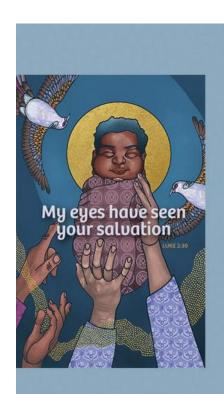
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 127 YORK STREET HANOVER, PA



THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

February 2, 2025

Rev. Lee Brumback, February Supply Pastor

Rev. Jack R. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus
Steven Ruppright, Director of Music Ministries
Lori Rebling, Director of Hand Bells
Gretchen Walter, Director of Children's Music
Ministers: The Members of St. Paul's

Missionaries: Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson and family Church Office: 717-637-5941

Email: <u>stpaulsyorkst@comcast.net</u>
Website: www.stpaulsyorkst.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulsyorkst

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

If you are seeking a faith community, exploring faith, desire to be a part of our ministries, or have questions; please feel free to speak with the pastor.

Our Purpose:

We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously.

Guiding Principles:

As instruments of God's love, when you see us at our best you will see us:

- -Generously stewarding God's gifts of resources, time, and talents
- -Serving as God's hands & feet in ministries & missions of outreach to all
- -Providing for the care of God's people, both physically and spiritually
- -Growing in Faith through worship, study, and discernment
- -Praising God through music, word, and service
- -Welcoming all people into fellowship with God

Important Worship Notes

All liturgies are printed within this bulletin.

Children's activity bags and children's bulletins are located on the podium in the hallway on the pulpit side of the sanctuary. Children's activity bags are also located on the coat rack behind the door of the choir loft side of the sanctuary.

P: Pastor C: Congregation L: Lay Reader A: Assisting Minister

If you are communing, please be sure to fill out a communion record card, for our church records, and place it in the offering plate. Thank you.

+ 4th Sunday after Epiphany + February 2, 2025

INTRODUCTION

The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world

THE GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.
- C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

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.

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

Amen.



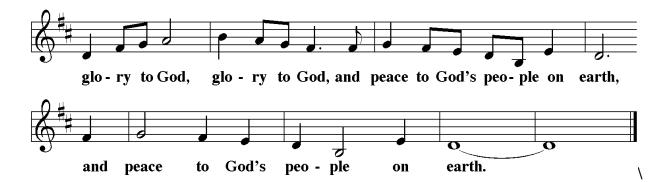
*GREETING

- 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.

*HYMN OF PRAISE







*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-4

This reading concludes a larger section (2:17—3:5) in which the prophet speaks of the coming of the God of justice. Malachi looks for that day when the wondrous power of God will purify the priestly descendents of Levi who minister in the temple at Jerusalem.

- L The First Reading according to Malachi 3:1-4
 - ¹¹See, 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. ²But 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; ³he 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. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.
- L The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM Psalm 84 read responsively

- A ¹ How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!
- ² My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
 - ³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.
 - ⁴ Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.
 - ⁵ Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
 - ⁶ Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
 - ⁷ They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.
 - ⁸ LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob.
 - ⁹ Behold our defender, O God; and look upon the face of your anointed.
 - ¹⁰ For one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
 - ¹¹ For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing grace and glory; no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk with integrity.
 - ¹²O LORD of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!
- A Holy wisdom, Holy word.
- C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-18

Jesus shared human nature fully so that his death might be for all humans a liberation from slavery to death's power. Here the writer uses the image of priestly service in the temple as a way of describing the life and saving death of the Lord Jesus. He is the high priest who offers his life on behalf of his brothers and sisters.

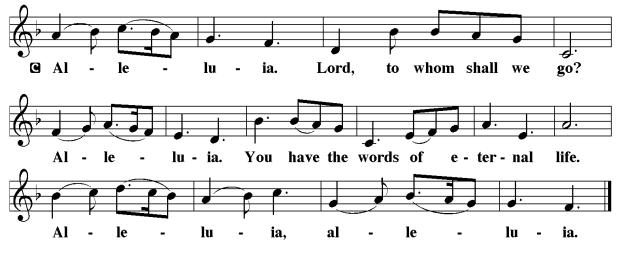
L The Second Reading according to Hebrews 2:14-18

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



This story is a study in contrasts: the infant Jesus with the aged prophets; the joy of birth with the ominous words of Simeon to Mary; the faithful fulfilling of the law with the presentation of the one who will release its hold over us. Through it all, we see the light of God's salvation revealed to the world.

Luke 2:22-40

- P The Holy Gospel according to Luke 2:22-40
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

*GOSPEL

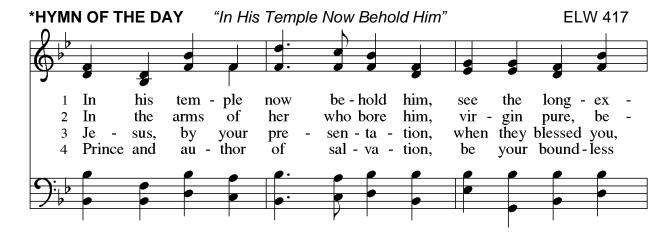
P ²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory

to your people Israel." ³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON





*APOSTLES' CREED

A Let us affirm our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 THE PEOPLE

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

A brief silence.

God of generations, you instilled in Anna and Simeon faith, dreams, and the welcome of a child. Bless elders who embody faith and hope; bless the newly baptized. Energize us to share faith from generation to generation. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

God of creation, in you the sparrow finds a home and we find lush valleys and living water. Bless the birds of the air, the animals of the valley, and renew our stewardship of this bountiful creation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of the nations, strengthen our resolve to care for all children and strive for peace among nations. Refine our nation where we have failed to root out racism and guide us in truth-telling and reconciliation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of hope, many long to see your presence revealed amid challenging circumstances. We hold in prayer all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and health and wellness. God of grace, hear our prayer.

God of the people, you are made known in caring ministries. Bless those who serve as communion servers, homebound visitors, baptismal sponsors, confirmation mentors, and as prayer support. Reveal yourself in the neighborly care we give and receive. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of life, we thank you for Jesus' life and for his death that has destroyed death. We remember the dearly departed, as they dwell with you in your holy courts now and forever. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

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

C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

THE MEAL

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent" Adult and Youth Choir

arr. Laskey

(Use this time to reflect on your financial and spiritual offerings to God.)

There are a number of ways of making your offerings to God during this time. One is to place your offering in our offering plates in front of the pews or to give online at https://stpaulsyorkst.org/give. If you prefer not to give online, you may of course mail a check to St. Paul's. If you are not able to give monetarily during this time, know that your prayers and praise are a pleasing offering to God. If you are able to give a little more during this time, please consider doing so as a way of supporting your fellow disciples who are not able to.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

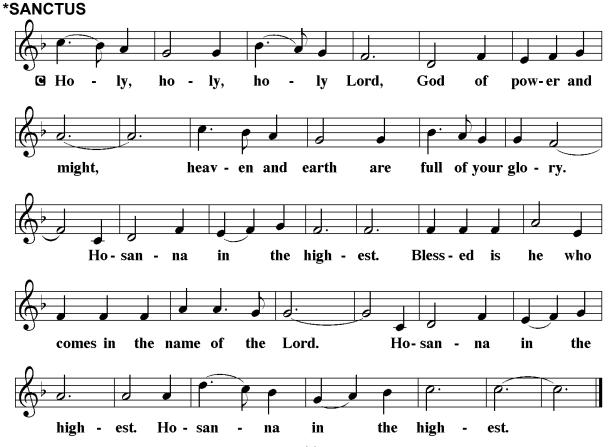
- A Let us pray. God of grace,
- your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

*DIALOGUE

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

*PREFACE

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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:



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen!

*LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

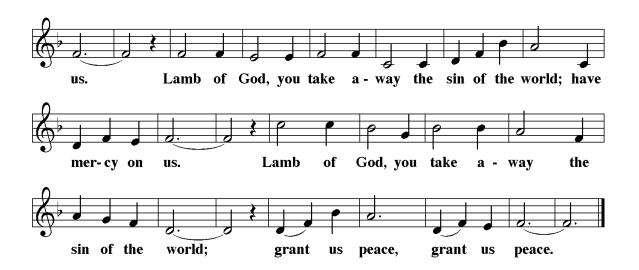
All are welcome to commune.

If you wish to receive communion from your seat, please let an usher know.
Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.

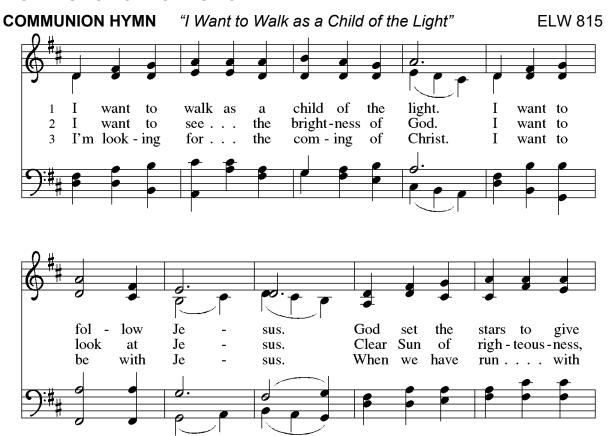




☑ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION









*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C Amen.

THE SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING

- P The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.
- C Amen.



*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Live in hope.

C Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

^{*} Stand if you are able

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	February 2	February 9
Assisting Minister	Bill Sowers	Frank Hueske
Acolyte	Dilynn Long	Jocelyn Fissel
Lay Reader	Sherry Cracium-Bolin	Frank Hueske
Communion Distributors	Donna Lehman	Mary Yohe
	Suzanne Butler	Michelle Johnson
Ushers	Michael Kelly	Michael Kelly
	Sharon Kelly	Sharon Kelly
Altar Committee	Becki Davis	Becki Davis
	Norma Lucabaugh	Norma Lucabaugh

THE ETERNAL FLAME is sponsored to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lillian Dusman by Harry Dusman.

COUNCIL RETREAT SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025 @ 9:00 AM - As is our custom, we hold a council retreat early in the calendar year to exchange ideas and strategies that can be worked on.

It is for all council members but extended to Committee Chairpersons/members as well. We also invite staff members and any member of the congregation that has an interest in these discussions or has questions to please attend as well.

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall and be led by Pastor Richard Jorgenson, a good friend of St. Paul's, from our Synod.

Please let us know if you can attend.

COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We know that fellowship is an important part of our faith community; that's why we hold Coffee Hour after church each Sunday. We are looking for volunteers to help keep our Coffee Hour going! There is a sign-up sheet in the lounge for folks to volunteer as coffee makers or to bring snacks. Coffee makers would start the coffee urn around 9 a.m. (coffee training available on request!) Both volunteers would help with set up and clean up. If you have questions, see Russ Kaltreider. Thank you for your help!

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE: Please contact Maureen Kaltreider in the church office or at *finance@stpaulsyorkst.org*

Radio–Feb. 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 (\$60 per date or any portion you desire per date) Altar Flowers-Feb. 9, 16 & March 2 (2 vases at \$20 each)

Communion Bread and Wine-Feb. 9, 16, 23, March 2, 5, 9, 16, 23 & 30 (\$12 each date) Worship Bulletins-Feb. 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 (\$20 each date)

Eternal flame-Feb. 9, 16, 23, March 2, 5, 9, 16, 23 & 30 (\$10 each date)

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP BIBLE, for anyone who is not attending the children's Faith Formation classes, is held following the Worship Service. Grab some coffee and snacks in the lounge and join us **in the nursery, across from the lounge,** to dive a little deeper into the day's Bible readings. We should finish by 11:30 am.

FEBRUARY'S DESIGNATED GIVING will go to support our missionaries, The Swanson's, in Tanzania. There newsletter can be found on the bulletin board across from Pastor's office.

FAITH IN ACTION NEWS: Our Souper Bowl "soup" collection will run until Sunday, February 9, 2025. We will be collecting regular size cans of soup (10.5 oz) for the Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry here at St. Paul's. Any kind of soup is acceptable. We are setting a goal of 400 cans this year. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

SOMETHING'S BREWING BIBLE STUDY - Monday evenings at 7:00pm in the Lounge. Join us!

LENTEN BOOK STUDY: Join us Tuesday evenings beginning March 11 as we study the elements of the Crucifixion with the book *He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado. The book focuses on what Jesus did for us on the Cross by getting us to look at it in a new light, and with a fuller understanding. Please sign up on the sheet by the pastor's office or contact Carmen no later than February 24 so we may order your book.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPE BOXES are available to pick up in the hallway outside of the pulpit entrance.

SUN., FEB. 2 Immediately following	_	Radio Broadcast - 95.3 FM & 1280 AM Worship Service – Presentation of our Lord Children's Choir rehearsal – Children's Music Room Followed by Faith Formation Coffee Hour - Lounge Daily Discipleship class – Nursery room (1st floor) Adult Choir II rehearsal - Choir Loft in the Sanctuary
MON., FEB. 3	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Girl Scout Groups – 2 nd floor Something's Brewing Bible Study – Lounge
TUES., FEB. 4	10:30 am	LIU #12 – Fellowship Hall
WED., FEB. 5	5:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Property Committee – Conf. Room – 2 nd floor Christian Education – Library Room – 2 nd floor Worship and Music - Lounge
THUR., FEB. 6	6:00 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Bellchoir rehearsal – Balcony of the Sanctuary Cub Scouts – 2 nd Floor Boy Scout Troop 102 - Youth Room & Gym Adult Choir I rehearsal – Choir Loft in the Sanctuary
FRI., FEB. 7	3:00 pm	Grocery Ministry prep – Gym
SAT., FEB. 8	9:00 am 5:00 pm 6:15 pm	Grocery Ministry – Boy Scouts Saturday Evening Worship Service) Narcotics Anonymous – Fellowship Hall
SUN., FEB. 9 Immediately following		Radio Broadcast - 95.3 FM & 1280 AM Worship Service - 5 th Sunday after Epiphany Children's Choir rehearsal - Children's Music Room Followed by Faith Formation Coffee Hour - Lounge Daily Discipleship class - Nursery room (1 st floor) Youth Choir rehearsal - Choir Loft in the Sanctuary

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Call Committee

Distance from church survey

Please tell us how many people you bring to worship and how many miles do you live from our church building. Number of people you bring to worship.
Miles from our church building
Optional signature