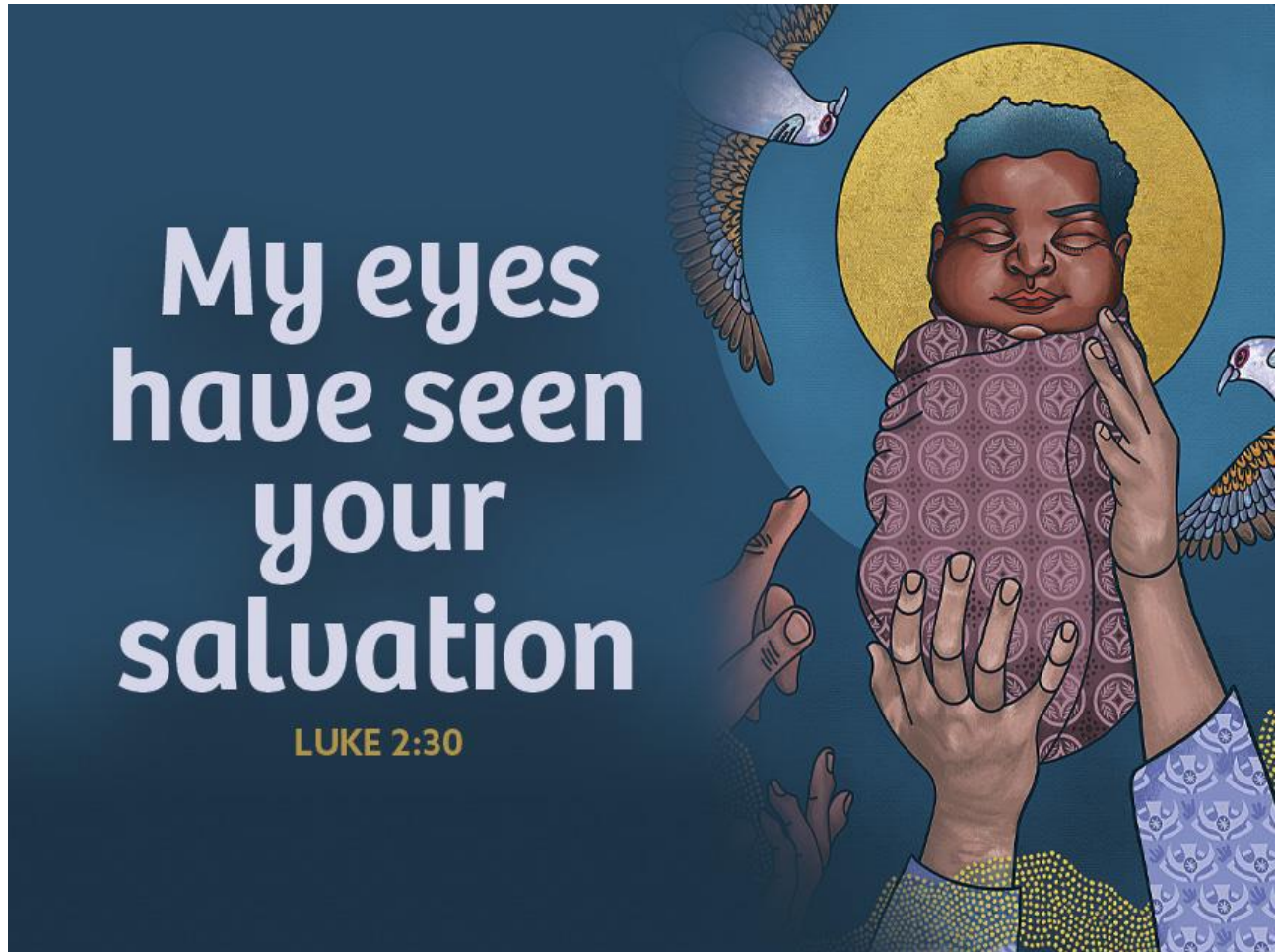


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 2nd, 2025



WELCOME

To our Church Family

We're Glad You're Here!



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a coffee cup and information about our church. You may also want to download our new St. Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both is in the Welcome Bag.

For our young worshipers we have children's packets to play and color with during the service. These are on the white stand near the east entrance to our sanctuary.

You are welcome at the table!

If you have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), you are welcome to join us at the table. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats using the side aisles. If you do not wish to partake in the Sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please just cross your hands over your chest when you come forward.

Grape juice and Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Grape juice is in the colored glasses in the center of the communion tray. If you are not able to come forward and would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will bring communion to you.

Altar Flowers

The **Altar flowers** were given today by Leslie & Dick Longworth in mhnor of Jake Foster's Birthday.

Introduction

The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

Readings and Psalms

Malachi 3:1-4

My messenger is a refiner and purifier

Psalm 84

How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD. (*Ps. 84:1*)

Hebrews 2:14-18

Jesus shares human flesh and sufferings

Luke 2:22-40

The child is brought to the temple

**The Westminster Strike
Welcome and Announcements**

Prelude

Adoration

Florence Beatrice Price (1887-1953)

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways.

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

In His Temple Now Behold Him

ELW 417

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 84



How dear to me is your dwell - ing, O LORD.

- ¹ How dear to me ¹ is your dwelling,
O ¹ LORD of hosts!
- ² **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts ¹ of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the ¹ living God.**
- ³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may ¹ lay her young,
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king ¹ and my God.
- ⁴ **Happy are they who dwell ¹ in your house!
They will always be ¹ praising you. R**
- ⁵ Happy are the people whose strength ¹ is in you,
whose hearts are set on the ¹ pilgrims' way.
- ⁶ **Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a ¹ place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with ¹ pools of water.**
- ⁷ They will climb from ¹ height to height,
and the God of gods will be ¹ seen in Zion.
- ⁸ **LORD God of hosts, ¹ hear my prayer;
give ear, O ¹ God of Jacob. R**
- ⁹ Behold our defend- ¹ er, O God;
and look upon the face of ¹ your anointed.
- ¹⁰ **For one day in your courts is better than a ¹ thousand elsewhere.
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the
tents ¹ of the wicked.**
- ¹¹ For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing ¹ grace and glory;
no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk ¹ with integrity.
- ¹² **O ¹ LORD of hosts,
happy are they who put their ¹ trust in you! R**

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

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

GOSPEL: Luke 22:22-40

The holy gospel according to Luke the 22nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
 according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
 and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of

many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

ELW 490

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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

After each petition the following response is given:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

I Believe
Chancel Choir

Mark A. Miller (b. 1958)

The text for today's anthem is excerpted from words found in the cell of a Holocaust survivor. I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining. I believe in love, even when I don't feel it. I believe in God, even when God is silent.

OFFERTORY



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.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

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,And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

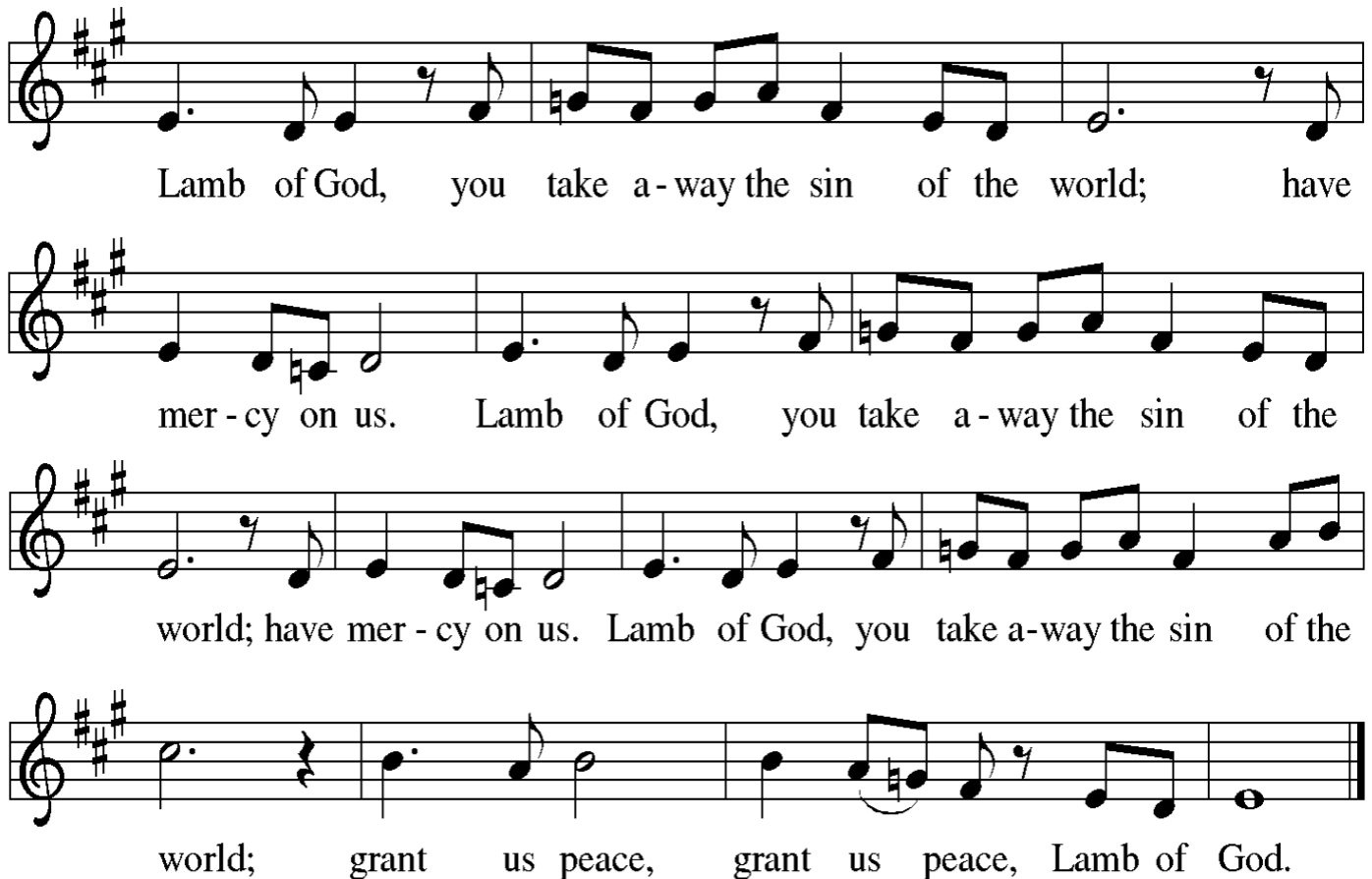
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

COMMUNION SONG



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, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

Let Us Break Bread Together
Anderson Rambler, bass-baritone

arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

ELW 677

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Promised Land

Ralph Simpson (1933-2024)

In our prayers today we will remember

Dan Lint, Jo Schweitzer, Rich Sadler, Chrissy Sturtz, Shirley Douglas, Matt Moore, Amy Williams, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, Jessie Shaffer, Mark King, Rick Theiss, Ariane Roberts.

Music Notes

In honor of Black History Month, our service music features compositions by black composers. Florence Beatrice Price was an African-American classical composer, pianist, organist and music teacher. She was the first African-American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer, and the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra, the Chicago Symphony.

Since 2006, Mark Miller has been a Lecturer in Sacred Music at Yale's Institute of Sacred Music and Divinity School. Mr. Miller is Professor of Church Music, Director of Chapel, and Composer in Residence at Drew University in Madison, NJ, and is the Minister of Music of Christ Church (UCC & Am Baptist) in Summit, New Jersey. Mark believes that music, social justice, and the beloved community are inextricably tied. He is a graduate of Julliard (M.Mus. in Organ Performance) and Yale University (B.A. Music).

Moses Hogan, composer, arranger, pianist, and conductor, was a graduate of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. He also studied at New York's Juilliard School of Music and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Hogan served as editor of the new Oxford Book of Spirituals, an expansive collection of spirituals, published by Oxford University Press. With over 70 published works, Hogan's arrangements have become staples in the repertoires of high school, college, church, community and professional choirs worldwide. As is particularly evident in his spirituals for solo voice, Hogan fused his love of the human voice, his study of classical piano literature, and his musical roots in the African-American Baptist Church.

Dr. Ralph Simpson was an organist, composer/arranger, and retired chairman of the Department of Music at Tennessee State University. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, he was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in music from Michigan State University. He also taught at Alabama State University, Dillard University, and Fisk University. Of note, Dr. Simpson served as church organist at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, where his friend, the Honorable Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was pastor.

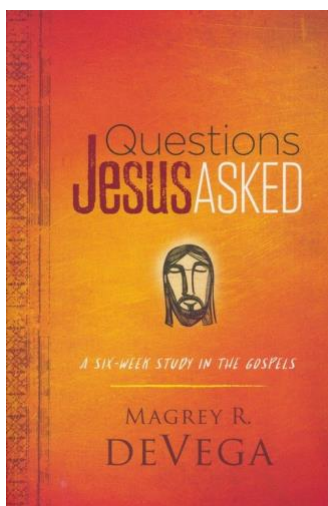
Adult Sunday School Class

God is Faithful - Always!

For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust.... (Psalm 71:5a)

Why This?

Ever wonder what in the world God is doing? Have you ever asked - where is God's justice, where is his grace? The Genesis stories we explore in February will help us answer these questions and hopefully increase our trust. Please join us at 11:30 each Sunday to study and discuss Scripture and enjoy the fellowship. We meet on the top floor of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for your convenience.



Thursday Morning Bible Study Beginning January 9th, 2025

Jesus was fond of asking questions, many of which cut right to the heart of what it means to be human. Why are you terrified? What do you live for? Who do you say that I am?

Magrey deVega explores six of the most provocative questions Jesus posed to others and guides us in answering them for ourselves. Asking these questions takes courage. Not only do they reveal what Jesus really cares about, they open a window into our hearts. When we dare to raise them, these questions bring us a fuller appreciation for the wisdom, power, and presence of God in our lives.

Are you ready to answer the *Questions Jesus Asked*?

Women's Lenten Retreat

Prayer: Let's Talk to God

March 1, 9 am to 3 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

You are invited to attend a Women's Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 1 from 9 am until 3 pm at the church. The theme of the retreat is prayer. Bible study, practical strategies to improve a life of prayer, and worship will be included. The retreat is being led by LaShell Williamson and Patty Long. So that all women might enjoy the full day, you are asked to bring your own light lunch. Beverages will be provided. Reservations are desired but not required. All are welcome.

Capital Campaign Report

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Remaining Phase One Projects | \$377,000 |
| Funds raised | \$339,270 |
| Remaining funds to be raised | \$ 37,730 |

Monday Evening Bible Study

Exploring God's Promises: A Bible Study on Biblical Covenants
Beginning January 13th 6:00 pm

Join us for an inspiring Bible study series as we dive into the Biblical covenants that shape the story of God's relationship with humanity. Each week, we'll explore a different covenant found throughout Scripture and reflect on how these promises reveal God's love and faithfulness.

This study is co-led by Pastor Tina Crog of St. Jacob Lutheran Church and Pastor Ash Welch of Christ Lutheran Church. We will gather in the welcoming atmosphere of Tremont Coffee shop in downtown Massillon (215 Erie St N, Massillon, OH). Whether you're new to Bible study or have been studying Scripture for years, all are welcome to come, learn, and grow together in faith. Bring your Bible and a friend!

Download the St. Paul's Phone APP

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the "My Church" by Pushpay. It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing STPLC APP.

Then click on the St Paul's logo—that's it.

To take advantage of all the app's features you must create an account. Get notifications and reminders of upcoming events, access our live stream worship and worship bulletins, send prayer requests, and see the church calendar. You can even give electronically.



Community Social Media Pages

Facebook & Instagram

Search “*Massillon Lutheran Churches*”

Facebook

Search “*St Paul’s Lutheran Church in Massillon*”

Search “*Cathedral Concerts at St Paul’s*”

Hymns, Liturgies, and Live stream permissions granted by the following:

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # **SAS027923**

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| GATHERING HYMN | In His Temple Now Behold Him | ELW 417 |
| Public Domain | | |

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| HYMN OF THE DAY | Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent | ELW 490 |
| Public Domain | | |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|----------------|
| SENDING HYMN | This Little Light of Mine | ELW 677 |
| "Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-734490. All rights reserved | | |

Thank you to those serving today:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Presiding Minister | Rev. Mark Kreemer |
| Director of Music | Dr. Abigail Haake |
| Assisting Minister | Karl Kalk |
| Lector | Carol Butler |
| Greeters | Dick & Robin Cordes |
| Communion Assistant | Dwight Butler & Cindy Lash |
| Sacristan | Kathryn Myers |
| Ushers | John & Linda Litman Carol Marlow, Mark Waltz |
| Soundboard | Jim Johnson |
| Video/Live-Stream | John Stanko |

In His Temple Now Behold Him



1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -
 2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -
 3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,
 4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less



pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,
 hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,
 weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,
 love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en



God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,
 ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 seal us with your prom - ise sure; and pre - sent us,
 by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther



his re - deem - ed shall break forth with one ac - cord.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!
 in your glo - ry, to your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.
 and the Spir - it God of maj - es - ty su - preme!

Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825–1903, alt.

Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

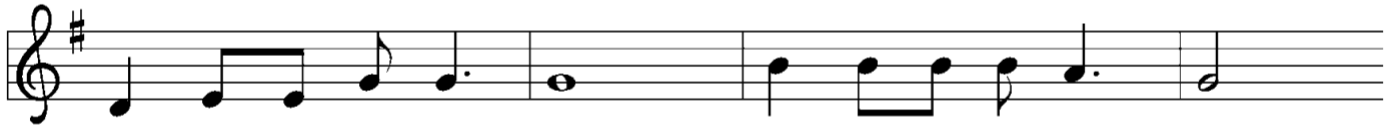
This Little Light of Mine



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual