

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Gloria Meltesen, Florence Dougherty, Darlene Babbitt, John Acker, Lois Reineke, Judy Bever, Craig King, Wynn Liersch, Mary Leis, Tracie Herman, Don Schreier, Debra Welch, Sterling Schwartz, Patrick Reardon

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton.

CALENDAR

Dec. 5	Church Council	6:30 pm
Dec. 7	Confirmation	6:30pm-8:00 pm
Dec.11	Christmas Program Practice	8:00 am
	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am
Dec. 14	Confirmation	6:30pm-8:00 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANSITION COMMITTEE SURVEY

Additional copies of the survey are located in the narthex. The drop box for completed surveys will be available next week.

BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

A Total of 72 units were collected at yesterday's drive, with the possibility of helping to save 216 lives. An opportunity to give the gift of life at this most special time of year. Thank you to the following who helped with the drive: Kirstin Arndt, Miranda Arndt, Emily Bever, Ann McKelvey, Payton Clark, Dylan Powell, and Sarah Schmitz.





St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Second Sunday in Advent
December 4, 2022
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

**(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

On this second Sunday of Advent,
as we think about the coming of Jesus Christ,
we light the candle of peace.

Jesus Christ is our peace.

Jesus Christ is our peace.
**He is the Prince of Peace,
and the fruit of His presence is peace**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, who has come to save you.

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.154

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,
**in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*Benediction

Hymn

"Lo, How a Rose e'r Blooming"

ELW #272

P Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Pastor: Bill Horn; Organist: Nalani Bever;

Reader: Ava Gruen

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Danelle Dougherty,
Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Eternal God,
**you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 152

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW p. 153

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

Christ comes to bring justice, wholeness, and harmony
to every relationship throughout all creation.
He wants to continually grant us peace in every situation.

Jesus, we pray,
guide our feet into the path of peace.

ADVENT HYMN: (sung to the tune of Infant Holy, Infant Lowly)
Candles glowing, promise showing holy peace so still and bright.
New tomorrow, free from sorrow—living in Christ's holy light.
Shunning violence, loving neighbor, joy of silence, trust our savior —
Living in Christ's holy light! Living in Christ's holy light!

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

**Blessed be God's name forever.
Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

God of new beginnings,
**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.
Amen.**

People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,
a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on ✝ Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

Hymn **“People, Look East”**

ELW#248

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**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Sermon

Reverend Chris Hallemeier

Hymn

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

ELW #264

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 in your mercy, **hear our prayer**)

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

*Offering plates are located in the Narthex as you
enter and exit the church.*

GOSPEL READING

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

The holy gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

***Prayer of the Day**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David’s royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
²**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon
shall be no more.

¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**
¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen.

Second Reading

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

Romans 15:4-13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**