



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**
December 28, 2019

First Sunday of Christmas

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice, for God is with us — Emmanuel.

In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.

Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.

God is truly with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God!

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Together we pray:

Gracious God,

With joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people.

We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth.

In the excitement, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time.

Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world.

Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors."

Amen.

The Prophecy of the Messiah

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, John 1:1-2, 4-5

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God with us, Emmanuel.

The Coming of Jesus Is Announced to Mary and Joseph

Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25

The Preparations for the Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-5

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie,
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Jesus is Born

Luke 2:6-7

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Jesus' Birth is Announced to the Shepherds

Luke 2:9-14

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

It came upon the midnight clear that glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

The Shepherds Find the Baby Jesus

Luke 2:15-18

“The First Noel”

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

The Wise Men Bring Their Gifts to Jesus

Matthew 2:1-11

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence

their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**)

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

D: Let us show signs of Christ's peace.

We Offer Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Offertory Response

"What Child is This"

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Together we pray:

Merciful God, we confess that often we find darkness more comfortable than light.

We confess that we find your good news frightening and unsettling, especially when we consider its demands as well as its promises.

We confess that Christmas has become more to us than the birthday of the Christ, partly because we do not want a Christ-Child in our lives or in our world.

Forgive us, break us, bend us, remake us.

Give us the courage to lay ourselves open to the wonder and healing of your coming.

Be born again into our world, be born again into our hearts and lives. Amen.

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

Hymn Requests

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (*Refrain*)

(Refrain)

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (*Refrain*)

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (*Refrain*)

Dismissal:

Christ is born!
Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People *Organist:* Nalani Bever
Greeters: Louise and Bob Buchholz *Altar Committee:* Joel and Lori Arndt
Ushers: Tim Deichler, Bart Arndt, Justin Arndt, John Ornes

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Robert Cale, Seth Tornoem

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Florence Krause, Judy Bever, Tammy Roscovious, Pam Eaton, Dakota Holiday, Carla Von Haden, Addison Arndt, Jeff Sullivan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thank you to the children of Sunday School for providing the Christmas Program on Christmas Eve. Thank you as well to our teachers, Joel and Lori Arndt, Justin Arndt and Greg Bever. A special thanks to Barb Ornes for taking care of costuming, and to Thadyn Conner and Kaylin Gruen for taking part in the program. We also want to thank Gracie Brandau for singing a solo during the program.

Please note the addition of a poinsettia donation in memory Barb Bever and Deb Paeth's parents and sister. The envelope with the donation and information sheet was inadvertently placed with the Thankoffering envelopes.

The service today was actually planned for the Sunday after Christmas last year. Pastor Hall was scheduled to lead the

worship, however, the weather did not cooperate and the service was cancelled.

**Grace to You and Peace, A Yearlong Devotional Journey through the Epistles may be found at the following website:

<https://www.wartburgseminary.edu/download/daily-devotions/>

For those of you who are unable to use a computer for this purpose, copies of January and February are in the narthex.

Additional copies will be provided and delivered to you upon request. Please see Nalani.

CALENDAR FOR December 29 – January 5

Wed., Jan. 1	Happy New Year!	
	Rose Bowl – Go Badgers	
Sun., Jan. 5	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am
	Special Congregational Meeting	

There will be a Special Congregational Meeting after the Church Service on January 5, 2020. The purpose of the meeting is to ask for your feedback and suggestions regarding all aspects of the Church's operation. For those unable to attend the January 5 meeting, individual conferences will be scheduled soon. If anyone in attendance wishes an individual conference, that too will be arranged.

Poinsettias Memorials

IN MEMORY OF

BY

Ed Sr., Shirley, Ron Ross

Ross Family

Marie Liefke

Julitta Arndt

Arndt & Ballwahn parents,
and brothers who have left us

Larry & Arlis Ballwahn

Earl & Anita Brandenburg

Dixie and Leonard Arndt

Loved Ones

George and Carolyn Dougherty

Karen Gruen

Bob Gruen Family

Elwin Steinke

Anita Steinke Family

Leonard & Galetta Brandau,
Scott Buchholz, William Bever

Rick Brueggen Family

Everett Reineke, George &
Lottie Van Hecker

Lois Reineke

Lorayne Denter

Lila Speicher

Mildred Radke, Josephine Krause,
Carol Osteboe, Lorayne Denter

Smith-Nelson Funeral Home

Melvin and Eleanor Braund
Shirley Bothum

Barb and Gary Bever, Deb and
Mory Paeth

In Honor of

BY

Eaton Family

Julitta Arndt

You may now contact Pastor Cathleen on a landline, #608-435-0097. This telephone itself is a “Caption Call”. This means a written display of what you are saying is displayed for Pastor to read, and continue the conversation. Be patient, it takes a few seconds for your side of the conversation to be displayed. You may also leave a voice mail message.

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074, Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever,

To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani (608-387-2311)

Office Hours: Wednesday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Additional Contact Information:

Pastor Cathleen: cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu

Justin Arndt: arndt.now@gmail.com

Church: wiltonchurch@gmail.com

Nalani Bever: nalanib@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.stpaulswilton.com/>

FACEBOOK!! Home page: St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Wilton WI

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