

St. Paul's Lutheran Family, ELCA

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Rev. Paul M. Larson, Pastor



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

YOUTH SUNDAY

JANUARY 26, 2025

SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Family!

YOUTH SUNDAY

GATHERING

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Youth Sunday! Today's Prayer of the Day, Apostles Creed, and Communion liturgy were written by members of St. Paul's Lutheran Family Confirmation class. We are so thankful for Stephen, Corbin, Garan, Destiney, Kellsey, Alana, and Shay for their hard work and creativity.

PRELUDE: Beautiful Star of Bethlehem by R. Fischer Boyce

WELCOME

At St. Paul's, we want you to feel comfortable, so please stand whether in mind, body, or spirit.

Everything is on the screen in front, and we use ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship), Setting Three, which is on page 138 in your ELW hymnal and found under the seat in front of you.

Thank you for joining us. There is a guest book in the narthex and in the back of your bulletin, a visitor information form. Please fill it out and return it to us via email, US Mail, or you can slip it into the mail slot in the church office door.

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: **Amen.**

L: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Merciful God,
C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

L: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In ✝Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.
C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: Hymn #314, Arise, Your Light Has Come – Four verses

- 1 Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.
- 2 Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.
- 3 Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.
- 4 Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

KYRIE

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L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: 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 mercy.**

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

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

CANTICLE

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This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

PRAYER of the DAY – Written by St. Paul’s Confirmation Class

L: Let us pray.

**C: Thank you, Lord, for sending guardian angels over us. Thanks
for blessing us. Thank you for food, water, family, and friends.
Help bless those who need your help.
Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it,

all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

R: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 19, *Tone and Refrain*

The teach-ing of the LORD re - vives the soul.

The teaching of the LORD revives the soul. (Ps. 19:7)

¹ The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.

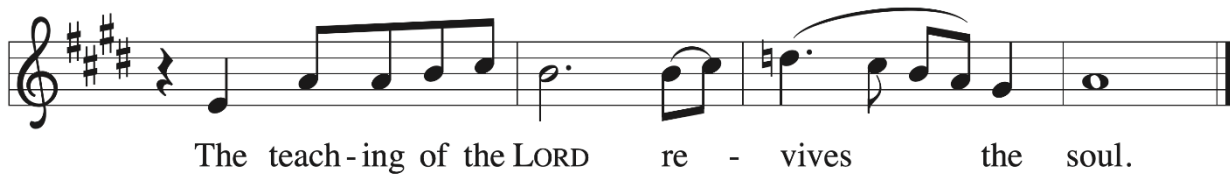
² **One day tells its tale | to another,
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.**

³ Although they have no | words or language,
and their voices | are not heard,

⁴ **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the
ends | of the world,
where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.**

⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

**6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of | it again;
nothing is hidden from its | burning heat. R**

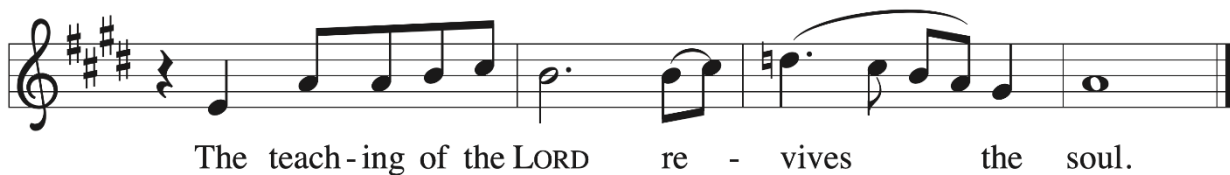


**7 The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom | to the simple.**

**8 The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.**

**9 The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.**

**10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb. R**



**11 By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is | great reward.**

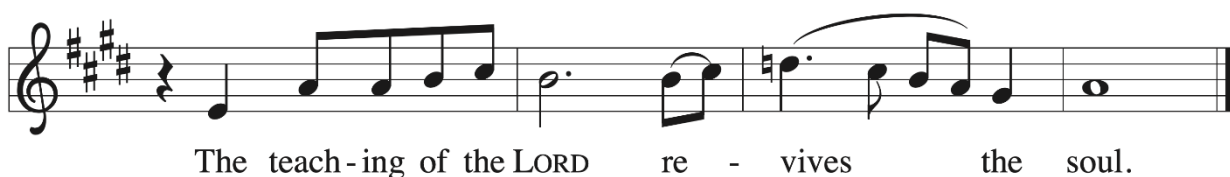
**12 Who can detect one's | own offenses?
Cleanse me from my | secret faults.**

**13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get
dominion | over me;**

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

**14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable | in your sight,**

O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer. R



SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members yet one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

R: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM: Blessed Assurance – St. Paul’s Choir

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 4:14-21

Near the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

L: The Holy gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME – Traci Angel

SKIT – St. Paul's Lutheran Family Youth Group

The assembly stands.

HYMN of the DAY: Hymn #715, Christ Be Our Light – Five verses

- 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

- 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

- 3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

- 4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

- 5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain*

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

APOSTLES' CREED – Written by St. Paul's Confirmation Class

We believe in God, who created Heaven and earth.

We believe Jesus is the Son of God.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is the mighty wind,
Jesus, who was brought before Pontius Pilate and suffered death.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he
ascended into heaven.

We believe God is nice and God loves us. That we were made in
God's image. We believe he died for us and will come back with
trumpet sounds and forgive us for our sins.

He will welcome everyone into his kingdom and will forever be with
us.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

R: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the
church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

R: As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share
scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and
mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for
the stories of faith. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: As the heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work,
we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars, and solar
systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of
grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize
communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison
ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working
together for your promised reign. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

R: As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world *especially fellowship hosts, worship leaders, council, and committee members*. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

R: As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church, and beloved friends and family who have died. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

R: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
C: Amen.

PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you

MEAL

OFFERING

The assembly stands.

OFFERING HYMN: Hymn #188, Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray.

C: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

L: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that at all times and in all places we give thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS of INSTITUTION

L: 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.

L: Again after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

L: And now we are bold to pray as Jesus taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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.**

The assembly seated.

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table.
Come, here is your God.

LAMB of GOD

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Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace.

COMMUNION

At St. Paul's Lutheran Family, all are welcome at God's table. Nobody will be turned away whether you have partaken before, or this is your first time. All are welcome.

During communion, it will be a little different TODAY. The Confirmation class baked bread for today. Please come forward to the altar at the instructions of our ushers. You will receive a piece of bread and a cup of either grape juice or wine will be offered. We have gluten-free options available. Please ask a communion assistant. If you need assistance getting to the altar, someone will be available to help. We can also bring communion to you. Just let an usher know.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Hymn #483, Here Is Bread

Here is bread, here is wine
Christ is with us, he is with us
Break the bread, drink the wine
Christ is with us here

Here is grace, here is peace
Christ is with us, he is with us
Know his grace, find his peace
Feast on Jesus here

In this bread there is healing
In this cup there's life forever
In this moment, by the Spirit
Christ is with us here

Here we are, joined in one
Christ is with us, he is with us
We'll proclaim, till he comes
Jesus crucified

Hymn #460, Now the Silence

Now the silence
Now the peace
Now the empty hands uplifted
Now the kneeling
Now the plea
Now the Father's arms in welcome

Now the hearing
Now the pow'r
Now the vessel brimmed for pouring
Now the body
Now the blood
Now the joyful celebration

Now the wedding
Now the songs
Now the heart forgiven leaping
Now the Spirit's visitation
Now the Son's epiphany
Now the Father's blessing
Now
Now
Now

Hymn #482, I Come with Joy – Five verses

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

- 2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

The assembly stands.

COMMUNION BLESSING

L: Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER after COMMUNION

L: Let us pray.

C: **Thank you, Lord, for all. Bless this food, life, health and for all gathered here.
Amen.**

BLESSING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you interested in going to Camp? The SPSYC High School Retreat is February 21st - 23rd. Please speak with Pastor Paul if you are interested in going. Scholarships are available.

Pastor Paul is looking to start a weekly Bible study on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you are interested in joining us. We will start next week on Wednesday, February 5th, 2025.

If you are interested in an evening Bible study at 6:00 p.m., there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please add your name and check the day you prefer.

Join Pastor for coffee on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Old World Coffee Roasters, 301 N. Curry St., Carson City.

**SENDING SONG: Hymn #551, The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve –
Four verses**

- 1 The Spirit sends us forth to serve;
we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.
- 2 We go to comfort those who mourn
and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream
and help the blind to see.
- 3 We go to be the hands of Christ,
to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life,
to do the loving deed.
- 4 Then let us go to serve in peace,
the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us;
we go in Jesus' name.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: The Lighthouse by Ronnie Hinson

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeter – Tim Hamilton

Readers – Youth Group Members

Ushers – TBA

Cantors – Tom Gesick and Brian Marley

Counters – Mary DeFelice and Jeanne Russell

Acolytes – Clay Woslum and Greg Griffith

Youth Acolytes and Worship Assistants – Niko, Shay, Kellsey, Alana, Steven, and Destiny

Live-streaming Team – Nick Cotsonis and Holly McPhail

Musician – Dave Lingsjo

Altar Guild: Brita Steyn and Vicki Hamilton

CHURCH ATTENDANCE STATS: Sunday, January 19, 2025:

Adults: 60, Children: 5, Online: 12

PRAYERS for COPING and HEALING

Carol, a friend of Mary DeFelice, suffering from influenza and Afib; Sandy Danforth, knee surgery; Sharon Gesick's sister Karen; Marta Marsh, surgery; Lois Denim, amputated leg and cancer; Dick Lowther: surgery; Karen Lowther: a broken hip from a fall; David Wilson, recovering from heart surgery; Katherine Poline, friend of Judy McPhail's oldest daughter Heather, diagnosed with breast cancer; Ray Patrick, Wayne and Jean Opperman's son-in-law, cancer treatment; Wayne Opperman; Marie Boone, a fall; Vera Logie; Tom, a friend of St. Paul's; Joan Yeskie; Edward Yoho; Fern Yoho; Maxine McGregor, and a special prayer for all those living with devastating diseases and life-threatening injuries.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Jim Kennett; Gayle Kennett; Pat Thunder; Audrey Stroub; Bev Steinert, ongoing vision issues; Bob Stroub; Bill Sandell; Frank and Shirley Bartlett; Carol Kalleres, continued health issues; James Wilson, continued health issues; Mary Ann Adamik, healing; Ellen Harrell, medical issues; Betty Razor, healing; Karen (Hone) Nolte; and Diana Johns.

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

If you'd like more information about St. Paul's or are interested in becoming a member, please fill out this form and return it to the church office via email or US Mail.

You may also drop it in the church office door mail slot.

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Special needs or requests: _____
