### St. Paul's Lutheran Church 3 Advent December 15, 2024

#### **PRELUDE**

#### RINGING OF THE BELLS

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + 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,

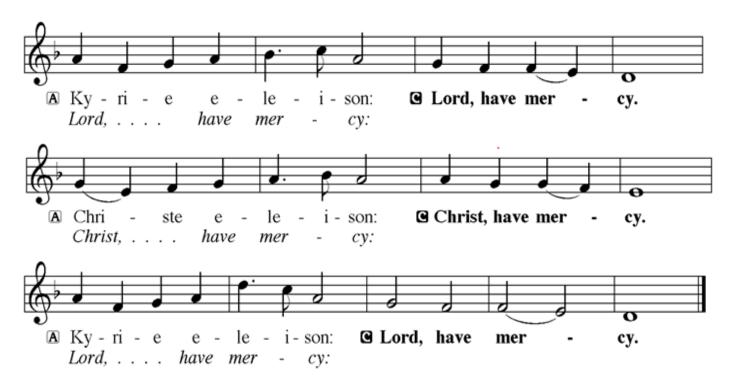
C we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises. God in our midst,

# 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**

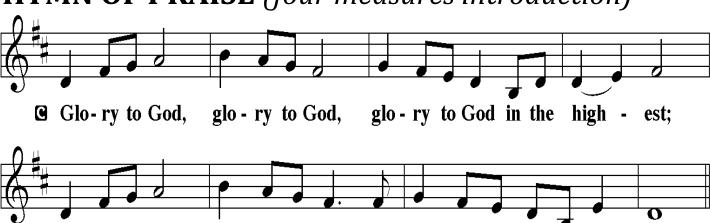


#### **GREETING**

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C And also with you.

# **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.





#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

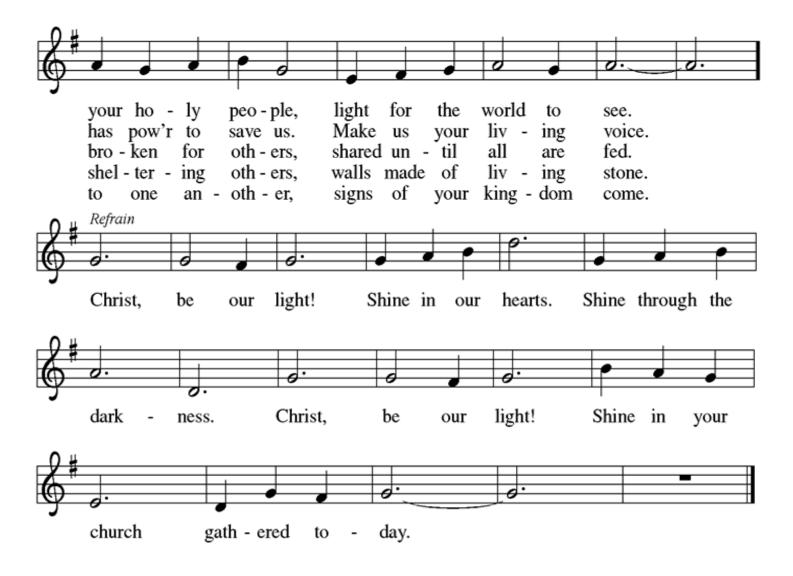
Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### C Amen.

# "Christ Be Our Light" Lighting of the Advent Candle

Congregation Sings (Verse 3):





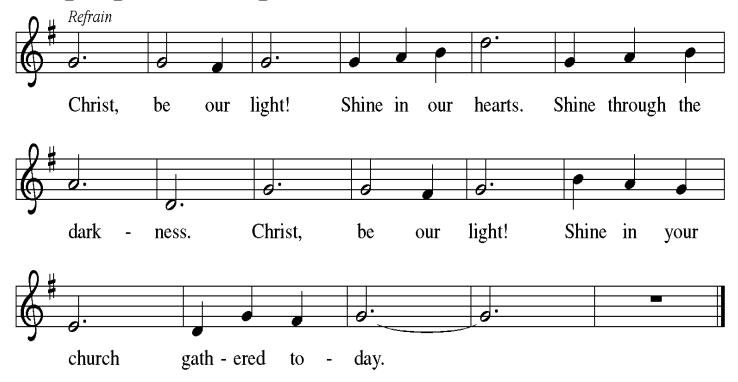
# Hope for Those Who Are Watching (responsive reading)

- P Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.
- C We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!
- P Grant us vision to behold your glory.
- C We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

- P Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.
- C We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!
- P Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.
- C We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!
- P For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:
- 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 three candles. The **first candle** reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The **second candle** is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The **third candle** awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.

# 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: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. 17 The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing 18 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. 19 I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

#### C Thanks be to God.

# Response: Isaiah 12:2-6

(Refrain: In your midst is the Holy One of Israel.)

<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

# C <sup>3</sup> With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. (*Refrain*)

<sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

# C <sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. *(Refrain)* 

(Refrain: In your midst is the Holy One of Israel.)

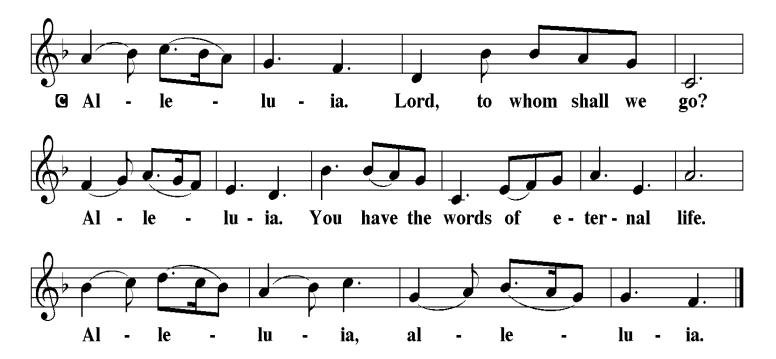
### **SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

<sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

#### C Thanks be to God.



#### GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

# C Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>7</sup> John said 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? 8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." 10 And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" 11 In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" 13 He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." 14 Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." 15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is

more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

#### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON** Pastor Timothy Holt

**HYMN OF THE DAY** LBW 36 "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"

#### **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 who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,

# C receive our prayer.

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,

# C receive our prayer.

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. (We pray especially for Rick Bauer, Courtney Hagedorn-Drew, Harold Hembree, Tammy Kieffner, Chad Knies, Zach Leinenbach, Candy Lewis, Judy Lorey, Eryn Mann, Zander Mann, 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.) Show your compassion and remember your people in love. 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 who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy,

# C receive our prayer.

God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. 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

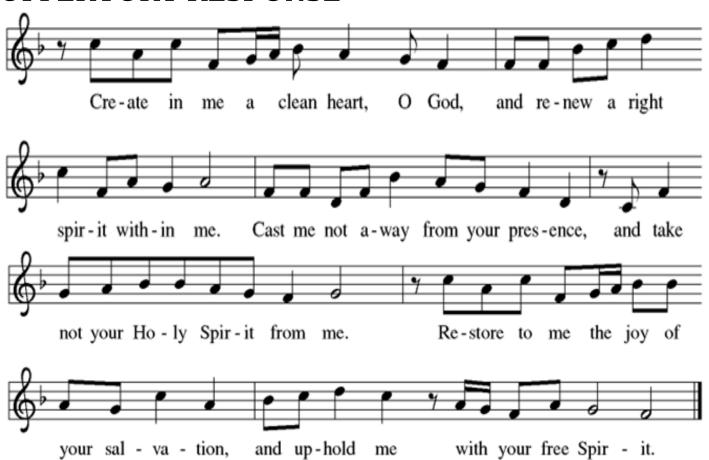
The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

#### OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

**OFFERTORY** "The Yearning"

#### **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.

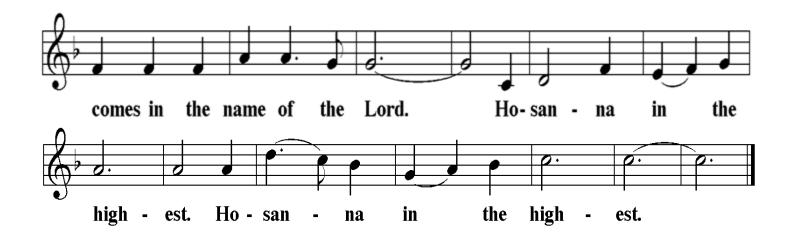
# C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### **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.

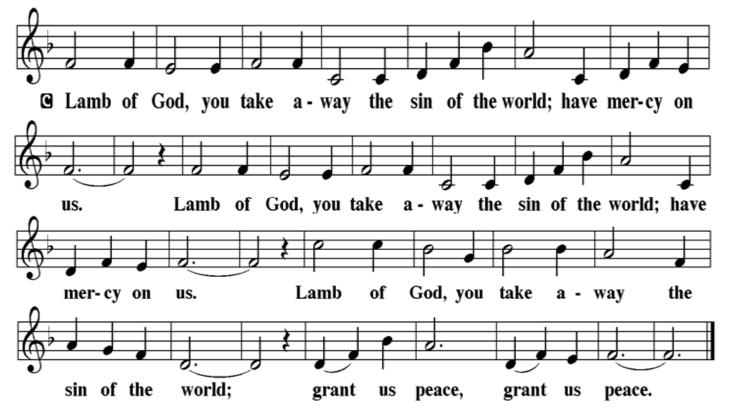
#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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**

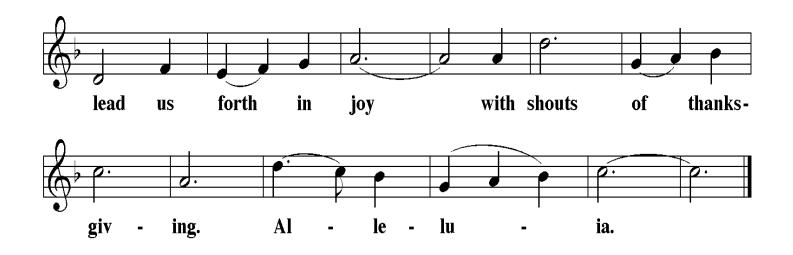
LBW 26 "Prepare the Royal Highway" LBW 32 "Fling Wide the Door"

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** WOV 744 "Soon and Very Soon"

#### **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:** Don & Nancy Freyberger

Comm. Asst: John PottsVideo: Jeff SchmittOrganist: Barb DellLay Reader: Terry Seitz

**Audio:** Doug Wiseman

**Acolytes:** Carlie Beck and Chloee Beck

#### ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 178 SS: 11

#### **CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF**

Dec. 15th - Dec. 22nd, 2024

Sun. Dec. 15th 8:00 AM Chancel Choir Practice

9:00 AM Sunday Worship Service

(Sunday School Christmas Program Practice – after communion until

11:00 AM)

Wed. Dec. 18th 9:30 AM Archive Meeting

6:30 PM Confirmation

Handbell Practice

Thur. Dec 19th 1:00 PM Blanket Tacking

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

9:00 AM Sunday Worship Service

(Sunday School Christmas Program Practice – after communion until

11:00 AM)

# ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the altar this Sunday are in memory of Dian Gehlhausen.



The Annual LYO Cookie Walk will be held on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**Annual reports** for each committee will need to be dropped in office or emailed to Marcie Rumfelt at <a href="mailto:secretaryst.paul@frontier">secretaryst.paul@frontier</a> no later than December 8<sup>th</sup>. Contact Marcie if you need assistance.

**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 <a href="mailto:secretaryst.paul@frontier.com">secretaryst.paul@frontier.com</a>

**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 non-member 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.

# **In Service to Our Country**

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





#### asket 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 M, T, W, TH, F 8am-4:30pm Bloomfield Highrise 100 W. Main St/Back Door M, T, W, TH, F 10am-2pm Ferdinand Senior Center 313 W. Ninth Street 8am-Noon M, T, W, TH, F Jasonville Senior Center 145 S. Lawton Street M, T, W, TH, F 8:30-11:30am Jasper Arnold F Habig Center 1301 Saint Charles Street M,T, W, TH, F 8am-3pm Linton Glenburn Community 618 W. Glenburn Road M, T, W, TH, F 8am-4pm Petersburg Pike Co United Way 719 E Main St call to schedule 812-582-9781 Shoals Senior Center 409 Courthouse Drive M,T, W, TH, F 8am-3pm Vincennes Generations Office 1019 N. 4th St. M, T, W, TH, F 9am-3:30pm Washington Senior Center 211 E. Main Street M, T, W, TH, F 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!