



**December 8, 2024**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**Sunday School Christmas Program**  
*Walk With Us As Disciples of Christ!*  
**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
*Child Development Center and Pre-School*  
LCMC  
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**Website: [www.stpaultaylor.com](http://www.stpaultaylor.com)**

**Online Giving Portal:**



Follow us at [Facebook.com/stpaultaylor](https://www.facebook.com/stpaultaylor)  
SUNDAY RADIO BROADCAST  
KRXT 98.5 FM at 12:00pm  
St. Paul Church does take pictures and videos which will be posted on their  
Social Media and Web Page.  
TWCWiFi - no password needed

# **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

*WALK WITH US AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST!*

*Welcome!*

We welcome all who worship this Lord's Day! We are glad you are worshiping with us this morning. As we can be helpful to you, we look forward to doing so. If you would like the pastor to contact you, please mark that on the Record of Fellowship or call the church office.

We ask that the Record of Fellowship be filled out (members and visitors) so that we will have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

We Remember in Prayer

***(Please call the church office to remove anyone from the prayer lists.)***

## **Our Members:**

**Billie Turner, Inez Sladek, Elaine Oser, Brunner Grau, John Harper, Kent Safarik,  
Pr. Michael Domenech.**

## **Our Shut Ins:**

**Terri Abert, Dorothy Grimm, Grace Bulgerin, Lydia Dowling, Mary Miller, Lorene Prinz,  
Geraldine Steger, Lomis Weber, Carol Lantzsch, Lisa Cox, Geraldine Cox,  
Carolyn Jacobson, Ella Kuhl.**

## **Our family, friends, and loved ones:**

**Mackenzie Brewer, Loretta Simank, Authur Moreno, Jack Dismukes, Calvin and Rosalie  
Jechow, Edward Morgan, Sandra Milner, Dora Brittian, Ryan Richey, Randell Duelm,  
Alma Russell, Tori Harris and baby, Andrea Carrizales, Mary Perez, Iris Rangel and family,  
Melissa Balderas, Kelly Clines Thompson, Rob Randig, Gayla Lantzsch, Tommy Harrison,  
Rhonda Aikey, Walter Moldenhauer, Sandra Milburn.**

**WELCOME**  
PLEASE REMAIN SEATED FOR THE ENTIRE PROGRAM  
**A New Star!**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH PRAYER - Second Sunday of Advent**

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.  
You fasten righteousness around your waist  
and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.  
Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,  
and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.  
We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

**Amen.**

*Light the second candle.*

*PRELUDE: ALLELUIA RINGERS HANDBELL CHOIR*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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.*

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering (*especially*). Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries; for Cheryl Kruckemeyer our missionary in Tanzania, for Gloria in Kenya, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregations at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Wuthrich Hill, Texas & Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Tacoma, Washington. Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders, our students, teachers and school administrators. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

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

**Amen.**

# NEW STAR

By Sharon Kay Chatwell

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Welcome, New Star! You're looking nice and bright this evening.

**BEN** (New Star): Thank you, Old Star. I've been working on my shiny-ness!

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Good job! And THIS is a great day for us all to look our best.

**BEN** (New Star): Why is that?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Because it's Christmas!

**BEN** (New Star): (excited) Yeah! (now wondering) Uh... What's Christmas?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): You don't know about Christmas? Oh, that's right. You're a brand-new star! This is your very first Christmas!

**BEN** (New Star): Yes! Is it your first Christmas, too?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Oh, no! I've seen over 2000 of them.

**BEN** (New Star): Wow! 2000! ...Is that a lot?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Well, yes, it is. In fact, I am old enough to tell you about the very First Christmas! And I can explain why we still celebrate it, even after all these years.

**BEN** (New Star): Oh, please do. I want to hear all about it.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Okay! To start with we have to go back before the first Christmas and visit a little place called Nazareth.

**BEN** (New Star): Is Nazareth a place in the sky? You know... Up in Space?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): No, it's a place down on the Earth; on that little bitty planet right down there.

**BEN** (New Star): You mean the one over there by Jupiter?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): No... the one a little further to the right.

**BEN** (New Star): Do you mean Pluto? I didn't think it was still a planet!

**STEVE**-(Old Star): No...Not Pluto! To the Right! Your other Right!

**BEN** (New Star): You mean the little blue and green one? There between Mars and Venus?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): EXACTLY! And look! Right over there... That is the town of Nazareth!

**BEN** (New Star): Ohhh! Who's the pretty lady?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): That's Mary. She is a Virgin, and she is pledged to be married to a man named Joseph.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Joseph is a carpenter. He is also a righteous man.

**BEN** (New Star): What's he doing?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Building something. Carpenters are always building something.

**BEN** (New Star): I hope it's a cradle.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): I think you're getting ahead of our story.

**BEN** (New Star): Who's that other guy? He's all shiny – like us.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): That's Gabriel. He's an angel. He has come to talk to Mary. Let's listen.

**JACOB** (Gabriel): Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.

**JACOB** (Gabriel): Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

**RYLEN** (Mary): How will this be, since I am a virgin?

**JACOB** (Gabriel): The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.

**RYLEN** (Mary): I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said.

**BEN** (New Star): What did all that mean?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): The angel told Mary that she is going to have a baby, who will be the Son of God.

**BEN** (New Star): And what did Mary say?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): She said "Yes."

**BEN** (New Star): Oh, good. Now what? I like Mary. She seems really nice.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Oh, she is. After the angel left her, Mary hurried to visit her cousin, Elizabeth.

**RYLEN** (Mary): Elizabeth!

**MADDIE** (Elizabeth): Mary!

**STEVE**-(Old Star): When Mary arrived, she found out that things were just like the angel had told her.

**BEN** (New Star): Mary seems really happy to see Elizabeth! And just think, Elizabeth was going to have a baby in her old age. It was a miracle!

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Yes! And Mary wasn't the only one who was happy. Elizabeth was happy too! Listen to what she said to Mary!

**MADDIE** (Elizabeth): Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

**RYLEN** (Mary): My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Mary stayed with Elizabeth for a long visit and then returned home to Nazareth. But by now it was more obvious that she was going to have a baby.

**BEN** (New Star): Uh, oh. What did Joseph say?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Well, Joseph knew the baby wasn't his. But, since Joseph was a righteous man, he decided to put Mary away privately.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): But after he had considered these things, God sent an angel to speak to him in a dream.

**JACOB** (Gabriel): Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): All of this was done in fulfillment of the ancient prophecy, "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

Oh, and the name "Immanuel" means "God with us."

**BEN** (New Star): Wow! That's a great name! What did Joseph do when he woke up?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): He did just what the angel had told him to do.

**BEN** (New Star): Okay... So, what happened next?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Next there was a little drama that went on in Rome. Caesar, the Roman ruler, ordered that everyone had to be counted.

**BEN** (New Star): Why would he do that?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Something about taxes... whatever those are. But, in order to be counted, everyone had to go back to their family's hometown.

**BEN** (New Star): Sort of like a family reunion?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): A little bit... but without the games or the potato salad.

**BEN** (New Star): That's too bad. I love potato salad. Did they have cookies? I love cookies too!

**STEVE**-(Old Star): I don't think so.

**BEN** (New Star): Then it really wasn't much like a family reunion at all.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): No. In fact, for Mary and Joseph, it was a pretty long and difficult trip; especially since Mary was expecting a baby.

**BEN** (New Star): Where did they have to go? They went to a little town called ...Bethlehem.

**BEN** (New Star): Do you mean that little, bitty town over there in the middle of nowhere?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): That's the one! It was the birthplace of Joseph's ancestor, King David.

**BEN** (New Star): Wait a minute! Bethlehem... Isn't that the one they sing about? The one they call "O, little town" of Bethlehem?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Yes!

**BEN** (New Star): I really like that song. They even sing about how "the silent stars go by..."

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Listen, I think someone's going to sing it now.

*The congregation will now sing "O, LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM" page 279*

**BEN** (New Star): Wow. They can really sing! But listen, I thought this was a story about the First Christmas. When do we get to the part with the tree and the star?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): There was no tree on the first Christmas, but there was a star.

**BEN** (New Star): Where?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): We're getting there. First we have to hear more about Mary and Joseph.

**BEN** (New Star): Okay.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): So, Joseph went to Bethlehem to be counted, and Mary went with him.

**BEN** (New Star): Look! Mary and Joseph have arrived in Bethlehem. I hope they have somewhere nice to stay. Mary looks very tired.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): You're right. But there was no room for them in the inn. So, Mary and Joseph stayed in a stable.

**BEN** (New Star): A stable!?! Do you mean like for cows, and horses, and goats, and sheep, and...?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Yep. Mary and Joseph stayed in a humble stable. There Mary had her baby, and she wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in the manger.

**BEN** (New Star): Why did they put the baby in a manger?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): It was probably the safest and best place they had for Him. I'm sure that Joseph lined it with fresh, new hay and stood watch over Mary and the baby during the night.

**BEN** (New Star): What did they name the baby?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): They named Him, Jesus, which means "The LORD saves." And now for the first time up in the sky there was a New Star; announcing the birth of the Messiah.

**BEN** (New Star): Look! I think they're going to sing again!

**STEVE**-(Old Star): They do that a lot at Christmas time...

*Recorded Song - "There's a New Star in the Sky"*

**BEN** (New Star): Wow! That was a really great song! Just think. A new star in the sky! How wonderful! How glorious! No one on earth could have missed that!

**STEVE**-(Old Star): It's amazing that not only did people miss the Messiah then, but that they still miss Him today. Maybe it's because they aren't really looking for the Messiah.

But God didn't rely on a single new star to announce the birth of His Son. He also sent an angel to tell a group of shepherds all about it.

Of course, it really frightened the shepherds to suddenly see an angel.

**JACOB** (Gabriel): Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying...

**JALIAH, BRIAH, SUNNY, AMELIA, MADDIE** – (Angels): Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another...

**CONLEY** –(Shepherd): Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The congregation will now sing "**ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH**" on page 289

**BEN** (New Star): So, that's the story of the First Christmas and the Star.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Yes, but there is more to the story. Look – over there in the east.

**BEN** (New Star): Who are those guys?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): They are three wise men. But they can tell us themselves.

**MADDIE** (King #1): We three kings of Orient are.

**AMELIA** (King #2): Bearing gifts we traverse afar.

**SUNNY** (King #3): Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

**BEN** (New Star): Wait a minute! Wait a minute! What are they saying?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): It's from an old song; about the three wise men. They are saying that they are three kings from the east; and that they've traveled a long way to get here.



**BEN** (New Star): Oh, I get it! And they saw New Star! And they followed it... because they were wise enough to know that it meant the Savior had been born.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): That's right! Listen... It looks like something is going on over there. I believe those little kids might sing a song.

LITTLE KIDS SING: "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"  
"Away in a Manger"

**BEN** (New Star): Oh, I like the kings. And look! They brought presents! Who are they for?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): The gifts are for the Baby Jesus. They are Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. Gold because Jesus is the King. Frankincense because He is the High Priest. And Myrrh because of His Sacrifice.

**BEN** (New Star): Hey! Where are they going? Bethlehem's over there! Hey, Fellas! You're going the wrong way! The baby's over there!

**STEVE**-(Old Star): They are going to Jerusalem, to the palace, to look for the King of the Jews.

**BEN** (New Star): But why? The baby is in Bethlehem. Over there! He was born in a stable!

**STEVE**-(Old Star): They went looking for the baby king in a palace. But they didn't find Him there.

**BEN** (New Star): Who did they find?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Well, unfortunately, they met an evil man named Herod, who was the local ruler.

**MADDIE** (King #1): Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?

**AMELIA** (King #2): We saw his star in the east.

**SUNNY** (King #3): And we have come to worship Him.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): When Herod heard all of this he was greatly distressed and all of Jerusalem with him. He called in the Jewish chief priests and the teachers of the law and asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

**CONLEY** (Scribe): In Bethlehem in Judea. For this is what the prophet has written...

*(as if reading from a scroll)* "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."

**GARRIN (Herod)**: Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find Him, come and tell me, so that I may come and worship Him too.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): So the Wise Men went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Then they gave him their gifts and went back to their own countries. But having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they went home a different way.

**BEN** (New Star): Why didn't they go back to see Herod?

**STEVE**-(Old Star): Because Herod didn't really want to worship Jesus. He wanted to destroy him!

**BEN (New Star):** That's horrible!

**STEVE-(Old Star):** Yes, it was.

**BEN (New Star):** What happened to Baby Jesus?

**STEVE-(Old Star):** An angel was sent to warn Joseph in a dream to take his family away to Egypt, where they would be safe. They escaped into the night before Herod found them.

**BEN (New Star):** That's wonderful! Is that the whole story?

**STEVE-(Old Star):** There is a little more... When it was safe to return, the child Jesus and His Family traveled back to Nazareth where he was raised. Jesus was the Son of God and He did all of the things that were prophesied about Him. He lived a perfect life and died on a cross for all sin, and rose again to live forever. Now He sits at the right hand of God the Father, and one day He will come to judge the world.

**BEN (New Star):** That's amazing! And how do you know all of this?

**STEVE-(Old Star):** Oh, I saw it all, from up here in the sky; for you see, I am the New Star that appeared that night.

**BEN (New Star):** Really!? You are the New Star? But you are so old.

**STEVE-(Old Star):** So is the story, over 2000 years old... But it is still as true today as it was on that very First Christmas. And that's why we still celebrate Christmas today.

**BEN (New Star):** That's amazing! Thank you for telling me the story. I think I will shine a little brighter now that I know all of this.

**STEVE-(Old Star):** Well, you know what King David said:

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

**BEN (New Star):** Yeah! Well said!! Hey, is that the same King David?

**STEVE-(Old Star):** Yes. King David, the ancestor of Joseph, the one who was born in Bethlehem, all those years ago.

**BEN (New Star):** Wow, I like that guy. He has a real way with words.

**BEN (New Star):** Okay... So... What now?

**STEVE-(Old Star):** Looks like it's time for another song.

**BEN (New Star):** And cookies? I love cookies.

**STEVE-(Old Star):** Yes, yes... We'll get you some cookies. Come on!

**The congregation will now sing "SILENT NIGHT" on page 281**

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

<b>TODAY</b>		<b>Dec 8</b>
9:00	-	Handbell Choir Practice - Sanctuary
10:00	-	Worship - Sanctuary - Sunday School Christmas Program
11:00	-	Brunch (Pot Luck), Sunday School and Adult Education
12:00	-	Radio Broadcast – KRXT 98.5 FM
<b>MONDAY</b>		<b>Dec 9</b>
<i>No Scheduled Activities/Church Office Closed</i>		
<b>TUESDAY</b>		<b>Dec 10</b>
<i>Church Office Closed</i>		
7:00	-	Scout Committee Meeting - Fellowship Hall
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>		<b>Dec 11</b>
<i>Church Office Closed</i>		
9:30	-	Folding Bulletins
1:30	-	Prayer Time
2:00	-	Pastor's Bible Study
<b>THURSDAY</b>		<b>Dec 12</b>
<i>No Scheduled Activities/Church Office Closed</i>		
<b>FRIDAY</b>		<b>Dec 13</b>
<i>No Scheduled Activities/Church Office Closed</i>		
<b>SATURDAY</b>		<b>Dec 14</b>
9:00	-	Fellowship Hall Rental - Rohlack
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>		<b>Dec 15</b>
10:00	-	Worship with Holy Communion - Sanctuary
11:00	-	Brunch, Sunday School and Adult Education
12:00	-	Radio Broadcast – KRXT 98.5 FM

**Announcements**

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Taylor will hold their live nativity scene on December 14 and 15 from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

**Serving Today**

**Council Ushers:** Steve Morgan, Carmen McCleery  
**Reader:** None  
**Acolytes:** Open  
**Altar Flowers:** Decorating Committee

**Serving December 15**

**Council Ushers:** Kathy Paulsen, Debbie Matthys  
**Reader:** Kathy Paulsen  
**Acolytes:** Sunny Paulsen, Ben Gregory  
**Altar Flowers:** Open

**CHRISTMAS POTLUCK  
FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON  
HONORING NEW MEMBERS**

Our Christmas Potluck Luncheon will be **today** in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service.  
(Sunday School Christmas Program).

Ham and drinks will be provided. Members bringing a side dish and/or dessert to share can leave them in the Fellowship Hall prior to the Worship service and immediately before the meal.

New members who joined, were baptized, or confirmed in 2024 will be our honored guests.

COME ONE - COME ALL!  
Enjoy good food and fellowship



**From St. Paul CDC**

With the Christmas season upon us, we are asking you to pray and search your heart to help 4 of our CDC Families that need our help for Christmas in order for it to be MERRY AND BRIGHT. We have 4 families that have a total of 11 children. Monetary donations are preferred so an equal number of items can be purchased for all of these children by Rita Kelm, our personal Santa Claus.

There is a BLUE lock box in the Narthex for these donations. We will be accepting donations until Sunday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>.