

Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine (LCMS)

Christmas Day Service of Holy Communion Monday, December 25th, 2023

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

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

Organist: Gerald Dahlin

Administrative Coordinator: Mary Loy

Webmaster: Matthew Mueller

+ In Jesus' Name +

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 command you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Vision: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Acts 2:42

Welcome to Saint Paul's!

We praise and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ as He comes to serve and bless us through His Word and Sacrament. We follow the ancient liturgy because it is based on God's Word. Its reverence leads us to acknowledge that the Lord is not a God of confusion (1 Cor 14:33). We also celebrate the Holy Eucharist and receive the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins as He teaches in 1 Corinthians 11, Matthew 26:28, et al. Saint Paul's was established in Laguna Beach in 1947 and restarted here at Crean Lutheran High School on April 10, 2011. We are excited to see the Lord causing us to grow as we celebrate our new lives in the Lord Jesus. We thank God you are here!

Sunday's Starting January 14th:

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 +

Prelude

Greeting:

P The LORD has made known his salvation;

C **HE HAS REVEALED HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IN THE SIGHT OF THE NATIONS.**

—Psalm 98:2

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross 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.**

Service of the Word

O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv' n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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Angels We Have Heard on High



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.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



G And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**



Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Epistle

Hebrews 1:1-6

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son,
 today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

"I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

God Loves Me Dearly

1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -

va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

Refrain

There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me

dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

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Stand

Holy Gospel

John 1:1–14

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



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

Children's Message

Once in Royal David's City



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!

Sermon

"God in the Flesh"

(John 1:1-14)

Pastor Espinosa

Stand

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** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Father in heaven, with great joy and humble awe we acknowledge Your dear Son to be the Word made flesh. We rejoice that because He is now our brother, we have become Your sons and daughters in our Baptism. Keep us, Your children, in true faith in You and in fervent love for one another. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- L** Lord God, give us joy in serving You. Your Son gladly served You by His humble willingness to honor His earthly parents, growing in wisdom and knowledge, and taking His place in daily life. Teach us to rejoice in our daily lives and callings in our homes, our work, our land and Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**

- L Gracious Lord, the great mystery of the incarnation was first believed and proclaimed by common men and women: Mary and Joseph and the shepherds. Give us confidence to tell the joyful message of our Savior's birth, life, death and resurrection, that Your Spirit may work the miracle of faith as He wills. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- L Father, You sent Jesus to serve the poor and forgotten before the wealthy and powerful. Keep us from false confidence in the earthly blessings You bestow, and fill our hearts with generous love toward the destitute and the suffering, that they may see Christ's love in ours. Visit and relieve the sick and the injured. Heal them according to Your mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- L O Holy Spirit, come to us in rich measure, so that all who commune may do so in true faith to their soul's well-being and strength. Let us take to heart the glad tidings of great joy that today, in bread and wine, we will receive Christ's body and blood for our forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- L 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.**

Sit

Offering

Stand

Offertory



C 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.

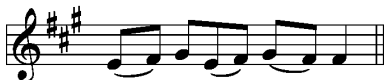
Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 177



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.

Proper Preface

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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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

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."

P 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



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:

- 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.**

O Little Town of Bethlehem



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!



Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.
 3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
 Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
 Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
 Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
 Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
 Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
 Draw me un - to Thee!
 May we praise Him there!
 Oh, that we were there!

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Stand

Post-Communion Canticle

Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.

6 He is the key and He the door
To blessèd paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

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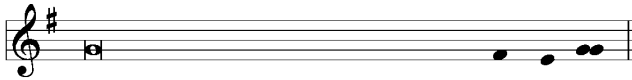
Post-Communion Collect

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 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.



Benediction



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.



Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain

Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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Postlude

Join us for Christmas Day!

Tomorrow morning, December 25th @ 9:30 am
Service of Holy Communion

Merry
CHRISTMAS

Upcoming New Services

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

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.

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

Join us online:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaintPaulsIrvine YouTube:

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 17th: 55 in person, 4 online

Recent Wednesday Night Services (live attendance only)

Thanksgiving Eve, November 22nd: 37

Advent 1, December 6th: 35

Advent 2, December 13th: 26

Advent 3, December 20th: 27



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.

Congregational Voters Meeting

January 14, 2024

Following the Worship Service

Purpose: 2024 Budget Approval

“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

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