



“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 Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 21, 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 IV 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 4 ADVENT

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." *Luke 1:39-42*

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior.

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.**

OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

HYMN 56 V. 1-3



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.

Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

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, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, 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

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are invited to sit for the readings

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 7:10-16

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 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. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;*
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,*
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts,*
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts,*
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;*
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,*
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts,*
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,*
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you;*
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts,*
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 1:1-7

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN *Savior of the nations, come* HYMN 54



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938). Sts. 3-4 Copyright © 1982, James Waring McCrady. Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616).

THE HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 1:18-25

Then, all standing, the clergy person reads the Gospel, first saying

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place of fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus."

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

Mary, the mother of Christ, is a sign to the church of faithful obedience to the will of God. As we come to the commemoration of the birth of Christ, let us pray that we, like Mary, hear God's word and respond in obedient faith to the coming of Christ.

Let us pray for Sean our presiding bishop, Bonnie, our bishop and for the church, that every member may manifest Christ in the world. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the leaders of government in every nation that they may have wisdom to choose what serves the common good. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who are in need, remembering all who are sick, the elderly, those on our parish prayer list, those who are alone, and all who minister to them, that we all may be strengthened by the presence of Christ as the sign of God's love. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those with whom we share our daily lives, our families, friends and neighbors, and those with whom we work and play, that we may all be strengthened and sustained by God's presence with us. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who have died, that they may rest in peace. May we wait in hope for the promise of resurrection with them. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

The Officiant closes the prayers by saying

Hasten, O God, the coming of your dominion. Come to us in Christ, that we who live by faith in this world may see our faith confirmed in the world to come, through our risen Christ. **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

There's a Voice in the Wilderness
Chris Wheeler, oboe

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

OFFERTORY HYMN

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

HYMN 265

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943). Copyright © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0LD, England.

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

The musical score for the Sanctus is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems of music. The first system contains the first two lines of the lyrics: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and". The second system contains the next two lines: "might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,". The third system contains the final two lines: "God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal lines. There are several instances of fermatas over the vocal lines, particularly over the word "might" and the end of the phrase "God of power and might".

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.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

INVITATION

Officiant The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Holy Gifts for Holy People

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All God's people are cordially invited to God's table, including children. Gluten-free wafers are available: please indicate to the priest that you require this alternative. We will be offering wine from the common cup to those who wish to receive in this manner. The chalice bearer will thoroughly wipe the space from which you drank prior to offering the cup to the next communicant.

Another alternative to receiving the wine from the common cup is through intinction. The priest will place the wafer in your hand; the chalice bearer will pick up the wafer, dip it into the wine, and replace it on your palm. No one is allowed to intinct with their own hand/fingers. This safeguards all who use the common cup. If you wish to receive communion in only one kind (bread), know that you have received full communion.

Those who are not baptized or those who do not wish to receive communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. The ushers will guide you.

If you are unable to come forward and wish to receive communion in your pew, please let one of the ushers know.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

O Taste and See

Timothy Flynn

COMMUNION HYMN

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless

HYMN 343

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen
2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy
3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not
4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the
word of grace, in strength of which we
then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with
and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.
trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.
us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.
heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1845), alt. Music: *St. Agnes*, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876); harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), after John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876). Copyright © 1985, G.I.A. Publications.

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

People, look East

HYMN WLP 724



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.



Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965). Music: *Besançon Carol*, harm. John L. Hooker (b. 1944).

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	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

Musical selections licensed through Rite Song.

Assisting Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025

Crucifer	Jamal Dillman-Hasso
Subdeacon	Leslie Hall
Lector	Larry Clark
Prayers of the People	Margaret Schulte
Chalice Bearers	Jamal Dillman Hasso, Leslie Hall
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Marti Narezo (chair), Carrie Freeman, Barb Heany
Ushers	John Nevin, Jack Baker, Bob Merriman, Joe Lehning, Joshua Freeman, Michael Hart, Mark Rudd

Assisting Christmas Day, December 25, 2025

Crucifer	Barb Heany
Lector	Barb Heany
Prayers of the People	Barb Heany
Chalice Bearer	Barb Heany
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Marti Narezo (chair), Carrie Freeman, Barb Heany
Usher	John David Hawkins

Assisting Next Sunday, December 28, 2025

Crucifer	Jim Milne
Subdeacon	
Lector	Elisabeth Richardson
Prayers of the People	Elisabeth Richardson
Chalice Bearers	Theresa Milne, Amy Wortley
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Debbie Parks, Katie Alexander, Hillary Walilko
Ushers	Larry Clark, Isaac Francisco, Steven Kandow, Hillary Walilko, Katie Wiley
Counters	Jane Bryce, Isaac Francisco
Coffee Hour	
Greeters	
Blessing Box	Jack Baker
Recycling Team	
Vestry Person of the Day	Bobbi Tisdale

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 21, 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: Michael & Ciera, Elise, Ada, & Onora Hart and John David & Christi Hawkins.

We pray this week for the following community service agency: Tri-County Office on Aging, 5303 S Cedar St, 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. Michael & All Angels, Lincoln Park; Church of the Incarnation, La Romana, DR.

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

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 21, 2025 - December 28, 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.

Decorating the Sanctuary after service today: 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. The Compline service will take a short break and return on January 7, 2026 at 9pm.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

This Week at St. Paul's December 21, 2025 - December 28, 2025
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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
Monday 12/22:		
Tuesday, 12/23:		Caterers Closed
Wednesday, 12/24:		CHRISTMAS EVE
		Caterers Closed/Roosevelt Ramp open 6pm-10pm
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Pre-Service Music
	7:30pm	Christmas Eve Worship & Holy Communion
Thursday, 12/25:		CHRISTMAS DAY
		Caterers Closed/Roosevelt Ramp open 9am-12pm
	10:00am	Worship & Holy Communion
Friday, 12/26:		Caterers Closed/Office Closed
Saturday, 12/27:		Caterers Closed
Sunday, 12/28:		Caterers Closed
	10:00am	Worship & Holy Communion
	11:15am	Coffee Hour
	11:15am	Pack lunches for Punks with Lunch

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

