your offerings in the box upfront.

To our guest: Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are
obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please put your **Welcome Card** in the box at the back of the church.

Proverbs 11:25—Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself
be watered.

“Let All Together Praise Our God” *LSB 389 Sts. 1–2, 7*

¹ Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav’n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.

² He leaves His heav’nly Father’s
throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,

Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.

⁷ Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

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Prayers of the Church

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace on earth proclaimed by angels and for our salvation, let us pray to
the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

- P: For the peace and Christmas joy in the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- P: For this holy house and for all who respond here to the light of God's love, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- P: For all clergy and laypeople in the Church as they carry the light of Christ with them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- P: For those who work in national and local governments and agencies to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- P: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here rejoicing in God's great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- P: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- P: For our deliverance from all afflictions, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- P: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:
- C: Alleluia.**
- P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:
- C: To You, O Lord.**
- P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

CANDLELIGHTING

(The candlelight begins to be spread throughout the congregation.)

HYMN "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" *LSB 366 Sts. 1, 4:*

¹ It came upon the midnight clear,
 That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
 To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
 From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
 To hear the angels sing.

⁴ For lo, the days have come to pass
 By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
 Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
 God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
 The song the angels sing.

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LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

- P: As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, a child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice, for the Light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory. This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaimed to you: that God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- P: If we say we have fellowship with Him but still walk in darkness, we lie, and do not live according to the truth. But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another
- C: And the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all our sins.**
- P: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and then cover its light. Instead they set the lamp on its stand, set it up high, and it lights everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before all people, that they may see your good works and give praise to your Father in heaven.

HYMN “Silent Night, Holy Night” *LSB 363*

1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Joy to the World” *LSB 387*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature
sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

New Year's Eve Worship 6:00 p.m.

Worship Services Traditional (6 p.m. Saturday & 8:15 a.m. Sunday)
 Contemporary Service (10:45 a.m. Sunday)

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Youth & Adult Bible Classes 9:30 a.m.

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