

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine

(LCMS)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Divine Service

9:30 AM

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

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

Organist: Gerald Dahlin

Administrative Coordinator: Sheryl Kim

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Concordia University Irvine – Spectrum Campus

16355 Laguna Canyon Rd

Irvine, CA 92618

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*)

+ In Jesus' Name +

Divine Service

9:30–10:35

Fellowship

10:35–11:00 (café)

Bible Class

11:00–11:45

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."

Instruction in biblical, Christian teaching using the outline of Luther's Small Catechism is available to all adults who are interested in joining our fellowship leading to adult confirmation. *Please talk to Pastor Espinosa if you are interested in catechism classes for you and/or your children.*

THE LORD'S SUPPER is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, **any who are not yet instructed**, are in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, **are asked first to speak to one of the pastors.**

Please use your freedom in the Gospel to receive either the individual cup or the chalice. If the pastor does not see you holding an individual cup, then he will present the blood of Christ to you in the chalice (common cup). *Please NOTE: We have gluten-free wafers available for those who have a gluten allergy. Please speak to a pastor or elder before the service.*

The structure of our worship emphasizes God coming to serve us through His Word and Sacrament. Since every aspect of the liturgy is based on the Word of God, we are led by His Word throughout the entire

service. In addition, Lutheran hymnody leads us to praise the Triune God, while teaching the faith that we then confess back to God! Please ask Pastor Al if you would like a free copy of the LSB hymnal (retail: \$30.00) and he will get one to you. Please feel free to use your hymnal in church!

This is the Saving Gospel/The Good News: God forgives you all your sins, gives you eternal life, and abundant life now led by Him ***all on account of Jesus Christ by grace through faith in Jesus!*** To know Jesus as your Savior is to be delivered from sin, death, and the power of the devil. God is FOR YOU in and through Jesus Christ! Please read Luke 24:47, John 3:16, John 1:29, John 6:51, 1 John 1:7, 1 John 2:2, Matthew 11:28, Romans 11:32, 2 Peter 3:9, Romans 10:12, Romans 3:22, and John 6:40. This service brings the life-giving Word and Sacraments of Jesus to you so that your saving faith in this Gospel would be fed and nourished! Welcome!

Special Guest Musicians: This morning we welcome our fellow member Amanda Fagan and members of her band. Amanda has tens of thousands of followers for her music and has been on demand at local concerts (for example, the Orange County Fair and Vanguard University). This morning, her band will present acoustical arrangements for our pre-service music and our Holy Communion distribution.

Greeting and Introduction of Musicians

P Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

C and they shall call his name Immanuel.

-- Isaiah 7:14

Pre-Service Special Music: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Confession and Absolution

Stand

*The sign of the cross T may be made by all in remembrance of their
Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d' rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

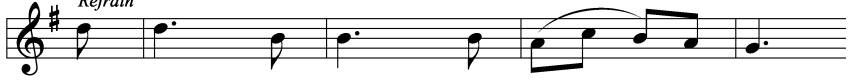


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

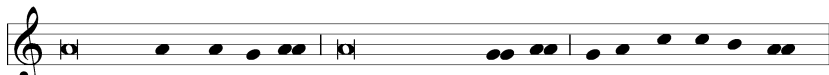
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



B Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



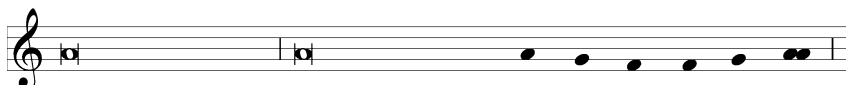
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



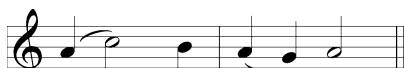
C Lord, have mer - cy.



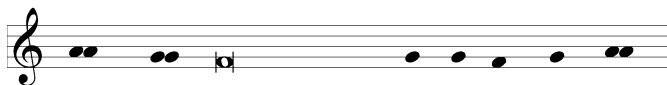
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the

people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

357 O come, O come, Emmanuel stanzas 1-4

- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;

Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

Epistle

Romans 16:25–27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

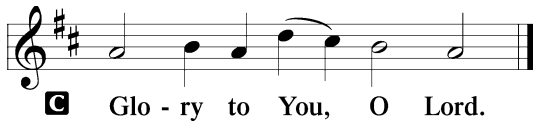


The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a square 'C' time signature, indicating common time. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?". The second staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia."

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26–38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He 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 father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



sit

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn: The Angel Gabriel



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 And Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924

Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon According to God's Word

Luke 1:38

Pastor Mueller

Stand

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Sit

Apostles' Creed

- C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and the life T everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

- L In peace let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and
with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the
world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all
to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the
common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us
pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Offering

Stand

Offertory



☐ What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

Announcements

+Dismissal of Online Participants and Blessing+

[1 Corinthians 11:23-29 instructs pastors since they are stewards of the mysteries (1st Corinthians 4:1) to serve only those who share in a common confession. If you are still learning about our confession and not yet confirmed, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest. Pastor would love to meet with you to prepare you to receive the Holy Sacrament.]

Service of the Sacrament

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



C And al-so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



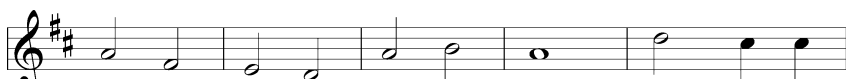
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
 of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

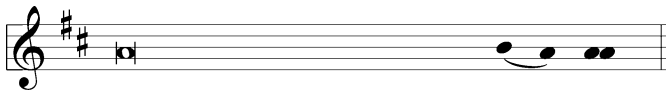
**C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

Special Music: Bethlehem Road

Special Music: What Child is This

336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



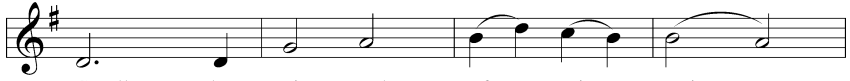
1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion
4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,



Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;



Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



Swell the tri - umph of His train:
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
Claim the king - dom as Thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

The Dismissal

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart T in peace.
C **Amen.**

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 181

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joyce and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joyce and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

- A Let us pray.

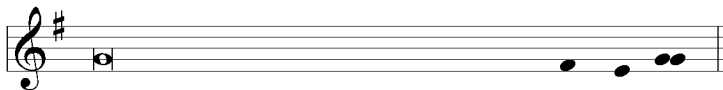
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 183



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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Postlude

From Heaven Above
--Johan Pachelbel

**Worship Attendance Form
For Members & Guests:**

(or you may fill out an attendance card at the entrance table. GUESTS, please sign our guestbook at the entrance table.)



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]

Christmas Eve with special guests musicians including a Quartet from Crean Lutheran High School and a special guest, Jacob Thornblad, who will provide some accompaniment on violin:

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 (Romans 1)

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



YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

We are meeting during the school year every second and fourth Saturday at 4pm.

For any questions or information, please contact:
Shane Perry at (949) 400-6426
or shaneperryca@gmail.com
Instagram: @lamplight_youngadults

LIGHT OF THE WORLD PODCAST

Please check out our latest episode, Season 2, Episode 7 on Atheism.
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**LIGHT OF THE WORLD
PODCAST**

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Average Sunday Attendance 2023

(Averages include those who registered online attendance)

January: 71	April: 91	July: 82
February: 78	May: 83	August: 98
March: 82	June: 77	September: 81
October: 87	November: 80	

Wednesday Service attendance: 11/22: 37, 12/6: 35, 12/13: 26,
12/20: 27

Last week, Sunday, December 17th: 55 in person 4 online

“IN CHRIST”

ONLINE DAILY DEVOTIONS

We trek through **the entire** Word of God in 2023 in
chronological order.

Every episode is recorded on Facebook.

facebook.com/PastorAOE/

EDUCATION

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS: We are taking a
Christmas break and will be back with the book of
Colossians on Sunday, January 7th.



CONFIRMATION CLASS

Pastor Espinosa is starting brand new **adult** instruction class (catechesis)
the first week of January. **If you are interested for yourself or your
family, please let Pastor Espinosa know.** Also, Pastor Espinosa meets
with youth the ages of 11-14 for youth confirmation. Please let him know
if you would like to enroll your child.

BUILDING FUND

Total Donations as of December 10: \$115,076

Total Expenditures as of December 10: \$63,212

In the coming months, many more expenditures will be on the way. These funds will support the installation of stained glass, lighting, ceiling tiles, a new altar, and more. Donations to our building fund are still very much needed and appreciated.

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*)

Please pray for our Missionaries...

St. Paul's is helping to support these missionaries with financial gifts to the national synod annually:

Rev. Daniel and Kathy Conrad

Serving the Lord in the Dominican Republic

Rev. Dr. John and Melinda Bombaro

Serving the Lord in the Czech Republic • Theological Educator

Erin Mackenzie

Serving the Lord in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region

Mark Winterstein

Serving the Lord in Germany — Refugee Outreach Missionary



St. Paul's has formed friendships with these missionaries and are not currenting supporting them financially:

Tirzah Krey, Regional Human Care Coordinator

Serving the Lord in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

Britt Odemba

Serving the Lord in Kenya

Rev. Dr. Tom Park

Serving the Lord in Taiwan

St. Paul's also supports our local evangelist Rev. Mark Jasa.

Please pray for our Church Leaders...

Our Parish Council members and Elders are so appreciated. Please pray that God grant them strength and bless their ministry to our church:

St. Paul's Parish Council Members

Debbie Dannemeyer – President

Matt Bures – Secretary

Ken Mott – Treasurer

Laura Miller – Financial Secretary

Steve Fischer – Trustee

Paul Fick- Stewardship

Mark Kuntz – Presiding Elder

Angela Perry – Fellowship Director

Bradley Hustad – Evangelism Director

Kate Panichi – Education Director

Danielle Vergara – Youth Director

St. Paul's Elders: Mark Kuntz (Presiding Elder), Brad Perry, Bruce Dannemeyer, Bryan Kilduff, John Church, Jon Steele, Karl Blanke, Michael Padilla, Steve Fischer



The Bulletin Board

Life Quote:

"You might not be impressive by the world's standards. You might be a third-shift worker, a nameless neighbor, or a sinner who messed up in very public ways. But the angel declared good news for all people, which logically must include you. So, rejoice today! A Savior was born to you!" *Pastor Mike Novotny, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Weekly Stewardship Message:

2 Peter 3:11 – "Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness?" All the things of the earth have an expiration date: "Good until the last day." On that day, all these things will be dissolved. The things that seem so important now will simply cease to be. Peter issues this to us as a challenge: Since this is so, what kind of life should we be living? What should your priorities be? On things? Or on the things of God?



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!

The Christian Family at Prayer

Go to pages 295-298 of the hymnal and choose one of the following:

Morning, Noon, Early Evening, or Close of Day

For a very brief devotion, simply use the opening sentences, concluding prayers, and blessing.

Additionally, you may insert the following:

-Hymn of the Week

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

-Daily Lectionary (pp. 299-304)

Use as the "appointed reading."

-Small Catechism (pp. 321-330)

-Psalm

See p. 304 or simply plan on reading all 150 psalms ("The Psalter") each month.

-Prayers:

Go to p. 294 or use the special prayers on pp. 305-318.

You may also choose to use:

Responsive Prayer 1 (pp. 282-284)

Responsive Prayer 2 (pp. 285-287)

The Litany (pp. 288-289)

Or other services like:

Matins (pp. 219-228)

Evening Prayer (pp 243-252)

Compline (pp. 253-259)

These may be used for variety on any given day or evening.



Note: Some apps, such as YouTube Music, enable you to download these services so that you may learn to chant them.

SERVICE TEAM SCHEDULE

Date	Altar Team	Ushers/ Greeters	Elders on Duty	Entrance Area	Livestream
<i>Service Team Chairs</i>	<i>Mei Kuntz</i>	<i>Mark Kuntz</i>	<i>Mark Kuntz</i>	<i>Laura Hendricks</i>	<i>Jon Steele</i>
Sunday 12/17	Ali Frank/Laura Miller	Bill Frank/ Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff/Mark Kuntz	Cindy Kilduff	Shane Perry
Sunday 12/24	Jeanette Dahlin/Ann Wright	Gary & Daisy Minter/Barne y Wright	John Church/Jon Steele	Anne Wright	John Steele
Sunday 12/31	Mei Kuntz		Mike Padilla/Mark Kuntz	Laura Hendricks	
Sunday 1/7/24	Nina Mueller/Myra Taylor	Alex Padilla	Bruce Dannemeye r/Karl Blanke	Kui Geisler	

Fellowship Rotation

Date	Set up/Clean up	Notes
Sunday 12/17	Jeanette Dahlin	
Sunday 12/24	No Fellowship Over Christmas Weekend	
Sunday 12/31	Angela Perry	
Sunday 1/7	Liana Padilla	

Ongoing Services

HOLY ABSOLUTION – The Sacrament of Holy Absolution is offered by appointment with Pastor Espinosa. Pastor is pretty flexible in scheduling these appointments. They are generally conducted in his study but can be done in another location.

HOLY BAPTISM – Infant children of congregation members should be baptized as soon as possible after birth. Baptism may take place in the hospital, at home, or on the first Sunday the child is brought to church. The sooner, the better. Older children and adults ordinarily are baptized after a period of instruction (catechesis); young children and infants are baptized with the promise on the part of parents and sponsors that they will be taught the Christian faith and raised as worshipping members of the body of Christ. If you wish to be baptized or have your children baptized, please speak with Pastor Espinosa.

SICK AND SHUT-IN COMMUNION – Holy Communion will be brought to members who are too frail to leave their homes and come to church. If you are not able to come to church to hear God’s Word and eat and drink Jesus’ body and blood, please inform your elder or Pastor.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK – If you are ill, facing surgery, or are hospitalized, please be sure to contact your elder or Pastor for anointing and prayer as described in James 5.

WEDDINGS – Please inform Pastor of your intention to marry before you set a firm date. Usually, three months provides ample opportunity to prepare for your marriage as well as your wedding day. Ordinarily, weddings are not performed during Holy Week.

COMMENDATION OF THE DYING—When the last moments are imminent, we offer a beautiful and personal family service filled with prayers and psalms. It is a great way to comfort the dying and to minister to the entire family. This is done in residences, convalescent homes, hospitals, or wherever it needs to be done.

FUNERALS AND MEMORIALS—We stand by our people through this time of bereavement. We meet to comfort loved ones and honor the deceased. We will coordinate with your chosen funeral home and then plan a rich service (or services) to give glory and praise to God who will raise our bodies from the grave. We do not grieve as those with no hope

(1st Thess 4:13), but we still grieve and so we run to the Lord for His compassion and peace given through His Word.

HOUSE BLESSINGS – Scripture says "everything...is consecrated by the Word of God and prayer" (1 Tim 4:4-5) and we have a special service in our pastoral companion book that presents a beautiful service for house blessings. Pastor Espinosa would love to come and provide this for your home. Just contact us and we will schedule an appointment for a time convenient for you.

FAMILY VISITATIONS – Pastor Espinosa is happy to meet with your family at your home or in his study for applying God's Word and prayer to anything you'd like to talk about. Please speak with Pastor.

New Announcement:

Congregational Voters Meeting

January 14, 2024

Following the Worship Service

Purpose: 2024 Budget Approval

Special Announcement from Pastor Espinosa

For the past decade St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine has supported The Teen Project led by President/CEO Lauri Burns. Thank you for those of you who purchased Christmas gifts for the young women (some with young children) who are staying at Vera's Sanctuary for Women here in South County. We are now switching gears, asking you to prayerfully consider helping the Los Angeles

location. It is the largest rescue facility for human trafficked young women. Two weeks ago, the new fire chief revoked their fire permit until some very expensive updates are installed. The facility was therefore closed, and the young women staying there were forced to leave. Last week, one of them having to leave (Jasmine Lynne Richardson) died. The Teen Project is now seeking to raise \$230,200.00 for the required updates to get their program re-opened. Thus far, just over \$70,000.00 has been raised. The ***gofundme*** can be accessed at:

<https://gofund.me/4f4af1cf>

Some years ago, as the senior pastor of our congregation, one of our members was in desperate need for detox and emergency shelter. I called Lauri at the last minute, and she facilitated our member getting into the Los Angeles facility and receiving the critical professional care that was needed to save her life.

This is a tremendously worthy cause. If you would like to learn more about The Teen Project, you can access their website at ***theteenproject.com***

In Your Service and To Christ's Glory,

Pastor Espinosa