

*A Quiet Christmas*  
*"The Gift"*



*"Sharing the Good News of Christ With All People."*



*Welcome to “A Quiet Christmas,” a program that has become a tradition at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The season of Advent is often a very busy time, a time when thoughts turn to the many preparations for Christmas, so much so that Advent itself can get lost.*

*The word “Advent” means “coming” and so it is appropriate that we spend time in preparation for what is coming. Therein lies the problem, however, for it is not really “what” that is coming (Christmas Day and all the cultural trappings). It is “Who.” That “Who” is Jesus.*

*This evening, we hope to slow the pace and concentrate on the many ways our Lord and Savior enters our lives. He entered once and for all when He was born in a stable in Bethlehem. He enters our hearts and lives again and again as we realize and celebrate a love that was literally made flesh that we might know Him, a love born to set us free.*

*We pray that this evening  
Christ will be born anew in your life.*

*Advent Blessings!*

# *A Quiet Christmas 2024*

*Advent is a paradoxical season. We talk of preparing our hearts for Jesus's coming, yet we know He has already come. Advent tells us to prepare for His coming in our hearts, but it also reminds us that Jesus will come again, and we are to be ready. How do we do that?*

*The first candle on the Advent wreath is representative of Hope. Advent is a season of Hope. It reminds us that Christ has come and because of this truth we can live in hope. "We don't know what tomorrow holds, but we know Who holds tomorrow," the saying goes. For that reason, we can live in hope and expectation. Advent reminds us to keep our hearts open and ready, not just in this season, but in every season of life.*

*Jesus truly is "Emmanuel, God with us." This is a season to ponder that truth. Here is another paradox: the calendar year is coming to an end, but the church year is just beginning. Perhaps that is because we need to hold on to this truth of Emmanuel, Who loved us enough to share our frail humanity, not just so that we might know Him better, but to show us He understands and loves us.*

*God is with us. May that truth fill you with hope, not just in this season of light and celebration, but all year long.*



**Let us Pray:** From everlasting to everlasting, You are our God, and You come to Your People. In Your Word and in the flesh of Your Son, You come that we may know forgiveness, righteousness, and redemption. Prepare us to receive You in this season and always, that our hearts may be made blameless and filled with holiness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen

**Opening Hymn**

**“The Advent of our God”, 331, St. Thomas**

**The advent of our God shall be our theme in prayer; Come let us meet Him on the road and place for Him prepare.**

**Before the dawning day let sin’s dark deeds be gone, the sinful self be put away, the new self be put on.**

<b>Reading</b>	Story of the Three Trees	Traditional
<b>Bible Reading</b>	2 Timothy 1:6-7 (MSG)	
<b>Bells</b>	“Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming”	
<b>Reading</b>	Hi There!	Nancy Dahlberg
<b>Bible Reading</b>	James 1:16-18 (MSG)	
<b>Reading</b>	Simple, Yet Priceless	Gigi Graham Tchividjian



**Reading**

Delayed Delivery

Cathy Miller

**Reading**

The Gift is Ours

James Dobson

**Closing Hymn**

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”, 361, St. Louis**

**O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

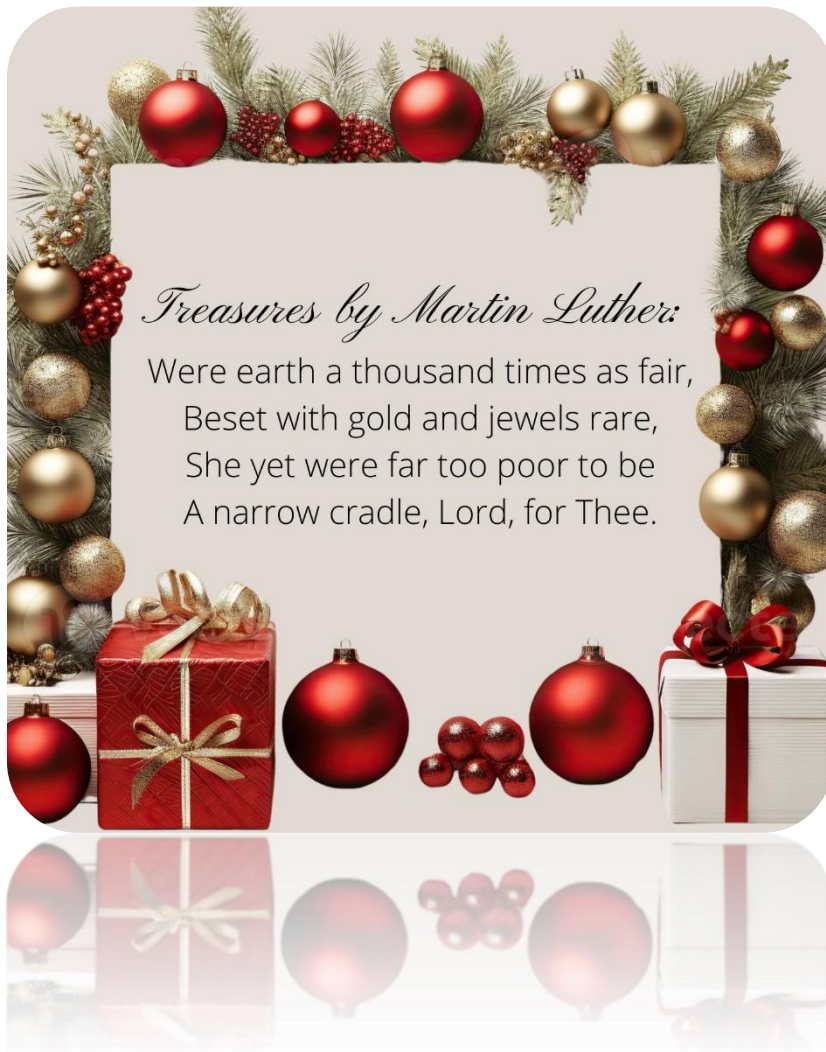
**For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love. O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king and peace to all the earth!**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv’n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav’n. No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**



**Please stay for fellowship and refreshments in the breezeway following tonight's program.**



*Christmas Worship Schedule*

*Tuesday, December 24*

5:00 PM Service for families with small children  
(No Communion)

8:00 PM and 10:30 PM Candlelight Communion Service

*Wednesday, December 25*

10:00 AM The Nativity of our Lord Worship with Holy Communion.



**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

**Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor**

**Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry**

**Mrs. Kathy Henze, Preschool Director**

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**Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM**

**Sunday School for children and youth: 9:45 AM**

**Adult Bible Study: 10:00 AM**