

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
4th Sunday after Epiphany - January 28, 2024
8:30 am Service is live, 11:00 am is live, live-streamed, and recorded
Holy Communion, Setting One

Hymns will be found in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book.

Prelude - *The Only Son from Heaven (ELW 309) by Heinrich Scheidemann*

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

C **Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The Only Son from Heaven



1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, fore - told by an - cient seers,
 2 Oh, time of God ap - point - ed, oh, bright and ho - ly morn!
 3 A - wak - en, Lord, our spir - it to know and love you more,
 4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore you with God the Ho - ly Ghost,



by God the Fa - ther giv - en, in hu - man form ap - pears.
 He comes, the king a - noint - ed, the Christ, the vir - gin - born,
 in faith to stand un - shak - en, in spir - it to a - dore,
 and Je - sus, we a - dore you, O pride of an - gel - host:



No sphere his light con - fin - ing, no star so bright - ly
 grim death to van - quish for us, to o - pen heav'n be -
 that we, through this world mov - ing, each glimpse of heav - en
 be - fore you mor - tals low - ly cry, "Ho - ly, ho - ly,



shin - ing as he, our Morn - ing Star.
 fore us and bring us life a - gain.
 prov - ing, may reap its full - ness there.
 ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!"

Text: Elizabeth Cruciger, 1500–1535; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.
 Music: HERR CHRIST, DER EINIG GOTTS SOHN, *Enchiridion*, Erfurt, 1524

APOSTOLIC 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.

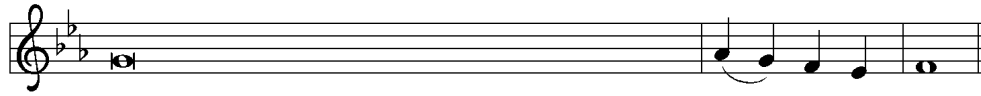
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



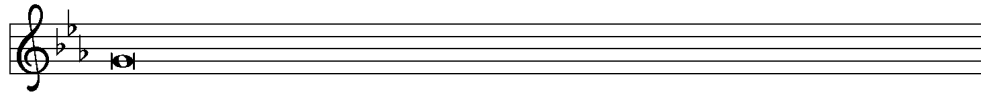
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



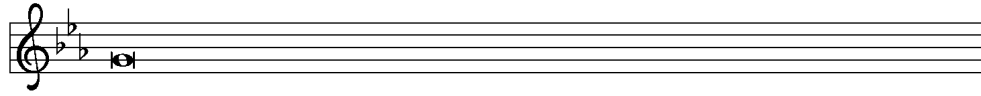
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

Canticle of Praise – This is the feast...



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



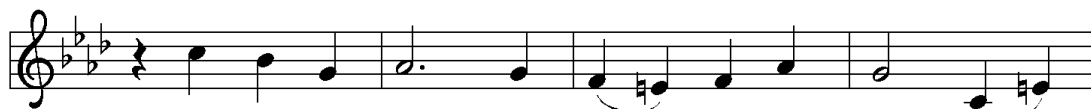
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



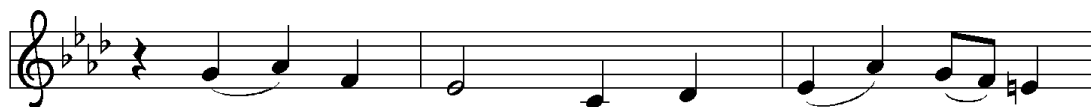
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Lord be with you
C **And also with you**
P Let us pray

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD


First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

Psalm 111

Congregation sings Refrain and bold verses.

Refrain



The fear of the LORD is the be - gin - ning of wis - dom.

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

²**Great are your | works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- | light in them.**

³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;
you are gracious and full | of compassion. Refrain**

⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power | of your works
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithful-ness and justice;
all of your pre-cepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity. Refrain**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever. Refrain**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

After the Gospel is announced, the people say: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

After the Gospel is read, the people say: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint - ing soul;
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
 and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
 man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
 an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
 an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
 Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702

APOSTLES' CREED

**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

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer (*especially*), Barbara, Jan, Janet, Joyce, Ida, Phyllis and Larry, Bob and Ellie, Mary, John, Tom, Doug, Alice, Charlie, Pat and Morris, Karl and Otti, Larry, Karen, Anna, and others we may name aloud or quietly in our hearts. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives (*especially Thomas Aquinas whom we commemorate today*). We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

MEAL

Offering

Offertory - *O come, ye servants of the Lord* by Christopher Tye

Offertory - Create in Me a Clean Heart

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 to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together

C God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

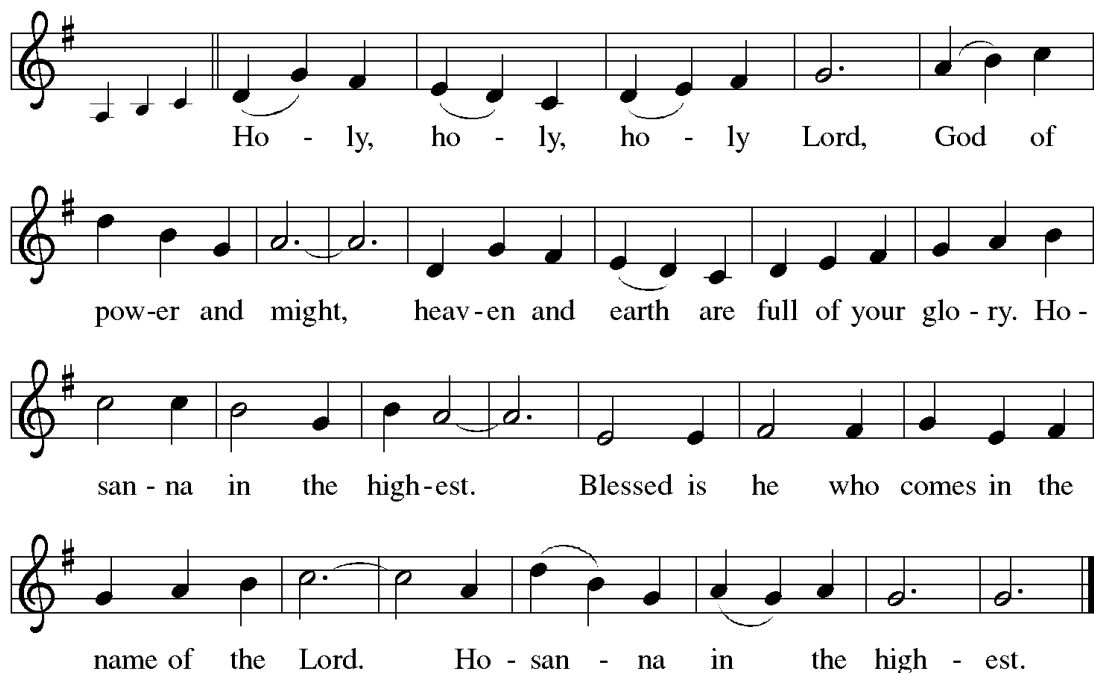
Preface

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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

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:

Holy Holy Holy



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

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
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, he 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.
 Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
 we await his coming in glory.
 Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
 and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
 the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
 be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

P Come to the banquet for all is ready.

COMMUNION SONG – LAMB OF GOD

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef, with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "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, grant us peace." The music consists of a single melodic line on a five-line staff.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

And each person may respond Amen.

Communion Hymn – Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

886

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



- the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



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



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

A God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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

C Amen

Jesus Shall Reign

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 thron - g to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
 Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **We will. Thanks be to God.**

Postlude - *Trio Sonata VI, movement 1* by J.S. Bach

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The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God with the following recognitions:

✝ In honor of Renate and Günter Oertel on their birthdays by Christian and Theresa Oertel

Altar Flowers – If you would like to make a recognition through a request for Altar Flowers, please stop by the credenza under the TV monitor in the atrium. Sign up for the day(s) you would like to request, pick up an envelope and form in the lower box and turn in your request form(s) which should indicate your announcement for the bulletin, and payment (\$40) at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, speak with a staff person.

Prayer of the Church (Members): Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazey, Ida Elliott, Phyllis and Larry Jenkins, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Mary Bader, John Friedrich, Tom Kraska, Doug Whitfield, Alice Barnes, Charlie Bock, Pat and Morris Casper, Karl and Otti Freundt, Larry Grovenstein, Karen Shoaf (on deployment in Iraq), Anna Snyder

Prayer List Changes – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time**, email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews and Robert Meissner [Tony Perrotte's mother and uncle], Diane Johnson (Penni Perrotte's friends), Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Eric Tabert (nephew of Deb Tabert), Armenia and Artsakh (friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (parents of Bill Wilson), Linda Leslie (mother of Sean Slane), Paul DeVries (brother of Bob DeVries), Gini Rinkus (friend of the Dominicks), Elaine Williamson (sister-in-law of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Paul (son-in-law of Jan Huntley), Richard Dominick (brother of Ted Dominick), Burr Hasselbeck, Josephine Economy and John Bigsby (friends of Bess Line), Marie Watts (cousin of Pat Casper), Ruth Parker (aunt of Pat Casper), Ashley Collins (niece of Deb Tabert), Holly Cashwell (by Pat Cashwell), Patrick Howell (son of a friend of the Waughs), George and Pat Rose (friends of Debbie Fullbright), John and Connie Heinz, Gregory and Colleen Davidson, Richard and Claudia Steele (friends of Dean and Marcia Redman), Kirk Temple (brother-in-law of Deb Tabert), Debra Jetton (sister of Bill Wilson), Penny Wagner (niece of Marcia Wilson), Lynn Hladak (grandmother to Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Tim Holody (by Terry and Sharon Wilson), Kerry Bowars (friend of Megan Cunningham), Cole Cashwell (grandson of Pat Cashwell), Twila Dahl (sister-in-law of Bill Dahl and Martha Dahl), Dirk Davis (by Debbie Fullbright), Lynn and Ray Slabaugh (friends of the Foremans), Dirk Davis (by Debbie Fullbright), Scott Duncan (stepdad of Bill Elkin), Lindsay Marchell-Holman (family of Deb Tabert), Dave and Missy Pepper (brother and family of Joan Pepper), Chuck Johnson and family (husband and family of Leslie Johnson)

The 2023 annual giving statements were mailed on January 16. Please contact Phil Hart or Rod Runestad, Co-Financial Secretaries, if you have a question about your statement.

New Members will be received on Sunday, February 4, so if you are interested in membership, please speak with Pastor Scott ASAP.

Adult Sunday School

Rick Lischer will be concluding his course of "The Very First Story of Jesus – the Gospel of Mark," this week. The class will meet in Trinity Hall at 9:45-10:45 am. Next classes are:

- Feb 4 – Stephen Ministers with Nan Treul and Kim Hoke
- Beginning February 11 through March 24, Vicar Gina will be leading a 7-part session about Ash Wednesday to Holy Week, each week we will prepare for the Wednesday evening Worship Services through Holy Week.

Thursday Morning Bible Study: The topic for Thursday's Bible Study is now the Gospel according to Mark. They meet on Thursdays at 10:30-11:45 am in the Conference Room and by Zoom. Study notes will be emailed before the meeting. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82845097165?pwd=YWEyd1o1TmQvTXVPaFJwYi9SZkFVQT09>

Meeting ID: 828 4509 7165 Passcode: 165276

Durham Jazz Orchestra - Saturday, February 10 at 7 pm

Time again for our fabulous Big Band Bash and dessert pot-luck. Come and enjoy the sounds of the Durham Jazz Orchestra, an 18 piece big band plus vocalists. Our own Larry Grovenstein and Curtis Chi are part of the Orchestra. Their music will have you ready to dance and we will be accommodating – the dance floor will be open to anyone. Bring along a dessert to share if you wish and we'll celebrate with beer and wine. Please invite friends and neighbors to come along. It is a fun evening with great music.

Tuesday, February 13 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6:00 pm in Trinity Hall

It's Shrove Tuesday, so what exactly does "Shrove" mean? And why are so many people eating pancakes today? Pancakes were traditionally eaten on the day before Ash Wednesday because they were a way to use up eggs, milk, and sugar before the fasting season of the 40 days of Lent. This evening, the youth will be our cooks, hosts, servers, and clean-up crew for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. All donations this evening will go to support their trip to the National Youth Gathering this summer! Come join us for pancakes, sausage, applesauce, and fellowship.

Ash Wednesday Services - February 14

12:00 noon - Brief communion service, imposition of ashes, and healing liturgy

7:00 pm - traditional Holy Communion service with the Imposition of Ashes

Young In Spirit – February get-together is on Wednesday, February 14 after the 12:00 noon Ash Wednesday service. We will have lunch (approximately at 12:45 pm). Please bring a side dish to share for a potluck lunch. Sloppy Joes sandwiches will be provided.

Workshop on the Singing of African-American Spirituals at Christ the King Lutheran Church Saturday, February 10, 2024

This year as part of our celebration of Black History Month, Christ the King Lutheran Church will be hosting a workshop on the singing of African-American spirituals. This event, geared toward adults, will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2024, from 9 am until 12 noon at CTK, 600 Walnut Street in Cary, followed by lunch. The workshop (and lunch for adults) is free thanks to generous support from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. We cordially invite you and others from your congregation, organization, or school to attend. Our presenter will be Dr. Ginger Jones Robinson.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER will take place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, on Saturday, **March 9th** from 9 AM - 12 Noon. January begins the official kickoff for our 2024 Rise Against Hunger work day on March 9, 2024. The financial goal is \$4,300 to cover the cost of 10,000 meals. And, we need commitments for 60 workers between 9:00 am and Noon on March 9th.

Register to work at: Events.Riseagainsthunger.org/STPLC There is a small table display in the foyer for the "CHANGE for a CHANGE" event to collect your loose change (or more). These collections will be turned in at the end of February to help fund the event on March 9th. We have already received financial commitments to cover over half of the cost of this event. We will have special envelopes in the pews and at the usher table for your donations. Any extra we receive will be held over for another event. For questions/suggestions contact: Dean Redman, Marilyn Hawley, Bee Ellertson, or Mary Runestad.

Book of Devotions – The Anniversary Committee is continuing to celebrate 100 Years of our Ministry by attempting to compile a keepsake **Book of Devotions**, composed of the wonderful and inspiring devotions/poems/photos that we began sharing during covid and still continue to do so. Please reflect on your past devotions, create new ones, and submit them by the **end of January** to maria.taylor.chi@gmail.com.

St. Paul's Readers

Mark your calendars for our author event on **Sunday, February 25, at 12:30 pm**, when our own Rick Lischer discusses his memoir *Open Secrets: A Memoir of Faith and Discovery* (Doubleday) Here is a description of this book: Richard Lischer's memoir of his first try at ministry in a country church in southern Illinois. Fresh from a Ph.D. in theology and bursting with ideas and ambition, Lischer finds himself assigned to New Cana Lutheran Church, an American gothic congregation "as tightly sealed as a jar of home-canned pickles." For Lischer and his wife, Tracy, the ministry's first lesson is a lesson in loneliness. Eventually, he learns (the hard way) that farming, loss, storytelling, and gossip possess their own wisdom and can be ministry themselves. In this book the cultural revolutions of the 1970s, from Vietnam to Watergate, are viewed from the front porch of a white-framed parsonage in the middle of a cornfield. With charm, openness, and humor, Lischer brings to life the clash of cultures and personalities that mark the beginning of a vocation. About this book, *Publisher's Weekly* wrote, "[Lischer's] portraits are masterfully drawn. Not only does he write beautifully, but he also tells the unvarnished truth about both tragedy and redemption in a Christian community." Please contact Katherine Trexler (katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com) with any questions.

UMD (Urban Ministries Durham) Food Prep! We will volunteer our services on the third Saturday of each month, 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Next date is **February 17, 2024**. During the shift, you will prep for the dinner meal and serve lunch. Sign up online at this site: http://bit.ly/UMD_Signup Volunteers must be 13 years old, must wear closed toed shoes and shirts that cover armpits. Hairnets and aprons are provided – you can bring a hat and apron as well. Urban Ministries is located at 410 Liberty St, Durham NC 27701. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Anderson at andersona1129@gmail.com

Growing thru Grief

Here is the current schedule for January:

- ▶ Jan 30 – "Walking Each Other Home" with Terry Allebaugh
 - ▶ Feb 6 – "A Grief Perspective" with Jane Williams
 - ▶ Feb 13 – "Here Comes ANOTHER Holiday!" with Bodie McCann
 - ▶ Feb 20 – TBA
 - ▶ Feb 27 – "What I Have Learned from 22 Date of Death Anniversaries" with Mandy Murphy
- We meet at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1200 W Cornwallis Rd, from 4 to 6 pm. All are welcome. First time attendees must show proof of covid vaccination and booster(s). Please contact admin@growingthrugrief.org if you have questions.

The **Dropped Stitch Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets on the last Friday of the month at 1:00 pm in the sofa area of the atrium. This group creates prayer shawls by knitting or crochet.

The **Tongue and Thimble** group creates small quilts which are distributed to nurseries at local hospitals for their critical patients. They meet downstairs in the Fiber Arts/Music room off of the Genesis Hall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am-12:00 noon.

PASTA for PARKTOWN!!

Help Stock the St. Paul's Shelf at Parktown Food Hub!

The folks at Parktown Food Hub love our St. Paul's pasta! THANKS to your generosity the "St. Paul's Dry Boxed Pasta Shelf" stays stocked and ready to help hungry families. Please continue to add dry pasta to your shopping list to share with the St. Paul's shelf. The Women's Connection Group is leading this initiative to support the Parktown Food Hub, led by Pastor Sharon Schulze. **St. Paul's Shelf - dry boxed pasta** – spaghetti, macaroni, ziti, penne, etc. (NOT: kits or dinner, nor canned pasta entrees).

Sign-Up Genius Links

Please visit the Sign-Up Genius links which we use to enable volunteers to fill in where needed, for both services. Click on the link and fill in your name on the date(s).

◆ **Sunday Worship** – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1>

Sign up for: lector, worship assistant, altar guild, communion assistants, and ushers. Staff will be glad to provide guidance for any of these tasks.

◆ **Devotions** – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1>

Send your devotions to Vicar Gina Schaefer - vicar@stpaulsdurham.org

Our Youth Group is going to New Orleans in July of 2024 for the National Youth Gathering.

Here is how you can help them on their journey.

We have six youth and two adult leaders heading to New Orleans in July of 2024 for the National Youth Gathering. This is a time for our youth to grow in their faith and as an overall youth group.

We need to raise about \$9,000 for everyone and we cannot do it without the gracious help of our St. Paul's family. In the atrium is a yellow bulletin board with 8 airplane seats, 8 hotel beds, and 8 plates broken into 3 pieces so you can see the progress as we get ready for this adventure. You can help in a variety of ways, including purchasing a whole airplane seat or hotel bed, or if you can just help with a meal for someone.

How to "purchase" a specific item is broken down:

- ▶ 1 airplane seat cost \$400 (this is for roundtrip)
- ▶ 1 hotel bed cost \$350 (this is for the entire week)
- ▶ 1 meal costs \$25 or a whole day of meals costs \$75 (this is for 1 person)

As we raise funds, watch the airplane take off from RDU (Durham, NC) to MSY (New Orleans, LA).

Donations can be made online through the church website (under the giving online option) or during the offering time in service. Please note on your donation ("Youth Gathering – purchase item" (i.e. "Youth Gathering - airplane seat" or "Youth Gathering - 1 meal").

Thank you for all your help and prayers as we prepare for this unbelievable experience!