

*And I am sure of this,
that He who began a
good work in you will
bring it to completion at
the day of Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 1:6



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS
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Bremen, Indiana 46506
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Philippi was the first church plant by the apostle Paul in Europe. Paul peppers his letter to the Philippians with a call to arms, entreating the Philippians to stand firm in the faith that had been implanted by the apostle and which he says was being completed by God himself. As Paul notes elsewhere in the epistle, “It is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure” (2:13).

The Lord’s Supper is a very special privilege God gives to His people.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because the Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. If you are not partaking of the Lord’s Supper but would like to receive a blessing, please come up to the communion rail when sent by an elder, kneel, and cross your arms over your chest. The Pastor will then know that you desire a blessing.

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US.

Offerings remind us of the blessings God has given us and are an opportunity to thank Him for what He has done in our lives. Please place your offerings in our Offering Box located in the narthex of the church.

In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

We welcome children and all the joy and little chatter that comes with them. If for any reason you want to take your little one out, there is a Nursery (Cry Room) available for use, located just outside the sanctuary.

Prepare the way of the Lord! John the Baptist was not the Christ, only His forerunner (Acts 13:25). Miraculously conceived by Zechariah the priest and of barren Elizabeth, John was marked to be the greatest born of women (Matt. 11:11). The Church rejoices over the Lord’s mercy just as Elizabeth’s neighbors and relatives did at John’s birth. But when Zechariah’s tongue was loosed, John was not the subject of his song. “*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people*” (Luke 1:68). John is the voice “*preparing the way of the Lord*” (Is. 40:3); Jesus, the virgin-born Son of God, is that Lord. John is “*the prophet of the Most High.*” He is born to “*give knowledge of salvation to God’s people in the forgiveness of their sins,*” because Christ, the Dayspring, is visiting (Luke 1:76–79). Thus, what John preaches is the comfort of iniquity pardoned by Jesus, the promised Savior of Israel (Acts 13:23) and “*the nations, that His salvation may reach to the end of the earth*” (Is. 49:6).

∞ Excerpt from southernlcms.org ∞

Bell Choir "Carol of the Bells"

Opening Hymn 523 "O Word of God Incarnate"

(John 1:14; 2 Sam. 22:29-33; Psalm 119:105; Rev.1:20)

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(Matthew 28:19b)*

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *(1 John 1:8-9)*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(John 20:19-23)*

C Amen.

Adult Choir "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"

Peace be to you and grace from Him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed His blood
That we might saved be.
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,

Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy Lord!
 Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
 Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
 For Christ is coming, is coming soon,
 For Christ is coming soon!
 E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come
 And night shall be no more;
 They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
 For Christ will be their all!

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit *Psalm 81:8, 10-11, 13; antiphon: Psalm 118:26*

- P** The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
- C** **"Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."**
- P** Hear, O My people, while I admonish you!
- C** **O Israel, if you would but listen to Me!**
- P** I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
- C** **Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.**
- P** But My people did not listen to My voice;
- C** **Israel would not submit to Me.**
- P** Oh, that My people would listen to Me,
- C** **that Israel would walk in My ways!**
- All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
- C** **"Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."**

Kyrie ∞ *Lord, Have Mercy (Mark 10:47)* *LSB 152*

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

The Old Testament Lesson

Malachi 3:1-7b

¹Behold, I send My messenger and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple; and the Messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, He is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of His coming, and who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold

and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear Me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9a; Psalm 118:26

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

P Behold, your King is coming to you;

C **righteous and having salvation.**

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

The Epistle Lesson

Philippians 1:2–11

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (John 6:68)

LSB 156

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
 ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make His paths straight.
⁵Every valley shall be filled,
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
 and the crooked shall become straight,
 and the rough places shall become level ways,
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹²Tax collectors

also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but He who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in His hand, to clear His threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the

Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn 525 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"
(Rev. 19:12, 16; Heb. 2:9; Rev. 5:11-14; Phil. 2:9-11)

Sermon Text *Philippians 1:2-11*

Sermon "We Are God's Work of Art"

1. What is that _____ Paul says God has begun?
2. There are forces in our lives and in this world that do not want to see this _____ completed.
3. God's work in our lives *will* be brought to completion at the day of _____ !

Hymn 333 "Once He Came in Blessing"
(Luke 4:17-19; Gal. 4:4; Rev. 22:20)

Prayers

† SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT †

Preface *LSB 160*
P The Lord be with you. *(2 Timothy 4:22)*



C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. *(Colossians 3:1)*



C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(Psalm 136)



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus ∞ *Holy, Holy, Holy (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9) LSB 161*



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your

Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

(1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *(1 Corinthians 11:26)*

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Pax Domini *∞ The Peace of the Lord (John 20:19)* *LSB 163*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei *∞ Lamb of God (John 1:29)* *LSB 163*



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Hymn 618 "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

(1 Cor. 11:23-29; Luke 22:17-20; Mark 14:22-25; Matt. 26:26-28; Ps. 130)

Hymn 620 "Jesus Comes Today with Healing"

(Matt. 26:26-29; Heb. 7:23-27; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 7:13-17)

Hymn 624 "The Infant Priest Was Holy Born"

(Heb. 9:11-28; John 1:29 & 6:51-58)

Hymn 627 "Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"

(Rom. 5:9-10; 1 Cor. 11:23-29; John 6:50-57; 1 John 1:9)

Thank the Lord

LSB 164

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.
 Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.
 He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy
 with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

LSB 166

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 favor and † give you peace.



Closing Hymn 537 "Beautiful Savior"

(Heb. 1:1-13; John 1:1-4, 14; Luke 1:30-33; John 12:46)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Cover Art: Peaceful Nature Wallpapers - Top Free Peaceful Nature Backgrounds - WallpaperAccess

The flowers that adorn the altar are given by Larry & Beth Enders in celebration of their wedding anniversary. We thank our precious Savior for the many years of blessings He has given to us.

From the Hospitality Crew: We will be preparing our next meal on Wednesday, December 11th at 9:00 am. The meal for December is a spaghetti pasta casserole. We are in need of: mini pepperoni, rotini and penne pasta, and individually wrapped cookies or treats – sweet or salty - to fill a gift tin. We would like to also give a HUGE THANK YOU to all who have helped and supported us. We could not do this without you!

Midweek Advent Meal on December 11th from 6:00-6:45 pm will be **A POTLUCK DINNER - PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE AND A DESSERT.** Parish Fellowship will be supplying the drinks and dinnerware. Let us come together and feast on good food, and then on the Word of God in the worship service at 7:00 pm.

Calendar of Events

TODAY December 8th, 2024

Sunday School & Bible Classes.....	8:30 am
Worship Service with Communion.....	9:30 am
Youth Christmas Eve Practice	After Service
LWML Assemble Cheer Tins	After Service
Congregation Christmas Caroling.....	4:00 pm

MON:

TUE:

WED:

Men's Bible Study Breakfast.....	6:30 am
Prepare Hospitality Meals.....	9:00 am
Day School Chapel	11:00 am
Advent Dinner – Potluck.....	6:00 pm
Advent Worship Service.....	7:00 pm

THURS:

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study.....	9:30 am
Preschool Chapel	9:30 am

FRI:

NEXT SUNDAY December 15th, 2024

Sunday School & Bible Classes.....	8:30 am
Worship Service.....	9:30 am
Youth Christmas Eve Practice	After Service
Adult Basketball.....	2:30-4:30 pm
Bell Choir Practice.....	6:00 pm
Adult Choir Practice	7:00 pm

LWML will fill 24 "Cheer Boxes" after service December 8. If you want to contribute, please bring **two dozen individually wrapped** items to the church kitchen Sunday morning December 8. Thank you

CHRISTIAN MEN - AWAKE! If you're at least 18 years of age, wake up on Wednesday morning every other week and join in a Bible Study at the Bremen Hospital cafeteria conference room at 6:30 AM. Enter the cafeteria area entrance on the south side patio to the left of the main entrance portico (presently the covid testing drive-thru). The cafeteria has an excellent breakfast menu and we enjoy our study with discussion and fellowship until 7:30 A.M. Bible study is a means of strengthening our understanding of God's plan for us and strengthening our faith, which we all can use in the daily challenges we face. Bring your Bible and join us as we study, eat and fellowship! Last date this year is 12/11.

If you have questions, please contact Dave Burcham or Tom Coxey.

Worship Anew can be viewed on Dish Channel 266 or Direct TV channel 377 on Sundays at 11:30 am.

The Board of Evangelism along with St. Paul's congregation will be doing an ingathering for Grace Food Pantry in Bremen from December 1 to 15 with delivery on December 19. Your items may be placed on the table in front of the church office. They have requested the following items: any kind of baking items such as pie filling, cake or cookie mix, flour, sugar, brown sugar, baking soda, chocolate chips, also French fried onions, sloppy joe mix, canned meat (except salmon), juice, peanut butter, jelly, canned soup, pasta or rice sides. **The Food Pantry also gives birthday boxes** to its clientele! If you would like to make birthday boxes, they include a cake mix, frosting, 12 oz can soda, sprinkles, candles, foil pan and a blank birthday card. **Grace Food Pantry is open** on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 11 am to 4 pm. Due to Christmas being on the 4th Wednesday this year they will be open Monday, December 23 instead. This is a great way to love and minister to our neighbors. **Thank you for your donations!!**

Goody Bags for Christmas - The Board of Christian Education is asking your help to purchase candy for the "goody bags" the students will receive following the Children's Worship Service on December 18th. There will be a box in the Narthex to collect the candy. We will need the candy by December 15th. Thank you!

Voters' Assembly Minutes – Copies of the minutes from the November 25 regular Voters' Assembly meeting are available on the table in the narthex. The minutes contain board reports, resolutions, and the attendance records from the meeting. If the supply has run out and you desire a copy for yourself, please contact Ken Eichinger. If you prefer an electronic copy, email Ken at keneichinger@gmail.com.

The Christmas parties for the residents at the Cardinal Houses will take place on December 20th at 2 pm. The gift will be provided by an action team card from Thrivent. If you have any questions or want to participate, please call Wayne Spicher or Pastor Wonnacott.

Christmas Lunch for the Bremen Police Department will be on December 20th at noon. The food will be provided by an action team card from Thrivent. We need a few desserts, and we are also in need of Christmas cards for our men and women on the force. If you are willing to help, please call Wayne Spicher or Pastor Wonnacott.

"Seminary Adopt A Student" St. Paul's has in our budget a support line for a Seminary student. Currently we have no Seminary student sponsored. If you know of anyone attending either the Ft. Wayne or St. Louis LCMS Seminaries, please forward the name and contact information to Jim Tinkey of the Board of Stewardship.

YOUTH NEWS

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE PRACTICES: For those Youth planning to participate, we will be holding practices (which will last approximately an hour) beginning today following the church service and on the following Sundays / Christmas Eve:

- December 15th
- December 22nd
- *Before the Christmas Eve service

Look for more information about our Youth Group via our "St. Paul's Youth" GroupMe chat or contact Youth Board Director Andy Wildauer with any questions.

Servants for Today's Worship December 8th, 2024

Pastor Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Todd Haug & Bruce Augustine

Acolyte: Colton Napper

Elder: Dave Burcham

Communion Assistant: Terry Miller

Video Streamer: Ethan Tjernagel

Servants for Wednesday, December 11th, 2024

Ushers: Eric Thornton & Dakota Schmeltz

Acolyte: Abby & Josie Wildauer

Elder: Larry Britt

Servants for Next Sunday's Worship December 15th, 2024

Pastor Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Larry Winterboer & Curt Nielsen

Acolyte: Brantley Thornton

Elder: Jon Rettinger

Video Streamer: Tyler/Dakota Schmeltz

Things to Remember in Prayer This Week

Thanksgiving: For God who completes what He started, in us.

For the baptism of Jillian Avery Miller. May the Lord bless her to grow in the faith He has created in her.

Special Concerns:

That we trust God will complete the work He started when He called us to faith in our baptism, raising us to heaven when Christ returns and enabling us in the meantime to abound in love that befits His work of art.

For Pastor Rafael & Deaconess Jamielynn Flores and Pastor Micah Wildauer and their work in foreign missions.

That the Lord would bless our offerings that we give today.

For our country and her leaders.

For the Lord's continued grace and protection of our Haitian brothers and sisters and for all persecuted Christians throughout the world.

For those who serve us in their vocation of policemen and firemen.

For strength, comfort, and healing to those dealing with the aftermath of hurricanes Helene and Milton.

You Are Invited to Our Advent and Christmas Services

Midweek Advent Dinners – 11th at 6:00 pm

Midweek Advent Services – 11th at 7:00 pm

Children's Christmas Service – Dec. 18th at 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Dec. 24th at 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Service – Dec. 25th at 9:30 am

New Years' Eve Service – Dec. 31st at 7:00 pm

SCHOOL CORNER

Thank you to all who participated in the PTL Cookie Exchange and the Jesus's Birthday Celebration this week! We want to especially thank the PTL, Youth Group, Board of Christian Ed., and other volunteers who hosted these events. We are blessed to have you!

We have two weeks before Christmas Break, starting December 23rd! That means that the Second Quarter will end (and we are halfway through the year). Report cards will be distributed after break.

It also means that we are busy preparing for the Children's Christmas Service, December 18th, 7:00pm. **Attendance is required for all students, as this is a student-led service.** All school and church families (and guests) are invited to come and help us celebrate Jesus's birth.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the students of St. Paul's, we have a variety of opportunities! We like to have volunteers to read with or assist students with classwork during the school day. We also would like more assistance with Extended Care. If you are interested, please contact the school office.

December is your last chance to donate to the SGO and get tax benefits for 2024! We use the SGO both for elementary school scholarships and Pre-K scholarships, and it has been a great benefit to our families. Please continue to give, and receive the tax credit and deduction for your donations! **Now, there is a link to donate to the LSGO on the church's website under the School drop-down menu.**

You can also find several (easy) ways to donate at www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate. Donations can be given through a check, IRA, stocks, Donor Advised Funds, PayPal, credit card, and **NOW electronic giving!** Benefits to you are a 50% state tax credit for your donation and eligibility for a tax deduction. These scholarships make a big difference for our families. Please contact Jennifer Harman, in the school office, if you have questions.

We also continue to take donations to St. Paul's tuition assistance fund. Checks for tuition assistance can be made out to the church.