



“Our Welcome”

In the light of God’s unconditional love, we respect the dignity of every human being by welcoming and supporting all persons whatever their race, color, gender, age, sexual orientation, health status, marital status or stage of spiritual journeying. We invite you to explore, investigate, and grow in your faith and become a part of our shared journey with God.

**The Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025
Holy Eucharist 10:00am**

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
Office: 517-482-9454

218 W. Ottawa St. Lansing, MI 48933
www.stpaulslansing.org



St. Paul's Staff: : The Rev. Karen C. Lewis, Rector; The Rev. Canon Dr. W. Richard Hamlin, Priest Associate; The Very Rev. Dr. Gail Shafer, Priest Associate; Ms. Stephanie Gewirtz, Minister of Music; Ms. Theresa Milne, Parish Administrator; Ms. Barbara Heany, Sunday School Director; Ms. Katie Alexander, Nursery Attendant; Mr. D'Kwon Guerrero, Sexton/Custodian; Mr. Conrad Moyer, A/V Technician.

St. Paul's Vestry: David Parks, Sr. Warden; Larry Clark, Jr. Warden; Justin Alexander; Jane Bryce; Joshua Freeman; Kelly Hackett; Bob Merriman; Jim Milne; Herb Tanner; Bobbi Tisdale; AJ Walilko; Amy Wortley; Jeff Irwin, Treasurer; Margaret Schulte, Secretary

Visitors and Guests: Please fill out a visitor card and give it to an usher or place it in the offering box. As you are leaving, we would like you to take a moment to sign one of the guest books located by the church doorways.

Opportunities for Worship - Sundays: 10:00am

Parish Office Hours Monday - Thursday: 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Closed on Fridays.

Phone: 517-482-9454 E-mail: office@stpaulslansing.org

Visit our website: www.stpaulslansing.org

For Parish activities and information please check the information table in the Merrifield Room.

Baptism or Marriage: If you would like more information, please contact the Rector at 482-9454 or by email: rector@stpaulslansing.org.

Church School: Our church school for elementary through middle school begins at 9:45am. If you would like more information, please speak to Barb Heany.

The Nursery is open in the Music Wing near the Choir Room.

All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded and photographed for church uses. Entry into the sanctuary or into any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.

Roosevelt Parking Ramp Hours of Access:

Monday-Thursday: 6:00pm – 9:00pm Gates/doors lock automatically at 9:01pm

Friday: Not Available Gates locked

Saturday & Sunday: 7:30am – 6:00pm Gates/doors lock automatically at 6:01pm

The ramp will be available on special occasions when requested by the churches in advance. Staff members (Karen, Stephanie, Theresa) will have access cards if your car is locked in the ramp after hours.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025 – 10:00am

The Advent Wreath is a visual symbol marking the progress of the season of Advent, originating as a domestic devotion and an opportunity for family prayer. It functions as a simple countdown-timer of the passage of Advent. Attaching symbolic meaning to particular candles is a more recent innovation. When the Advent Wreath is used in the worshipping community at morning services, the appropriate number of candles on the wreath are lighted, without prayer or ceremony, with the other candles. The Book of Occasional Services 2022 pg. 20

The candle for Advent I will be lit pre-service at the time the other candles are lit. I encourage you to use the following reading as the focus of your devotions this next week.

WEEK OF 3 ADVENT

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." *Luke 3:15-16*

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Creator, you made all people of every land. Today, we honor the ancestral and traditional Lands of the Anishinaabeg, the Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi people, whose home this land was for hundreds of years, and who are still here today. As we make this land acknowledgement, we confess to our part in the sin of traumatic, systemic racism and oppression in the history of this nation and in the Church-a history we are only beginning to understand. With humility, we commit ourselves to acknowledging the wrongs of the past and to building relationships with the Anishinaabeg. **Amen.**

1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us—dark - ness, death, and win - ter days
 2. Can it be that from our end - ings, new be - gin - nings you cre - ate?
 3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres - ence fill.

shroud our lives in fear and sad - ness, numb - ing mouths that long to praise.
 Life from death, and from our rend - ings, realms of whole - ness gen - er - ate?
 Swell our hearts with songs of glad - ness, ter - rors calm fore - bod - ings still.

Come, O Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our cries, come set us free.
 Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in - to hopes for life a - new:
 Let your prom - ised realm of jus - tice blos - som now through - out the earth;

Give us hope and faith and glad - ness. Show us what there yet can be.
 Fad - ing light and dy - ing sea - son sing their Glo - ri - as to you.
 your do - min - ion bring now near us; we a - wait the sav - ing birth.

Words: Dean W. Nelson (b. 1944). Music: *Ton-y-BoTel*, Thomas John Williams (1869-1944).

The people standing, the Officiant says

Officiant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The people sing together

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord,

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord,

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)
 Copyright: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are invited to sit for the readings

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand to sing the canticle

CANTICLE 15



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of his word!

Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
 Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.

ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.
 his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

Reader A reading from the letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

HYMN 75



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a —
 2 O ——— Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
 3 but the word of our God — en - du - reth, the —



call from the ways un - trod; Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst — of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The —
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 flowers of the field they — per - ish, like
 feed his — flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our — God — may go!
 na - tions shall — pass like a dream — a - way;
 lead them, and — bring them — safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988). Copyright © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft.

Then, all standing, the clergyperson reads the Gospel, first saying

Clergy The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John (the Baptist) heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Clergy The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

THE NICENE CREED

The people stand and say together

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**
**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**
**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**
**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The people stand, sit or kneel

Jesus said the signs of God's dominion were to be seen in the healing of the sick, the raising of the dead to new life, and the preaching of good news to the poor. Let us pray that our lives may be the instruments of God's work in the world.

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation. Grant that we who bear your image may be faithful servants of your gift and administer its bounty with wisdom for the good of all your creatures. O God, most worthy of praise, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the community of faith throughout the world. Strengthen your church as it witnesses to your love and hear our prayers for Sean our presiding bishop and Bonnie our bishop. Guide us in the fulfillment of your mission, that all may be one. O God, most worthy of praise, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the privilege of ministering to others. We remember before you all who are sick or in need especially those on our parish prayer list and those we now name either silently or aloud _____. We pray for those who have died. Grant us the grace to accept suffering with patience and to be strengthened by our common life in the body of Christ. O God, most worthy of praise, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for your countless gifts. Above all, we thank you for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ, and for our unity in him through baptism. O God, most worthy of praise, **hear our prayer.**

The Officiant closes the prayers by saying

We offer our thanksgivings and prayers to you, the one God and the source of light and life, now and forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Officiant says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept. And then the Minister and People say together

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor unto the Lord.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Song of Mary

Jeff Kressler

Descant

4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior
 2 He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
 soul to cure; and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

Music: *Richmond*, melody Thomas Haweis (1734-1820); adapt. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816);
 harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised*, 1950; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people standing, the Officiant says

The Lord be with you

People

And also with you.

Officiant

Lift up your hearts.

People

We lift them to the Lord.

Officiant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The people stand or kneel as the Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The people sing together

SANCTUS

S130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are". The piano accompaniment features chords and some melodic lines, with some notes held across measures.

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send away empty.

Your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

The Officiant and People say together

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Officiant continues

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

S164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

COMMUNION HYMN

Now the silence

HYMN 333

Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty
hands up - lift - ed Now the kneel - ing Now the plea
Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come Now the hear - ing
Now the power Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing
Now the Bo - dy Now the Blood Now the joy - ful
cel - e - bra - tion Now the wed - ding Now the songs
Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing Now the Spi - rit's
vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - an - y
Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda (b. 1919). Music: *Now*, Carl Flentge Schalk (b. 1929). Words and Music: Copyright © 1969, by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Officiant and People say together:

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

The King shall come when morning dawns

HYMN 73

1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to
3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by
5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and

1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the
2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry
3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing
4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph
5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy

1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;
4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.
5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925), alt. Music: *St. Stephen*, William Jones (1726-1800), alt.

DISMISSAL

Officiant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Assisting in today's service

Crucifer	Jim Milne
Subdeacon	Jen Humphries
Lector	Herb Tanner
Prayers of the People	Jim Milne
Chalice Bearers	Jen Humphries, Debbie Parks
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Nancy Merriman (chair), Jane Bryce, Theresa Milne, Lyn Zynda
Ushers	Joseph Lehning, Joshua Freeman, Michael Hart, Mark Rudd
Counters	Martha McKee, Margaret Schulte
Coffee Hour	
Greeters	
Blessing Box	Martha McKee
Recycling Team	
Sunday School Mentors	Barb Heany, Carrie Freeman
Vestry Person of the Day	Herb Tanner

Musical selections licensed through Rite Song.

Assisting Next Sunday, December 21, 2025

Crucifer	Greg Wortley
Subdeacon	Amy Wortley
Lector	Nancy Rudd
Prayers of the People	AJ Walilko
Chalice Bearers	Justin Alexander, Lyn Zynda
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Bobbi Tisdale (chair), Marilyn Earley, Steven Kandow, Maria Wawro
Ushers	John Nevin, Jack Baker, Jamal Dillman-Hasso, Bob Merriman
Counters	Larry Clark, Leslie Hall
Coffee Hour	
Greeters	Ian Moore
Blessing Box	John David Hawkins
Recycling Team	
Sunday School Mentors	Barb Heany, Susan Henderson
Vestry Person of the Day	Joshua Freeman

St. Paul's Christmas Season Services

December 24, Christmas Eve: 7:00pm - Christmas Music
December 24, Christmas Eve: 7:30pm - Festal Christmas Eve Service
December 25, Christmas Day: 10:00am - Worship & Holy Communion
December 28: 10:00am Holy Communion
January 4, 2026: 10:00am Holy Communion
January 11: 10:00am - Epiphany Lessons & Carols & Antecomunion

**Opportunities for Prayer
December 14, 2025**

We pray for those who have ongoing needs for healing prayers: Melissa, Julie, Everett, Mark, Howard, Kris, Pat, Jim, Mike, Ian, Peter, Caroline, and Jennifer. **Due to privacy concerns, we will now be posting first names only on our prayer list.*

We pray this week for the following St. Paul's members: Leslie Hall and Dick Hamlin.

We pray this week for the following community service agency: Sleep in Heavenly Peace, 711 E Willoughby Rd, Lansing 48911.

We pray for our downtown church community: Cathedral Church of St. Mary; Central United Methodist Church; Christ Community Church; and First Presbyterian Church.

We pray for our worshiping communities: St. Luke's, Shelby Township; St. Mary, Full of Grace, Mao, DR.

We pray for those in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for The Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil.

We pray for: Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; Bonnie A. Perry, our bishop; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod; our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; Karen C. Lewis, our rector; Dick Hamlin and Gail Shafer, our priest associates; our worship ministers, St. Paul's staff and our diocesan household.

**Announcements for The Week
December 14, 2025 - December 21, 2025**

Parish Office Hours Monday - Thursday: 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Closed on Fridays.

Phone: 517-482-9454 E-mail: office@stpaulslansing.org

Visit our website: www.stpaulslansing.org

For Parish activities and information please check the information table in the Merrifield

Baby formula for Advent House: We are collecting baby formula and baby food that will be delivered to Advent House for their baby/family pantry. Your help could make a difference in the lives of young working families trying to make ends meet. Please place items in the shopping cart by the back door if you would like to help with this ministry. If you have questions, please see Katie Alexander johns21k@gmail.com.

Bulletin: Please submit information by noon on Tuesday, in writing or by e-mail, to office@stpaulslansing.org to ensure accuracy.

Blessing Box: Sign up in the Merrifield Room to fill the Blessing Box for a week.

Capital City Brass Band Concert: Save the date! December 14, 2025, at 3:00pm. Please join us for a concert with the Capital City Brass Band. Parishioner Steven Kandow is a musician in the band. This event is sponsored by the Tom & Jean Shawver Fund.

Decorating the Sanctuary on December 21: Please join us as we decorate the Sanctuary following the service. While the church is being decorated for Christmas, the children will decorate their own special "Kindness" Christmas tree with handmade ornaments in the Merrifield Room. Lunch will be provided for all helpers. Please sign up in the Merrifield Room.

Annual reports are due in the office by Monday, January 12, 2026.

St. Paul's Annual Meeting/Potluck is January 25, 2026, at 11:30am. Please plan to attend. Sign up and let us know what dish you will bring to share.

In case of inclement weather during the winter months, please call the office at 482-9454 after 11:00am to check on cancellations. If you receive a recording stating the office is closed, then all events for that day are cancelled. If the Lansing School District is closed, all church events for that day will be cancelled.

Deanery Confirmation at St. Paul's: Bishop Perry will be at St. Paul's on Saturday, May 9, 2026, for Deanery confirmation. Anyone who would like to be baptized at that time, confirmed, or would like to reaffirm your faith, please let Karen+ know so she can put a class schedule together.

Recycle ink cartridges: Bring your used ink cartridges into the parish office for recycling and help reduce our paper costs. We get discounts on office supplies and paper through the Staples recycling program.

Evening Meeting Times & Parking Ramp Hours: All evening meetings and classes should begin no earlier than 6:15pm and end by 8:45pm for access to the parking ramp. regular parking ramp availability M-Th 6:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday & Sunday 7:30am-6:00pm.

The service of Compline is offered Wednesday evenings at 9 pm on Zoom with The Very Rev. Dr. Gail Shafer, our priest associate. The current liturgy is from the Book of Common Prayer. A recording of the service will be posted to St. Paul's Facebook page. Please feel free to either join the Zoom meeting, or the service posted on Facebook. The Zoom link will be listed in the weekly email.

Coffee Hour sign up: We need two family units per week to bring treats, serve & provide cleanup for coffee hour following the 10:00am services. There are signup sheets in the Merrifield Room. Sign up with a friend or extended family. If no one signs up, we will not have coffee hour.

Altar flower requests: There are openings for the upcoming Sundays for altar flower dedications. Flowers are always given to the glory of God, and then in honor of, or in thanksgiving for a person or occasion. Dedications and **\$120** payment must be received in the church office no later than the Monday before the date of the dedication. **More than one dedication can be made if you and a friend want to share the cost of the flowers.** Altar Flower forms available on the signup table, or you can email your dedication to office@stpaulslansing.org.

Reminder: Please schedule all meetings (in-person and online) with the office in advance. We want to assure you that there is space for you to meet and that someone will be available to open the building. For online meetings, we want meetings to be available to all parishioners. **Please** notify the office if you have a **cancellation** to ensure building and staff security.

Please sign up to be a Greeter: One of the faith outreaches we have at St. Paul's is the Sunday morning greeters. We can extend our faith by welcoming our fellow parishioners and visitors each week. Remember that you are the first face they will see as they enter the church. A welcoming hand and face always lift our spirit, what a way to start a day and you play an important part in that.

- **Signup sheets are in the Merrifield Room** – Need two greeters at the back door.
- Be at the back door 20 minutes before the service.
- Greeters should remind parishioners to pick up their nametags and ask visitors to fill out the guest book located in the cloister outside the chapel and to join the parish after the service for coffee and fellowship in the Merrifield Room.

St. Paul's Recycling: Please sign up in the Merrifield Room to take some of the recycling either to your home bin or to a recycling drop off center. We are committed to reduce, reuse, and recycle at St. Paul's. See one of the Milnes or Borons for more information.

Contributions Last Week: For the week of December 7, 2025, St. Paul's received **\$18,753** in contributions as follows:

Pledge Income	\$14,350
Operating Income	\$1,095
Prepaid 2026 Pledge	\$2,340
Christmas Flowers	\$725
Loose Offering	\$25
Noisy Offering	\$218

QR Code for giving. Scan the code with your phone to be taken to options for giving.



This Week at St. Paul's
December 14, 2025 - December 21, 2025

Sunday, 12/14:		Advent III
	9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:45am	Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship & Holy Communion
	11:15am	Coffee Hour
	11:15am	Pack lunches for Punks with Lunch
	12 :30pm	Capital City Brass Band Rehearsal
	3:00pm	Capital City Brass Band Concert
Monday 12/15:	6:15pm	Vestry Dinner - Meeting @ 6:30pm - Hill Room
Tuesday, 12/16:	7:00pm	Bible Study - Zoom
Wednesday, 12/17:	9:00pm	Compline - Zoom
Thursday, 12/18:	7:00am	Men's Breakfast @ Flap Jack Restaurant
	12:00pm	Staff Luncheon - VanAtta Room
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, 12/19:		Office Closed
Saturday, 12/20:		
Sunday, 12/21:		Advent IV
	9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:45am	Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship & Holy Communion
	11:00am	Decorate Sanctuary after service
	11:00am	Kids decorate tree in Merrifield Room
	11:15am	Coffee Hour
	11:30am	Lunch/Hot Chocolate Bar for Decorating Crew

CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND

I would like to contribute \$ _____

This contribution is from: _____

In Memory of: _____

OR

In grateful Thanksgiving for: _____



Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church and write "Flower Fund" in the memo line. Checks and this form can be placed in the collection plate, mailed to the church office at 218 W. Ottawa, Lansing 48933, or placed in the Parish mailbox outside of the Parish office. (Deadline: Monday, December 15, 2025)