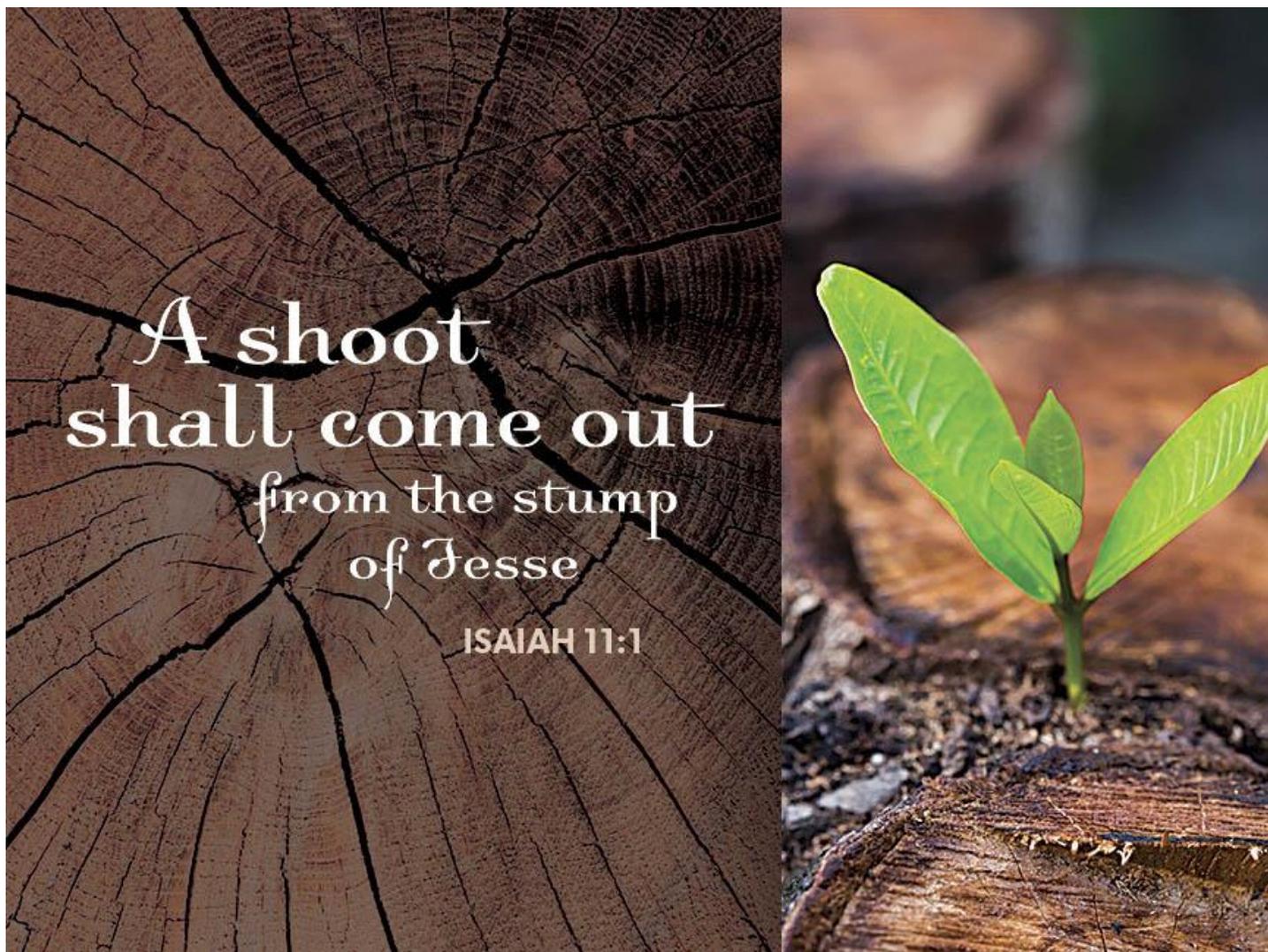


**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**SUNDAY November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025**



***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.

### **Flowers**

**Altar Flowers** were given today by Gladys Zepp in honor of her family.

### **Today's Worship Focus**

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of Go

### **Readings and Psalm**

#### **Isaiah 2:1-5**

*Weapons of war transformed into instruments of peace*

#### **Psalm 122**

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (*Ps. 122:1*)

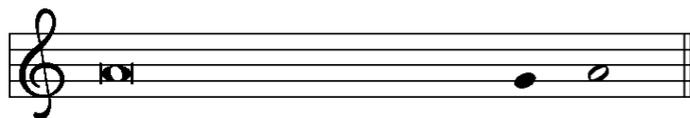
#### **Romans 13:11-14**

*Salvation is near; time to wake from sleep*

#### **Matthew 24:36-44**

*The sudden coming of the Son of Man*





In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



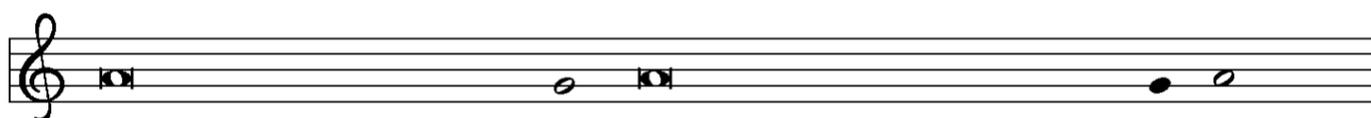
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



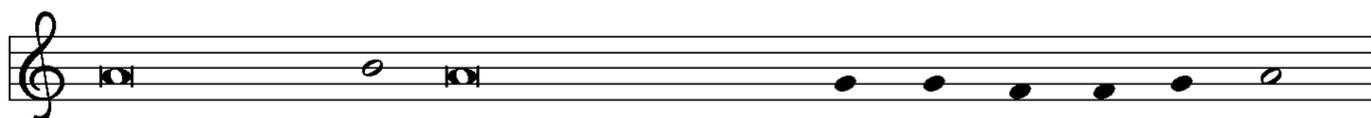
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob,



[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup> “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

*Rev. Mark Kreemer*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      My Lord, What a Morning!      ELW 438

**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.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

*After each petition the following response is given:*

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

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

**Offertory:**                   Ríu Ríu Chíu    attr. Mateo Flecha the Elder (1481-1553)  
                                  Madrigals of Firestone

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

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

## **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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places.... 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, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

## 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.**

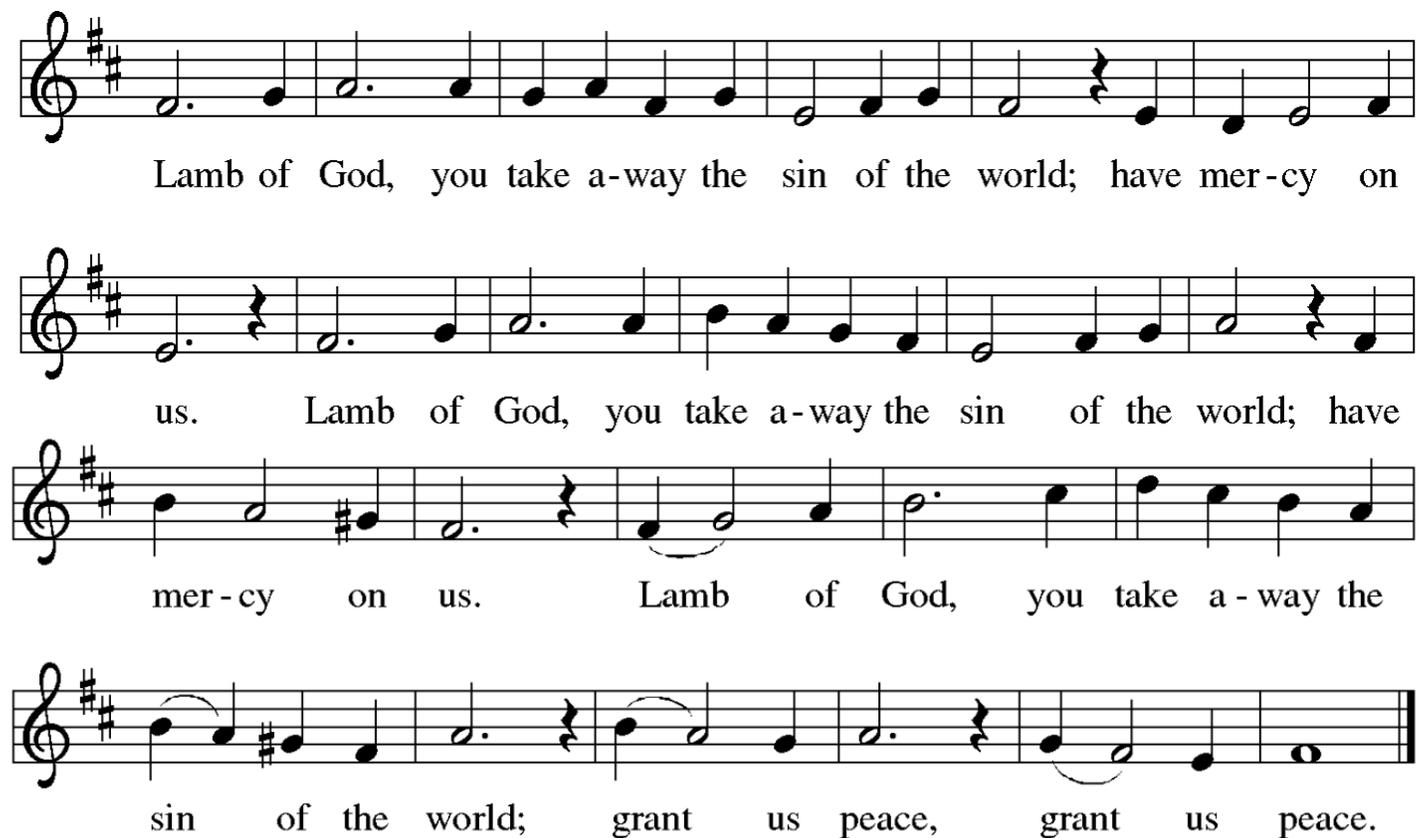
**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### Invitation to Communion

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.



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.

**COMMUNION HYMN:** Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

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

**SENDING SONG** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light ELW 815

## **BLESSING**

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

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** Fum Fum Fum- arr. Alice Parker (1925-2023)  
Madrigals of Firestone Robert Shaw (1916-1999)

## **In our prayers today we will remember**

*Steve Kress, Lenny Herd, Loren Veigel, Pastor Groenke, Eric Gerber, Cindy Lash, Judy Hall, Bonnie & Dave Dourm, Tom Fry, Carol Sargent, Kenneth & Jean Dexter, Anna Langenfeld, Arthur Barrett, Cindy Nash, Karen & Paul Daily, Susan Via, Richard Green.*

## **Note from Cindy**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for your prayers and comfort during my recent illness. Your prayers, cards, phone calls, and texts brightened each day and got me through so much.

I can't thank you enough for your wonderful kindness. 🙏

Love,  
Cindy Lash

## **Music Notes:**

Welcome to the Madrigals of Firestone CLC, under the direction of Mrs. Megan Meyer. As part of the Akron School for the Arts and the Akron Public School system, students take a rigorous curriculum of classes in music theory/history, sing in at least one choral ensemble, and have weekly private lessons with a professional private instructor. In addition, students perform their work for the OMEA solo and ensemble adjudicated event. Students in the program experience a high quality vocal/choral music experience, including advanced repertoire, clinician/guest experiences, concert field trips, community performance opportunities, and one of the most diverse and inclusive choral music experiences in the area. We are grateful they are sharing their music with us as we begin the season of Advent and looking forward to our feast this afternoon!

## **Coming in 2026! The St. Paul's Steelband!**

Through a generous donation of five instruments, Eleanor Manes will be starting a steelband for the congregation and greater Massillon community. No musical background necessary, and any and all ages/skills are welcome. For more information, please contact Ellie: 330-400-8543



Mark your calendars for the **Community Candlelight Walk:**  
December 7, 5-7 pm. Continuous music from our adult choir, bell choir,  
and vocal and instrumental soloists.

# Tickets Available for Madrigal Feaste



\$20 for adults, \$10 for children 10 and under. Light meal from charcuterie board and dessert in the Parish Hall to accompany the magnificent singers from Firestone CLC.

## Join the Fellowship Committee in these events!

### Christmas Caroling – December 6

Make plans to join us as we visit our home bound members and friends on **December 6** for Christmas caroling. We will meet at the church at 2:00 pm and divide into groups. After caroling, we will return to the church for a chicken dinner and share stories about caroling to these special members. **Sign up in the lounge so we can make sure we have enough food.**

### Game Night – Sunday, January 18

Join us in the lounge at 5:00 pm to play games. We will play bingo with prizes, or you can bring a favorite board game or card game. Also bring an appetizer to share. This will be a fun chance to mix with our church family! Come and have fun!!

### Wednesday Advent Services 7:00 PM

Each Wednesday we will explore someone from the Lineage of Jesus.

December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christ Lutheran	Rev. Mark Kreemer
December 10	St. Jacob Lutheran	Rev. Ash Welch
December 17	Holy Trinity Lutheran	Rev. Jeff Goggins

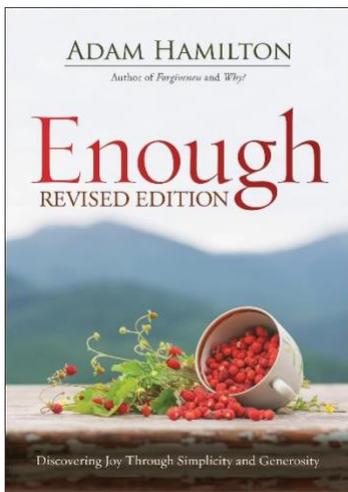
# Adult Sunday School

The True Spirit of Christmas

“...The Holy Spirit will come upon you...” (Luke 1:35)

The Holy Spirit played an integral role in the birth of Jesus Christ. Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zechariah, and Simeon, among others, all knew the Spirit’s power and leading as each played a part in the coming of the Christ child. As a result, the Spirit fruit of love, joy, and peace was evident in their lives, as it can be for us.

We gather at 11:30 on Sunday morning in the Parish Hall, top floor. An elevator is available for easy access. Note - the class will not meet on Sunday, December 28.



## Thursday Morning Bible Study

Beginning November 6th

10:00 am

**Enough Revised Edition: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity**

Money has great power in our lives. Used wisely, it is one key to accomplishing our goals, providing for our needs, and fulfilling our life purpose. In recent years, many of us ignored the wisdom of the past when it came to managing and spending our money. Credit card debt soared, savings rates plummeted, and our home equity became something to be tapped into and spent rather than a source of security in retirement. We felt an insatiable desire for more. And we found ourselves spending tomorrow’s money today in order to have what we hoped would satisfy. The result of all of this was not greater happiness and satisfaction, but greater stress and anxiety.

*Enough* is an invitation to rediscover the Bible’s wisdom when it comes to prudent financial practices. In these pages are found the keys to experiencing contentment, overcoming fear, and discovering joy through simplicity and generosity. This book could change your life, by changing your relationship with money.

# Capital Campaign Report

With joy and gratitude, we celebrate the completion of our new entrance and bathrooms—made possible by your faithful generosity. What a gift it is to see these improvements already serving our community!

Yet our work of caring for God’s house is not finished. Three pressing needs lie ahead: a \$125,000 replacement of the Parish Hall heating and cooling system, repairs to the Parish Hall window wells, and fixing a boiler leak in the Education Building. Through your continued giving, we can preserve this sacred space as a place of safety, welcome, and comfort for all who come through our doors. Together, we are ensuring that our church remains a living witness to God’s grace for generations to come.

## CHRISTMAS BASKETS COLLECTING NONPERISHABLES

Welfare and Social Committee will collect nonperishable food and miscellaneous items for our Community Meal families for Christmas. These items will be distributed at our Community Meal on Friday, December 12.

We will begin collecting in October. Please place your donations in the box located at the side entrance of the church.

If you have questions, please contact Barb Palmer at 330-244-1602

October 19	Tea and coffee
October 26	Peanut butter and jelly
November 2	Canned soups and pork n beans
November 9	Cereal and mixes (cake, brownies, muffins)
November 16	Canned fruits and vegetables
November 23	Spaghetti sauce, pasta, instant potatoes
November 30	Paper products (paper towels, toilet paper)
December 7	Bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrush

Thank you for your generosity! Barb Palmer

## Angel Tree Gift Tags

Gift tags are still available for the Salvation Army “Christmas Assistance” program on the Christmas tree located in the portico. The toys on the tags are only for ideas. **Whatever you buy will not be given to that child on the tag.** All gifts are put on tables for parents to come in and choose the gifts for their children. So, you can buy anything you want.

Here’s the process: Get a tag, **buy any toy**, turn it in unwrapped.

Unwrapped gifts are due at the church on December 7 or you can take them directly to the Salvation Army. Thank you for giving these children a Merry Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Welfare and Social Committee.

## Assisted Hearing Devices Available

Four assisted listening devices are available at the sound system table in the back of the sanctuary at the beginning of worship. Please see Jim Johnson or John Stanko if you need assistance with these devices.



You can also use your smartphone to access the system. Go to your app store and download the **WaveCAST** app. Then connect to the sanctuary Wi-Fi: **Network:** sound media **Password:** Sound127

## 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.



## Community Social Media Pages

Facebook & Instagram, Search "*Massillon Lutheran Churches*"

Facebook

*"St Paul's Lutheran Church in Massillon"*  
or *"Cathedral Concerts at St Paul's"*

## **Thank you to those serving today:**

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	<b>Rev. Mark Kreemer</b>
<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>Dr. Abigail Haake</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>David Stoner</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Patty Long</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Jack &amp; Marilyn Norton</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Lynda Klein &amp; Greg Klein</b>
<b>Sacristan</b>	<b>Barb Palmer &amp; Brooke Duplain</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Chuck Geson, Dick Longworth Chuck Richards, Mike Skelly</b>
<b>Soundboard</b>	<b>Jim Johnson</b>
<b>Video/Live-Stream</b>	<b>John Stanko</b>

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**GATHERING SONG**     Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding     ELW 246  
Public Domain

**HYMN OF THE DAY**     My Lord, What a Morning!     ELW 438  
Public Domain

**SENDING SONG**     I Want To Walk As a Child Of the Light     ELW 815  
"Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE,  
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# Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we  
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age  
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don  
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,  
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,  
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,  
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy  
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"  
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
one and all, to be for - giv'n;  
and with words of love draw near.  
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878  
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

# My Lord, What a Morning

*Refrain*



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

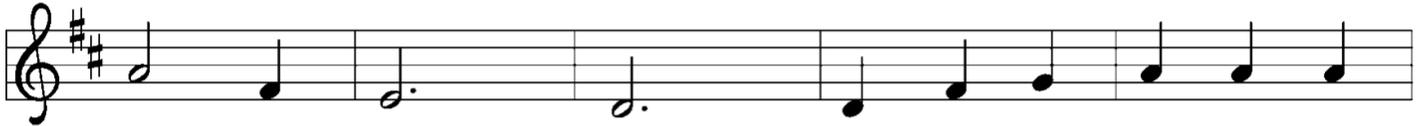
Text: African American spiritual

Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

# I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

## *Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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