

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 8, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m.**

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

Building Disciples - Growing in Faith  
Serving in Christ's Name

The Reverend Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor

6839 Wertzville Road, Enola, PA 17025  
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[www.StPaulsEnola.org](http://www.StPaulsEnola.org)



Welcome to all – especially visitors. **It is no accident that you are here today!** You are an answer to our prayer. We have been praying for you, and believe that God has brought you here because God wants to touch your life. We welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ!

*Large print and children's bulletins are available in the Narthex or from an usher.*

**Holy Communion:** All God's Children are welcome to come to God's Table! It is at the Table we receive Christ's body and blood through the bread and wine. This holy meal renews and nourishes our spirit. Come and eat. If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, please let an usher know and we will bring communion to you.

***The prefilled glasses are grape juice.***

*Please remember to write any prayer requests for today in the prayer book in the Narthex.*



### **~ THE GATHERING ~**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, CONCERNS**

### **PRELUDE**

#### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** (The Bowers Family)

Family: Jesus is coming!

#### **All: Jesus is coming!**

Family: This is the second Sunday of Advent, the time of preparing for the coming of Christ our Savior. Today our word is *prepare*. Not only do we wait for our Savior, but we use this time of waiting creatively. We prepare for Christmas with gift purchases, tree trimming, home decorating, card mailing and food preparation. We prayer for Christ with prayer, quiet contemplation, resolutions to be better people than we are now.

We light \* the first Advent candle, remembering that we *wait* for Christ. We also light \* today's candle, remembering that we must *prepare* not only our homes but also our hearts and lives for the coming of Emmanuel.

## HYMN ELW #240 "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

*The presiding minister and the congregation greet one another.*

P: 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.**

## KYRIE / CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination of our sinfulness before God.*

P: God of all time,

**C: we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**



Lord, have mer - cy on your peo - ple. Christ have mer - cy on us.  
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.



Shine your light in to our dark-ness. Fill us with your ho - ly love.  
Heal all con - flicts be - tween na - tions. Teach us how to live as one.



Be our strength in times of trou - ble. Set us free from chains that bind.  
Show us how to love our neigh - bor. Run to those who cry for help.



Breathe new life in - to our spir - its. Pu - ri - fy our hearts and minds.  
Word made flesh who lives a - mong us; Christ our Lord, Em - man - u - el.

P: Fear not, people of God; the Almighty has done great things for us. God casts away our sin from us and makes of us a new creation. In † Jesus Christ, God comes to set us free. Take heart in the tender compassion of our God.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

P: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## *~ THE WORD ~*

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

### **FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But 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; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALMODY Luke 1:68-79** *(read responsively men/women)*

<sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

<sup>69</sup>**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.**

<sup>70</sup>Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, <sup>71</sup>from the hands of all who hate us,

<sup>72</sup>**to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.**

<sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,**

<sup>75</sup> **holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

<sup>76</sup> And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

<sup>77</sup> **to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

<sup>78</sup> In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

<sup>79</sup> **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of  
death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

## **SECOND READING    Philippians 1:3-11**

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are comfortable to welcome the gospel.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW#715 "Christ, Be Our Light"**

(see next page)

*Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
 church gath - ered to - day.

Text & Music: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957. © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications.

## **GOSPEL READING Luke 3:1-6**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
 make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
 and the crooked shall be made straight,  
 and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **YOUNG PEOPLE’S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON**

The Rev. Gwenn L. Trout

*Please stand as you are comfortable to proclaim the word of God in song as the hymn is introduced.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**ELW #255 "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"**

### **NICENE CREED**

United in our faith in the Triune God, let us with the whole church confess our faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from True God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The assisting minister prays on behalf of the congregation.*

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

*A brief silence.*

A: Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, show us your unfailing love, and renew our hope. Kindle among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized a fire for sharing the gospel. As we meet for our annual meeting today, guide our deliberations and help us to make right decisions. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Heal and restore those areas damaged by recent natural disasters, and strengthen the work of organizations involved in relief efforts here and around the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Bring justice to those wrongly accused and long-imprisoned. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit, especially Kody, Jay, Bill, Elizabeth, Jerry, Doug, Jordan, Christian, Terrie, Naoma, Boden, Andy D., Andrea G., Doris, Stew, Jim, Linda, Marcia, Barbara H., Stew H., Richard, Alice, Arlan, Shirley, Judy G., Tim M., and those we name before you now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts. (pause) Provide comfort and strength, hope and courage in the midst of pain, despair and hopelessness. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, musicians, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they plan and prepare for the coming of your Son, Emmanuel. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and now rest in you. In deep gratitude, help us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our prayer.

**C: hear our prayer.**

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

**C: Amen.**

**THE SHARING OF PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Share a sign of peace with your neighbors, then remain standing as you are comfortable.*



~ THE MEAL ~

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

**OFFERTORY ELW #487 "What Feast of Love"**



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?  
3 What wine of love is of - fered here. what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?  
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*After the table is set, the assisting minister leads the prayer.*

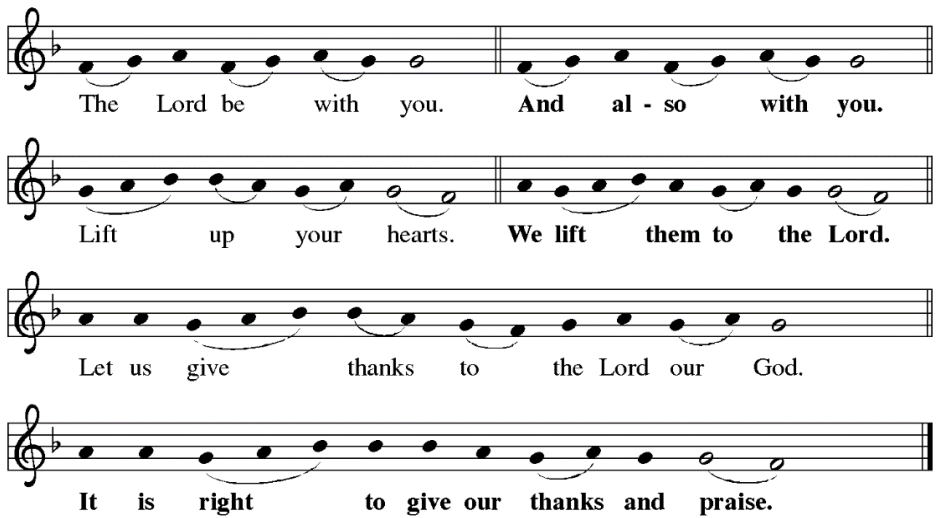
A: Let us pray.

**C: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We give you thanks for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food, that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

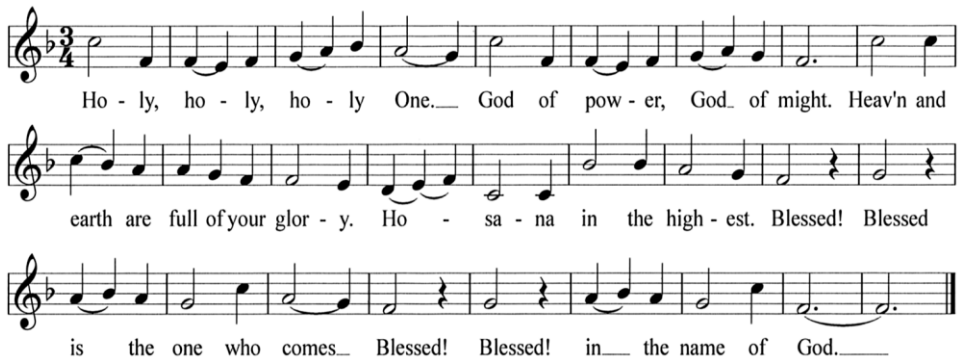
*The presiding minister greets the congregation and invites all present to give thanks.*

(see next page)



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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 to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One... God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and  
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed  
is the one who comes... Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God.

*The presiding minister continues:*

P: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. Giving himself freely to death on a cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

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.

Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

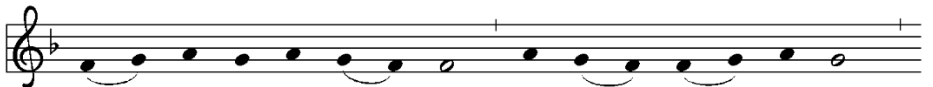
Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER



P: The Word became flesh and dwelled among us, that as children of God we might dare to pray:



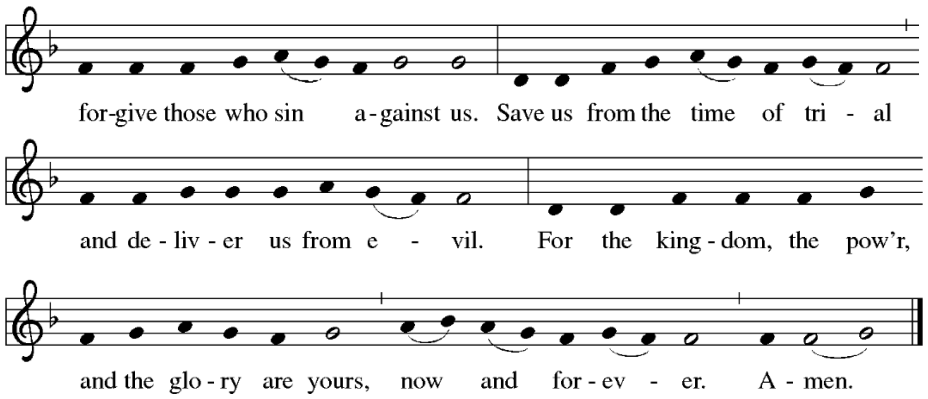
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a- gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al  
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*As the bread is broken, the presiding minister addresses the congregation:*

P: Rejoice! Emmanuel has come among us. Share in the feast of salvation.

## LAMB OF GOD



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give\_ us your  
peace. Pre-pare us to re- ceive\_ your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-  
joice! Re-joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra - el.

*The congregation is seated.*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

### COMMUNION HYMNS

**ELW #253 "He Came Down"**

**ELW #631 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

*When all have communed, the congregation is invited to stand.*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*The assisting minister leads the congregation in prayer.*

A: Let us pray.

Jesus, our bright Morning Star, we give you thanks that you have fed us well through the bread and wine of your Supper. Enable us to shine brightly in all the dark places of our world with your love, justice and peace.

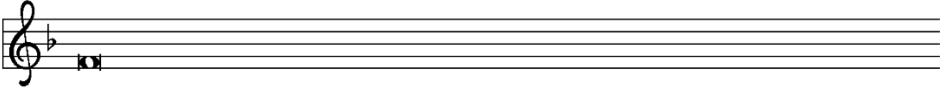
**C: Amen.**

**~ THE SENDING ~**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

**BENEDICTION**

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*



The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,



keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Je - sus.            A - men.

**SENDING HYMN ELW #239 "Hark, the Glad Sound!"**

**DISMISSAL**

*The assisting minister sends the congregation into mission.*

A: Go in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR SEATS  
FOR THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**



Please place your offering in the collection plates near the doors. Your ongoing financial support to our congregation is vital in our ongoing ministries and to cover monthly expenses.

**About today's lessons:** *Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so*

*doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."*

**Name tags** – please continue to wear them for worship and fellowship hour!

**Poinsettia flower orders are due** to the church office by this Tuesday, December 10 (apologies for the quick turn-around). Order forms are in the church narthex & upper Sunday school room and in December's *Epistle*.

**Advent Breakfasts** are being held on Saturdays, December 14 and 21, 8:45 to 10:30 am in fellowship hall. We will focus our conversation around the theme, "All in God's Time". Volunteers are needed to bring hot and cold breakfast items weekly. The signup sheet is on the table in the large Sunday school room. Please plan to join us.

**Cookie Walk & Soup Sale:** This Saturday, December 14, 11am-1pm. Please support the walk/sale by providing four dozen homemade cookies and/or soup. Thank you to everyone who signed up to help. Items should be brought to the church on Friday, December 13, between 4pm and 7pm. See Sherry Reynolds with any questions.

**New Hope Ministries' Gift Wish Tree:** Thank you to everyone who donated gifts for this year's efforts to provide gifts for New Hope Ministries' families, especially with the short turn-around time. You are helping to make a family's Christmas more joyful.

**Adult Sunday School** is utilizing the book "If God is Love, Don't be a Jerk" by Jon Pavlovitz is held in the upper Sunday school room. All are welcome!

**Children's Sunday School** meets December 15, and December 29. Thank you to Seana Miller and Phyllis Achenbach for leading these classes.

### **Upcoming**

**Dec. 8:** Annual congregational meeting following worship

**Dec. 9:** Council meeting, 6:30 pm

**Dec. 10:** Poinsettia orders due

**Dec. 14 & 21:** Advent Breakfasts, 8:45 – 10:30 am

**Dec. 14:** Cookie Walk & Soup Sale, 11am-1pm

**Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7pm

**Immediate Need:** New Hope Ministries – Enola is in dire need of personal hygiene items: **toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, soap, shampoo, toilet paper, tissues.** A collection bin is in our donation area in the upper Sunday school room.

**Finances At-a-Glance** (full reports can be found on our website or in the monthly *Epistle* in the Council materials.)

	October	November	Jan-Nov 2024
Revenue*	12,013.00	9,946.03	132,704.31
Expenses	11,389.88	12,363.34	138,145.11
Net Revenue	623.12	-2,417.31	-5,440.80

\*Does not include roof campaign donations

**Former Zion Members:** We are collecting one last time for Christmas gifts for Pastor Gwenn, Durene Archer and the Petrova family. If you would like to contribute, send a check payable to Debbie Loope (NOT ZION) and mail or give it to Debbie or Dan Loope. Snail mail address is 24 Willow Way Drive, Enola PA 17025. Thank you!

**Worship assistants:** please let Ann in the church office know ([stpaulsenola@yahoo.com](mailto:stpaulsenola@yahoo.com) / 717.697.9675) if you would like to begin helping in any capacity. If you are already on the list, please tell her if there are any dates/months in 2025 when you cannot help. Thanks to everyone who contributes to our worship service each Sunday!

### **Thank you to those assisting with worship**

**Assisting Minister:** Debbie Loope

**Lector:** Denise Casella

**Musician:** Denise Casella

**Ushers:** Mike Peck & Mike Stoner

**Counters:** Chris Frampton & Steve Casella

**Altar Guild:** Deb Stoner & Denise Casella

**Building Lock-up:** Chris Frampton

**Technology:** Nick Cekovich / Doug Bowers

	Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 24	Dec 29 Lessons & Carols	Jan 5
<b>Asst. Min.</b>	Denise	Steve C.	John F.	Keith G.	MaryJane
<b>Lector</b>	Seana	Phyllis A.	Keith G.	McKenna	Emily B.
<b>Musician</b>	Deb R.	Denise C.	Carolyn H.	Denise C.	Denise C.
<b>Ushers</b>	Mike P. Mike S.	Mike P. Mike S.	Mike P. Drew K.	Mike S. Mike P.	Steve H. Drew K.
<b>Counters</b>	MaryJane Trudy	Heather MaryJane	Keith G.	Heather MaryJane	Chris F. Trudy G.
<b>Altar s/u</b>	Sherry	Amanda	Amanda	Keith G.	Amanda
<b>Altar c/u</b>	Sherry	Judy C.		Judy C.	Judy C.
<b>Lock-up</b>	MaryJane	Heather	Keith G.	Heather	Chris F.
<b>Tech</b>	Nick C. / Doug B.				



Scan the QR code with your phone (using the camera or download a QR reader app) to make a one-time donation or set up recurring donations from your bank account, debit card, or credit card.

**The Rev. Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor**

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Ann Gottlieb, Office Manager: 717.697.9675

Office Hours: T/Th 9am-3pm

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**Congregation Council**

Chris Frampton, President	717-319-0382
Keith Gilbert, Vice President	717.756-4313
Nick Cekovich, Treasurer	717.756.7487
MaryJane McMillan, Secretary	717.580.1762
Tim Morgan	717.766.5257
Heather Verchick	717.377.6122

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