

**St. Paul's Lutheran  
Church of Irvine  
(LCMS)  
The Nativity of Our Lord  
Christmas Eve  
Sunday, December 24, 2023  
Service of Candles and Carols  
December 24, 2023**

**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  
Office: 10-2 M-F; 949-599-4760**

Website: [www.saintpaulsirvine.com](http://www.saintpaulsirvine.com)

Email: [office@saintpaulsirvine.com](mailto:office@saintpaulsirvine.com)

**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*)

**Sunday's Starting January 14<sup>th</sup>:**

Divine Service	9:30 am
Fellowship	10:40 am (café)
Bible Class	11:00 am
Individual Confession	2:30 pm
Divine Service	4:00 pm

**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 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!

**A Prayer For Christmas Eve:** O great and glorious Redeemer, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, we praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory. O Lord God, Lamb of God, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, King of kings and Lord of lords, Emmanuel, God with us! For You only are holy; You only are the Lord; You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are the most high in the glory of God the Father. But chiefly on this most holy of nights we adore You for leaving the glory that You had with the Father before the world began. We humbly ask You, by the holy mystery of Your incarnation and nativity, to deliver us, good Lord. You who came that we might have life and be saved from our sin, be gracious to us and save us. Let the glad

tidings we commemorate this night be made known to all people. Amen.  
(from *Lutheran Book of Prayer*, Concordia Publishing House. 121)

## + In Jesus' Name +

### Organ Prelude

#### Greeting

**P** Sing to the LORD, bless his name;

**C TELL OF HIS SALVATION FROM DAY TO DAY.**

--Psalm 96:2

### Electronic Candles: Let's use them!

#### Introduction of Musical Guests:

From Crean Lutheran High School's Chamber Choir: Sidra Roche, Sami Agle, Tess Yoon, and Matt Enos.

And Special Guest from our Lamp Light young adult ministry: Jacob Thornblad on the violin.

*Stand*

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

### Invocation & Confession and Absolution

**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.**

## **Opening Versicles and Prayer**

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C **and the day is almost over.**

P Let Your light scatter the darkness

C **and illumine Your Church.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence

behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*Sit*

### **A reading from Isaiah, chapter 7:**

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



## O Little Town of Bethlehem (Organ Accompaniment)



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

## A reading from Isaiah, chapter 9:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone....

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

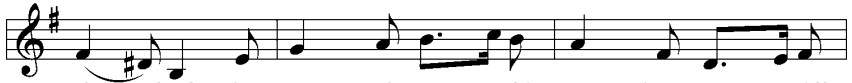
L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## What Child Is This (Organ Accompaniment)



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

## A reading from Isaiah, chapter 11:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD...<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth...<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The

nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Once in Royal David's City (Violin Accompaniment)**



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.

5 Not in that poor, lowly stable  
 With the oxen standing by  
 Shall we see Him, but in heaven,  
 Set at God's right hand on high.  
 Then like stars His children, crowned,  
 All in white, His praise will sound!

**A reading from Isaiah, chapter 53:**



Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**Away in a Manger (Organ & Quartet stanza 2)**



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.  
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.  
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.  
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

**A Reading from St. Luke’s Gospel, chapter 1:**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> And 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...." <sup>38</sup> And 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**



**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Organ & Quartet stanza 2)**



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

## A Reading from St. Luke's Gospel, chapter 2:

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered...<sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Violin Accompaniment)



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have  
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
 kind, To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

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## A Reading from St. Luke's Gospel, chapter 2:

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" <sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to

us.”<sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### Crean Lutheran High School Quartet: “Carol of the Bells”

#### Angels We Have Heard on High (Organ Accompaniment)



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

#### Homily: “THE Name of Christmas: Jesus”

#### Prayers of the Church

P On this most holy night, let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P Almighty God, by the incarnation of Your eternal Son, You revealed that You are love. Give us true faith in Christ and His promise, that by His conception, virgin birth, holy life, sacrificial death and victorious

resurrection our sins are forgiven and we are Yours. Increase our love for one another — for as You abide in us, we abide in You and Your love is perfected in us. Fill us with joy, and lead us to proclaim Your glad tidings to all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord God, by His birth in human flesh, Your dear Son took His place in the family of Mary and Joseph. Bless the families of our church and our nation, that men and women would live faithfully as husbands and wives, loving and caring for their children and nurturing them in the grace of Baptism and all the truth of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** Heavenly Father, by Your gracious provision You created Your Church to be Your family, where — nurtured by Your Word and Sacraments — all of us may find a home filled with sisters and brothers to care for us, love us and increase our joy. Make of us a refuge for the weary, a family for the lonely, a safe place for those who are afraid and a help to one another in all our burdens. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** Father, in love You declared us to be Yours and promised to hear our prayers. Protect all workers whose duty and service to us have called them away from their loved ones this night. Keep safe all who are traveling during this holiday time. Relieve the sufferings of Your people, and heal their diseases according to Your mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### Silent Night, Holy Night (Organ Accompaniment)



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
 stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 beams from Thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

**C Amen.**

### Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
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## Postlude

### Join us for Christmas Day!

Tomorrow morning, December 25<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am  
Service of Holy Communion

Merry  
CHRISTMAS

**Tomorrow's Children's Message:** *Every child will receive a nativity sticker scene!*



**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 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 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. All are invited.**

**First NEW Sunday early evening service at 4 pm:**

January 14<sup>th</sup>, 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

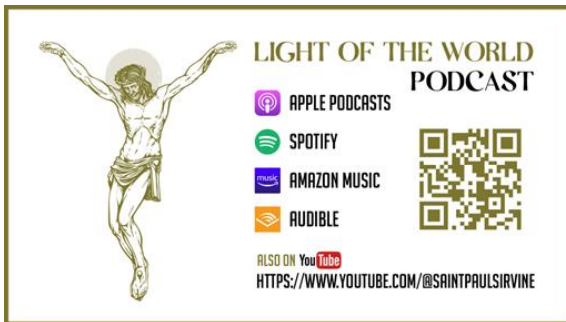
**Please check out our latest episode, Season 2, Episode 7 on Atheism.**

You can access our podcast on YouTube, Apple, Spotify, Amazon, or Audible.

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[www.youtube.com/SaintPaulsIrvine](http://www.youtube.com/SaintPaulsIrvine)



### Average Sunday Attendance 2023

(Averages include those who registered online attendance)

January: 71

February: 78

March: 82

April: 91

May: 83

June: 77

July: 82

August: 98

September: 81

October: 87

November: 80

December:

Last week, Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>: 55 in person, 4 online

Recent Wednesday Night Services (live attendance only)

Thanksgiving Eve, November 22<sup>nd</sup>: 37

Advent 1, December 6<sup>th</sup>: 35

Advent 2, December 13<sup>th</sup>: 26

Advent 3, December 20<sup>th</sup>: 27

## *“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/](https://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 7<sup>th</sup>.



### **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](http://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*)



### 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?

*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



**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.**

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## ***Congregational Voters Meeting***

*January 14, 2024*

*Following the Worship Service*

*Purpose: 2024 Budget Approval*

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## 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!

## 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