St. Paul's Lutheran Church 4 Advent December 22, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of mercy,

C we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

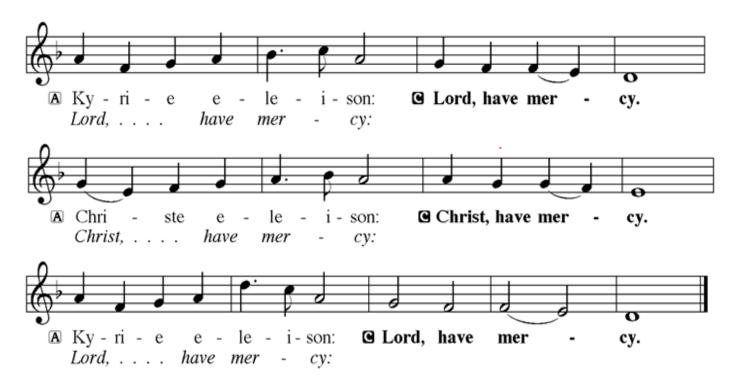
C we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises. God in our midst,

C we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

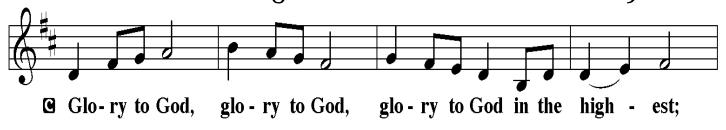
A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C Amen.

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE (four measures introduction)





glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



I Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

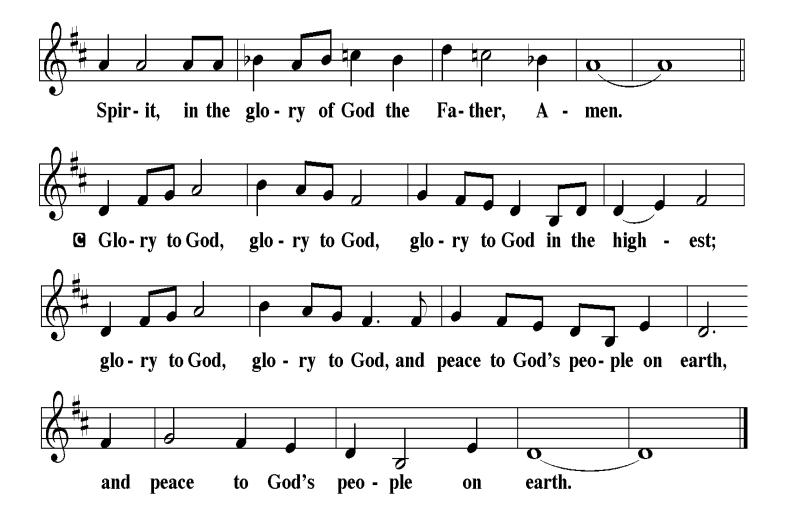


② Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.





PRAYER OF THE DAY

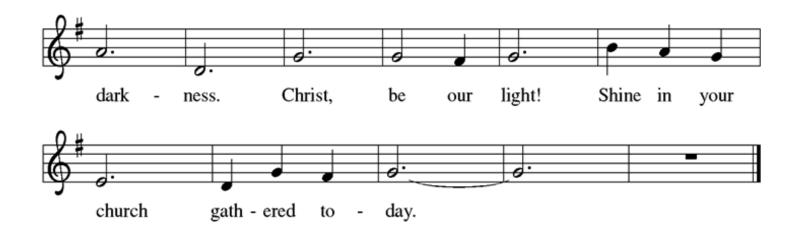
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

"Christ Be Our Light" Lighting of the Advent Candle

Congregation Sings (Verse 4):





Hope for Those Who Are Wounded (responsive reading)

- P Advent is a time to bind up the broken hearted.
- C Come, Lord, and make all things new.
- P For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:
- C Come, Lord, and make all things new.
- P For any bitterness that scratches our soul:
- C Come, Lord, and make all things new.
- P For relationships left in decay and neglect:
- C Come, Lord, and make all things new.
- P For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:
- C Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

This morning we light four candles. The **first candle** is the light of hope for those in times of waiting. The **second candle** is the light of hope for those who are wearied by the circumstances of life. The **third candle** is the light of hope for those eagerly watching for God's promised glory. The **fourth candle** is the light of hope for those who carry the wounds of life. Today we acknowledge our pain and the pain we have caused others. As the light shines, we turn to the Savior who came to rescue the lost, to help the hurting, and to bind up the broken.

Congregation Sings:



C Christ, Be Our Light! (sing)

CLOSING PRAYER

God of mercy and compassion, scripture says that if we draw near to you, you will draw near to us. In a shadowy world where human weakness and weariness reside, we ask for you to draw near and dispel the darkness around us. May the light of this season illuminate our hope, strength, and steadfast endurace as we await the coming Savior. We pray this in the name of Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: MICAH 5:2-5A

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Response: Luke 1:46b-55

(Refrain: You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly.)

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

C 48 for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

C 50 You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation. (*Refrain*)

⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

C 52 casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

⁵³ You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

C 54 You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,

⁵⁵ the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever. *(Refrain)*

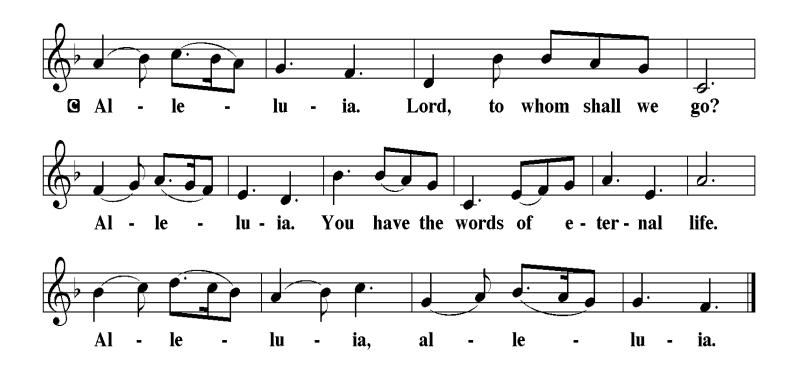
(Refrain: You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly.)

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." ⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55] C Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of

what was spoken to her by the Lord." [46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]

The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM



The congregation will sing along:

O Come Little Children

O come little children, O come one and all To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night To be your Redeemer your joy and delight

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

CAST

Narrators – Eva Neukam, Addi Kempf, Rowan Werner, Maggie Stemle, Alli Hoffman, Ashtyn Kalb, Elin Ruhe, and Will Werner

Mary - Lakyn Lottes

Joseph – Eli Holt

Angel – Evelyn Phillips

Innkeeper - Frances Phillips

Shepherds – June Stemle, Ada Phillips, and Laney

Stemle

Kings – Max Holt, Camden Werner, and Bowie Helming **Singers** – Cohen Kempf, Calla Chinn, and Drew Chinn

Director: Lori Werner

Pianist: Kaia Holt

APOSTLE'S CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other

traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **C** receive our prayer.

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill. (We pray especially for Rick Bauer, Courtney Hagedorn-Drew, Harold

Hembree, Mary Ann Jerger, Tammy Kieffner, Chad Knies, Zach Leinenbach, Candy Lewis, Judy Lorey, Eryn Mann, Zander Mann, Mark Matthews, Justin Mehling, Matt Mehling, Logan Musgrave, Bryar Rahman, Jami Roelle, Steve Rothgerber, Annette Schepers, Sandy Schnaus, Donnie Schwenk, Kaine Seitz, Larry Sendelweck, Annie Voelkel, Anderson Vonderheide, Ron Wiseman and all those we name before you either silently or aloud.) Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

We pray that you guide the military serving to protect us. Grant them safety and wisdom to carry out their assigned duties. (We pray especially for Austin Breitwieser, Luke Himsel and Cooper Uebelhor) Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY "Gospel Nativity Carol"

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

C God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION

All who are baptized are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Children who have not yet received instruction about Holy Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. As you approach the communion assistant, the first will hand you the bread. Take and eat it. Then take a communion cup from the tray. After you have taken the wine, place your empty cup in the tray table beside the pillar.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

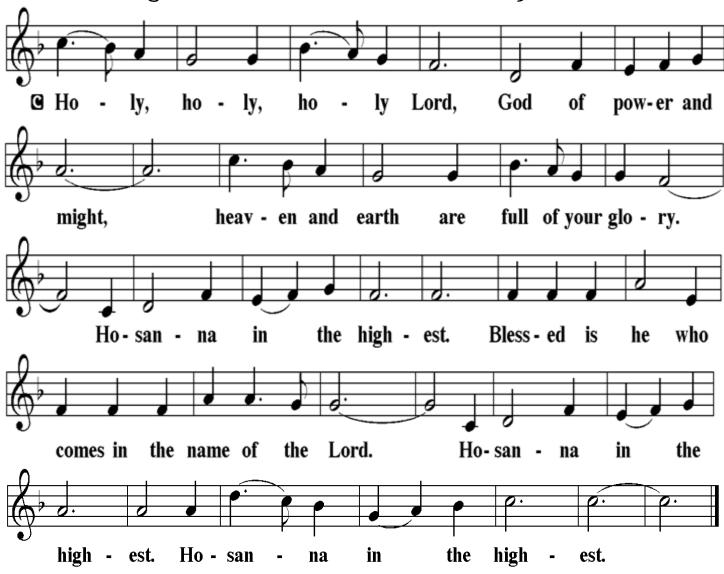
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (four measures introduction)



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

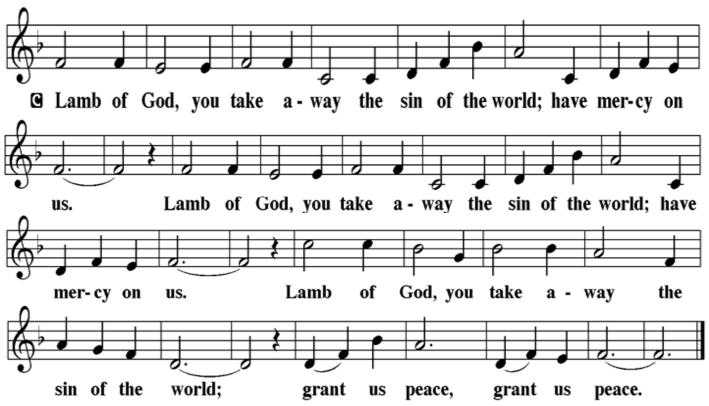
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.** The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD



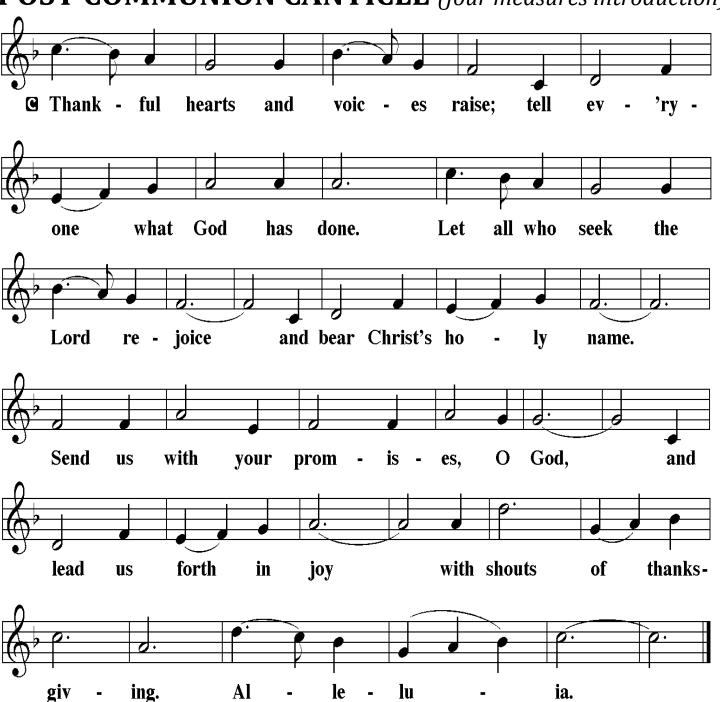
COMMUNION HYMNS

WOV 730 "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" WOV 630 "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE (four measures introduction)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

C Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

BLESSING

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN LBW 30 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

<u>Mission Statement:</u> Worship Boldly, Empower for Discipleship, Cultivate Spiritual Maturity, Strengthen Community, Serve.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR YOUR SERVICE TODAY:

Greeters: Mary Ann Kieffner

Comm. Asst: John Potts

Video: JoAn Breitwieser

Pianist: Kaia Holt **Lay Reader:** Terry Seitz

Audio: Doug Wiseman

Acolytes: Hudson Stemle and Jake Lottes

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 168 SS: 20

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF

Dec. 22nd – Dec. 29th, 2024

Sun. Dec. 22nd 8:00 AM Chancel Choir Practice

9:00 AM Sunday Worship Service

Children's Christmas Program

Tues. Dec. 24th 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

Wed. Dec. 25th 9:00 AM Christmas Day Service

Sun. Dec. 29th 8:00 AM Chancel Choir Practice

9:00 AM Sunday Worship Service

(Children's Sunday School – after

communion until 11:00 AM)

ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Thank Offerings collected, \$359.00, and were sent to the ELCA Synodical Women's Organization. Thank you from WELCA!



The Annual LYO Cookie Walk is today after the Children's Christmas Program. There will be homemade cookies, candies, and treats. This a great way to get a wide variety of goodies for your Christmas get-togethers. If you would like to donate cookies, there is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center Desk.

DO YOU HAVE A STUDENT WHO HEADED OFF TO COLLEGE??? We would appreciate if you would let us know their new address so we can send them the monthly newsletter. The Evangelism Committee also periodically sends out greeting cards and care packages. Please call the office with the address or email it to Marcie Rumfelt at secretaryst.paul@frontier.com

CEMETERY DUES REMINDER: Active members, desiring burial rights, are required to pay cemetery dues of a minimum of <u>\$20</u> per family. This includes all members in immediate family, including nonmember spouses, and children under the age of eighteen. Every member over eighteen years of age shall be required to pay the minimum cemetery dues as an individual. No additional charge for gravesites shall be made to members of St. Paul's whose dues are current.

2025 offering envelopes are available to pick-up. There is a table set-up in the welcome area. If you cannot find a box with your name, please advise Marcie Rumfelt in the church office at (812)695-3061 or email at: secretaryst.paul@frontier.com. Please remember envelope numbers can change from year to year, so these should only be used starting in January 2025.

Annual reports for each committee are due and should be dropped in office or emailed to Marcie Rumfelt at secretaryst.paul@frontier Contact Marcie if you need assistance.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS: Anyone wishing to donate his/her Thrivent Choice Dollars to the *Sacred Places Grant fundraising* needs to bring a copy of the contribution made in your name to the treasurer. This can be printed from your account page on their website. If you need help or have questions, please let a council member know. Unless you let the council know you want the Choice Dollars to go to a specific group within the church, it automatically goes into the general fund.

In Service to Our Country

Austin Breitwieser AMC Luke Himsel Cooper Uebelhor Redzikowo, Poland Virginia Beach, VA Colorado Springs, CO



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Basket will be located in the Welcome Center

UILD*A*BASKET Here is how you can participate!

Generations is collecting Christmas baskets that will be delivered to your homebound client service area this holiday season. You can find more information on how to build your Christmas basket at

www.generationsnetwork.org

Recommended baskets to use: Laundry basket, storage totes with lid, hamper, tall kitchen trash can, heavy duty bags or even a box. If you feel extra jolly, **DECORATE IT!!!** Drop off your completed basket to a location provided below between

November 18th—December 20th

Closed for Thanksgiving November 28th & 29th

Suggested Basket Items

- **Paper Towels**
- Dish Soap
- Sponges
- Germ X Hand Sanitizer
- Trash Bags
- Kitchen Towels
- Tissue
- **Night Light**
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- **Body Lotion**
- Deodorant

- **Bath Soap**
- **Toilet Paper**
- Long Handle Shower Brush
- **Bath Towels**
- Wash Cloths
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- **Denture Cream**
- Laundry Detergent/Dryer Sheets * **Playing Cards**
- Band-Aids/First Aid Kit

- New Year Calendar Writing Pad/Pen
- Pillow/Pillow Case(s)
- Word Searches/Crosswords Lap Blanket
- Adult Color Books/ Pencils
 - Envelopes/Stamps
- **Light Bulbs**
- **Batteries**
- Flashlight
- Books/Magazines/Puzzles

DROP OFF LOCATIONS & TIMES BASKET

Bicknell Guardian Angel 11617 E State Road 67 Bloomfield Highrise 100 W. Main St/Back Door Ferdinand Senior Center 313 W. Ninth Street Jasonville Senior Center 145 S. Lawton Street Jasper Arnold F Habig Center 1301 Saint Charles Street Linton Glenburn Community 618 W. Glenburn Road Petersburg Pike Co United Way 719 E Main St Shoals Senior Center 409 Courthouse Drive Vincennes Generations Office 1019 N. 4th St. Washington Senior Center 211 E. Main Street M, T, W, TH, F

M, T, W, TH, F 8am-4:30pm M, T, W, TH, F 10am-2pm 8am-Noon M, T, W, TH, F M, T, W, TH, F 8:30-11:30am M,T, W, TH, F 8am-3pm M, T, W, TH, F 8am-4pm call to schedule 812-582-9781 M,T, W, TH, F 8am-3pm M, T, W, TH, F 9am-3:30pm 9am-3pm

Contact Generations if you need to schedule a basket pick up at 812-888-4527 or akramer@vinu.edu





St. Paul's will be collecting food items for our local food bank during the month of December. This would be a great way to get the whole family involved in giving this Christmas season. Create a box for the whole month or add single items to the grocery cart in the welcome center.



During the month of December, the LYO will be collecting supplies and wish list items for the **Ronald McDonald** House in Evansville. A box will be located in the Welcome Center to collect the donated items. Members of the LYO will deliver supplies to the Ronald McDonald House after the first of the year. *Thanks in advance for your generosity!*



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Year-End Giving Cheat Sheet

If you need or want to make a year-end contribution for tax purposes, we hope you'll consider donating to St. Paul's Lutheran Church's "Special Projects Fund" to benefit the upcoming Sacred Places Grant Project match. This project aims to take care of significant property needs at St. Paul's. A more formal introduction of the Sacred Places Campaign and Committee is forthcoming. Still, we did not want to miss the opportunity to encourage year-end giving by letting our congregational members know that gifts to the Special Projects now count toward our matching goal requirement!

<u>Please consult with your tax advisor</u> to ensure your gift benefits the Church and you.

Options to consider:

- A cash gift write a check to St. Paul's and designate it to the Special Projects Fund
- A gift from your **Donor Advised Fund** (DAF)
- Donate appreciated stock stocks donated directly to a charity avoid capital gains tax
 - Please get in touch with your advisor to transfer stock to our Edward Jones Account, #266-19498. Our financial planner is Nick Schnarr with Edward Jones.
- If you're age 70 1/2 or older, consider making a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA.

As a reminder, all gifts must be booked before <u>December 31st</u> to be eligible for tax benefits, so we encourage you to act quickly to ensure the gifts are completed in time!

If you have any questions regarding the Sacred Places Grant or any giving options, please see a church council member.

Thank you!