



**St. Paul
Lutheran Church**
share • care • grow
La Grange, Texas

The Rev. William J. Sappenfield, *Interim Pastor*
Organist: Sherise Davis

**Saturday
December 24, 2022
Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve**



Next weekend's readings:

Isaiah 63: 7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2: 10-18

Matthew 2: 13-23

LISTEN TO ST. PAUL SERVICES!

Visit our webpage, www.stpaulg.org, and click "**Listen**" to hear our services live on your smart phone or computer! You can also view our bulletin, weekly service video, newsletters and current calendar. Visit our Facebook page to view the service live Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. William J. Sappenfield, Interim Pastor

Cell: 512-825-0842 Email: wsappenfield@att.net

Pastor Office Hours Mon.-Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

PO Box 567 / 110 W. Walnut Street, La Grange, Texas 78945

Parish Office: 979-968-5657 Fellowship Hall: 979-968-9603

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.; 2 - 5 p.m.

e-mail: stpaul@cvctx.com Web Page: www.stpaulg.org

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Welcome!

- + Welcome to worship! All are welcome at the table of grace. We believe that Christ is truly present as we share the bread and wine. Those at home are invited to participate with appropriate elements.
- + The 9 a.m. service will be on Facebook live & audio streamed on our webpage, www.stpaullg.org. It will also be posted on our Facebook page. You may listen to last week's service on KBUK 104.9 FM on Sundays at 10 am.
- + Everyone is invited for coffee and snacks in the Fellowship Hall following Sunday morning's service.

Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles

GATHER

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

289

Christmas Dialog and Greeting

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of the people.

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Anthem

Bring Us Hope

by Ruth Elaine Schram

WORD

The First Reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

Psalm: Psalm 96

¹Sing to the LORD a new song;

 sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
 proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations
 and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
 more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
 but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
 power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
 ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
 bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
 tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples
with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
 let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
 for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
 and the peoples with your truth.

The Second Reading: Titus 2: 11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

Gospel Acclamation *ELW 142*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14 [15-20]

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child

lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Word

Sermon

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

#279

Nicene Creed

A: 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

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

Your infinite love is born to us. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is suffering, and healing where there is disease. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, or grieving. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You welcome those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place who have praised you with lives of faith and humility. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering *The offering plates will be passed.*

Anthem *Carol for Advent*

by Nancy Price and Don Besig

Offering Song *ELW 186*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Offering Prayer

P: God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh

Amen.

MEAL

The Great Thanksgiving *ELW 144*

P: The Lord be with you. **And also 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 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to the love of God whom we cannot see. 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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, 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

Communion

All are welcome to the Lord's table. White grape juice is in the center of the tray of cups. If you are physically unable to come forward for communion, please tell an usher and communion will be brought to you. You may also remain in your pew and use a prepackaged kit.

Hymns During Communion

Good Christian Friends Rejoice # 288

Infant Holy # 276

Away in a Manger # 277

Prayer after Communion

P: We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

P: : For this, our Savior was born – that his body and blood may strengthen you and keep you in grace now and forever. **Amen.**

Candlelighting

The worshipper in each pew at the center aisle will light their candle from the usher's candle and pass the flame to the next person.

The Gospel of the Incarnation: John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. The baby born in Bethlehem has brought the light of God into the world.

Let the light of Christ shine on us!

Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night

#281

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Blessing

P: Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels , the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Rejoin in Christ our Savior. **Thanks be to God.**

THIS Weekend:

7:00 pm **USHERS:** Don Koether, Jackie Skelton
LECTOR: Don Koether
ALTAR GUILD: Pastor Sid & Susan Roden
9:00 am **USHERS:** Scott & Kathy Toensing
LECTOR: Kathy Toensing
ALTAR GUILD: Pastor Sid and Susan Roden
FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS : None this week
FLOWERS: Poinsettias

NEXT Weekend: 12/31 & 1/1

5:00 pm **USHERS:** Billy & Christie Nietsche
LECTOR: To Be Determined
ALTAR GUILD: JoLene and Gerald Hughes
9:00 am **USHERS:** Wayne Anders Family
LECTOR: To Be Determined
ALTAR GUILD: JoLene and Gerald Hughes
FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS: Linda Anders
FLOWERS: Open

SATURDAY: 7:00 pm Worship

SUNDAY: 9:00 am Worship

**WEDNESDAY: DEADLINE FOR
2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

Next Week: 12/31 & 1/1

SATURDAY : 5:00 pm Worship

SUNDAY: 9:00 am Worship



SAVE THE DATE— The Annual Meeting of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church will be Sunday, January 22, 2023. **All information for the Annual Report must be in the Church Office by WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2022 by NOON** to allow time for printing and mailing of the report as per St. Paul Constitutional guidelines. Please call the church office if you have any questions. Thank you.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available. Please get your box but don't start using them until 2023! All offerings given or postmarked by December 31, 2022 will be included on your 2022 Giving Statement. If you do not see your box, contact Ruth in the church office.

CHRIST IN OUR HOME devotionals for January-March are on the Narthex counter.

THE 2023 FLOWER CALENDAR is available on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please consider providing flowers to decorate the sanctuary in the coming year. If you wish to donate in memory or honor of someone, please let the Church office know so that information can be included in the bulletin.





In Memory of Tammy Eilert by Glenn Eilert

In Memory of Elton & Ruby Jochen by Wayne, Linda, Justin, & Katie Anders

In Memory of Eroy & Ora Lee Roscher by Wayne, Linda, Justin, & Katie Anders

In Memory of Wilbert & Myrtle Diers and Frankie & Callie Burke by Kenneth & Linda Diers

In Memory of Don Morrison and John Hignite by Linda Morrison & Paul Mikula

In Memory of Daniel Pietsch by Shelly Pietsch, Kalie, & Kyla

In Memory of Shirley Bennetsen and Milton, Brian, & Ryan Bage by Leroy & Carolyn Bennetsen

In Honor of Tory, Bamba, Baron, Sharon, Greg, & Mark and their families by Leroy & Carolyn Bennetsen

In Memory of Franklin Brandt by Elaine Brandt

In Memory of Marian Busch, Margaret & Milton Cox, Callie Morgan, John Ed Morgan, & Paul Blanchard by Clay & Susie Morgan and Family

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Leward Anders and Mr. & Mrs. Edward Anders by Wayne Anders & Family, Gary Anders & Family, and Phyllis Bohot & Family.

In Memory of Bonnie Freudenberg by Gilbert Freudenberg & Family

In Memory of Charles Rau by Faye Rau and Rocky, Miranda, Robbie, Tabatha, Jackson, Carson, & Madison Rau

In Memory of their Parents and In Honor of their Family by Royce & Elva Keilers

In Loving Memory of Henry Weber and In Honor of her Children, Grandchildren, and Great Grandchildren by Gladys Weber

In Memory of Glen Prause and Tommy Prause by Laurie Stork & Family

In Memory of Glen Prause and Tommy Prause by Velrie Prause & Family

In Memory of Delton & Allyne Lincke by Gary & Gale Lincke

In Memory of Alfred & Ore Nell Frerichs by Chuck & Karen Bellue and Family

In Memory of Milton C. Schmidt by Betty Schmidt & Family

In Memory of Henry Weber by Kenny & Patti Weber

In Memory of Harry Namken by Gary and Kathie Nitsche

In Memory of Bradley Frerichs, Milton C. Schmidt, Edgar Frerichs, Barbara Mueller, & Lola Whileyman by Ralph & Faith Frerichs and Family

In Memory of Charles Koether and Glenn & Dorothy Koether by Erwin & Bonnie Sladek and Rhonda Koether