

Prayers for the Children

We ask that all members join the Women of the ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn, Gracie Brandau; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley & Aria Brueggen; Watson Sebranek, Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Kennedy & Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, & Kaylin Gruen; Emma, Bryce, Marah & Bria Gruen; Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Tyler & Jaden Bever; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Tyler Brandau; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Emma Elder, Bryson Lamb, Elizabeth Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Rylan McCarthy, Ellery Tormoen.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for all children everywhere, that you would keep them in your care. In Jesus name I pray.

Amen



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2022
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

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 God.

**(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.^

ADVENT LITANY

P: Today we begin our celebration of Advent. On these four Sundays leading up to Christmas, we will rejoice in the great gift that is ours in Jesus Christ.

C: **To help us celebrate, we will be lighting the candles of the Advent wreath. The candles signify that Jesus is the Light of the World. The evergreens remind us that He is life and brings life to us. All these are arranged in a circle because life in Christ has no end.**



Mission

We follow the 2,000-year-old model of Jesus, bringing hope and healing to the world's forgotten poor.



Vision

Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to transform lives and serve nations, one at a time.



Values

We seek to love God, love and serve others, demonstrate integrity, and strive for excellence in all we do.

You may make your check payable to St. Paul's. We will record your donation in our records for tax purposes, and mail one check to Mercy Ships at the completion of Advent.

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton.

CALENDAR

Sun., Dec. 4	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am
Mon. Dec. 5	Church Council	TBD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANSITION COMMITTEE SURVEY

Additional copies of the survey are located in the narthex. The drop box for completed surveys is also on the narthex table.

MERCY SHIPS

Now that Covid is better understood, Mercy Ships has returned to Africa. The *Africa Mercy* has begun ministry in Dakar Senegal, and has been joined there by the *Global Mercy*, which is now in service. This has increased the number of operating rooms from 5 to 11, and the number of recovery rooms from 80 to 180. So, once again lives are being transformed onboard both these ships. Children who have felt different and ashamed for reasons outside their control are finally finding the healing they need. Children who struggled with conditions from blindness, to orthopedic and more are receiving surgeries that will change their lives forever.

For the first time in years, these children will be able to laugh, run, and play without the burdens of their conditions weighing them down. During Advent, please consider an offering in support of Mercy Ships.

P: Each Sunday we will light an additional candles. As we do, we will rejoice that Christ has come to us. He is Immanuel...God is with us.

C: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope.

P: Hope is our assurance that God will finish all He has started. Hope is our confidence that He will do all He has promised. All the the promises of God are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He is our hope, today and forever!

ADVENT HYMN: (sung to the tune of Infant Holy, Infant Lowly)
Candles, glowing, promise showing the great hope that calms our fear.
Darkness scatters, worry shatters, Christ will always draw us near.
Calms our sighing, hears our crying, helps our trying, love undying—
Christ will always draw us near! Christ will always draw us near!

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be God's name forever.
Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.
Amen.

People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,
a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on ☩ Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

Hymn **“People, Look East”**

ELW #248

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**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

***Canticle of Praise** **“This Is the Feast”**

ELW p.149

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

*Benediction

Hymn **“The King Shall Come”** **ELW #260**

P Go in peace. Christ is near.

C Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God’s People, Pastor: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Kirstin Arndt

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Gloria Meltesen, Florence Dougherty, Darlene Babbitt,
John Acker, Lois Reineke, Judy Bever, Craig King, Wynn Liersch,
Mary Leis, Tracie Herman, Don Schreier, Debra Welch, Sterling
Schwartz, Patrick Reardon

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

(God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.)

*PEACE

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

OFFERING

*Offering plates are located in the Narthex as you
enter and exit the church.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.
Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

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.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In 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.

³Many 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.

⁴He 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.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122

¹I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

²**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.**

⁷Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

Second Reading

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live

honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**

“Alleluia”

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GOSPEL READING

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

The holy gospel according to Matthew 24:36-44

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But 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. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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

Sermon

Reverend Karen Sparling

Hymn

“My Lord, What a Morning”

ELW #438