

St Paul's Lutheran Church
Strasburg, Illinois
Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 2022, 6:30 PM

THE WONDEROUS BIRTH

6:00-6:30 Pre-Service Music

6:30 Ringing of the bells and children's processional
Congregation sings, "Joy to the World" Hymnal P. 387 vs. 1-4
***After the song, congregation stands.

Pastor Whybrew: Welcome and Responsive Reading | John 4:7-16

Pastor: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

C: Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

P: In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

C: In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

P: Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

C: No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

P: By this, we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

C: And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.

P: Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

C: So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Pastor Whybrew: Prayer (After the prayer, you may be seated.)

Pre-School/Kindergarten Children

Teacher: Autumn McCormick

Jesus' Birthday

Poem: "The Christmas Prayer"

Recitations: Barrett Beltz, Maura Batson, Collins Logue, Harper Layton,
Everest Clark, Isley Wallin, and Claire McCormick

Song: "Happy Birthday, Dear Jesus"

Song: "Birthday of a King" Grades 7 & 8

Grades 1-6: The Christmas Tree

Recitations: Noah Vonderheide, Izzy Manhart, Bianca Nichols,
Lorelei McCormick, Crosby Ashmore

Song: "Gather Around the Christmas Tree"

Christmas Candles

Recitations: Ronnie Stodden, Casen Logue, Camden Layton
Poem: "Like a Christmas Candle"

Christmas Carols

Recitations: Walter Kessler, Roxy Shelton, Alli Manhart

Congregation stands to sing: "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" Hymnal P. 366
vs 1-4

Christmas Angels

Recitations: Max Kull, Bryce Rincker, Edie Wittenberg, Karly Wetherell

Messenger Angel: Kennedy Kull

Multitude of Angels: Lorelei, Bianca, Izzy, Alli, and Roxy

Song: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

(Shepherds (all boys) Angels (all girls)

*** Last "Glorias" congregation is to join in and sing with the children

Christmas Bells

Reading: Mia Batson Ringing of Bells – Autumn's class

Song: "Come on, Ring Those Bells" Kennedy, Kendra, Karly, and Ellie

The Manger

Recitations: Zach Shelton, Kendra Hayes, Wyatt Wetherell, and Holden Ashmore

Song: "Away in a Manger" by Autumn's class

The Christmas Story

The Christmas story is from Luke 2: 1-20 KJV

Read by Natalie Hayes, Claire McCormick, Samantha Hayes, Raegyn Wallin,
Maddie Rincker, Gabby Vonderheide, and Ellie Wittenberg

Mary: Kendra Joseph: Zach
Shepherds: Casen, Walter, Ronnie, and Camden

Congregation stands to sing: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Hymnal P. 361
(Please remain standing after this song.) vs 1-4

Pastor: Prayer and Benediction

Congregation and Children sing: "Silent Night" Hymnal P. 363 vs 1-3

(Parents: You may pick up your children in their classrooms after this song.)

Thank you all for coming to our service this evening! A special thanks goes to all the youth who participated and to all who helped in any way. Please join us tomorrow morning here at St. Paul's for our Christmas Day Service at 8:30 AM. Remember, you can see tonight's service again or show it to others on [You Tube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church!](#)

Merry Christmas and God's Blessings to all! ***Happy New Year!***

Program directors: DeeDee Batson & Marlene Wirth
Program helpers: Susie Allen, Jennifer Stodden, Shanna Kessler and Lisa Shelton
Organist: Muriel Merriman
A-V Technician: Gary Wirth
Greeters: Gary & Karen Kull
Candy: Troy and Trent Uphoff