

# HE IS COMING TO SAVE US

First Sunday in Advent

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

December 3, 2023

#### **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Paul's. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news of God's forgiveness through Jesus.

#### PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

Lord Jesus, you have brought me to the beginning of another church year as I wait in eager expectation of your coming on the Last Day. Bless me today as I prepare to celebrate the great truths concerning your first coming at Christmas. Prepare my heart to receive you, my King, and the assurance of the salvation you came to win for me and for all people. In your glorious name I pray. Amen.

#### FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Children's activity sheets are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. The church basement is also available with a live feed of the worship service along with a Kids' Corner for parents with children to utilize during the service if needed.

#### THANK OFFERING

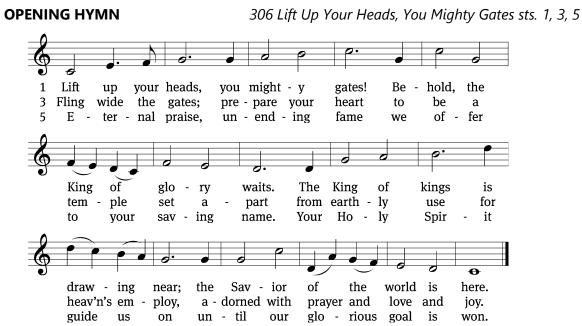
You may leave your offering in the plate in the lobby. The QR code to the right will provide the link to our online giving option. If you're visiting with us today you are welcome to give an offering, but don't feel compelled by guilt or embarrassment to do so. God wants all offerings to be made freely and with joy.



#### HOLY COMMUNION

Today St. Paul's will be celebrating Holy Communion. The Bible tells us that those who take the Lord's Supper together are to recognize that Christ's true body and blood are present in the Sacrament (1 Cor. 11:29), examine themselves (1 Cor. 11:28), and be united in faith with their fellow communicants (1 Cor. 10:17). For these reasons, it is our practice that only those who are members of St. Paul's or of a congregation within our fellowship join us at the Lord's Table. If you are interested in learning how you can partake of Holy Communion with us in the future, the pastor would be pleased to speak with you after the service.

The Service is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church that highlights the Word of God and the forgiveness, life, and salvation we receive through the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Georg Weissel, 1590–1635 Tune: Psalmodia Evangelica, London, 1789, ed. Thomas Williams Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

#### INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

#### CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

## **ABSOLUTION**

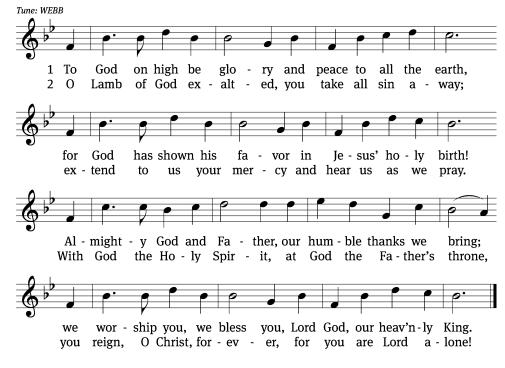
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

# **EXHORTATION**

In peace, let us praise the Lord.

#### **GLORY TO GOD**



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Tune: George J. Webb

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# The Word

## **SALUTATION**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1–9

<sup>1</sup>Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and come down.

Mountains then would quake because of your presence.

<sup>2</sup>As fire ignites stubble and as fire makes water boil, make your name known to your adversaries.

Then nations would quake in your presence.

<sup>3</sup>You did amazing things that we did not expect.

You came down. Mountains quaked because of your presence.

<sup>4</sup>From ancient times no one has heard.

No ear has understood.

No eye has seen any god except you,

who goes into action for the one who waits for him.

<sup>5</sup>You meet anyone who joyfully practices righteousness, who remembers you by walking in your ways!

But you were angry because we sinned.

We have remained in our sins for a long time.

Can we still be saved?

<sup>6</sup>All of us have become like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like a filthy cloth.

All of us have withered like a leaf,

and our guilt carries us away like the wind.

<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you.

So you hid your face from us.

You made us melt by the power of our guilt.

<sup>8</sup>But now, LORD, you are our father.

We are the clay, and you are our potter.

All of us are the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be angry, LORD, without limit.

Do not remember our guilt forever.

Please look closely.

All of us are your people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

# SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

<sup>4</sup>I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup>You were enriched in him in every way, in all your speaking and all your knowledge, <sup>6</sup>because the testimony about Christ was established in you. <sup>7</sup>As a result you do not lack any gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also keep you strong until the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, who called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Revelation 22:20

Alleluia!

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 11:1–10

<sup>1</sup>As they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, on the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup> and told them, "Go into the village ahead of you. As soon as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>3</sup>If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it, and he will send it back here without delay.'"

<sup>4</sup>They left and found a colt on the street, tied at a door; and they untied it. <sup>5</sup>Some who were standing there asked them, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" <sup>6</sup>The disciples answered them just as Jesus had instructed them, and the men let them go.

<sup>7</sup>They brought the colt to Jesus, threw their garments on it, and Jesus sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their garments on the road. Others spread branches that they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup>Those who went in front and those who followed were crying out,

Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

<sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!

Hosanna in the highest!

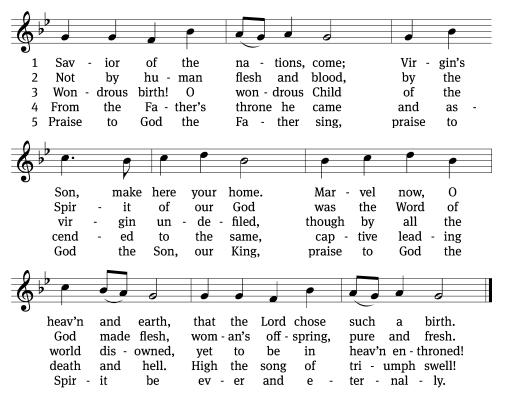
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

# 301 Savior of the Nations, Come



Text: tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–1876, alt.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; Ambrose of Milan, 340–397, abr. Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON Isaiah 64:1-9

Can We Still Be Saved?

#### 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 in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Be seated

#### **OFFERING**

"Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. Because where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The pastor speaks the Prayer of the Church on behalf of the congregation.

Stand

# The Sacrament

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we also bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. See p.295 in the hymnal for preparation.

## **PREFACE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

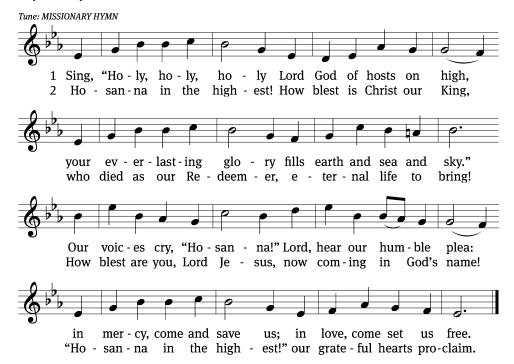
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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Tune: Lowell Mason

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Tune: Public domain

# PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

#### 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.

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

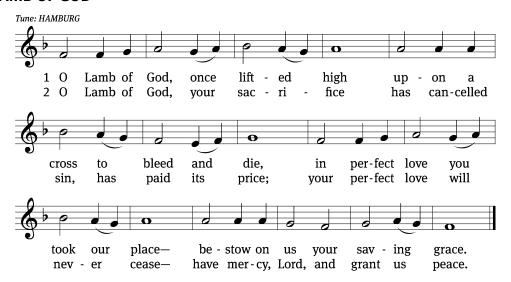
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

#### **LAMB OF GOD**



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Tune: Lowell Mason

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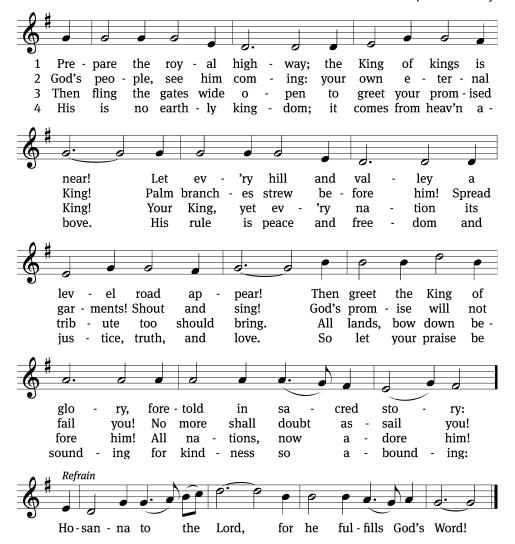
Be seated

## DISTRIBUTION

"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:16,17). Please follow the directions of the ushers during distribution.



#### DISTRIBUTION HYMN

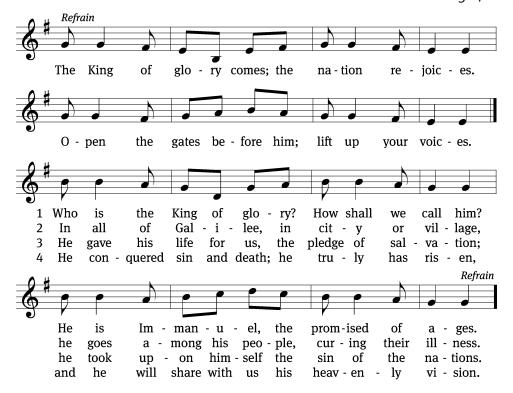


Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847 Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889 Tune: Public domain

# 548 The King of Glory Comes

#### DISTRIBUTION HYMN



Text: Willard F. Jabusch, 1930-2018, alt.

Tune: Israeli, 20th cent.

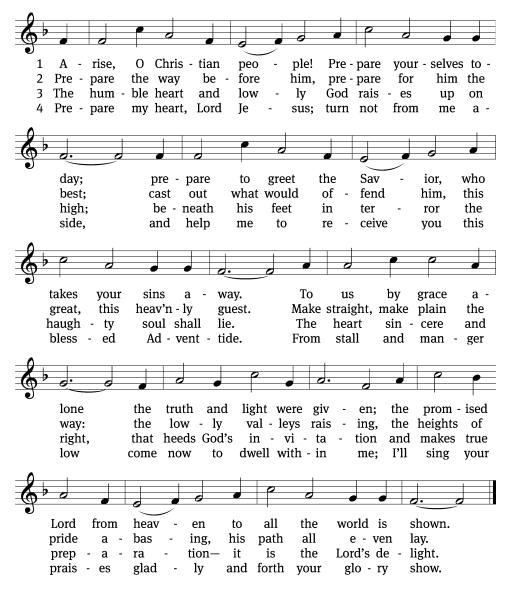
Text: © 1966, 1985 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889

Tune: Public domain

# 310 Arise, O Christian People

#### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

as needed



Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–1662; (sts. 1–3): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt. Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

#### **THANKSGIVING**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

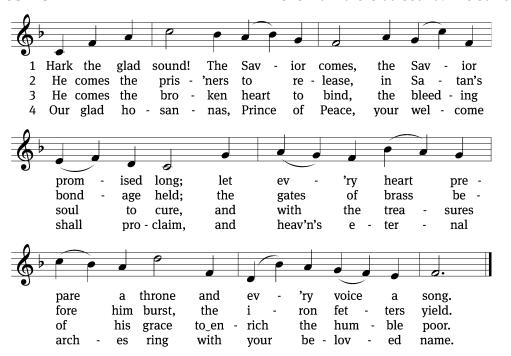
Amen.

Be seated



# CLOSING HYMN

# 313 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751, abr., alt. Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

# **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT IS TODAY!**

St. Paul's Ladies Aid will host an Advent by Candlelight, by women for women, for ladies of the congregation, female family members and friends today, December 3, at 2:00 pm in the church basement. The theme for the event is "The King Shall Come." There is no charge for the event. This is a wonderful afternoon of Word, music, and fellowship to help prepare your hearts for the Advent season before the holidays get into full swing. Refreshments will be served. To help the committee plan, please sign up on the bulletin board in the entryway with your name(s) and number attending in your group.

#### MIDWEEK STUDY - THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Our midweek Bible study is on one of the most interesting books of Scripture: Revelation. Chapter by chapter the author cuts a pathway through each vision and prophecy of Revelation until he reaches the clearing where we behold a new heaven and a new earth. The 12 Lessons include: The Purpose, Outline and Interpretation of the Book; The Letters to the Seven Churches; God's Rule of the World; The Seven Seals; God's Judgment of the World; The Church Secure and Glorified; The Devil and His Helpers Appear; The Seven Bowls of Wrath; The Downfall of the Devil's Allies; The Millennium; The New Heaven and the New Earth; and Review. Join us as we continue to dive into the imagery and meaning of Christ our Savior in the book of Revelation.

#### **PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS - CHRISTMAS EVE**

Any 4K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade public school students in the congregation are invited to participate in the Christmas Eve evening services at St. Paul's. Children's services are at 4:30 and 6:00 pm that evening. Copies of the service for memorization will be placed in the narthex (on the shelf under the worship bulletins). A practice schedule will also be placed there after it is set. If your child is participating, please coordinate rides during the school day with the Bangor school office. If transportation is needed, please contact Pastor Groth.

#### **PIZZA RANCH SUPPER**

The 5-8 Graders would like to invite you to supper at Pizza Ranch. On Tuesday December 5th 4pm - 9pm. 10 and younger kids will eat free with a paying adult. Hope to see you there.

#### **GIVING TREE**

The Ladies Aid has put up a Giving Tree in the narthex. Feel free to bring something to place on the tree as a gift to someone else, and feel free to grab something from the tree for yourself!

#### **LUTHER FRUIT AND MORE DELIVERY**

For those who ordered items from the Luther Fruit and More sale, the fruit and cookies will be arriving to Luther Thursday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, but the coffee will be late and will arrive Monday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **HEALTHY MARRIAGE**

WELS Discipleship has scheduled a Marriage Enrichment weekend, Jan. 19-21, 2024. It's hosted at the Stella Hotel and Ballroom in Kenosha, WI.

Jesus has identified "determinants of a healthy marriage," things that affect the health of your marriage. As it turns out, the same factors that contribute to a healthy life with Jesus contribute to a healthy marriage. Healthy Marriage



will help you learn those "determinants of a healthy marriage." More than that, Healthy Marriage will equip you to practice them and maintain the health of your marriage long after this memorable weekend retreat.

The weekend includes lodging for two days, breakfast on both days, lunch on Saturday, and all workshop materials. The deadline to register is Dec. 19, 2023 (use QR code). Register early; space is limited.

#### LIVE NATIVITY SIGNUP

Start a new family tradition of sharing the good news of Christ's birth by volunteering down at Riverside Park. Many people are needed to staff the diorama each of the following evenings: November 24, 25, 26, and December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 25. Pick a night or two and come down for any amount of time you can spare. (Friday/Saturdays 5-10pm...Sundays 5-9pm) Sign up using one of the following ways: 1) Under the event on the Live Nativity Riverside- Diorama Facebook page; 2) Text/call Maria Johnson



608-397-4810 or email johnson.maria@live.com; 3) Scan the QR code to get to the signup link.

## **OFFERING SUMMARY** (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2023 Weekly Budget: \$11,203.00 Budget to Date: \$537,744.00 Received Last Week: \$10,234.43 Rec'd to Date: \$384,053.93

#### LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 106 Live Stream Peak: 22 10:00 am: 70 Total: 198

Sunday Bible Study: 30 Sunday School: 10 Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 31

#### LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

The following is the list of men who have been nominated for service to the Lord at St. Paul's (asterisk denotes an incumbent). Voting will take place at the annual meeting in January.

#### **Church Council**

Dan Arndt\*
Blake Horstman
Chad Horstman\*
Tim Johnson
Steve Lund
Todd Miller

## Stewardship-Evangelism

Michael Johnson\* Scott Rich

# **Luther High Association**

Jon Engelbrecht Donald Peterson\* Gary Schomberg Josh Stratman Kevin Stratman\* Al Urbanek

## **Finance Committee**

Justin Bera\*

Troy Duerwachter
Tyler Duerwachter
Luke Frederick\*
James Gade
Matt Garves
Kris Hammes
Ben Horstman
Carter Horstman
Jeff Koltermann
Zach Kotek
John Langrehr Jr.
Grant Manke
Steve Parr\*
Brad Spoo
Jesse Todd

# **Education Committee**

(No expired terms this year)

# **CALENDAR**

TODAY	8:00 am 9:10 am 9:15 am 10:00 am <b>2:00 pm</b>	Worship with Communion Sunday School Bible Study Worship with Communion Advent by Candlelight
MONDAY	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
TUESDAY	10:00 am 4:00 pm 7:00 pm	Mornings with Mommy St. Paul's School at Pizza Ranch Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am 3:30 pm 5:30 pm 7:00 pm	Bible Study (same as Tues.) Public School Catechism Class Education Committee Church Council
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am 9:10 am 9:15 am 10:00 am	Worship Sunday School Bible Study Worship

## **SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Presiding Minister Accompanist** 

Pastor Brock Groth Harriet Langrehr

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