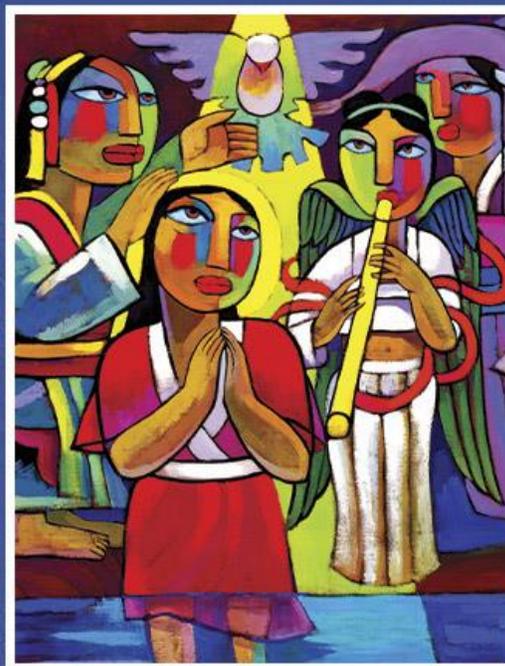


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
January 11th, 2026

**THIS IS
MY SON,
THE
BELOVED**

MATTHEW 3:17



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 Vera Keefer in memory of Bob Keefer.

Today's Worship Focus

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 42:1-9

The servant of the LORD brings justice.

Psalm 29

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (*Ps. 29:3*)

Acts 10:34-43

Jesus' ministry after his baptism.

Matthew 3:13-17

Revelation of Christ as God's servant.

Announcements

Prelude:

Borning Cry

arr. David Christiansen (b. 1957)

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, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ✝ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Shall We Gather at the River

ELW 423

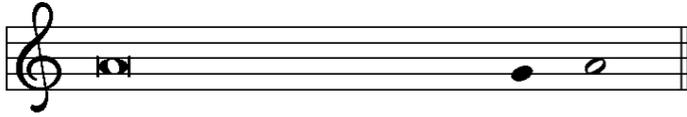
GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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



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.



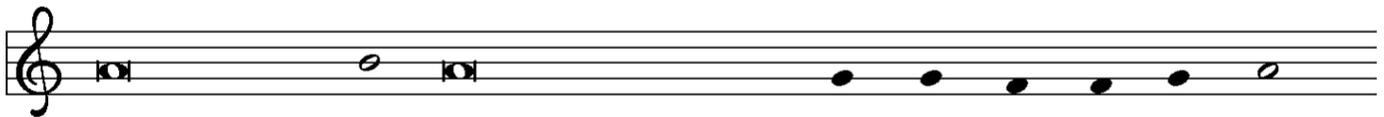
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;

he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 29



The voice of the LORD is up - on the wa - ters.

¹ Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;**
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;

the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

**4 The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor. R**

**5 The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;**

**6 the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

**7 The voice | of the LORD
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.**

**8 The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. R**

**9 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, “Glory!”**

**10 The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

**11 O LORD, give strength | to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace. R**

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

34 Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, **35** but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. **36** You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. **37** That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: **38** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. **39** We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, **40** but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, **41** not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42** He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. **43** All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

**The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

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

SERMON

Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY When Jesus Came to Jordan see p. 20 of bulletin

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

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

After each petition the following response is given:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Offertory: Come to the Water John Foley (b. 1939)

O let all who thirst, Let them come to the water. And let all who have nothing, Let them come to the Lord. Without money, without price Why should you pay the price, Except for the Lord. And let all who seek,



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of majesty,

no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, 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.

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 the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.



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 music provided by Eleanor Manes, steel pan drum

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.

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

ELW 310

BLESSING

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Shall We Gather at the River

arr. Richard Elliott (b. 1957)

In our prayers today we will remember

Joan Spenser, Maggie Paul, Amy Williams, Cole, Marty, Curt & Paul Staver, Jessie & Linda Shaffer, Nancy Lint, Steve Kress, Lenny Herd, Pastor Groenke, Judy Hall, Tom Fry, Kenneth & Jean Dexter, Anna Langenfeld, Arthur Barrett, Karen & Paul Daily

Music Notes

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

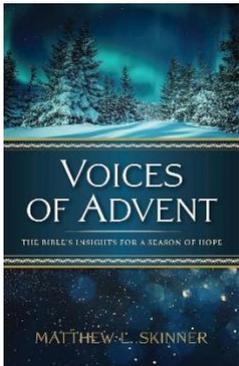
Through a generous donation of five instruments, Eleanor Manes will be starting a steelband for the congregation and greater Massillon community. No musical background necessary, and any and all ages/skills are welcome. For more information, please contact Ellie: 330-400-8543.

Adult Sunday School

2nd Floor of the Parish Hall

More Like Jesus

To be more like Jesus should be the aim of every believer. Faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are fruit of the Spirit that make it possible for us to be “conformed to the image of his Son.” (Romans 8:29) Please join us as we study together and encourage one another to become more like Christ. We meet each Sunday at 11:30 on the top floor of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for easy access.



Thursday Morning Bible Study Beginning December 11th Voices of Advent

By Matthew Skinner

In *Voices of Advent*, Matthew L. Skinner leads readers through biblical texts and explores how they shape our lives and Christmas celebrations. We listen as Jesus promises to return to us in the future, to John the Baptist as he prepares the way for the Messiah, to the faithful people and poets who anticipate the magnificence of Jesus's birth, and to the angels and visionaries who praise God when Christmas dawns. Listen carefully to the Bible's various perspectives that shape our preparations for Christmas; you'll hear hope in all of them. *Voices of Advent* helps readers experience Advent not only as the start of the Christian Church Year, but also as the powerful overture that sets the tone for the incredible story of Jesus.

Join the Fellowship Committee in these events!

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!! Sign up in the lounge so we can make plans for how many will be coming.

Valentine Dinner and Dance – Saturday, February 7

Mark your calendar to for this fun event with our own DJ, Chuck Richards. We will gather for dinner at 5:00 pm followed by music with Chuck. Watch for details of our menu and cost.

Shrove Pancake Dinner – Tuesday February 17

Come for our annual Pancake Dinner starting at 5:00 pm. Enjoy a pancake bar with special toppings, sausage, applesauce and drinks. Join in a Mardi Gras craft. This is our feast before we begin the Lenten season.

Any questions call or text Sue Reid at 330-323-6688

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.

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.



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

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"*

Cathedral Concert Series to Feature Baritone Dr. Emery Stephens



Sunday, February 22, 4:00 PM

**Dr. Emery Stephens, Jr., baritone, Associate Professor of Voice,
Studies. Olaf College**

with

**Dr. Thomas Bandy, collaborative piano, Associate Professor of Vocal
Accompanying, Oberlin College**

and

Trevor Kazarian, cello

Presenting music of Harry T. Burleigh, H. Leslie Adams, Hall Johnson,
Kurt Weill, Florence B. Price, Leonard Bernstein, Dorothy Rudd Moore,
G. F. Handel, and Rosephanye Powell.

Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister	Rev. Mark Kreemer
Director of Music	Dr. Abigail Haake
Assisting Minister	Patty Long
Lector	Scott Larson
Greeters	Brady & Morgan Rupp
Communion Assistants	Lynda & Greg Klein
Sacristan	Mary Ann Poling
Ushers	Chuck Gesen, Chuck Richards, Mike Skelly, Dick Longworth
Acolytes	Scot Larson, Thomas Haake
Soundboard	Jim Johnson
Video/Live-Stream	John Stanko

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GATHERING SONG Shall We Gather at the River ELW 423
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HYMN OF THE DAY When Jesus Came to Jordan Pg 20
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SENDING SONG Songs of Thankfulness and Praise ELW 310
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When Jesus Came to Jordan

D G A D G A D

1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John, he
 2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss, for
 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make; this

D G A D Bm D G A D A

did not come for par - don but as the sin - less one. He
 us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross. So
 ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - ery bond - age break. Come,

A7 B7 Em Bm Em Bm E A

came to share re - pent - ance with all who mourn their sins, to
 when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man, the
 give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most: to

D G D7 G D G A D

speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
 hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
 share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, 1693; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847

Words © 1980 Hope Publishing Company

England/Germany

7.6.7.6.D.

MUNICH

For higher setting see 483

Shall We Gather at the River



- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

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