

Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine

(LCMS)

Second Wednesday of Advent

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Senior Pastor: Rev. Alfonso O. Espinosa, Ph.D.

Assistant Pastor: Rev. Steven P. Mueller, Ph.D.

Organist: Gerald Dahlin

Administrative coordinator: Sheryl Kim

Office Hours: 10:00am-2:00pm (M-F)

949-599-4760

Our Mission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (*Matthew 28:19-20*)

Our Vision: "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (*Acts 2:42*)

Prayer before worship:

"O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth. I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen."

The Advent Season

Advent means 'coming.' In this little season of approximately four weeks, we prepare for our Lord's threefold arrival. Advent begins always the Sunday nearest to St. Andrew's Day. Like Lent. Advent is a season of penitence. During these days...we seek our Lord renewal in His gifts of repentance and faith so that we may greet Him with a joyful, clear conscience when He appears as Judge on the Last Day...we seek from Him renewal in His gifts of repentance and faith so that we welcome Him as He comes to us even now in His Means of Grace...we seek from Him renewal in His gifts of repentance and faith so that we may welcome our Lord with joy at the great Feast of the Nativity...Advent is a yearly gift when Christians discover anew the truth: 'In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength' (Isaiah 30:15)." (William Weedon, *Celebrating the Saints*, CPH, pg. 247)

Prelude

Greeting

☩ To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

☩ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen

--Revelation 1:5b-6

Order of service

Vespers, page 229 in the hymnal

Psalm 25 (front of hymnal)

Office Hymn 335

Readings from Holy Scripture:

Isaiah 55:6-13

6 Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;

7 let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater

11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

12 For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the LORD,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

☩ O Lord, have mercy on us.

☩ **Thanks be to God**

Philippians 4:4-9

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness[☩] be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned[☩] and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

☩ O Lord, have mercy on us.

☩ **Thanks be to God**

Responsory for Advent, page 230

Sermon Hymn 387

Sermon
“Coming Joy”
Pastor Espinosa

Part I: How we cut ourselves off from joy (Isaiah 61:6-9)

Part II: How the Lord intervenes that joy might be received (Isaiah 61:10-11)

Part III: What joy looks like and what it springs from (Isaiah 61:12-13)

Canticle and Magnificat, pages 231-232

Kyrie and Lord’s Prayer, pages 233

Collect for Advent

"Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever."

[sung Amen]

Collect for Peace, page 233

[sung Amen]

Benedicamus and Benediction, page 234

Closing Hymn: 803

+ Soli Deo Gloria+

Offerings may be placed in the box on the entrance table on your way out. (Guests, please note that offerings are always voluntary. We are glad you joined us today!)



Upcoming New Services

[In addition to every Sunday at 9:30am]

Advent Services:

Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00 pm: Peace.

Christmas Eve morning:

Sunday, December 24th at 9:30 am

Christmas Eve:

Sunday, December 24th at 7 pm

❖ Carols and Christmas Readings (individual electronic candles will be given to everyone)

Christmas Morning:

Monday, December 25th at 9:30 am

First NEW Wednesday Service through The Pauline Epistles:

Begins Wednesday, December 27th at 7pm

Pastor Espinosa is preaching at the installation for church son, Rev. Dr. Steve Parks, becoming the new regular pastor at Hope Lutheran Church, 1041 E. Foothill Blvd., Glendora. This service is on Sunday, January 7th at 2 pm. All are invited.

First NEW Sunday early evening service at 4 pm: January 14th, 2024

Special Service Offerings

Please join us on Sunday, December 17th at 4:00pm at Regents Point in Irvine. We sponsor a worship service once per month at the Senior Living facility in order to serve retired members of our community. You are invited to come with Pastor Espinosa to share the love of Christ with the residents. Regents Point is located at 19191 Harvard Ave, Irvine (not far from UCI). Walk into the main doors and the gathering room is to your left (just beyond the sign-in desk).

To donate to our building fund:

Text dollar amount to (844) 794-2206 (*specify building fund*)

Online at www.saintpaulsirvine.com/online-giving (select "Building Fund") *Note: Works best with Chrome or Explorer.*

Check (*please write "building fund" in the memo*)

Cash (*marked envelopes provided on the entrance table*)



This Sunday, December 17, 9:30 am Sermon:

"Christmas Is for the Poor, Brokenhearted, and the Captive" (Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)

"Journey Through God's Word" Bible Study at 11 am:

Philippians. Come and collect all of the summary handouts of the books of the Holy Bible!

New Announcement:

St. Paul's has a long-standing relationship with ***The Teen Project and her founder and president Lauri Burns.***

In years past we have provided Christmas gifts, other resources, and even a used van!

We have reconnected with them for Christmas 2023!

We will send everyone an email with a LINK so that you can help with Christmas gifts to the young women staying at Vera's Sanctuary.

The email will contain the following information with The Teen Project logo, information about Vera's Sanctuary, and a LINK to TARGET gift registry.

Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's gift drive for those in need!

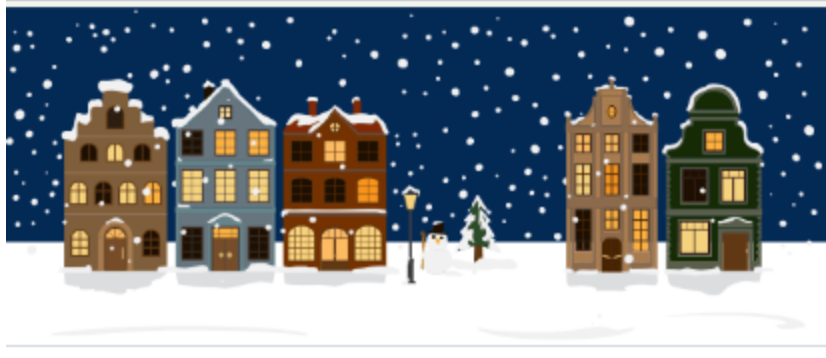


Vera's Sanctuary rescues sex trafficked victims, providing a safe place where the trajectory of their lives is changed from hopelessness and fear to hope and healing.

Some of these young women have babies who are welcomed into the program, becoming an integral part of the supportive environment as their moms undergo recovery. Help unwrap healing to these precious ladies by clicking on the link below and purchasing a holiday gift from the registry



Click on the link **above** and
put a present under the tree for one
special girl!



Circle of Friends

*For those we care about to come
to saving faith and have a church home...*

Have a friend who needs prayer or would like
a meeting with pastor? **Use this QR code** to let
us know!



More comfortable with pen and paper?

**Paper forms are available on
the entrance table.**

Calling all High School Youth (and your friends!)

Pastor Espinosa is taking two trips to Higher Things events:

1st: Is a mini-conference at First Lutheran Church, El Cajon (San Diego), CA, Friday, January 12th through Saturday, January 13th, 2024. Theme: Masks of God

This one is low cost and pastor will be driving his van to take a group. We might need possibly one other vehicle and definitely another parent chaperone.

2nd: The main conference at Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR, Tuesday, July 23rd through Friday, July 26th, 2024. Theme: Who Am I

This one will require a fundraiser (which we have an idea for) so that we can raise funds for airfare to fly to Portland and also to pay for the registration which includes room and board.

This one will require at least two chaperones (male and female) who will serve along with Pastor Espinosa

Please let Pastor Espinosa know if you are interested!