

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church Sunday Worship



**Sunday, November 27, 2022  
First Sunday of Advent, Year A**

## **Introduction**

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

## Welcome

### Prelude: "Advent Star" – Broughton

## Greeting

*All may make the sign of the cross as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Verse 1 is sung

### 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.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four 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.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## First Sunday of Advent

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.

You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.

You show up in our lives at unexpected times.

Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.

We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,  
you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

**ALL: Amen.**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.  
Let us confront our sins,  
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,

**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.  
We have strayed from your paths.  
We prepare for war instead of peace.  
We dishonor one another and your creation.  
Purify us with your refining fire  
and set us again on your way of love,  
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,  
and welcome your coming among us.**

**Amen.**

People of God,  
a new thing is growing in our midst,  
a tender branch,  
a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.  
You have put on ✝ Christ,  
and your sins have been washed away.  
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn: The King Shall Come - ELW 260



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,  
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose  
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race  
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

## First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"*

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."

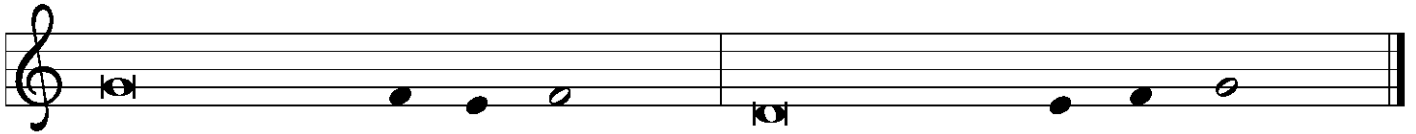
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

Word of God, Word of Life.  
**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Psalm 122



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
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Pastor: I was glad when they | **said** to me,  
“Let us go to the house | **of** the LORD.”

**ALL:** Now our | **feet** are standing  
within your gates, | **O** Jerusalem.

Pastor: Jerusalem is built | **as** a city  
that is at unity | **with** itself;

**ALL:** to which the tribes go up, the tribes | **of** the LORD,  
the assembly of Israel,  
to praise the name | **of** the LORD.

Pastor: For there are the | **thrones** of judgment,  
the thrones of the | **house** of David.

**ALL:** Pray for the peace | **of** Jerusalem:  
“May they pros- | **per** who love you.

Pastor: Peace be with- | **in** your walls  
and quietness with- | **in** your towers.

**ALL:** For the sake of my kindred | **and** companions,  
I pray for | **your** prosperity.

Pastor: Because of the house of the | **LORD** our God,  
I will seek to | **do** you good.”

## Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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## **Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**ALL: Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**SERMON: Stay Awake, God is Near!**



**HYMN OF THE DAY: Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn – ELW 242**



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen  
 Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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## **NICENE CREED**

**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**

*Please respond to each invocation:* God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## **A Sign of Peace and Reconciliation**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*Please be seated.*

### **OFFERING**

All that we have, physically and spiritually comes from God.  
Our offering, of time, talent and treasure is a response to our awareness  
that God is the creator of all things and that we are redeemed  
through life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.  
Your support of this ministry and the faith life of this community is appreciated.

## Offering Hymn: People, Look East – ELW 248



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

## Offering Prayer

Eternal God,

you make the desert bloom

and send springs of water to thirsty ground.

Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,

and make us messengers of your mercy and love

for all in need of your healing and justice.

We ask this through Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

# GREAT THANKSGIVING

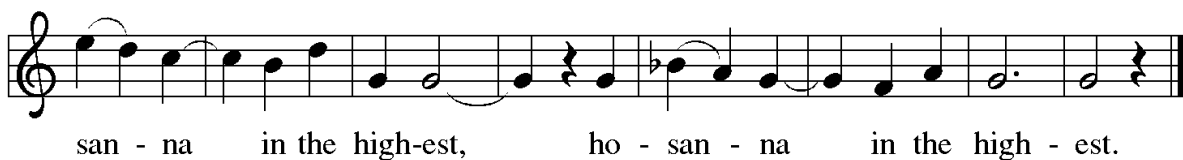
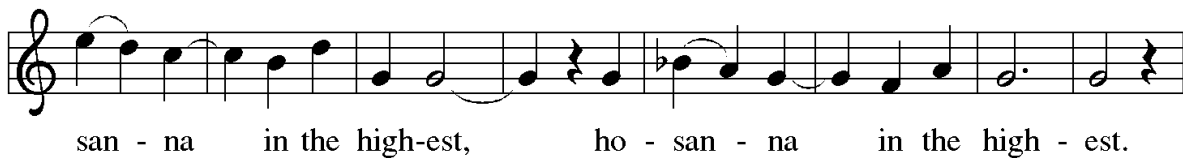
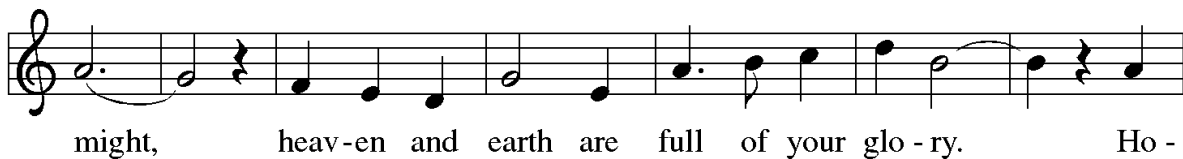
## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.  
**And also 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.**

## PREFACE



Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**We pray, come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**We pray, come, Lord Jesus.**

All praise and glory are yours...



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

We currently receive communion with real bread and wine. If you need to receive a gluten free host, please ask the communion minister. They are in a separate plastic wrap marked "gluten free." For those who prefer to receive grape juice rather than wine you will find white grape juice in the center of the trays as communion is given. If you have a question, please ask the minister as you receive. The bread and wine should be consumed here in the church before you return to your seat. If for some reason, you are unable to consume either the bread or wine please bring what was not consumed to the ushers or the pastor as soon as the service is completed.

## LAMB OF GOD – ELW Setting 9



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymn: Come Now, O Prince of Peace ELW 247



*O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm*  
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.  
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.  
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.  
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



*u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.*  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope  
Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947  
Text and music © Geonyong Lee

### SILENCE

### TABLE BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
heal you, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**ALL: Amen.**

### Canticle of Zechariah

Pastor: Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:

**ALL: your word has been fulfilled.**

Pastor: My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared  
in the sight of ev'ry people:

**ALL: a light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.**

## Prayer after Communion

Faithful God,  
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,  
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.  
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,  
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.  
Guide us toward your promised future,  
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Announcements:

### Blessing

God the eternal Word,  
who dwells with us in Jesus,  
and who holds us  
in the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**



***Christmas Eve***  
***Saturday, December 24***  
3:00 PM - Christmas Fellowship  
4:00 PM - Candlelight Worship & Eucharist  
with Choir and Handbells

***Christmas Day***  
***Sunday, December 25***  
***10:00 AM Worship***

***New Year's Day***  
***Sunday, January 1 - 10:00 AM***  
***Worship and Picnic in the Park***  
***Eagle Lake Park - Shelter #3***  
***Bring a dish to share***



# Recessional Hymn: Keep Your Lamps ACS 949



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your  
2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er  
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the  
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps  
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night  
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing  
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.  
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

## *Refrain*



Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al - most done.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Announcements:

Our **Social Justice Ministry** is participating with Church Women United's annual **Farmworkers Ingathering**. We will be collecting unwrapped gifts of toys and books for children of all ages including teenagers. If you prefer, you may buy gift cards from Walmart or Dollar Tree in \$5.00 or \$10.00 increments. Also, food staples such as bags of rice and beans. Please bring your gifts to the church narthex by Sunday, December 4th. Questions contact Phyllis Berlage, 727-698-2728

**Silver Foxes**, St. Paul's fellowship and food monthly gathering will resume in December. The plan is to enjoy lunch at O'Keefe's on **December 14 at 1 pm**. Soon you will see an opportunity to reserve a spot. All members and friends are welcome, no age or other restrictions.

Thank you to all who worked and participated in our **2023 Stewardship Campaign: Together in Mission – Forward in Faith.**



**Advent Retreat**  
**Be Born in Me**  
**Friday, December 2**  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Pastor Anne Harman  
**10:00 - 3:00**  
**Bring a bag lunch**  
  
407 S. Saturn Ave  
Clearwater, FL 33755

**Advent Retreat – Be Born in Me**  
**Friday, December 2 -10:00 – 3:00.**

The event is free we only ask you to bring your own lunch. Drinks will be provided.

This is an opportunity for evangelism. Help us spread the word and invite others to join us.

Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you.

Send email invitations to friends and family.

Find our post on Facebook and share it on YOUR Facebook page.

And if you see it on Facebook, make a comment or at least hit "like."

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*Are you looking for a great way to get the in the Holiday Spirit?*

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**Prince of Peace Lutheran will celebrate an Advent Lessons and Carols with Santa Lucia Procession on Sunday, December 11 at 7:00 PM.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**The Heralds of harmony & Toast of Tampa Bay** presents  
**Spirit of the Season** - Saturday, December 17 – 3:00 PM  
Calvary Church - 110 N. McMullen Booth Rd. - Clearwater, FL 337659  
Tickets are \$25 7 \$40 - See Gene Binion and Sully Hansen for more information



## Advent Bible Study The Gospel of Matthew

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Clearwater, FL

A black and white photograph of four lit candles of varying heights, arranged in a row. The flames are bright and create a warm, contemplative atmosphere.

## Taize Prayer

Wednesday, December 14 - 7:00 PM

St. Paul's  
Lutheran Church

407 S. Saturn Ave.  
Clearwater, FL 33755

Join us for an hour of sung contemplative prayer.  
All Are Welcome

St. Paul's is located just west of Keene on the north side of Gulf to Bay  
Parking is on the north side of the property.

### **Advent Bible Study**

*The Gospel of Matthew*  
Matthew 1-7

**Thursdays during Advent**  
December 1, 8, 15, & 22  
Offered as an in-person or online event

**12:00– 2:00 in person**  
**Worship, lunch, and bible study**

**7:00 – 8:30 PM on ZOOM**

To sign up for the online meetings, email:

**[office@stpaulsclearwater.org](mailto:office@stpaulsclearwater.org)**

Type "Advent Bible Study" in the subject line  
and give your name and email address  
in the message.

You will be put on an email distribution list to receive  
the zoom link for the bible study.

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# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

407 S. Saturn Avenue,  
Clearwater, FL 33755  
727-446-7718

St. Paul's Website:  
<https://www.stpaulsclearwater.org>

St. Paul's Email: [office@stpaulsclearwater.org](mailto:office@stpaulsclearwater.org)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/st.paulslutheranchurch.clearwater.fl>

To reach Pastor Anne  
[pastoranneharman@gmail.com](mailto:pastoranneharman@gmail.com)



Florida-Bahamas Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



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