

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our service we gather before Jesus our Savior to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God’s holy and powerful word. Also,

- † Restrooms are down the hall and to the right from the back of church.
- † We love families! Your children are welcome in our service. Thanks for bringing them to hear about Jesus! If you would like, there are children’s bulletins with crayons in the back of church and a cry room in the back of the sanctuary.
- † Please fill out the Friendship Registers located at the end of each row.
- † If you want to review or share today’s service, you can find it on our website.
- † For upcoming events and activities, “like” us on our Facebook page.

Please come again and worship with us very soon!

TODAY’S THEME:  
**REJOICE! CHRIST IS COMING!**

**Worship Participants**

**Liturgist**..... Pastor Jacob Hoff  
**Preacher**..... Pastor Brian Adams  
**Organist** ..... Mrs. Karen Pautz

**OUR WORSHIP SERVICE**

**THE COMMON SERVICE WITH COMMUNION**

*Christian Worship pg. 15*

**8:00 AM – HOLY BAPTISM      SERVICE BEGINS ON PAGE 5**

**THE OPENING HYMN ..... “Comfort, Comfort All My People”**

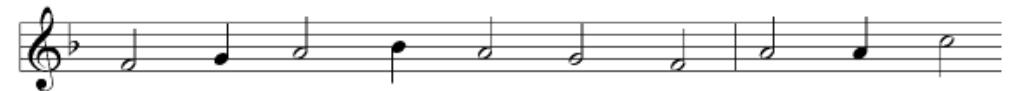
*Christian Worship #11*



1 “Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; Speak of peace,”  
 2 All their sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out  
 3 John the Bap - tist’s voice is cry - ing In the des -  
 4 Straight - en out the crook - ed high - way; Make the rough -



so says our God. “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,  
 each dark mis - deed; All that well de - serve his an - ger  
 ert far and near, Call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance  
 er plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



Groan - ing from their sor - rows’ load. Speak to all  
 He no more will see or heed. They have suf -  
 For the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn -  
 Read - y for his ho - ly reign. For the glo -



Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;  
 fered man - y a day; Now their griefs have passed a - way.  
 ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
 ry of the Lord Now o’er earth is spread a - broad,

*Hymn continues on next page*

Tell them that their sins I cov - er,  
 God will change their ach - ing sad - ness  
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him  
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken

That their war - fare now is o - ver."  
 In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 And the hills bow down to greet him.  
 That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

*Please Stand*

**THE INVOCATION**

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

C: A - men.

**THE CONFESSION OF SINS**

**P:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.

**LORD, HAVE MERCY**

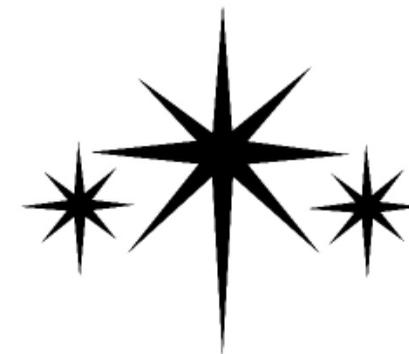
*Kyrie*

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy  
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

**P:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: A - men.

*10:30 AM & 6:30 PM services continue on Page 8 – Prayer & Praise*



**HOLY BAPTISM ..... 8:00 AM ONLY**

**THE OPENING HYMN ..... "See This Wonder in the Making"**

*Christian Worship #300*



1 See this won - der in the mak - ing: God him -  
2 Mir - a - cle each time it hap - pens As the  
3 Far more ten - der than a moth - er, Far more  
4 Here we bring a child of na - ture; Home we  
self this child is tak - ing As a lamb safe in his  
door to heav - en o - pens And the Fa - ther beams, "Be -  
car - ing than a fa - ther, God, in - to your arms we  
take a new-born crea - ture, Now God's pre - cious son or  
keep - ing, His to be, a - wake or sleep - ing.  
lov - ed, Heir of gifts a king would cov - et!"  
place *him*, With your love and peace em - brace *him*.  
daugh - ter, Born a - gain by Word and wa - ter.

**THE INVOCATION**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

**P:** Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when he said: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by

giving his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

**C:** **Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

**P:** As baptized children of God we confess our sins:

**C:** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**P:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**P:** In obedience to the command of our Lord and trusting in his promise, you have brought this child to be baptized. Jesus told us: "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." It is in baptism that God grants the new life of forgiveness, joy, and peace to little children. By the power of God's Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe.

**P:** Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ.

Olivia Rae Steen, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

*Please Stand*

## EXHORTATION

**P:** Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Olivia may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

**C:** Yes, as God gives me strength.

**P:** Let us pray.

Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our baptism as the robe of righteousness we are to wear all the days of our life. Look with special favor on Olivia and grant her a rich measure of your Spirit that she may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

*Service continues on pg 8 – Prayer and Praise*

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

**P:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### GLORY BE TO GOD

*Gloria in Excelsis*



**C:** Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



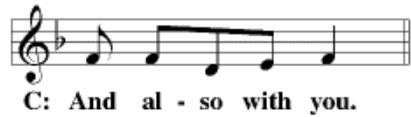
God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;



you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,  
are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** The Lord be with you.



**C:** And al - so with you.

**P:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C:** A - men.

*Please be Seated*

**THE FIRST LESSON ..... Isaiah 61:1-3, 10, 11**

<sup>61:1</sup> The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
<sup>3</sup> and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the Lord  
for the display of his splendor.  
<sup>10</sup> I delight greatly in the Lord;  
my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation  
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,  
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the soil makes the sprout come up  
and a garden causes seeds to grow,  
so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness  
and praise spring up before all nations.

*Refrain*

Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

*Psalm tone*

In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;\*  
let me never be put to shame.

Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness;\*  
turn your ear to me and save me.

Be my rock of refuge to which I can always go;\*  
For you are my rock and my fortress.

**Refrain**

Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,\*  
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.

Even when I am old and gray,\*  
do not forsake me, O God,

till I declare your power to the next generation,\*  
your might to all who are to come.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Refrain**

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not treat prophecies with contempt <sup>21</sup> but test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> reject every kind of evil.

<sup>23</sup> May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

**P:** Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (*Matthew 11:10 cf. NIV*)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Please Stand*

C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>19</sup> Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. <sup>20</sup> He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Messiah.”

<sup>21</sup> They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?”

He answered, "No."

<sup>22</sup> Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup> John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

<sup>24</sup> Now the Pharisees who had been sent <sup>25</sup> questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

<sup>26</sup> "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. <sup>27</sup> He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

<sup>28</sup> This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.



### THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Please be Seated*

### THE HYMN OF THE DAY..... "Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes" *Christian Worship #12*



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the cap - tives 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 -  
pris - on 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.

### THE SERMON ..... John 1:6-8, 19-28

Who are you?

*Please Stand*

## THE SACRAMENT



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

*Please be Seated*

### THE OFFERING

*(We invite you to sign our Friendship Registers in each pew during the offering.)*

### THE OFFERING PRAYER

*Please Stand*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### THE 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.

### PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.



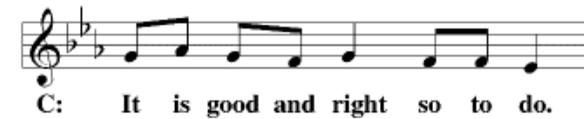
C: And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

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



C: It is good and right so to do.

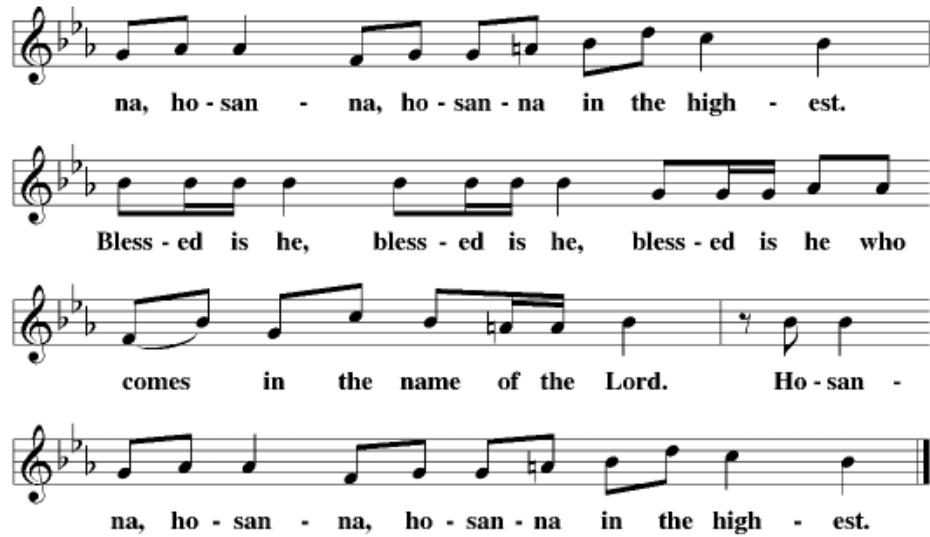
P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Sanctus*



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:  
heav'n 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, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**P:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**C:** A - men.

**O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD**

*Agnus Dei*



**C:** O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 grant us your peace. A - men.

*Please be Seated*

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a miracle. By God's power, the Lord's body and blood are with the bread and wine. In the Lord's Supper, God gives strength and comfort to His believers. While the Lord's Supper is first about our relationship with Jesus, it is also about our relationship with fellow believers. Therefore, we practice "close communion." We invite all who are members of St. Paul's or visitors who belong to our WELS fellowship to receive the Lord's Supper with us. If you would like to learn more about being a member of our family at St. Paul's, please feel free to contact one of the pastors.*

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMN ..... "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

Christian Worship #19



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, How wel - come  
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; Love brought you  
 3 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, Who sit in  
 4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, Let not your  
 5 He comes to judge the na - tions, A ter - ror



you a - right? Your peo - ple long to greet you,  
 down to me. Your thirst for my sal - va - tion  
 deep - est gloom, Who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed  
 souls dis - tress; Your guilt the Lord will par - don  
 to his foes, A light of con - so - la - tions,



My Hope, my heart's De - light. O Je - sus, let your  
 Pro - cured my lib - er - ty. Oh, love be - yond all  
 And trem - ble at your doom. De - spair not; he is  
 And cov - er by his grace. He comes, for you pro -  
 And bless - ed hope to those Who love the Lord's ap -



Word be A lamp to light my way, To show me  
 tell - ing That led you to em - brace In love, all  
 near you, He's stand - ing at the door Who best can  
 cur - ing The peace of sin for - giv'n, His chil - dren  
 pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come, Send forth your



how to please you, To guide me ev - 'ry day.  
 love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race!  
 help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.  
 thus se - cur - ing A her - i - tage in heav'n.  
 beams most cheer - ing, And guide us safe - ly home.

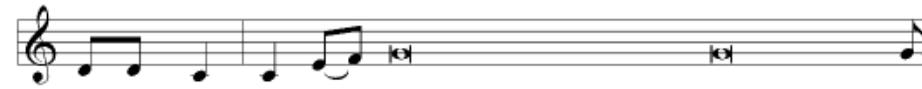
Please Stand

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac - cord - ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre -



pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

**THE BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



*Please be Seated*

**THE CLOSING HYMN..... "Hosanna to the Coming Lord"**

*Christian Worship #21*

1 Ho - san - na to the com - ing Lord! Ho - san - na  
 2 O Sav - ior, with pro - tect - ing care A - bid - e in  
 3 O Ad - vent King, our sins for - give; Come in our  
 4 Then in the last and dread - ful day, When earth and

to the in - car - nate Word! To Christ, Cre - a - tor, Sav -  
 this your house of prayer, Where we your part - ing prom -  
 lives and hearts to live, And let our hum - ble souls  
 heav'n shall melt a - way, Your flock, re - deemed from sin -

ior, King Let earth, let heav'n ho - san - na sing.  
 ise claim, As - sem - bled in your sa - cred name.  
 be - come A tem - ple wor - thy of your name.  
 ful stain, Shall swell the sound of praise a - gain.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BAPTISM:** Today in the 8:00 AM service Olivia Rae Steen will be received into God's kingdom through holy baptism. Olivia is the daughter of Timothy & Erica Steen. Serving as her godparents are Sarah & Gus Almonroeder. May the Lord bless this family as they grow together in Christ.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** This weekend's altar flowers are given by Randy & Nancy Willms in honor of the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Randy's liver transplant.

**MARY & MARTHA CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Mary & Martha will be having their Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 PM. Husbands are also invited. Bring a dish for the potluck dinner and 6 cookies to share. Everyone should bring a white elephant gift and Mary & Martha members should bring Secret Pal gifts.

**THE SEASON OF ADVENT:** We have begun the season of Advent. "Advent" is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Christian Church uses to remember the "coming" of Christ. We celebrate that he came once as a baby in Bethlehem, and that he will come again at the end of time. The focus of the next three Sunday's are:

Advent 3: The Forerunner Explains: The Christ is Here

Advent 4: The Promised Virgin Birth of Christ

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE:** Everyone is invited to our Children's Christmas Worship Service today, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM. Come and enjoy our St. Paul's students joyously proclaim the birth of our Savior!

**DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Advent 3 – December 17 & 18

Children's Christmas Service – December 17: 4:30 pm

Advent 4 – December 24: 9:00 am

Christmas Eve – December 24: 6:30 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight – December 24: 10:00 pm

Christmas Day - December 25: 10:00 am

Christmas 1 – December 31: 9:00 am

New Year's Eve – December 31: 6:30 pm

**BUDGET UPDATE:** Through November we are 26% below our budgeted General Fund contributions. This amount excludes the 2017 Summer Appeal as that was needed to try and close the 2016 Budget shortfall. The budgeted shortfalls have significantly reduced our General Fund cash balance and raised the likelihood of drawing on our line of credit. Prayerfully consider your Stewardship (Time, Talent, and Treasures) so that we can continue to complete and expand the Mission of St. Paul's.

	Month of November				November Year-to-Date			
	Actual *	Budget	Variance	% Variance	Actual *	Budget	Variance	% Variance
General Fund	42,560	51,115	(8,555)	-17%	209,258	281,135	(71,877)	-26%
					Actual *	Prior Year	Variance	% Variance
					209,258	208417	841	0%

\* Excludes 2017 Summer Special Appeal

**WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY FOOD BANK COLLECTION:** The Christmas season is full swing. One of the ways we celebrate God's gift of Jesus is by giving gifts ourselves. This year we would like to gather "gifts" to send to the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Food Bank. The Food Bank is run to assist married students at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. These students work part-time jobs around their classes, intensive studying, and preparation. We would love to help them out as they try and make ends meet to provide for their families while preparing to tell the next generation about Jesus. From now until the end of December you can bring in your "gifts" and place them by the designated table in the main school hallway. Following is a list of most needed items:

- Rice, Flour & Sugar
- Laundry Detergent & Paper Towels
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Baby Food
- Pasta Sauce & Canned Tomato Products
- Macaroni & Cheese & Pasta
- Cold Cereal & Oatmeal
- Toilet Paper

**SCHOOL FURNACE REPLACED:** One of the 20+ year old furnaces in the school decided it didn't want to heat the classrooms any more. Based on the age of the old furnace and the work needed, it was decided to replace the furnace. The cost was just over \$3500. If you have any questions or concerns please speak to one of the council members.

**NEED A GIFT OR A STOCKING STUFFER?** The Mary and Martha Society still has cookbooks available for sale. Cookbooks are \$10 each and are located on the counter in the narthex.

**NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** Anyone – adults and children -- is welcome to join us on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> as we once again go Christmas Caroling in the neighborhoods around church. It is a great opportunity to meet and share the message of Jesus' birth through song to our neighbors. It also gives us an opportunity to invite them to join us for Christmas. We will meet at church at 6:00 PM. After caroling, everyone is invited to come to Pastor Adams' house for chili. Please bring cookies to share! If you would like to join us, please sign up on the sheet located on the counter in the back of church.

**GREETERS:** Thank you to everyone who greeted before worship services this year! Please let Cory in the office know if you no longer wish to greet, otherwise you will be placed on the schedule for the new year. If you have not greeted before, please consider signing up to greet a couple times this year. We need additional greeters for all services. If you are interested in signing up to greet, please place your completed form in the Greeter bin on the narthex counter by the end of December.

**ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?** If you answered yes, did you know you have grant money and Choice dollars that can be used at St. Paul's? We can show you how you can help St. Paul's by using grant money and directing your Choice dollars. If you're not a member and would like to still be able to help, you can still get grant money by signing up to be an associate member. On January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> between services, Stacy, our congregational advocate for Thrivent will have a table set up for questions. Also, Stacy and Thrivent will be holding some informational meetings for you to come and hear how to use grants, help you sign up to be an associate member and help on directing Choice dollars. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Bible Study room. Dinner will be provided. Feel free to come to one of the informational meetings to see how you can help. If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Boldt at (262) 470-7253.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Vacation Bible Camp will be held July 9-13, 2018! Registration will begin in late spring.

**USHERS NEEDED:** We have re-organized our crews and have open spots where we could really use ushers! Please prayerfully consider becoming an usher for your church – your help is greatly appreciated! If you are interested, please contact Kyle Brightsman at (414) 335-2906 or [kgb5217@gmail.com](mailto:kgb5217@gmail.com).

**EARLY CHILDHOOD ENRICHMENT CENTER:** The Early Childhood Enrichment Center is now accepting registration for the 2018-2019 school year. In order to enroll, children must be 3 or 4 years old by September 1, 2018. Interested families may contact Mrs. Patti Krizan and Mrs. Nancy Willms at (414) 421-1833. Enrollment opportunities will be opened to the community after February 1, 2018.

**SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:** We are studying the topic: “Idols We Never Knew We Had.” A wood-carved animal figurine. A chiseled stone statue. A golden goddess. Do you have an idol-worship area set up in your home? We would say “Definitely not! I don’t bow down to idols!” But sometimes we do worship idols and make them our gods, not even realizing they are there. Our upcoming study will bring to light these idols that hide themselves so easily in our homes and hearts, and through God’s guidance and power we’ll get help to avoid worshiping these false gods. Please come and join us. We begin at 8:00am. Breakfast is also served. Below is our schedule:

Idols We Never Knew We Had:

Technology – January 13, 2018

Politics – February 10, 2018

Family – February 24, 2018

Religion – March 10, 2018

**YOUTH GROUP:** We are in need of volunteers to help with supervision of our Youth Group events. We typically meet one Sunday evening a month for a few hours. If you are able to help, please contact Kyle Brightsman at (414) 335-2906 or [kgb5217@gmail.com](mailto:kgb5217@gmail.com).

**PRESCHOOL POWER HOUR:** Join us at Power Hour two Thursdays a month! Open to children ages 0-4 with their caregivers. Meet us in the church narthex from 10:45-11:45 AM on the following dates: January 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, February 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. See the insert in today’s bulletin for more information. There are also extra copies on the narthex counter to pass along to a friend!

**WLHS SACRED CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** The annual Sacred Christmas Concert will take place on Sunday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the WLHS auditorium. The concert will feature the A Cappella, Cantorei, and Freshman Choirs of WLHS, Inspiration, Jubilation Handbell Choir, Wisconsin Lutheran Children’s Choir, and numerous instrumentalists. Admission is free, and a freewill offering will be taken during the concert.

**LUTHER PREP CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Luther Preparatory School will be presenting their Christmas concerts on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM and Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM. Both concerts are in the gymnasium.

**CREATION MUSEUM TOUR:** Friends of Wisco are invited to attend a special bus tour to visit the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter in Petersburg, Ky., June 7-10, 2018, hosted by WLHS president Pastor Ken Fisher and WLHS Foundation executive director Kristine Metzger. We expect the trip to fill up fast, so consider making this an early Christmas present to your spouse, yourself, or a family member! Deadline to register is Wednesday, January 31, 2018. Cost and registration details can be found at [www.wlhs.org/creationtour](http://www.wlhs.org/creationtour).

## VOLUNTEERS

### GREETERS THIS WEEK (December 17 & 18)

8:00 AM – Bob & Carol Goelz

10:30 AM – Tony & Mary Tripoli

6:30 PM – Donna LaBlanc

### GREETERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT (December 24)

10:00 PM – Larry & Lucille Ellenberger

### GREETERS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY (December 25)

10:00 AM – Lyle & Christie Timm

### USHERS FOR DECEMBER

8:00 AM – TEAM #4 – Pete Kosovich, Craig Gebert, Matt Gebert, Gordy Lesser

10:30 AM – TEAM #8 – Terry Ganyo, Jacob Marciniak, Fred Socha

6:30 PM – TEAM #9 – Terry Plant, John Kiesow

**USHERS FOR CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE (December 17)**

**4:30 PM** – TEAM #5 & TEAM #6 – Mark Klein, Chris Klein, Gary Eickhorst, Dan Mertz, Brett Abramowski, Nick Derouin, Mark Derouin, Connor Henry, Bob Duchesneau

**USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING SERVICE (December 24)**

**9:00 AM** – TEAM #8 – Terry Ganyo, Jacob Marciniak, Fred Socha

**USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (December 24)**

**10:00 PM** – TEAM #7 – David Brightsman, Kyle Brightsman, Nolan Romeis, Randy Raduenz, Luke Raduenz

**ALTAR GUILD**

Dec 13-19 – TEAM #2 – Jane Koplein, Joan Shevey, Rebecca Kragh, Karen Hille  
Dec 20-26 – TEAM #3 – Jane Koplein, Carol Willms, Connie Myer

**REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE**

Dec 17: Set-up – Jerry & Alyce Lehtinen, Clean-up – Chris & Naomi Hathaway  
Dec 24: Merry Christmas!

**THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, December 17**

Worship Service with Communion ..... 8:00 AM  
Adult Bible Study/Sunday School..... 9:15 AM  
Bible Information Class ..... 9:15 AM  
Worship Service with Communion ..... 10:30 AM  
Children’s Christmas Worship Service ..... 4:30 PM

**Monday, December 18**

Worship Service with Communion ..... 6:30 PM

**Tuesday, December 19**

No PSCIC  
Mary & Martha Christmas Party..... 6:00 PM  
Board of Education ..... 6:30 PM

**Wednesday, December 20**

Adult Choir Rehearsal ..... 6:30 PM  
Men’s Open Gym ..... 7:30 PM

**Friday, December 22**

School Devotion ..... 8:30 AM  
CDS Half Day Dismissal..... 12:00 PM

**Sunday, December 24**

Worship Service ..... **9:00 AM**  
NO Adult Bible Study/Sunday School/Bible Information Class  
Christmas Eve Worship ..... 6:30 PM  
Christmas Eve Candlelight..... 10:00 PM  
Children’s Christmas Worship Service ..... 4:30 PM

**Statistics – Last Week**

Attendance: 8:00 AM – 115, 10:30 AM – 135, 6:30 PM – 45  
Total Attendance – 295  
Sunday Bible Class – 27, Sunday School – 13  
Saturday Bible Class – 10  
Bible Information Class – 3