

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

(The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod)

FOR UNTO US  
*a child is born,*

 UNTO US  
*a son is  
given.*

- ISAIAH 9:6



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 24<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 51

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.

## CHRISTMAS EVE

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

**Pastors:** Steve Scharnell & Lance O'Donnell

**Theme:** *Echoing Joy*

3:00 pm

**Special Order:** *The Angels' Joy*

5pm & 7pm

**LSB, pg. 151:** *Joseph's Joy*

10:30 pm

**LSB, pg. 184:** *Mary's Joy*

## 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 Audrey Martens in memory of loved ones. St. Paul's 8:00 am church service can be heard Sunday over WTKM (104.9 FM) and worldwide at wtkm.com.



# CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

The office hours for the Christmas break are as follows:

- December 25-January 2: OFFICE CLOSED
- January 3: office re-opens with regular hours

If you have an emergency when the office is closed, you can call the main number at 262.567.5001, and you will be directed to extension 505 to receive an emergency contact number.

## REACHING DISCIPLES

### FAMILY PROMISE DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

It's time again for Family Promise's Annual Year-End Matching Fund Campaign! And this year we have been blessed with a matching fund total of \$20,000! **ALL DONATIONS UP TO \$20,000 received by January 8<sup>th</sup> will be matched!** Help us build better lives for families in our community. Your financial support is vital to us, and we can assure that every dollar goes toward our goal of transforming homeless families with children into self-supporting, contributing members of our local community.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!

The Lord's Cupboard wants to thank all the volunteers for their *time and talents* and to the members of our congregation who made donations (food and money), bought gifts and said prayers for our community families that are in need. ***On Monday, December 18th, we served 192+ meals, gave out 163 pantry food bags, packed 250 Christmas food bags including a ham and put 166 gifts under someone's tree!*** What a truly wonderful way to show others that God loves them! Each of our volunteers are a true blessing whether they packed or handed out the food bags (Warrior Nation among them!), made and served the food including the yummy desserts, delivered the food bags to the elderly (our youth group) and the gifts to Bethesda, decorated the food bags (Mrs. Gerlach's kindergarten class), answered questions (all our incredible office personnel), came to sing (Mrs. Benes 3rd grade class), organized the gifts, went shopping for food and toiletries, cleaned up and had a smile on their face! Thank you and God's richest blessings to you and your family in 2018!



**Luke 2:12** "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Truly, as St. Paul said, He who was rich for our sakes became poor: the King who must be laid in a manger, no crib for His bed! There in the manger is the very picture of self-giving generosity .

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

Second graders share their favorite things about Christmas...

...when Jesus was born

...spending time with family

...it reminds me of Jesus and God

...Jesus and presents

...we get to celebrate Jesus' birth

...Jesus is with us

...family makes Christmas special and Jesus

...God loves you

*Second graders enjoyed learning about the Christmas story and memorized twenty verses in the Gospel of Luke to prepare for our Christmas worship service. They created 'Jesus Trees' to show how the promises of the Old Testament were fulfilled in the birth of our Savior. They also had a lot of fun with other projects like these gingerbread houses.*



**As we celebrate our Savior's birth, we wish everyone a blessed Christmas! May God's gifts of hope, peace, and love bring blessings to your family this Christmas season and throughout the new year!**

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

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*Christmas Eve: Echoing Joy*

*December 24–31, 2017*

## **Echoing Joy**

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).

*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**

**Verse:** Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Psalm:** Psalm 96 and/or the appointed daily psalms for General Psalms in Psalm Schedule **LSB, p. 304**

Daily Psalms	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
<b>Morning</b>	19	2	116	34	2	96	93	98
<b>Evening</b>	132, 114	98, 96	119:1-24, 27	19, 121	110, 111	132, 97	89:1-18, 19-52	45, 96

## The Apostles' Creed: Second Article

<p><i>The Creed (Second Article)</i>  <b>And [I believe] 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.</b></p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i>          I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,</p>	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade +
<p><i>What does this mean? (continued)</i>          Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.</p>	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade +
<p><i>What does this mean? (continued)</i>          That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.</p>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade +

## Christmas Eve: *Echoing Joy*

Day	Bible Stories for the Family & School	Daily prayer readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sun.	A Voice in the Wilderness—John 1:19-28	Is. 44:21-45:13, 20-25	Rev. 12:1-17
Mon.	Lutheran Service Book Readings	Is. 49:1-18	Matt. 1:1-17
Tue.	Lutheran Service Book Readings	Is. 49:22-26; 50:4-51:5, 12-16	Matt. 1:18-25
Wed.	Lutheran Service Book Readings	Is. 51:17-52:12	Matt. 2:1-12
Thur.	Lutheran Service Book Readings	Is. 52:13-54:10	Matt 2:13-23
Fri.	Lutheran Service Book Readings	Is. 55:1-13	Luke 1:1-25

### **Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at St. Paul's**

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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** – Glenn Gartzke—Melanoma; 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; 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:** Sicily (3 year-old)—Guillain-Barre syndrome; Riley Miskimen—blood clots; Shirley Katusich; Merita Dinnauer; 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; Matt, friend of Heather Gartzke; for a family struggling with job loss; David; those struggling with addiction-Bob, Andy, George, Dan, Dee; Sarah, Keri.

**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 The First Sunday after Christmas      **December 30/31, 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).

## Church Directory Update

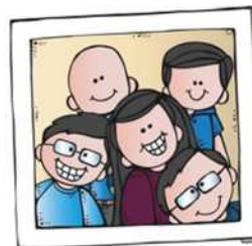
Sign-up now for your family portraits! We are scheduling sessions now with Mortensen Photography to take your photo for the new church directory. You can sign-up online during the week, or on the weekends using the sign-up sheets located in the narthex. (Online sign-up will not be available on the weekends.)

- Please notify the church office (262-567-5001 or heather@splco.org) of any family, address, phone number, or email address changes by February 28, 2018.
- **If you will be out of town for an extended period of time or would like to have your session during the day, you can also have your photo taken at the Mortensen studio.**

**Photographer Contact Info:**

Rick Swearingen

Mortensen Photography & Design  
139 W. Broadway  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
Rick@MortensenPhotography.com  
Tel: 262-754-8889



If you have any questions, please email Amy Hackbarth at amy@splco.org or John Melvin johnlm00@hotmail.com

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 25<sup>th</sup>–31<sup>st</sup>**  
**ADVANCE THE MISSION**  
**REACHING, SERVING & GROWING DISCIPLES**

MONDAY December 25 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Day Worship	Church	9:00 am
TUESDAY December 26 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED Praise Team Practice	Church	7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY December 27 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED		
THURSDAY December 28 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED Praise Team Practice	Church	7:00 pm
FRIDAY December 29 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED		
SATURDAY December 30 <sup>th</sup>	Traditional Worship Service AA Meeting	Church Fellowship Hall	5:00 pm 8:30 pm
SUNDAY December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Traditional Worship Service Contemporary Worship Service	Church Church	8:00 am 10:30 am

# ATTENDANCE

December 16/17

**Church Attendance:**

5:00 pm—89

8:00 am—126

10:30 am—138

353 Total; 35 visitors; 318 members

**ST. PAUL'S JANUARY 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	3:00 PM	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	10:30 PM
<b>Music Leaders</b>	Diane Bleke Look2Him	Diane Bleke	Diane Bleke	Diane Bleke
<b>Special Music</b>	Parish Choir	Angela Bleke	Angela Bleke	Angela Bleke
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBD	Warren Thurow	TBD	TBD
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Brenda Jacobosky Shirley Dibble	Audrey Martens Gerri Zwiag	Jean Fisher	Wendy Tesch
<b>Elders</b>	Arno Kirchenwitz	Bryan Polinske	Wilbur Pieper	Josh Oddsen
<b>Lectors</b>	John Kelling	Dave Meyer		
<b>Power Point</b>	Heather Scheuer	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Ushers</b>	Bob Bratz	Dan Friedrich	Wilbur Pieper	Truman Seifert

NEXT WEEKEND	5:00 PM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
<b>Readings</b>	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBD	Megan Frosch	TBD
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Margie Hertneky	Barb Hentz	Audrey Martens & Gerri Zwiag
<b>Elders</b>	Dave Meyer	Arno Kirchenwitz	Scott Kalien
<b>Greeters</b>	John & Margie Hertneky	Karen Meyer (church) Roger & Pat Gartzke (school)	Wayne & Diane Gartzke
<b>Power Point</b>	N/A	N/A	Heather Scheuer
<b>Radio</b>	N/A	Cheryl Tesch	N/A
<b>Ushers</b>	Dave Meyer	Gary Flanagan	Scott Kalien

# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (5pm & 7pm)

## **Isaiah 7:10–14**

*Pew Bible pg. 727*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

## **1 John 4:7-16**

*Pew Bible pg. 1304*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

## **St. Matthew 1:18–25**

*Pew Bible pg. 1026*

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.

# CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT (10:30 pm)

## **Isaiah 9:2-7**

*Pew Bible pg. 729*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## **Titus 2:11-14**

*Pew Bible pg. 1272*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

## **St. Luke 2:1-20**

*Pew Bible pg. 1090*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.