

# First Sunday after Christmas December 27, 2015



Welcome in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ! We are happy to have you with us. We pray that your worship will be enriched and blessed by the Word of God. Restrooms are located in the hallway off the west side of the sanctuary. We also ask that you sign one of our Friendship Registers which are located in each of the pews. Please come and worship with us again!

## Our Worship Service

Service of the Word, page 38

WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN ..... **“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”**  
*Christian Worship #35*



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed  
3 This is he whom heav'n taught sing - ers  
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him,  
5 Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther,



Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is  
When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the  
Sang of old with one ac - cord; Whom the  
An - gel hosts his prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do -  
And the Spir - it cease - less - ly Hymn and

*Hymn continues on next page*



Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the  
Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior  
Scrip - tures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their  
min - ions bow be - fore him And ex - tol our  
chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - end - ing



end - ing he, Of the things that are, that  
of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -  
God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall  
deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred  
pect - ed; Let ere - a - tion praise its  
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert  
min - ion And e - ter - nal vic - to -



see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Lord Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ring Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ry Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-c. 413, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, st. 1-4, alt.; Henry W. Baker, 1821-77, st. 3, alt.  
Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM (87 87 877) Plainsong melody, 13th century.

*Please Stand*

### 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.

### THE CONFESSION OF SINS

**P:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C:** Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

**P:** God, our heavenly Father has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C:** Amen.

**PRAYER AND PRAISE**

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

**OH, TASTE AND SEE**

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; 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** ..... **1 Samuel 2:18-20,26**

*The boy Samuel served in the temple of the Lord. This was his home and here was his work. The Lord was pleased with Samuel.*

<sup>18</sup> But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD.” Then they would go home. <sup>26</sup> And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men.

**THE PSALM OF THE DAY** ..... **Psalm 111**

*Christian Worship Pg. 106*

*Refrain*  
Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done mar - vel - ous things.

*Psalm tone*

*Psalm continues on next page*

Great are the works of the LORD;\*  
 they are pondered by all who delight in them.  
 Glorious and majestic are his deeds,\*  
 and his righteousness endures forever.  
 He has caused his wonders to be remembered;\*  
 the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

*Refrain*

Sing to the Lord a new song, for  
 he has done mar - vel - ous things.

*Psalm tone*

The works of his hands are faithful and just;\*  
 all his precepts are trustworthy.  
 He provided redemption for his people;\*  
 he ordained his covenant forever.  
 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;\*  
 all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

**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*

**THE SECOND LESSON ..... Hebrews 2:10-18**

*God demanded a perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world. Therefore Jesus become fully human. He became our brother, like us in every way, except without sin, that he might atone for our sins. In the face of temptation, we turn to Jesus who overcame all temptations to sin.*

<sup>10</sup> In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. <sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. <sup>12</sup> He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." <sup>13</sup> And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." <sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

P: Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia. (Colossians 3:15a)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that  
 Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Please Stand*

**THE GOSPEL LESSON..... Luke 2:41-52**

*Even as a twelve year old boy Jesus was zealous for God's Word. He stayed in the temple, his Father's house, to learn even more. When his parents found him, he obediently followed them home, thus keeping the fourth commandment perfectly for us. In all things, Jesus served as our perfect substitute.*

<sup>41</sup> Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup> After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." <sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Please be Seated*

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY..... "Let All Together Praise Our God"**  
*Christian Worship #41*



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his  
 2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
 3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's  
 4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our  
 5 He serves that I a lord may be— A great ex -

*Hymn continues on next page*



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And  
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
 form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who  
 flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His  
 change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To



gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.  
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
 heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.  
 maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.  
 help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door  
 Of paradise today.  
 The angel guards the gate no more;  
 To God our thanks we pay,  
 To God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
 Tune: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN (86 866) Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561.

**THE SERMON ..... Luke 2:25-38**

**"Our Savior Stirs Singing"**

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: <sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. <sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all people, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." <sup>36</sup> There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.

She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

*Please Stand*

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Please be Seated*

**THE OFFERING**

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

**THE OFFERING PRAYER**

*Please Stand*

**THE PRAYERS**

**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.**

*Please be Seated*

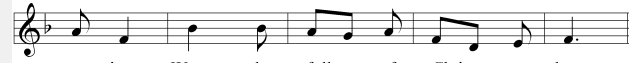
**CONGREGATION HYMN.....“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”  
Christian Worship #42**



1 Come, your hearts and voic - es rais - ing, Christ the  
2 See how God, for us pro - vid - ing, Gave his  
3 Christ, from heav'n to us de - scend - ing And in  
4 Ja - cob's Star in all its splen - dor Beams with  
5 Gra - cious Child, we pray you, hear us; From your



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing his love a -  
Son and life a - bid - ing; He our wea - ry steps is  
love our race be - friend - ing, In our need his help ex -  
com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -  
low - ly man - ger cheer us. Gent - ly lead us and be



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.  
guid - ing From earth's woe to heav'n - ly joy.  
tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.  
ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.  
near us Till we join th' an - gel - ic choir.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941.  
Tune: QUEM PASTORES (88/87) *Ein Schlesiach singebüchlein*, Breslau, 1535.

*Please Stand*

**P:** O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**THE BENEDICTION**

**P:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

*Please be Seated*

**THE CLOSING HYMN**..... **“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”**  
*Christian Worship # 64*



1 Let us all with glad - some voice Praise the  
 2 To this vale of tears he comes, Here to  
 3 We are rich, for he was poor; Is not  
 4 O Lord Christ, our Sav - ior dear, Bless us



God of heav - en, Who, to bid our  
 serve in sad - ness, That with him in  
 this a won - der? There - fore praise God  
 and be near us. Grant us now a



hearts re - jice, His own Son has giv - en.  
 heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.  
 ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.  
 glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us!

Text: *Ander Theil Des Dressdenischen GesangBuchs*, Dresden, 1632; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
 Tune: LASST UNS ALLE (76 76 Trochaic) *Ander Theil Des Dressdenischen GesangBuchs*, Dresden, 1632, alt.

**Worship Participants**

**Preacher:**.....Pastor Wayne Shevey, Campus Pastor at WLC  
**Liturgist:**.....Pastor Brian Adams  
**Organist:** .....Mrs. Karen Pautz

**Announcements**

**2<sup>ND</sup> PASTOR CALL ACCEPTANCE:** We give thanks that the Lord has led Pastor Jacob Hoff to be a second pastor here at St. Paul's. Pastor Hoff has been serving as Pastor at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Sterling, Virginia. He is married, and they have 3 children, ages 4, 3, 1. Future plans are being discussed, and it is hoped that he will join us at St. Paul's at some time in January 2016.

The following letter has been received from Pastor Hoff: *“Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, After prayerful deliberation, I have decided to accept the call from God you extended to me to serve as Pastor of Outreach at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and School. I want to thank you for keeping me in your prayers as I deliberated the calls I held, and request that you continue to do so as my family and I begin the process of moving to Wisconsin. And, because I am leaving Sterling, VA to join you, I ask that you would also keep your brothers and sisters here in your prayers. I am excited to meet you in person and I’m even more excited to begin working with you to help spread the incomparable riches of the Christ-child come to earth to save us. What a blessing it is that God would choose to spread his message of reconciliation through us! I know that the same God who has sent us out with this message will equip and bless us as we carry out the work he has given us together. In Christ’s love, Pastor Jacob Hoff.”*

**THANK YOU:** Pastor Adams, the faculty and the staff of St. Paul’s thank everyone for the gifts and cards that have been received from everyone this Christmas season. It is truly a blessing to be brothers and sisters in Christ working together to carry the message of the Christ child out into the world.

**NEW YEAR’S EVE WORSHIP:** Please join us at 6:30pm on December 31<sup>st</sup> for our New Year’s Eve worship service. Let us give thanks for the blessings that the Lord has given all of us during the year of 2015, and ask for his blessing for 2016.

**PASTORS’ OFFICE PROJECT:** We give thanks to God that we have received gifts that have met our goal of \$18,000 to complete this project. Work has begun. We thank everyone for their support of this project.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Executive Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

**BIBLE STUDY/SUNDAY SCHOOL:** There will be **NO** Sunday School or Bible class today, December 27<sup>th</sup> or January 3<sup>rd</sup> due to the Christmas and New Year holidays.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION CLASS:** The Public School Confirmation Instruction Class will not meet Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, due to the Christmas holiday and Christmas break.

**150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PROJECT:** God has blessed St. Paul's for 150 years with his Grace. Out of thanks for the Grace of God, we have begun to undertake the project of replacing our organ. The final cost of the organ is \$58,150. To date, we have received \$46,357.00. More information as to how everyone can participate in the project will be coming out soon. We give thanks to God for all the blessings that God has showered upon us.

**GREETER SCHEDULE 2016:** The Greeter Schedule for 2016 is completed and in your church mailboxes.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD ENRICHMENT CENTER:** The Early Childhood Enrichment Center is now accepting registration for the 2016-2017 school year. In order to enroll, children must be 3 or 4 years old by September 1, 2016. Interested families may contact Mrs. Patti Krizan or Mrs. Nancy Willms at 421-1833. Enrollment opportunities will be opened to the community after February 1, 2016.

**JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN:** Junior Kindergarten can use your old Christmas cards for art projects. If you would like to donate them, please drop them off in the Junior Kindergarten classroom. Thank you!

**5<sup>th</sup> GRADE EXTRAVAGANZA:** Attention all 5th grade students and parents! Wisconsin Lutheran High School is hosting a 5th Grade Extravaganza just for you on Sunday, January 31, 2016 at 5:30-7:30 p.m. The evening is free and includes dinner and a fun night of entertainment. Plus, we're giving away an iPad and other prizes! We'll have exciting science experiments, robot demonstrations, music, basketball and lots more. To reserve your spot, **please RSVP by January 25**, by going to [www.wlhs.org/news](http://www.wlhs.org/news).

## Volunteers

### GREETERS THIS WEEK (December 27)

**8:00 AM** – Jeff & Chris Romeis; Nolan  
**10:30 AM** – Tammy Sunjic; Simun  
**6:30 PM** – No Service

**New Year's Eve:** 6:30 PM – Don & Marge Gebert

### GREETERS NEXT WEEK (January 3 & 4)

**8:00 AM** – Larry & Marilee Stujenske  
**10:30 AM** – Mark & Rosie Derouin  
**6:30 PM** – Richard & Kathy Hinz

### USHERS FOR DECEMBER:

**8:00 AM** TEAM #4 – Pete Kosovich, Craig Gebert, Matt Gebert, Gordy Lesser  
**10:30 AM** TEAM #8 – Nolan Romeis, Kyle Brightsman  
**6:30 PM** TEAM #9 – Curt Stellwagen, Dave Long, Max Grueneberg

### USHERS FOR JANUARY:

**8:00 AM** TEAM #1- Bob Hille, Larry Stujenske, Josh Ebeling, Philip Becker  
**10:30 AM** TEAM #5- Mark Klein, Bob Dittrich, Gary Eickhorst, Todd Grunze, Dan Mertz, Brett Abramowski  
**630 PM** TEAM #9-Curt Stellwagen, Dave Long, Max Grueneberg

### ALTAR GUILD:

December 23-January 5 - TEAM #3 Jane Koplein, Carol Wilms  
January 6-January 19 – TEAM #4 Marge Gebert, Marilyn Krueger, Renate Nazimek

## The Weekly Schedule

### Sunday, December 27

Worship Service ..... 8:00 AM  
**NO** Adult Bible Study/Sunday School  
Worship Service ..... 10:30 AM

### Monday, December 28

No School Christmas Break  
NO Worship Service ..... 6:30 PM

**Tuesday, December 29**

No School Christmas Break  
No PSCIC

Executive Committee Meeting..... 6:30 PM

**Wednesday, December 30**

No School Christmas Break

**Thursday, December 31**

No School Christmas Break

New Year's Eve Service..... 6:30 PM

**Friday, January 1**

No School Christmas Break

**Sunday, January 3**

Worship Service with Communion ..... 8:00 AM

No Adult Bible Study/Sunday School

Worship Service with Communion..... 10:30 AM

Commented [s1]:

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**Statistics – Last Week**

Attendance: 8:00 am 100, Communed-92; 10:30 am- 111, Communed-76; 6:30 pm-66,  
Communed-58

Total Attendance 277, Total Communed 226

Bible Class 22, Sunday School n/a