

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting (light two blue candles)

R: Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

R: As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

R: O people of hope, come,

C: let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

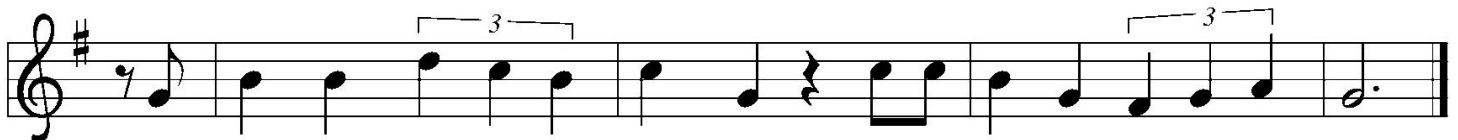
Advent Candle Lighting Hymn

"He Came Down"

Screen or ELW #253 vv. 1 & 2 only



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

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Children's Message

Please rise in body or spirit

Confession and Forgiveness

Screen

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Long-expected God,

C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song "Hark, the Glad Sound!" Screen or ELW #239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

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Greeting

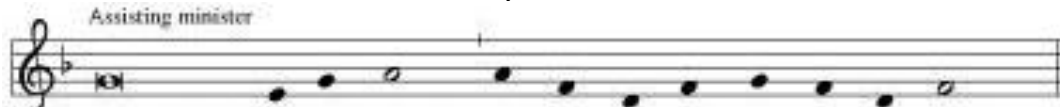
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also, with you.**

Hymn of Praise

"Glory to God"


Screen

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.


All




Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



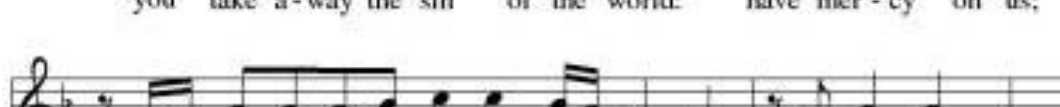
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



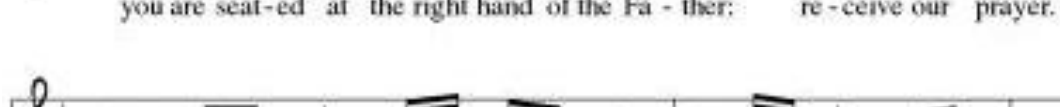
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



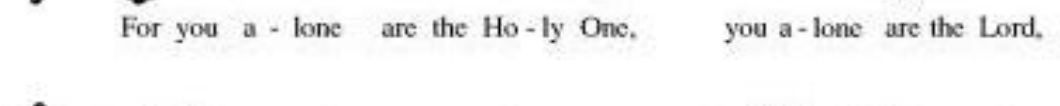
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



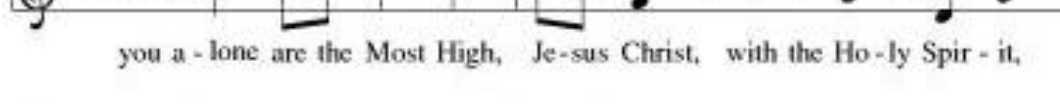
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God,

C: to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The congregation is invited to be seated.

WORD

First Reading – Isaiah 11:1-10

Screen

A: A reading from the book of Isaiah.

A: ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

A: Word of God, Word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm – Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Screen

A: We will read the Psalm responsively by whole verse.

A: Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

**C: that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

A: that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

**C: Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

A: May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**C: Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

A: In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**C: Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

A: And blessed be your glorious name forever,

Second Reading – Romans 15:4-13

Screen

A: A reading from the book of Romans.

A: ⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name”; ¹⁰ and again he says, “Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”; ¹¹ and again, “Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; ¹² and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule

the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope."

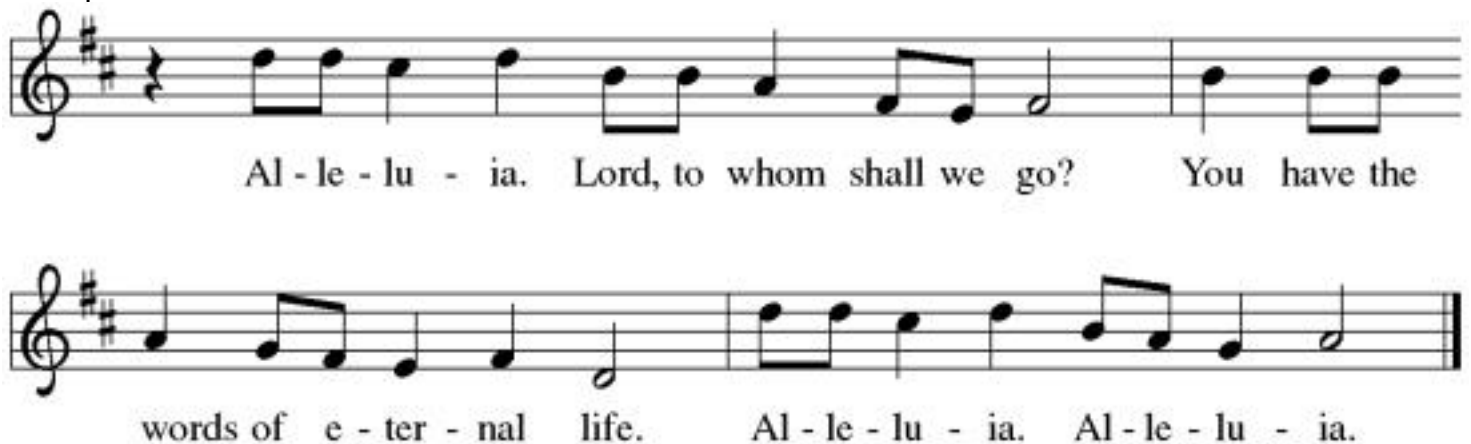
¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A: Word of God, Word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please rise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Screen



Gospel – Matthew 3:1-12

Screen

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: ¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' " ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is invited to be seated

Sermon

Please rise in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day

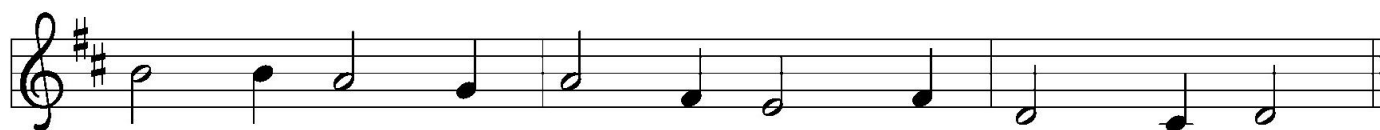
"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" Screen or ELW #249



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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Apostles' Creed

Screen or ELW pg. 105

**C: 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Screen

P: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

A: With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease especially Roger Asplund, Eva Cowley, Barb Strom, Deb Liebzeit, Chase Flynn, Connie Clayton, Bonnie Bollman, Connie Laidig and those we name aloud or in our hearts. . . *brief silence*... Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office by phone or email.

Peace P: The peace of Christ be with you all. **C: And, also with you!**

Please share a sign of Christ's peace however you feel comfortable.

The congregation is invited to be seated.

MEAL

Offering

General and special offerings may be placed in the plates by the doors as we enter or depart. In addition to the offering that supports the ministry of St. Paul, the children of St. Paul receive a weekly Children's Offering.

Their offering this month will support the ELCA Good Gifts God's Global Barnyard.

We thank the children and youth for their help collecting the children's offering!

Offering Song

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Screen or ELW #257 vv. 1 & 4

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joice! Re-joice!
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite

Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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Please rise in body or spirit.

Offering Prayer

Screen

P: Nourishing God,

C: you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

Holy Communion

Screen

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

Invitation to Communion

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

The congregation is invited to be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you."

*Each person may respond, "**amen**".*

St. Paul Lutheran Church and the ELCA practice "open table" communion. This is Christ's table; Jesus is our host. Everyone is invited and welcome to receive Holy Communion!

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

"In the Singing"

Screen or ELW #466

1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,
in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,
Refrain
Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;
Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: BREAD OF PEACE, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

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Please rise in body or spirit

Post Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray, God our host,

C: at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P: May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **C: Amen.**

Sending Song "Prepare the Royal Highway" Screen or ELW #264



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Leading Worship

Musician: Gerad Von Holten & Praise Band

Preacher: Pastor Riley **Presider:** Pastor Anthony

Worship Assistant: Robin Colglazier **Youth Worship Helpers:** Luis, Hannah, & Rafael

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St. Paul Announcements

Church Office contact information ~ email: office@stpauldixon.org phone: 815-288-2757

Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

Pastor Anthony Windau (414) 364-9504 pastoragwindau@gmail.com

Pastor Riley Reed-Windau (406) 240-2145 pastorreedwindau@gmail.com

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, 12/7:	Christmas Program rehearsal 9:30 am - 10:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am ~ Praise Band second week of Advent Joint Confirmation Class 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at St. Paul
Monday, 12/8:	Prayer Team 10:00 am
Tuesday, 12/9:	Line Dancing 9:00 am Joint Staff Meeting at Immanuel 9:00 am
Wednesday, 12/10:	WELCA Coffee 9:00 am Finance Committee 2:30 pm Youth Christmas Shopping for LSSI 3:00-4:30 pm Praise Band rehearsal 5:30 pm
Thursday, 12/11:	Chair Yoga 11:00 am
Friday, 12/12:	Liberty Court Worship 1:30 pm
Saturday, 12/13:	Worship 5:30 pm at St Paul
Sunday, 12/14:	Christmas Program rehearsal 9:30 am - 10:30 am Children/Youth Led Worship 10:45 am Praise Band third week of Advent Executive Council

Today's worship is
livestreamed on
Facebook and
archived on YouTube.
If ever you miss a
service, you can join
us online!

Sunday December 14th ~ Children /Youth Christmas program & worship

WELCA Coffee Wednesday, December 10th at 9:00 am

Check out the St. Paul Facebook page for Midweek Advent Devotions Wednesdays at noon

Christmas Service Times

Christmas Eve Early ~ 3:00 pm at St. Paul Late ~ 7:00 pm at Immanuel

Christmas Day ~ 10:00 am at Immanuel

Saturday, December 27 ~ no service

Sunday, December 28 ~ Joint Lessons & Carols 10:00 am at St. Paul