



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 129, Wilton, WI 54670  
608-435-6647  
December 30, 2018  
First Sunday of Christmas

## Welcome and Announcements

The angel said to [the shepherds], “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem's manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

**Forgive our lack of faith and trust.**

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

**Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

**Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

With great joy the angels proclaimed, “Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

In ✠ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy!

**Amen.**

## **Gathering Carol**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

**ELW #275**

## **Greeting**

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

**And also with you.**

## **Canticle of Praise**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

**ELW #289**

## **Prayer of the Day**

**Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **Psalm 8**

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory above the heavens.  
<sup>2</sup>Out of the mouths of babes and infants  
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,  
to silence the enemy and the avenger.  
<sup>3</sup>When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;  
<sup>4</sup>what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?  
<sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them a little lower than God,  
and crowned them with glory and honor.  
<sup>6</sup>You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet,  
<sup>7</sup>all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,  
<sup>8</sup>the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.  
<sup>9</sup>O LORD, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**“For unto you is born a *Savior*, who is Christ, the Lord”**

**Lesson:** Isaiah 12:2-6

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the Lord GOD is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.  
<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.  
<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day:  
Give thanks to the LORD, all on his name;  
make known his deeds among the nations;  
proclaim that his name is exalted.  
<sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.  
<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Response:**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (**refrain only**)

**ELW #283**

**Lesson:** Matthew 1:18-21

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

**Carol:** “Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming”

**ELW #272**

**“For unto you is born a *Savior*, who is *Christ*, the Lord”**

**Lesson:** Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;

to bind up the brokenhearted,  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion —  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

<sup>2</sup>

**Response:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (**refrain only**)

**ELW #283**

**Lesson:** John 1:19-23, 29-34

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said,  
"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"  
as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>29</sup>The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup>And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him." <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but the one who

sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup>And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

**Carol:** "Let Our Gladness Have No End"

**ELW #291**

**"For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the *Lord*"**

**Lesson:** Isaiah 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out."

<sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

**Response:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (refrain only)

**ELW #283**

**Lesson:** Luke 1:26-35

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the

throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

**Carol:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**ELW #279**

Together we join in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**

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.**

Offering

**Offering Carol** “ Love Has Come”

**ELW #292**

Offering Prayer:

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Blessing**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,  
the obedience of Joseph,  
the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
and the everlasting peace of Jesus  
who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Carol** “Go Tell It on the Mountain”  
**Dismissal**

**ELW #290**

Go in peace. Serve our Savior, Christ, and Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

CALENDAR DECEMBER 30 – JANUARY 6

Tues., Jan. 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR!!	
Sun., Jan. 6	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Notice is hereby given of a Special Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, January 13, 2019, immediately following the worship service. The only business to be conducted at this meeting will be a discussion and possible vote to extend a call to a Rostered Minister as brought forth by the Call Committee, Church Council, and approved by the Bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod - ELCA.**

\*\*We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family of Mildred Radke who passed away on Friday, December 28. Mildred’s funeral will be held here at St. Paul’s on Saturday, January 5, 2019, at 1:00 PM.

\*\*Please have any items for the Annual Report to the office by Sunday, January 13. The Annual Report will be available after service on January 20, in plenty of time for your review, prior to the Annual Meeting, which will be held after service on January 20.

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Matt Zirk, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Robert Cale

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Shirley Meranti, Ron Clark, Carol Osteboe, Lorayne Denter, Marjorie Muhr, Ed Bauer, Jerry Eckelberg, Helen and Evan Summerfield, Linda Bauer, Linda Finnigan, Bob Sullivan, Stuart Thayer, Lois Schultz, Family of Roger Liefke and Family of Grace Eckelberg

\*\*\*In an emergency situation, please contact Caitlyn Stanek @608-633-1824 or Dan Buchholz @608-435-6126 (H) or 608-487-6525 ©

Prayer chain contact: Nalani @608-387-2311

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