

# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School and ECC

(The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod)



## 3RD SUNDAY IN *Advent*



210 East Pleasant Street  
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066  
Church Office: 262-567-5001 Website: [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org)

Worship Schedule: \*Saturday 5:00 pm \* Sunday 8:00 am Traditional \*  
\* Sunday 10:30 am Contemporary \*

**St. Paul's Mission Statement: "Reaching, Serving and Growing Disciples"**

December 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Steven Scharnell, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Paul Borgman, Pastor Emeritus  
Jill George, Interim Principal  
Volume 23

Adam Tanney, Youth Director  
Diane Bleke, Organist/Choir Director  
Christine Flores, Early Childhood Center (ECC) Director

Office Hours - 7:00 am - 4:00 pm

Number 48

WELCOME to everyone, especially our guests.  
Your presence is important to us.

St. Paul's is an evangelical Christian congregation, embracing historic Christian teaching on all doctrines, centered on Jesus Christ. Our desire is to bring the Gospel both to those who are searching for answers to the meaning of life and to those who desire a closer relationship with God. We here at St. Paul's have chosen to align ourselves with the teachings of the Lutheran Reformation, due to the clarity with which these help us to see the true meaning of God's Word. Specifically, St. Paul's is a ministry of the Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod, one of America's truly biblical churches!

- **Members and guests:** please fill out an attendance card and place it in the offering plate to indicate your presence today. For Holy Communion, please read our confession and indicate your agreement with our beliefs by checking the box next to the names of those communing.
- Those sharing our beliefs, especially from parishes in fellowship with us, are welcome to receive.
- If you desire Holy Communion but hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, please speak with a Pastor or an Elder.
- Non-communing, baptized children are welcome to come to the table for a blessing.

**Please note:** Half the inner circle of individual glasses in each tray contains water with **one drop** of communion wine for those hesitant to drink larger amounts of wine. Those glasses with wine are rose in color.

## THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**Come to worship.** As the prelude begins, worshippers are encouraged to conclude conversation and quietly prepare to enter into the experience of worship.

**Pastor:** Steve Scharnell

**Theme:** *I'm Just the Messenger*

Traditional Worship

**Special Order**

Contemporary Worship

**Special Order**

## BIBLE STUDIES

**Reformation Bible Study**

**567-5001 Sun. - 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall**

**Salvation**

**567-8195 Tues. - 7:00 p.m. Muecke's Home**

**Women's Bible Study**

**490-2879 Sat. (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>) - 8:00 a.m. Whelan's**

The **radio broadcast** is sponsored by Jim & Marlene Steinberg in praise to God for their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on December 18<sup>th</sup>. St. Paul's 8:00 am church service can be heard Sunday over WTKM (104.9 FM) and worldwide at wtkm.com.

## REACHING DISCIPLES

### **FAMILY PROMISE OF WAUKESHA COUNTY**

Family Promise started 3 years ago in November to help the homeless families in Waukesha County. There have been almost 8,000 overnight stays for 56 homeless families with 30 of those families being placed into fully furnished apartments! Please see the most current newsletter on what is going on with Family Promise. It is printed out on the Mission board in the Fellowship Hall or go to their website at: <http://familypromisewaukesha.org/> You can view their wish list and see the upcoming "Match" campaign. Also how you can help them through AmazonSmile. There are currently 4 families in the program-5 adults and 4 children (2, 5, 10, 10, 14 years of age). Please continue to pray for these families and for the volunteers. Our next volunteer week that we help support the host church-Our Savior's where the families spend the night is February 25-March 3. More info to come soon about how you can help during that time. Thank you for your continued support of this incredible outreach to homeless families in our surrounding community!

### **LORD'S CUPBOARD NEEDS DESSERTS FOR MONDAY'S MEAL AND OTHER NEEDED ITEMS**

The Lord's Cupboard is anticipating serving 175 meals this Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. We could use a lot of desserts. If you are able to make one, please have it in the kitchen by 3:30 pm on Monday. Items that the Lord's Cupboard is getting low on and would appreciate donations of include: soup, paper grocery bags, toothpaste, hand soap, deodorant for women or men. Please put these items in the bin in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you very much for your prayers and support of this needed outreach ministry for our community!

## SERVING DISCIPLES

### **2018 FLOWER CHART**

The 2018 flower chart is now posted in the church narthex (west side) for those of you who would like to sign up for flowers for the Traditional Worship services for the coming year. The cost is \$37.50 for two bouquets. You are welcome to split the cost with someone if you wish and each one could take one bouquet. Thank you.

## GROWING DISCIPLES

### **LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR**

Lord Jesus specializes in bestowing dignity upon lives the world views as insignificant or inconvenient (Isaiah 61:1-2). Indeed, He has dealt with each of us according to this graciousness. Therefore we savor participating in it by speaking and showing it to both our neighbors and the culture (Isaiah 61:4). Light of Life, anoint us with Your voice of grace to bring the poor good news. Amen.

## **St. Paul's Children's Christmas Service**

On Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, St. Paul's Lutheran School will be holding their annual Children's Christmas Worship Service. There will be a "Rehearsal Service" at 12:15 pm. Anyone is welcome to attend this Worship Service. There will also be an evening service at 6:30 pm. There will be 15 minutes of preservice music by our band and guitar students prior to each service.

The Lord's Cupboard will be hosting a spaghetti dinner from 5:15 pm—6:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a free-will offering with proceeds going to the Lord's Cupboard. Please come and join us!

## **USHER/ELDER SCHEDULE**

The new usher/elder schedule for January—March of 2018 is now available in the narthex in the podium. Please pick yours up today!

## **THE DENNY ZASTROW SING-A-LONG AND JOURNEYMEN'S 13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Once again the Journeymen are having a Christmas Party celebrating the joy the Christ-Child brings to our lives and especially the fellowship for us as Christian men! The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Journeymen Christmas party is on Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at Pete Sheild's from 7:30 am—9:00 am. All men of the congregation are invited. Pete lives at 15 White Tail Lane, Oconomowoc. If you need a map we will have them at the church office or just ask Pete. Come and enjoy some great fellowship and bring your singing voice!

## **"THEE BOOKSTORE" NEWS!**

Come and find the new and more convenient location of "Thee Bookstore" in the east end of the narthex of the church (by the coat rack). You can still get your cards, napkins, Bibles and many books. Come and visit us to see what is available this Advent Season.



**1 Thessalonians 5:18** *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* Christians express their thanks to God in many ways: in prayer, in giving to the Lord, in acts of service to others, in faithful living in their daily callings. Everything we do to honor God in our lives is a means of returning thanks for the Lord's many gifts to us.

**Witness:** Christmas is a time of great joy. But it also can be a very lonely time of the year. In the birth of His Son, our God reached out to us with His love so that we might reach out to those who are still lonely. Our life with our God is reflected in the way that we care for each other, especially at this time of year.

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
The Third Sunday in Advent: I'm Just the Messenger  
December 17–24, 2017*

## ***I'm Just the Messenger***

When John the Baptist preaches to us about Jesus, he preaches about repentance. John was sent by God to be a witness to the Light, Jesus Christ. He baptizes with water in order to make straight the way of the Lord, who shall redeem His people from their sins. The Lord Jesus who comes after John stands among us and makes Himself known to us. By the washing of the water with His Word and Spirit, He clothes His Church with the garments of salvation. Therefore we rejoice always in the Lord, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances.

## ***The Order of Meditation and Prayer***

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

### ***Invocation***

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### ***Apostles' Creed***

**Christ-Centered Theme:** John set the example to deliver the Good News of Jesus Christ to a world that is hurting.

**Verse:** Galatians 5:17 The flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

**Psalm:** Psalm 85 and/or the appointed daily psalms for General Psalms in Psalm Schedule **LSB, p. 304**

	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tue.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thur.</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Sun.</b>
<b>Daily Psalms</b>								
<b>Morning</b>	24	122	33	50	18:1-20	102	90	19
<b>Evening</b>	25, 110	40, 67	85, 91	14, 16	126, 62	130, 16	80, 72	132, 114

**Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer—Fifth & Sixth Petitions**

<p><i>The Lord’s Prayer (Fifth Petition)</i>  <b>And forgive us our trespasses  as we forgive those trespass against us.</b></p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i>  We pray in this petition  that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins,  or deny our prayer because of them.  We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray,  nor have we deserved them,  but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace  for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment.  So we too will sincerely forgive  and gladly do good to those who sin against us.</p>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade +
<p><i>The Lord’s Prayer (Sixth Petition)</i>  <b>And lead us not into temptation.</b></p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i>  God tempts no one.  We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us  so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature  may not deceive us or mislead us  into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice.  Although we are attacked by these things,  we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.</p>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade +

**The Third Sunday in Advent: *I’m Just the Messenger***

<b>Day</b>	<b>Bible Stories for the Family &amp; School</b>	<b>Daily prayer readings from LSB, p. 299</b>	
<b>Sun.</b>	“Go and Tell John What You Hear and See”—Matthew 11:2-11	Is. 33:1-24	Rev. 5:1-14
<b>Mon.</b>	Christ’s Birth Is Foretold to Joseph—Matthew 1:18-25	Is. 34:1-2, 8-35:10	Rev. 6:1-17
<b>Tue.</b>	The Nativity of Our Lord—Luke 2:1-7	Is. 40:1-17	Rev. 7:1-17
<b>Wed.</b>	The Birth of Christ Is Announced to Shepherds—Luke 2:8-14	Is. 40:18-41:10	Rev. 8:1-13
<b>Thur.</b>	The Shepherds Visit Bethlehem—Luke 2:15-20	Is. 42:1-25	Rev. 9:1-12
<b>Fri.</b>	Lutheran Service Book Readings	Is. 43:1-24	Rev. 9:13-10:11

**Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at St. Paul’s**  
Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

### **Daily Themes for Prayer**

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

### **In Our Prayers this Week**

**Those sick or hospitalized: MEMBERS** – Frieda Antoniak—breast cancer; Carrie Boldt; Richard Blanck; Larry Hansen; Kathy Wickersham; Timothy John Bratz—cancer; My Ubl—healing for multiple health issues; Duane Olson—kidney cancer; Duane Peterson; Carol Fellin—cancer; Bill & Margaret Voss; Ken Groenke; Laura Gruen—brain tumor; Louise Lang; Mabel Fredrick; Linda Hansen (Steve's wife); Marian Faltersack; Rick Ware; Ed Krelwitz; Harry & Dorothy Peterson (Shorehaven); Barb Krug; Crystal Parker

**FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS – Those with cancer:** Sue Lentini (Dina Tanner's cousin)—cancer returned; Naomi Morris; Janice (Diane Bleke's sister); Tom—stage 3 bladder cancer; Liz (Barb Allwardt's sister)—colon cancer; the sister of a member with breast cancer; Dylan Coughlin—3 year-old with brain tumor; Kevin Kloss (John Tesch's nephew)—Leukemia; Beth Etzel—stage-four pancreatic cancer; co-worker of Michelle Pagenkopf; Mike—cancer in bones; Roy Hyatt—cancer returned; Quinn—breast cancer; Julie; Kayla (7 years-old)—brain cancer; Linda F—breast cancer; Jack Anderson; Kim B.—breast cancer; Jeanie; Karen Peskie (Mike & Cheryl Reiner's sister-in-law)—Lymphoma; Lea Acord (Pat Borgman's friend); Dan (stage -four prostate cancer); Crystal Schultz; Joann Romain—kidney cancer; Ron Rafalski—throat cancer; Nancy—breast cancer

**Other:** Andrew (Rick Ware's cousin)—CLL chemo complications & PML Syndrome; Robert Akers (April Tiedtke's father)—palliative care; Vicki Kuhl—afib; Sue Jansen (Shirley Dibble's niece); Rebecca Mills; Gail Albright; Chelsea Bunker—severe brain injury; Marlene Wille (wife of Jim, former St. Paul's members)—stage 3 colon cancer; Dan George (Jamie's brother)—liver disease; Karen Nicholson; Armin Tessmann—strength in walking; Michael Hamton; Karen Christenson—dementia & stroke; Regina Mills; Dory Schultz; Phyllis Ecklor (Shirley Dibble's sister); Shawn—vascular problems; Kristal—lung surgery; Jonathan (Marilyn Marohn's nephew)—in need of a kidney; Doug—CCL; Megan Bertram; Clem—high calcium heart; Bob—prostate problems; Linda—diabetic dementia; Barb (Dave Schlomer's mom)—severe headaches; Sharon—probiotic/kidney problems; Pat—afib; Fred (Lynda Rades's brother); Joel (Tina Gartzke's nephew); Clarence; Pam; Scott Kleist (Jim & Ann Duggan's son)—MS; Paul Fellin

**Those serving in the military-deployed:** Justin Michener; PFC Nicholas Lang; Zach Howard, Theresa; Phil Preston; Captain Chad Kelling; Casey, Phil, Andy & Steve Koth; Luke, Jacob, Brian, Randy, Kyle, Jake, Jeff, Matt, Tom, Brad, Ben, Mike & Rob

**Those serving God as missionaries:** Christie Nelson (China), Ray Wigdal (China), Dennis Denow (Thailand), Bob & Chris Prouty (Australia), Pastor Reinke (Deaf Ministry), Rev. Bud Palmer

**Those in need:** Our Shut-Ins; the family of Doris (Mabel Flanagan & Agnes Thurow's sister), who died; Jean Vogel, who died; Matt, friend of Heather Gartzke; for a family struggling with job loss; David; those struggling with addiction-Bob, Andy, George, Dan, Dee; Sarah, Keri.

**Anniversary:** Jim & Marlene Steinberg—52<sup>nd</sup>—December 18<sup>th</sup>

**Public Reception of New Members:** Ryan & Danielle Petri, Tarek, Nolan & Jordan

**Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism**

**Hymn of the Week: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

**LSB 361**

**Looking forward to Christmas Eve**

**December 24, 2017**

**Hymns: 366, 370 (379, 364, 380, 368) 363**

***The Word of the Lord Is Fulfilled in the Flesh of Jesus***

Though Ahaz would not ask, the Lord gives a sign to the House of David — "the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Is. 7:14). With this promise, He signifies that salvation is by His grace alone. It is no work or achievement of man, but the Lord's own work and His free gift. The promise is fulfilled as the Son of God is conceived and born of the Virgin Mary, and the sign is received in faith by the House of David in the person of Joseph (Matt. 1:20-24). "Incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary" (Nicene Creed), God is with us (Immanuel) in the flesh of Jesus, Mary's Son. Joseph believes that Word of God and so demonstrates a marvelous example in his immediate and quiet obedience, taking Mary to be his wife and caring for her in faith and love. He loves her because the love of God is manifest in this, that "the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world," to be "the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10-14).

## **A new church directory is in the works!**

Mortensen Photography will be at St. Paul's in January to take your photo for the new church directory. There is a link on our website ([www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org)) where you can sign-up online during the week. Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex on the weekends. (Online sign-up will not be available on the weekends.)

- Please notify the church office (262-567-5001 or [heather@splco.org](mailto:heather@splco.org)) of any family, address, phone number, or email address changes by February 28, 2018.
- If you have digital photos of any St. Paul's activities from 2017 and would like to include them in the directory, email your photos to Amy Hackbarth by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you have any questions, please email Amy Hackbarth at [amy@splco.org](mailto:amy@splco.org) or John Melvin [johnlm00@hotmail.com](mailto:johnlm00@hotmail.com).

God's Blessings and thank you for your participation.



## St. Paul's Lutheran School ~ Celebrating 140 Years

### **Our students in Grades 4-8 visited the Junior Achievement Kohl's Education Center to experience JA Biz Town and Finance Park.**

Elementary school students aren't old enough to drive, work, vote, or be the boss. At JA (Junior Achievement) BizTown they were! Students in grades 4-6 operated a bank, restaurant, city hall, newspaper, retail store and 10 other businesses. JA BizTown combined in-class learning with a day-long visit to a fully interactive, simulated town. Students left with a better understanding of the relationship between what they learn in school and their participation in a local economy.

At JA BizTown, our St. Paul's students learned about entrepreneurship, goods and services, resources, producers and consumers, scarcity, supply and demand, opportunity costs, taxes, spending and saving, financial institutions and banking concepts. They learned how to write a resume and applied for jobs, and then became part of a business team to create a business plan.

Teens rarely think about buying health insurance, or evaluating investment choices. At JA Finance Park they did! JA Finance Park combined in-class learning with a day-long visit to a fully interactive, simulated town. Students in grades 7-8 were introduced to personal finance and career exploration. They received family and income scenarios, and then visited nineteen businesses to purchase things like insurance, clothing, food, transportation and real estate. They created a budget, allocated utility expenses and made personal investments. Students were the sole providers for a family and learned to accommodate the needs of the family without overspending.

At JA Finance Park, our St. Paul's students learned about banking, budgeting, credit and debt, opportunity costs, taxes, interest rates, wages, income and expenses, needs and wants, careers, risks and benefits of credit, saving and investing, and successful budgeting. They also learned about personal abilities, career interests, work preferences, and values.

What a wonderful real-life learning experience for our students!! Thank you to our teachers and all of the volunteers who made this field trip possible!!

*Mission Statement: Helping God's children grow to be energetic servant leaders for HIM through love, respect, and a commitment to excellence.*

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to be directed to St. Paul's online giving webpage.



For the most current information on St. Paul's happenings, please visit our website at [splco.org](http://splco.org).

**UPCOMING EVENTS: December 18<sup>th</sup>–24<sup>th</sup>**  
**ADVANCE THE MISSION**  
**REACHING, SERVING & GROWING DISCIPLES**

MONDAY December 18 <sup>th</sup>	Lord's Cupboard Meal Financial Oversight Committee Meeting	Fellowship Hall Room 201	5:30 pm 6:30 pm
TUESDAY December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Education Committee Meeting Praise Team Practice	Room 219 Church	6:00 pm 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Rehearsal Preservice Music SPLS Rehearsal Service Spaghetti Dinner hosted by Lord's Cupboard Parish Choir Preservice Music SPLS Christmas Service	Church Church Fellowship Hall Balcony Church Church	12:00 pm 12:15 pm 5:15 pm 5:20 pm 6:15 pm 6:30 pm
THURSDAY December 21 <sup>st</sup>	Praise Team Practice	Church	7:00 pm
SATURDAY December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Journeyman Christmas Party <b>NO SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICE</b> AA Meeting	Pete Sheild's Fellowship Hall	7:30 am 8:30 pm
SUNDAY December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Family Christmas Worship Service The Nativity of Our Lord The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Midnight	Church Church Church Church	3:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm 10:30 pm

# ATTENDANCE

December 9/10

**Church Attendance:**

5:00 pm—80

8:00 am—149

10:30 am—182

411 Total; 23 visitors; 388 members

**ST. PAUL'S DECEMBER EPISTLE IS  
AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT  
SPLCO.ORG.**

**FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN**

We rejoice to have families with small children participating in our worship services. There are baskets available with items that might be helpful for your children behind the back pews.

**THIS SUNDAY**

**5:00 PM**

**8:00 AM**

**10:30 AM**

<b>Music Leaders</b>	Diane Bleke	Diane Bleke	In His Light
<b>Special Music</b>	Adult Choir	Adult Choir	
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBD	Wesley Weaver	TBD
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Jean Fisher	Donna Andrus	Cheryl Oelsner
<b>Elders</b>	Wilbur Pieper	Todd Leonhardt	Mark Thurow
<b>Greeters</b>	John Melvin	Don & Harriet Groose (church) Jim & Marlene Steinberg (school)	Al & Kathy Mueller
<b>Lectors</b>	John Kelling	Dave Meyer	
<b>Power Point</b>	N/A	N/A	Leah Johnson
<b>Radio</b>	N/A	Jim Steinberg	N/A
<b>Ushers</b>	Wilbur Pieper	Todd Leonhardt	John Melvin

**UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2017**

Wednesday	December 20	Band & Guitar Preservice Music	12:00 pm
		SPLS Christmas Rehearsal Service	12:15 pm
		Spaghetti Dinner in Fellowship Hall	5:15 pm
		Band & Guitar Preservice Music	6:15 pm
		SPLS Christmas Service	6:30 pm
Saturday	December 23	<b>NO SATURDAY WORSHIP</b>	
Sunday	December 24	Family Worship Service	3:00 pm
		The Nativity of Our Lord	5pm & 7pm
		Christmas Midnight	10:30 pm
Monday	December 25	Christmas Day Service	9:00 am
Saturday	December 30	Traditional Worship Service	5:00 pm
Sunday	December 31	Traditional Worship Service	8:00 am
		Contemporary Worship Service	10:30 am

# THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

## **Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

*Pew Bible pg. 789*

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

## **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*Pew Bible pg. 1258*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it .

## **St. John 1:6–8, 19–28**

*Pew Bible pg. 1127*

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. And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.