



**December 6, 2020**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*Walk With Us As Disciples of Christ!*

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Child Development Center and Pre-School**

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SUNDAY RADIO BROADCAST

KRXT 98.5 FM at 12:15pm

St. Paul Church does take pictures and videos which will be posted on their  
Social Media and Web Page.

TWCWiFi - *no password need*

# St. Paul Lutheran Church

*WALK WITH US AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST!*

*Welcome!!*

We welcome all who worship this Lord's Day! We are glad you are worshipping with us this morning. As we can be helpful to you, we look forward to doing so. If you would like the pastor to contact you, please mark that on the Record of Fellowship or call the church office.

We ask that the Record of Fellowship be filled out (members and visitors) so that we will have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

We Remember in Prayer

(Please call the church office to remove anyone from the prayer lists.)

## Our members:

**Bebe Beran, Ernest Rohlack, Jessica Schmidt, Sandi Umiker, Clifton Filter, Larry Safarik, Pam Mikulencak, Margaret Miller, Pr. Michael Domenech, Mark Lindell, Leon Tieman, Bo Stiles, Cynthia Beran, Paula Safarik, Norman Fuessel, Elaine Oser, and Our Shut Ins: Lydia Dowling, Lomis Weber, Betty Sakowitz, Sarah Click, Bunny Schroeder, James Spinn, Edward Lantzsch, Greg Buetikofer, Harvey Cuzzort, Albert Zeplin, Katy Wilson, Lisa Cox, Dorothy Grimm, Inez Sladek, Geraldine Cox, Curtis & Rosalie Minzenmayer, Hilda Hanson, Nema Bohls, Melvin Steger, Elda Heselmeyer, Ed Balusek, Ella Kuhl, Clifford Mahlow.**

## **We remember the family of Marcella Schoener at her recent death.**

### Our family, friends, and loved ones:

Brett Safarik, Adam Eubank, Merriam Buetikofer, Ronnie Bradford, Miriam Hardin, Zane Hyzak, David Martinez, Corrina Sims, Joseph Boswell, Stephanie Hanmann, Abel Robles, Penny Roeglin, Peggy Ging, Verdine Guettler, Sandra & Todd Rice, Louise Gore, Rosa Linda Hernandez, Dorthy & Vaughn Brune, Kirrin Leslie, , Ricky Cain, John Pelzel, Joseph Cerda, Michael Walton, Jose Juan Espinoza, Jessie Mead, Donna Woodworth, Mary Lefner, Sandy Millner, Garry Grau, Samantha Summers, Jimmy Grimm, Rosie Steamer, Marcella Schoener, Scotty Clifton, Carroll Holmstrom, Reagan Schroeder, Rosalina Martinez, Dana Melancon, John Harper, Bobby Harrison, Pamela Morton, Rosemarie Burney, Denny Hamilton, Jackie Oslick, Darrell Mikulencak, Tina Ausburn, Leslie Lawrence, Jarvis Harry, Lee Martinez, Tricia Van Til, Jacque Frazier, Alma Russell, Ann Zuehlke, Mike Parry, Diana Beran, Rex Anders, Matthew Retchloff, Paula Schwartz, Randy Dykowski, Carole Byler, Kellie Click, Mary Kidwell, Carolyn Wycoff, Glen Shelby, Joshua Bockerstette, Jennifer Neddeau, Julie Johnson, Marie Davis, Abby Alderete, Patrick Jordan, Lisa Heselmeyer, Cliff Peters, Jiana Milam, Kurt Laxson, Chandra Bivens, Jessica Golden, Betty Pickett, Abigail Alexander, Eric Richardson, Brianna Rivera, David Downey, Linda Dlouhy, Margaret Smith, John Blackwell, Rebecca Lucas, Cullen Eschberger

## WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INTRODUCTION

*John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess  
that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,

**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**

**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.**

**We have not welcomed the stranger;**

**we have not loved our neighbor;**

**we have not been Christ to one another.**

**Restore us, O God.**

**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**

**Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:

by God's endless grace

your sins are forgiven, and you are free—

free from all that holds you back

and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God's love,

+ comforted by Christ's peace,

and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

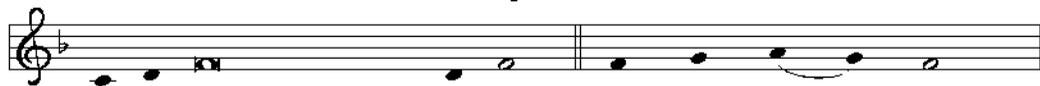
**"On Jordan's Bank"**

**P. 249**

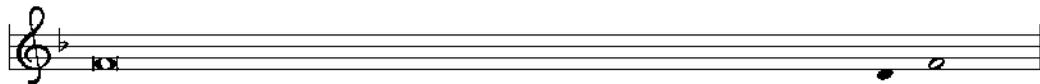
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# Kyrie



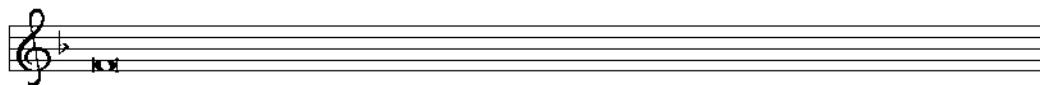
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



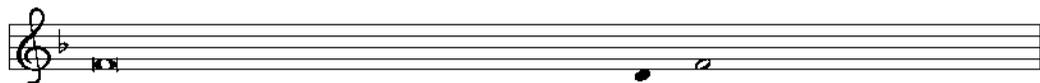
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



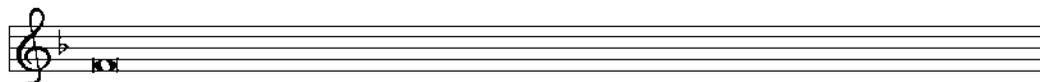
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



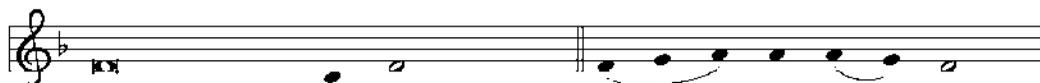
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



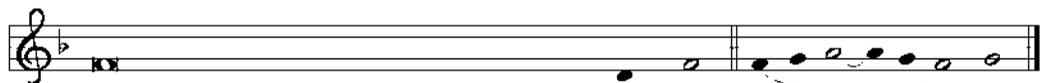
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

**Reader: Marilyn Grimm**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11**

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

*Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)*

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

<sup>8</sup>But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

<sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Gospel Acclamation



### GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to **Mark 1:1-8**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,'"

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Second Sunday of Advent- Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the candles on this wreath,  
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,  
that we may be light shining in the darkness.

Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

*Light two candles.*

Congregation

Children's message

**Sermon** Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"**

**P.244**

*Please stand as you are able.*

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**CREED**

***Apostles' Creed***

**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 to the dead.\*  
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**

God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between

your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, especially... Gather all people in your healing embrace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries; Cheryl Kruckemeyer in Tanzania, Juan & Anne in Bolivia serving with the World Mission Prayer League and for our sister congregation at HeBrews Community Church in New Braunfels, Texas. **Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work (*especially Nicholas of Myra*). Make their generous lives an example for all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

**Amen**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff contains: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff contains: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff contains: "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The word "right" is bolded in the original image.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, . . .  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

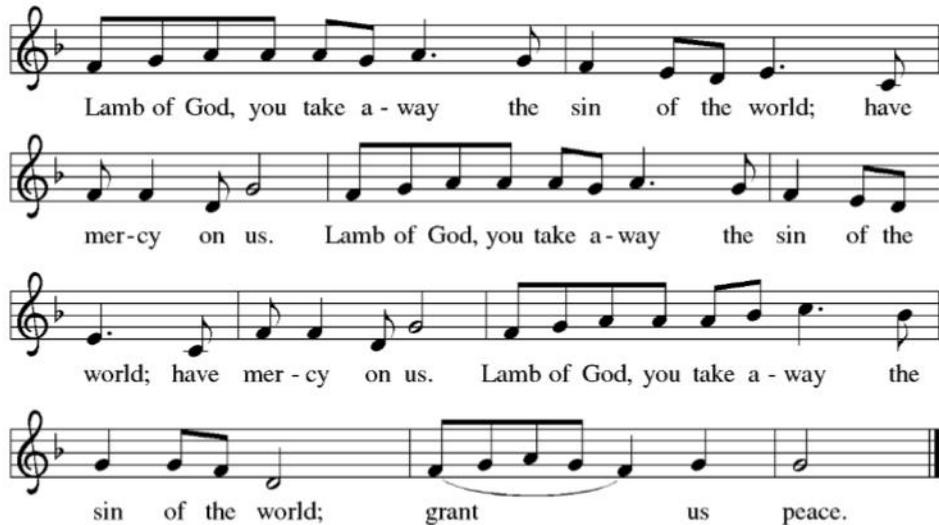
#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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

## Lamb of God



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.

### Distribution of Holy Communion

### Prayer After Communion

### SENDING

#### BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.  
Amen.

### SENDING SONG

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

P.276

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GUIDELINES FOR RE-OPENING CHURCH

- **IF YOU FEEL SICK, PLEASE STAY HOME!**

- EVERY OTHER PEW IS TAPED OFF TO HELP WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING
- MASKS ARE NOT REQUIRED BUT RECOMMENDED FOR SAFETY. WE DO NOT HAVE GLOVES & MASKS TO DISTRIBUTE TO ATTENDEES - ALL USHERS OR ANYONE HELPING WITH THE SERVICE WILL ALSO WEAR GLOVES.
- ALL EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR DOORS WILL BE PROPPED OPEN FOR ENTRY & EXIT. THEY WILL BE LOCKED AS USUAL ONCE THE SERVICE STARTS.
- NO CONTACT GREETINGS OR EXITS – PLEASE DO THE BIG WAVE TO EVERYONE!
- FAMILIES CAN SIT TOGETHER OR IF YOU'VE BEEN STAYING WITH SOMEONE NOT OF YOUR FAMILY DURING QUARANTINE – SEATING IS UP TO EACH INDIVIDUAL
- BULLETINS WILL BE EMAILED EACH FRIDAY FOR THAT SUNDAY'S SERVICE – WE WILL HAVE PRINTED COPIES EACH SUNDAY AS WELL & EACH PERSON WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO DISPOSE OF THEIR COPY IN THE RECYCLE BINS IN THE NARTHEX AT EXIT.
- ONLY THE ORGANIST, 1 LEAD SINGER AND 1 PERSON MANAGING THE SOUND BOARD WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE BALCONY.
- PLEASE VISIT AFTER THE SERVICE OUTSIDE TO HELP MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING AND TO ALLOW THE USHERS TO BEGIN WIPING AREAS DOWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- COMMUNION WILL BE PROVIDED IN SEALED READY TO SERVE CUPS (GRAPE JUICE & WAFER) GIVEN OUT WHEN YOU WALK IN AND EVERYONE WILL TAKE IT AT THEIR SEAT DURING SERVICE – NO WALK UP TO THE ALTAR. YOU ARE ALSO FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN – TISSUES WILL BE IN THE PEWS AND THE USHERS WILL COME BY EACH PEW JUST AFTER COMMUNION WITH A BASKET TO PUT YOUR CUP IN. TRASH CANS WILL BE AT THE EXITS – **PLEASE BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO SPILL ON THE PEWS OR FLOOR AND LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY IF THERE IS A SPILL!**
- OFFERING PLATES WILL BE IN THE NARTHEX FOR DROP OFF BEFORE AND AFTER CHURCH – ATTENDANCE CARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO FILL OUT AND DROP IN THE OFFERING PLATES.
- CHILDREN'S SERMON WILL BE TAUGHT WITH CHILDREN STAYING IN THEIR SEATS
- NO BIBLES, HYMNALS, OFFERING ENVELOPES OR SIGN IN/RED BOOKS IN PEWS
- THE NURSERY DOOR IS CLOSED AND NOT AVAILABLE FOR USE
- THE RED BAGS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR KIDS
- THE WATER FOUNTAIN IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR USE
- NO FELLOWSHIP OR SUNDAY SCHOOL AFTER CHURCH THROUGH THE SUMMER
- NO SHARING OF PEACE
- **PLEASE REMAIN SEATED AT THE END OF THE SERVICE - USHERS WILL DISMISS ROWS TO MAINTAIN DISTANCE AND BEGIN AT THE BACK OF CHURCH.**

### **AFTER SERVICE:**

THOSE ON DUTY WILL BEGIN WIPING OR SPRAYING DOWN ALL BATHROOMS (TOILET HANDLES, FAUCETS, DOOR HANDLES, TOILET SEATS, LIGHT SWITCH), DOOR HANDLES AT ALL ENTRY/EXITS WITH DISINFECTANT SPRAY OR WIPES. WE ASK THAT YOU EXIT THE CHURCH IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE AND VISIT OUTSIDE SO THIS CAN BE DONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU FOR FOLLOWING THESE GUIDELINES AND FOR YOUR HELP IN HELPING PROVIDE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR US TO WORSHIP.

## Salvation Army Red Kettle comes to St. Paul Lutheran Church Narthex

Please bring your donations on December 13 from 8:30 – 10:30 AM. Naomi Pasemann directed this effort annually and we continue it in her memory as we partner with the Salvation Army to assist those in need for emergency food, clothing, and shelter. All donations will be used in the Taylor area.





## **CHRISTMAS EVE @ ST PAUL**

**Our beautiful Christmas Eve service will look a little different this year!**

**The service will begin at 6pm with no caroling before. Communion will be taken with pre-filled cups at your seats. We will hand out white glow sticks instead of candles. You are welcome to download a “candle” app on your phone if you prefer.**

**The service will be broadcast on Facebook Live. We will maintain social distancing with every other pew marked off for seating and recommend that everyone wear a mask.**

**Additional seating, as needed, will be set up at the back of the church.**



ORDER YOUR

**Poinsettias**

I would like give \_\_\_\_\_ (number) Christmas Poinsettia plant(s) to decorate the church for the Christmas Worship Service. The plants are \$10.00 each, and order form must be received by:

**Wednesday, December 16.**

Please include payment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My Christmas Poinsettia is given in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

AND/OR

My Christmas Poinsettia is given in honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

AND/OR

My Christmas Poinsettia is given in thankfulness to God.

*(Only the person(s)' name who is giving the plant will be listed.)*

Number of poinsettias ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

X \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

You may put this form in the offering plate, give to an usher,  
leave it at the church office or mail to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 401 W 7th St. Taylor TX 76574