# THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



December 22, 2024
SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH



# Christmas Eve 4:00 and 8:00 (candlelight service)

#### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

8:15am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave

9:00am | Choir Practice

10:30am | Service with Holy Communion in

Nave and Online

11:30am | Coffee Hour

#### LIVESTREAMING

Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Facebook page. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, however, without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

#### WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

Sign up for Weekly Update newsletter by going to our website at <u>www.stpaularlington.org</u> and clicking on SUBSCRIBE.

#### **SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY ARE:**

Marie Breitenbach and Geveva Carter, *Altar Guild*Gus A. and Lucas S., *Acolytes*Marie Breitenbach, *Lector*Peter Hedlund, *Deacon*Bev Hjorth, *Cantor*Andy Airasian, *Usher*Hollie Schmidt, *Livestream Broadcast* 

Peter and Hollie Schmidt, Coffee Guild

When the instruction for standing \* appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable. At the  $\boxtimes$ , you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism. The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.

# **GATHERING**

#### **PRELUDE**

Canon in D, P. 37

J. Pachelbel (1653-1706)

#### **WELCOME**

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might, we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

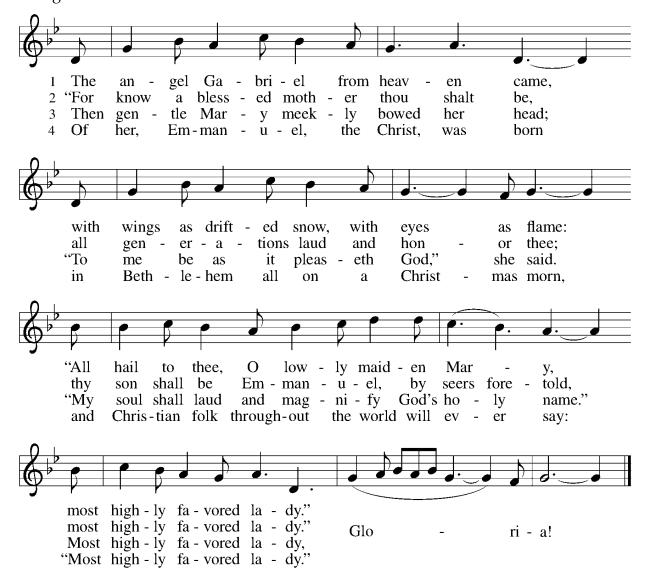
God in our midst, we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

Amen.

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

ELW 265



Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

#### \*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.** 

\*KYRIE

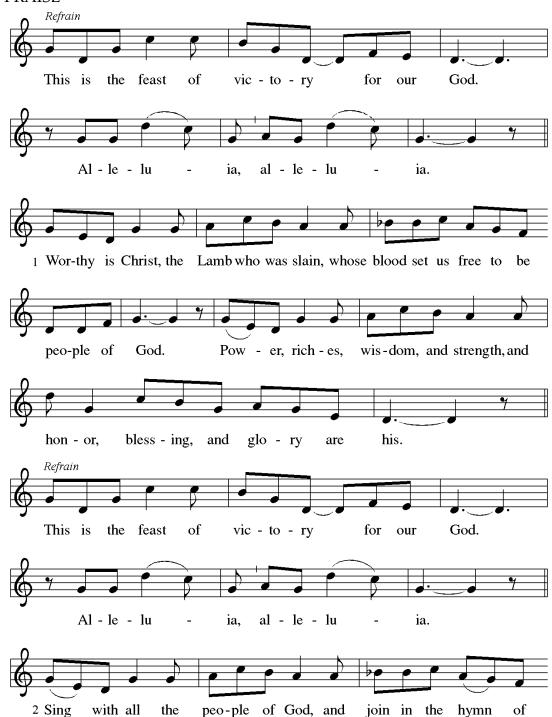


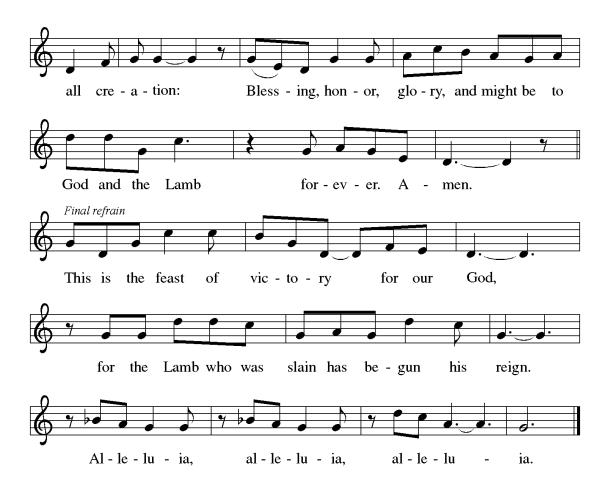


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



#### **HYMN OF PRAISE**





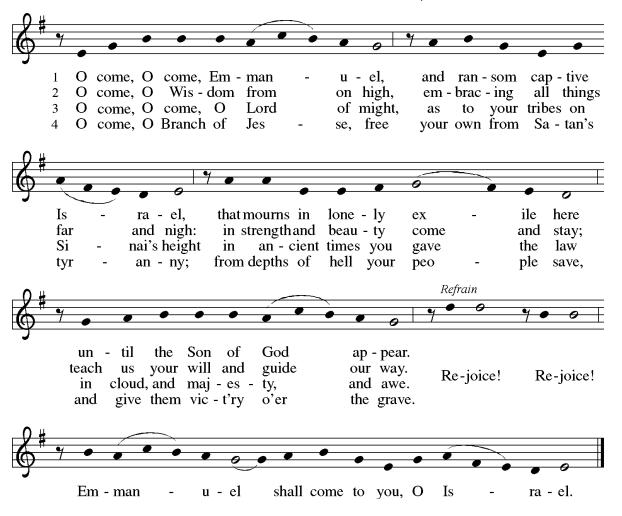
#### \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

**CHILDREN'S TIME** 

Vicar Sam Menapace



7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain* 

Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

#### \* ADVENT PRAYER

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

Amen.

# WORD

FIRST READING Micah 5:2—5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return

to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM (read responsively 8:15 am service)

Psalm 80:1-7



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh, stir up your strength and | come to help us.

Restore | us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

O Lord | God of hosts,

how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?

You have fed them with the | bread of tears; you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

You have made us the derision | of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

Restore us, O | God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

SECOND READING Hebrews 10:5—10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

C onsequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, I have come to do your will, O God'

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### \* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (10:30 service)



Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e-ter-nal life

The holy gospel according to Luke.

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

[ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name;

indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his child Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."].

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "Still Waiting" (8:15)

Pastor Ross Goodman

#### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (10:30).

All are welcome to sing during the pageant.

#### "O Come All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

#### Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

#### "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night, and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

## "We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar. Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

#### Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect Light. Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice.

Alleluia, Alleluia

Sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

Thank you to all who helped with the pageant, the participants and others who joined.

#### *Participants:*

Brick
Callie
Phyllis
Sephora
Isaac
Tamaini
Theo
Dominic
Luther

Sinclair Sarah Lucas Toby Owen Mira

Adam Izabela

Noah

"Away in a Manger" ELW 277



Text: North American, 19th cent. Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

#### APOSTLE'S CREED

In response to the gospel, let us confess the faith of the church:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### \* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The leader will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read aloud the other prayers as they feel called.

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. We especially pray for our neighbors who share our building, Sichem SDA Church and The Cambridge Korean Presbyterian Church. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.** 

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.** 

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored, especially in Syria, Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan, and Haiti. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill, especially Dan, Lynn, Marilyn, Meredith, Owen, Paul, and Susan. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

God our hope, comfort all who mourn this holiday season. We especially pray for those who have lost loved ones to gun violence and for the victims of the Wisconsin school shooting. May our prayers move us into action to care for the vulnerable, protect children, and transform fear into love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer**.

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer**.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.** 

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

#### \* PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** 

Keep your hands close together or make the peace sign if you'd rather not pass the peace with touch.

# **MEAL**

#### \* OFFERING PRAYER

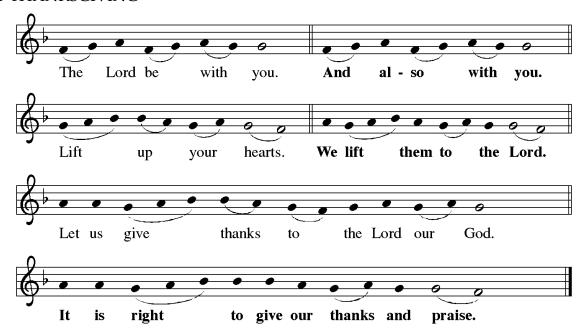
Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

#### **OFFERING**



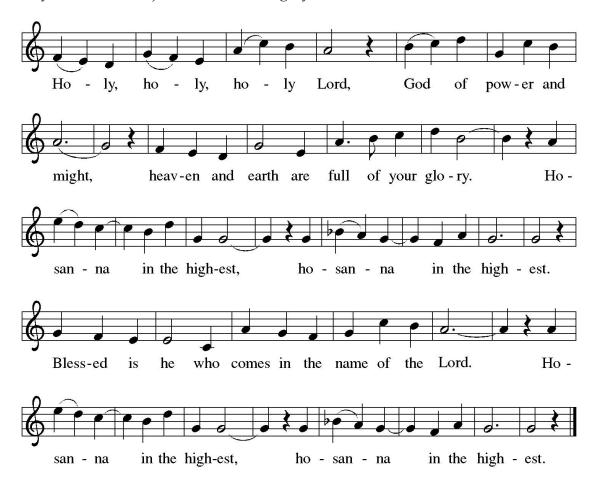
You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code.

#### \* GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

#### Come, Holy Spirit.

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

Amen.

#### \* LORD'S PRAYER

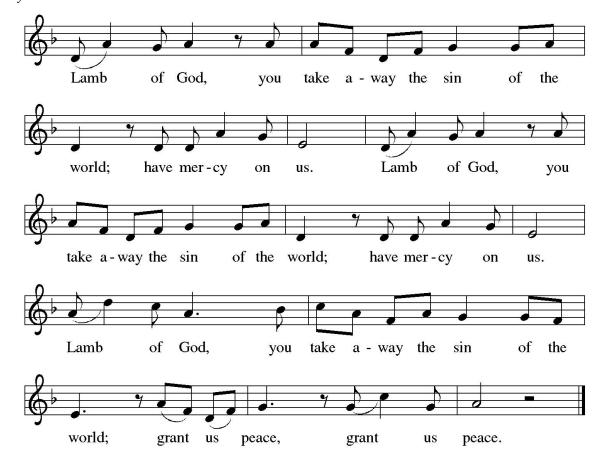
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

#### **COMMUNION**

All are welcome to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers are available on request. Both wine and grape juice are available in each tray; the wine is red and the grape juice is white.

Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.





Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

#### \* TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

#### \* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.
Amen.

# **SENDING**

#### \* BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
+ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

"Joy to the World" **ELW 267** Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -Joy Sav - ior to the earth, the reigns! Let all their No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -He rules the world with truth and and makes the grace her king; pre ceive let ev 'ry heart pare him em - ploy, while floods, rocks, hills, and songs fields and fest the ground; comes to make bless - ings he his glo his righ - teous na tions prove the ries of and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture room re - peat the sound-ing plains peat the sound-ing joy, re found, the curse is flow far far as the curse is won-ders of his ness and love, and won-ders of his heav'n and na-ture and and sing, and sing. heav'n, and heav'n and ture sing, na joy, re peat, re peat the sound - ing joy. found. found, far far the curse is as, as ders of love. love, and won ders, won his

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

sing,

heav'n and na-ture

#### \* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

#### **POSTLUDE**

Chorale Fugue and Fantasia on "Nun komm der Heiden Heiland" J. Pachelbel (1653-1706)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

#### at **SAINT PAUL**



#### **ONE SERVICE DECEMEBER 29**

There will be only one service on December 29 at 1030am. It will be a carol sing.

#### PIANO DUO CONCERT | Saturday, January 4th at 5:00pm

St. Paul's Music Director, Ann Zecic Jeffers will be performing in a piano duo concert with Melita Lasek Satterwhite on Saturday, January 4th at 5:00pm. Enjoy music from Debussy, Schubert, Brahms and Gershwin.

THEOLOGY ON TAP AT MIGHTY SQUIRREL | Sunday, December 22 at 4PM Join Vicar Sam for a time of community at a local brewery, Mighty Squirrel, at 411 Waverley Oaks Road, Waltham. In the spirit of Christmas, we'll work together to sort biblical characters onto Santa's naughty and nice lists. Come grab a beer, coffee, or seltzer (non-alcoholic options available) and join the fun!

#### **NEW INSTAGRAM PAGE**

St. Paul is updating our presence on social media! We recently created a new Instagram account. Give us a follow, like and comment on our posts, and keep an eye out for stories to stay updated about all things going on in our church community. We hope to use our social media presence as a way for new folks to discover what our church is all about and to keep our community informed about events at our church.

You can find us on Instagram using the handle: **stpaularlington** 

**Please note**: This is a new account. We are locked out of the old St. Paul account and will no longer use the old page or handle. If you're following the old account, please give us a follow at the new and active account!

#### ARLINGTON EATS | December needs

Coffee (regular, instant, decaf), Tea (all kinds), Cocoa, Gluten free soup, Condensed milk, Cereal (especially Cheerios!), Dish soap

#### ADULT FORUMS IN DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

December 22 Lectio Divina } Sacred Reading with Josh Davis.

December 29 there will be no Adult Forum.

#### January 2, 12, 19

Bonhoeffer Series with Clifford Green

January 5: Being a Disciple in the Community of Jesus.

January 12: Bonhoeffer's Peace Ethic

January 19: Worldly Christianity

<u>January 26:</u> Pastoral Transition Process

#### February 2, 9, 16

Sharing Our Faith led by Vicar Sam

In this three-part Adult Forum series, we will explore what it means to share our faith. We'll practice sharing our stories with one another and consider how we each relate to the call to "go and make disciples." The first session will focus on spiritual practices and deepening our faith. The second session will examine what it means to proclaim our faith within our church community. The third session will turn to the world and ask questions about evangelism outside of the walls of the church. We'll look at the term evangelism and consider what it means for ELCA Lutherans in the twenty-first century.

## **GATHER GROUPS FORMING | Starting in January 2025**



We are once again forming Gather Groups. This is a great way to get to know other people in the church. These groups meet January through June at members' homes, outdoor spaces, or anywhere that you can think of! All of our members are encouraged to participate! Sign up with QR code.

#### SEEKING NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

We are looking to revive our nursery program at St. Paul. While we look for a regular attendant, please consider helping out by volunteering during one of the Advent Services. Talk to Sarah or Signup here: <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAA2DA4FE3-53555701-nursery">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAA2DA4FE3-53555701-nursery</a>. This is open to our adult and teen members of our congregation.

#### SUPPER CLUB AT ST. PAUL | January 4, 6:00, ongoing



The Supper Club which will take place on the 1st Saturday of the month. Come when you are able, bring a dish to share and enjoy some time with other members of the congregation. All are welcome to join!



929 Concord Turnpike Arlington, Massachusetts 02476 www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

#### Staff

The Reverend Ross Goodman, *Pastor*Samantha Menapace, *Vicar*Ana Zecic Jeffers, *Director of Music*Paul Ricci, *Business Administrator*Sarah Carter, *Children*, *Youth and Families Director*Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator*Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager* 

#### **Church Council and Officers**

Elizabeth Heichler, President
Monique Airasian, Vice-President
Eric Haugen, Treasurer
Kerri Frick, Secretary
Norma Ofsthun, Financial Secretary
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