



Welcome to Worship

November 30, 2025

8:30 AM, Downtown Campus

At St. Paul Ann Arbor, we equip families and individuals to know Christ, to discover truth, and to create meaningful connections.

First Sunday in Advent

Sunday, November 30, 2025 (8:30 AM)

One church with two locations:

Downtown Campus

420 W. Liberty St. Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Worship:

Saturdays @ 6:30 PM Sundays @ 8:30 AM

<u>Discipleship Hour:</u> Sundays @ 9:45 AM

Earhart Campus

495 Earhart Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Worship: Sundays @ 10:45 AM

<u>Discipleship Hour:</u> Sundays @ 9:45 AM



Welcome to our guests!

We're glad you're here! We ask that you fill out your name and an email or phone number in the black folder at the end of the row so we can connect with you. One of St. Paul's core values is unity so we'd like to help you get connected. On the back page of this worship folder, you'll find groups and events that are for you. May God bless you today!

If you have children

We welcome and encourage all children (yes, babies too!) to worship the Lord at St. Paul. If your child becomes restless during the service, don't worry! We get it. If you'd like to use it, there is a cry room available at the rear of the church and a nursery located below the main worship entrance. Children's bulletins and activity bags are available at each worship entrance. The hospitality team will be happy to assist you.

About Holy Communion

St. Paul is a confessional Lutheran congregation sharing the beliefs and practices of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). Following the Word of Jesus, we believe that the Lord's Supper is more than a symbol. Jesus gives His people His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins through the bread and wine. In Holy Communion, Jesus not only gives these gifts, He unites us in a confession of faith. We confess that God has given His gift of salvation in baptism. We confess that we are sinners who need the forgiveness that Jesus offers by His death and resurrection. We confess that God speaks in His inspired Word, the Bible. We confess that God is one God, the Father who created all things, the Son Jesus the Savior, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in His people by faith. Alongside this confession of faith, the Holy Spirit is at work in those who receive the Supper to live according to God's Word and remain true to God, even to death, shining Jesus' love inside and outside of God's church. If you share this confession, we invite you to receive Christ's body and blood with us. If you do not share these beliefs, please talk to a pastor before communing though you are invited to come forward during Communion distribution with arms crossed to receive a blessing and the assurance of God's love in Jesus Christ. We're glad you're at St. Paul!

Discipleship Hour & Christ Connections

You're invited to gather after the service for coffee, donuts, fellowship and Bible study for adults and children! Sundays at 9:45 AM. Adults meet in Fellowship Hall (lower-level) and children ages 3 through grade 5 meet in the lower-level preschool classrooms.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 122

- P: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
- C: Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!
- P: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they be secure who love you! Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!"
- C: For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!"
- P: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
- C: I will seek your good.



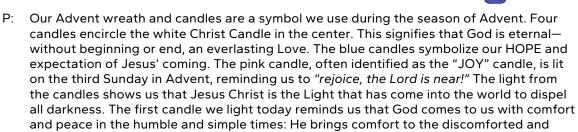
The sign of the cross + may be made in remembrance of your Baptism.

- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(with Isaiah 40:3,5; Exodus 6:6,7)

- P: A voice calls: "In the desert, prepare the way for the Lord.
- C: Make straight paths for Him, a highway for our God."
- "Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians...
- I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem C: you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment"



"I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."

We sing as the candle is lighted:

hope to the hopeless.

(LSB# 357) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive Is el, That mourns in lone - ly ile ra here ex Refrain Un - til the Son of God ap-pear. Re - joice! Re-joice! Shall come to thee, O Em - man u - el Is ra - el!

WE TURN TO GOD, MINDFUL OF OUR SINFULNESS

- P: God once spoke through the prophet Isaiah to comfort His people with the assurance of pardon and a joyful return to their home. After the time of their exile, God Himself would restore them, renew them, and return them to the land He had promised them on oath to their forefathers.
- C: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths."
- P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord has promised to return to this earth in power and glory, to put this age to an end, and to bring home with Him all who trust in His promise. As we anticipate the Day of His coming, we are drawn to confess that we have not always been faithful to His will, nor have we taken advantage of opportunities to share the message of His Gospel. We have not demonstrated His love to those around us. We have not honored Him with our hearts and minds and lives. Let us reflect on our sins and ask for His forgiveness.
- C: Most merciful God, we confess to You that our sinful ways keep us exiled. We have praised and welcomed You with our lips, but have also dishonored and disobeyed You with our thoughts, words, and actions. We carry grudges, speak spiteful words, and are indifferent to the struggle of others— all these things have been tools that war against the people You love; and we have not lived in true peace. For the sake of Jesus, our Savior, forgive us. In Your mercy and grace, lead us out of the darkness of our sin, and onto the path of Your light. Amen.

(We observe a moment of quiet reflection as we consider our own sinful condition)

GOD TURNS TO US, EAGER TO FORGIVE

Absolution (with Isaiah 2:5)

P: In Jesus—the Savior who has come and who is coming again—the power of sin and death have been destroyed, and by His transforming work in us, our sinful ways are no longer; and we have become instruments of peace. Rejoice in His goodness and come to receive all that His love seeks to give. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you for all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the 🕂 Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

P: "Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord."

C: Amen!

(Sung) Bring near Your great salvation,
O Lamb for sinners slain;
Fill up the roll of Your elect,
Then take Your pow'r and reign.
Appear, Desire of Nations,
Your exiles long for home.
Show in the heav'ns Your promised sign;
O Prince and Savior, come!

(Words: TLH# 476)

(Tune: LSB# 361)

~The HYMN OF PRAISE is omitted during Advent as a symbol of our voluntary restraint of praise in this season of preparation. "GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!" will return at Christmas~

PRAYER OF THE DAY Collect

P: Almighty God, You have gathered us from exile into the promise of Your presence. Through Your Word, lead us home to the house of the Lord—Your holy mountain where we shall know Your ways, and find lasting peace and rest; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

¹ The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³ and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD. (ESV)

- L: This is the Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.



COMB, LET US GO UP TO THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD, TO THE HOUSE OF JACOB. HE WILL TEACH US HIS WAYS SO THAT WE MAY WALK IN HIS PATH.

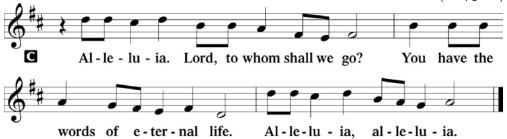
⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE RISE TO THE GOSPEL

Alleluia & Verse (LSB pg. 156) John 6:68



¹ Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵ "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee." (ESV)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.



MESSAGE

"Coming Home for Christmas"

Rev. Aaron Roggow

Isaiah 2:1-5

RESPONSE

(Tune: LSB# 334)

Lord, lead us to the mountain:
Your house of peace and rest;
Your light shall be the fountain
Of truth and wisdom blessed.
Oh, stay by us forever
With love and hope anew;
Come gather us together,
And bring us home to You.

Text: ©2025 Kirchenlied S. Schreiber, b. 1685

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth

And 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.

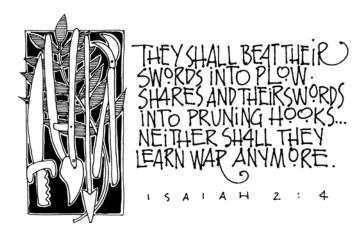
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.



We Worship the Lord with Our Offerings

During the Offering, we invite your participation in our Ritual of Friendship. Please fill in the requested information on the Friendship Pad (which is located at the end of the pew at the center aisle) **and pass it down the pew**. Also, as the pad is returned, please take note of who is worshiping with you in order that you might greet them following the service.

(For electronic and convenient giving options, see the end of this worship folder)

VOLUNTARY

The Prayers We Bring to God

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

PRAYERS for THIS DAY

(As prompted) P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

C: 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.

A Foretaste of the Great Feast in Heaven

CHRIST'S WORDS ESTABLISH THE LORD'S SUPPER

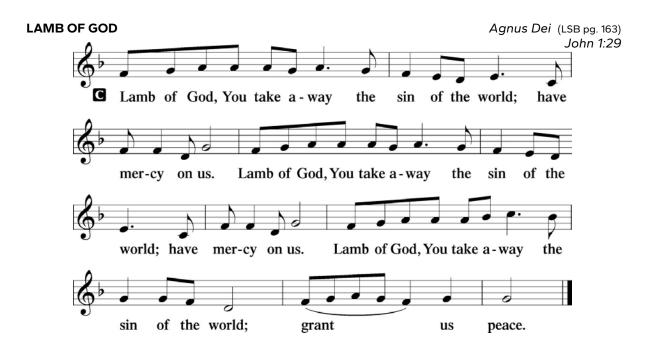
Words of Institution 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is # My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is # My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pax Domini John 20:19

- P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: Amen! The peace of Christ be with us all.



WE COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Communion Distribution

Please note before receiving Holy Communion: Please read the brief statement of our beliefs, "About Holy Communion", found at the beginning of our worship folder. Our pastors would be happy to meet with you to discuss our beliefs further, and help prepare you for Communion.

Hymns:

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

LSB# 700 LSB# 748

"I'm But a Stranger Here"

Charles Baller (Barali Charles Maria

Anthem: Come, Messiah, Come Lyn
O Promised One, O Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, Messiah, come.

Lynn Shaw Bailey/Becki Slagle Mayo

Lord, reveal Your mercy. Guide us Lord, we pray. May we see Your Light and walk Your way. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, Lord, we pray.

-Isaiah 2:1-5; 9:1-7

WORDS OF PEACE AND JOY

Communicants' Dismissal

- P: Now may this Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in

 → peace!
- C: Amen.

WE DEPART WITH THANKS AND PRAISE

Post-Communion Canticle (LSB pg. 164)



Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



TAKING IT HOME Isaiah 2:3,5 (ESV)

P: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths.

C: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord."

WE RECEIVE THE BLESSING OF GOD

Benediction
Numbers 6:24–26

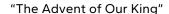
- P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

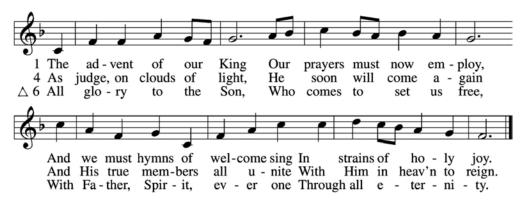
 The Lord look upon you with His favor and

 → give you peace.
- C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS







POSTLUDE



Our Worship Servants

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Ted Hopkins
Preacher: Rev. Aaron Roggow
Lay Reader: Terry Ballantyne
Director of Music: Dr. John Boonenberg

Choir: Adult Choir

Family Worship Team: Tim & Barbara Adler

Elder: Zac Lahrman

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St. Paul Stephen Ministry

Are you feeling overwhelmed, grieving a loss, or navigating a health crisis? SPAA is here for you. Our trained Stephen Ministers offer compassionate, confidential, and Christ-centered care, providing the support you need during challenging times. Contact Cherise Callahan at 734-395-8775 to connect with a Stephen Minister who will offer a listening ear and a caring heart.

Our Offerings and Gifts

Looking for different options to financially support the ministry of St. Paul through your regular offerings or one-time gifts?

Just text "GIVE" to **734-436-3634**

(This will also allow you to set up a recurring gift if you choose.)

Online: https://www.kindridgiving.com/app/giving/stpaulaa



Mail checks to: St. Paul Lutheran Church

420 W Liberty St Ann Arbor, MI 48103



For more giving information, go to: https://www.stpaulannarbor.org/give/

Month	Attendance	Offering	Budget	Bud. Var.		Prior Year		PY Var.	
July	278	\$ 85,561	\$ 103,200	\$	(17,639)	\$	95,048	\$	(9,487)
August	292	\$ 92,582	\$ 129,100	\$	(36,518)	\$	87,623	\$	4,960
September	364	\$ 108,717	\$ 106,200	\$	2,517	\$	98,203	\$	10,514
October	347	\$ 112,763	\$ 106,200	\$	6,563	\$	140,243	\$	(27,480)
November	-	\$ -	\$ 132,800	\$	-	\$	106,819	\$	-
December		\$	\$ 123,200	\$	-	\$	157,855	\$	-
January	-	\$ -	\$ 106,200	\$	-	\$	107,378	\$	-
February	-	\$ -	\$ 107,400	\$	-	\$	87,936	\$	-
March	1-1	\$ -	\$ 135,200	\$	- 4	\$	118,139	\$	1-1
April	-	\$ -	\$ 114,900	\$	-	\$	95,801	\$	-
May		\$ -	\$ 132,800	\$	-	\$	112,259	\$	-
June	-	\$ -	\$ 104,800	\$	-	\$	122,082	\$	-
YTD	320	\$ 399,623	\$ 1,402,000	\$	(45,077)	\$:	1,329,384	\$	(21,494)



Schedule of Advent & Christmas Services

Wednesday, December 3 The God Who Leaves Home for Us

Midweek Advent 1 (Dinner-5:30pm / Worship-6:30pm, Downtown)

[†]Sunday, December 7 Far From Home

Wednesday, December 10 Making a New Home

Midweek Advent 2 (Dinner-5:30pm / Worship-6:30pm, Downtown)

Sunday, December 14 No Place Like Home

Wednesday, December 17 A Cozy Christmas

Midweek Advent 3 (Dinner-5:30pm / Worship-6:30pm, Downtown)

Sunday, December 21 A Home Unbroken

Wednesday, December 24 A Light That Leads Us Home

Christmas Eve Family Service (4:00pm—School) Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols (6:30pm—Downtown)

Carols by Candlelight (10:00pm-Downtown)

[†]Thursday, December 25 Home at Last

Christmas Day Worship (10:00am-Downtown)

[†]Holy Communion offered



News & Upcoming Events

For more news & events visit our webpage at: www.stpaulannarbor.org

Caring Trees – reminder, gifts are due Sunday, Nov 30!

If you took a tag from one of our Christmas Caring trees the unwrapped gifts are due this weekend - November 30th. If you cannot be at church this weekend you may drop your gifts off to the church office on Monday, December 1st between 9am-3pm. Thank you for shining Jesus' love and showing care and compassion to our community this Christmas season!



Coming Home for Christmas – Advent in Isaiah

Join us this Advent as we explore our series: "Coming Home for Christmas." In addition to our weekend worship services, we will have midweek Advent dinner and worship at our Downtown Campus on Wednesdays December 3 & 10 @ 5:30pm (Dinner) and 6:30pm (Worship). On December 17 we will have a special Advent event: "A Cozy Christmas" with Blake Flattley & Tanner Olson (see below). Grab a postcard at worship entrances or scan the QR code for more info and Christmas worship times.



Advent Devotion Calendar begins December 1!

This Advent, join us in preparing our hearts for Christmas with our Online Advent Devotion Calendar! Each day will unlock a video devotion from a special St. Paul Ann Arbor guest with a scripture reading from our series, a short reflection and a simple prayer—perfect for individuals and families looking to keep Christ at the center of the season! Scan the QR code to access the online calendar.

Join us for Sanctuary Christmas Decorating – Saturday, December 6!

Come join us as we prepare our church for the Christmas season! We will be decorating the St. Paul sanctuary and downtown spaces on Saturday, December 6th at 9am. All ages are welcome, but we especially need people who can climb the ladders to put the star on the tippy top of the Christmas tree. Many hands make light work, and it is always more fun together! Light breakfast refreshments provided.



"A Cozy Christmas" with Blake Flattley and Tanner Olson – December 17

As we wait for Christmas to come, we invite you to step into a warm and intimate evening filled with music, hymns, spoken word poetry, and storytelling—an opportunity to pause, reflect, and embrace the beauty of Advent. Through song and spoken word, Blake Flattley and Tanner Olson will lead us in an exploration of the season—its waiting, wondering, and joy. Together, we'll celebrate the hope that Advent brings, and the peace found in the promise of Christmas. Invite a friend! This is a free event sponsored by Church Extension Fund and runs about 90 minutes. We will also have our usual Advent Dinner at 5:30pm downstairs in Fellowship Hall hosted by our St. Paul Elders. Scan the QR code for more details!