

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
4th Sunday in Advent
December 23, 2018



Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Mike Tessman, Assistant Minister
Rita Jordan, Organist

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Gathering

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

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

PRELUDE

**Thomas Polasek, *We Three Kings*
Lillie Jonas, *Angels We Have Heard On High*
Rita Jordan & Mark Witte, *Special Music***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE 4th ADVENT CANDLE

Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope --remembering the hope which comes in Christ, the candle of Peace -- remembering God's dream of a peaceful world, and the candle of Joy -- remembering the Holy Spirit within us who brings joy. (Light Candles).

Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love.

Scripture tells us "There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear." God created this world in love and this world will end in the love of God. God's love pervades all aspects of this life. From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to lovers, God's love is there.

We light this candle in Love. (Light Candle)

On this day, we remember God is Love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Oremos. **Remueve tu poder, Señor Cristo, y ven. Con vuestra abundancia de gracia y poder, liberanos del pecado que nos une, para que podamos recibirte en gozo y servirte siempre, para que vivas y Reines con el padre y el Espíritu Santo, un solo Dios, ahora y para siempre. Amén.**

The assembly is seated

GATHERING HYMN

(ELW, p. 283)

O Come All Ye Faithful

THE SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

(ELW, PAGE 234)

BAPTISMAL SONG

(ELW p. 781)

Children Of The Heavenly Father

The Baptism of Lucas Francisco Witte

Son of Dustin & Jackie Witte

Sponsor: Andrew Stephen Witte

BAPTISMAL JOURNEY SONG

(ELW p. 767)

Lord, Take My Hand And Lead Me

The Presentation of Lucas Francisco Witte

**CHRISTMAS CAROL: (ELW, p. 270) *Hark, The Herald Angels Sing*
(trumpet trio: Russell Jonas, Gracie Thompson, Jaycee Polasek)**

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 2:1-14

BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY

O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(ELW p. 279)

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

The assembly shall kneel, as they are able

Faithful Lord, you keep your promises. Move your church to sing like Mary and rejoice like Elizabeth. Teach us to sing of your faithfulness all our days. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ancient of Days, with joy you danced over the waters and birthed creation. Give us joy in caring for the soil beneath us, the water around us, and the sky above us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We thank you that you have received Lucas Francisco Witte by baptism into your Church, We ask you to pour upon him the riches of your grace, that within the company of Christ's people he may daily be renewed by the Holy Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Prince of peace, your sacrifice gives abundant life to all. Raise up leaders in every nation whose goals are health and well-being for all people and creation. Grant them wisdom and compassion to serve as you would have them serve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Good Shepherd, you feed your flock. Fill the hungry with good things. Lift up the lowly. Accompany the refugee. Comfort the lonely. Heal the sick or injured, especially Ellvera, Laura, Mitch, Michelle, Laquita, Helen, Mary Louise, Francis, Frankie, Linda, Leroy, and John, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts... Send us in haste to surround them with your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Love Incarnate, you are with us at the manger, on the cross, and on the resurrection road. Walk with all who live with depression, grief, or heartache in this season. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As we sow Seeds of Hope, we pray for St. John Lutheran in Westhoff. Guide them to new opportunities and abilities to draw younger people into the congregation. We pray also for St. Peter's in Elgin that they may have vision, direction, and that God would use them as an instrument of grace in their community. We pray for St. Paul's – Karnes City and St. Paul's – Nordheim as the congregations continue discussions of the St. Paul's Squared opportunity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With all churches in the Southwestern Texas Synod we pray for each other and also for ELCA member congregations such as those in the Pacifica Synod, Bethel Lutheran Church in Lyford, and Southwestern Texas Synod Women of the ELCA. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ever-living God, you are Alpha and Omega. We thank you for all who sing now in the heavenly choir, especially those dear to us. Join our voices with theirs in praise of the Christ child. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING HYMN**(ELW p. 439)*****Soon and Very Soon*****OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of abundance,
we bring before you the precious fruits of your
creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us
patience and hope as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Lasset uns beten. Gott des überflusses,
wir bringen Euch die kostbaren Früchte
eurer Schöpfung und mit Ihnen unser Leben
vor. Lehren Sie uns Geduld und Hoffnung,
während wir uns um alle Bedürftigen
kümmern bis zum kommen deines Sohnes,
unseres Erlösers und Herrn. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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 Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Sending

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

BLESSING

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

(ELW. p 264)

Prepare the Royal Highway

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

For Prayerful Consideration

Ill, Injured or Otherwise Struggling: Sadat Abrihim, David Anaba, Sharon Baumann, Ellvera Boehm, Laura Burney, Mitch Dorn, Shane Edens, Michelle Easton, Norma Foreman, Laquita Gibbens, Helen Grimm, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Andy James, Michael Janysek, Raymond Jenkins, Mary Louise Jonas, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Frankie Lathrop, Lynda Lathrop, Ella Manka, Khloe Martinez, Moma Ndeh, the Ndeh family, Charles Pierce, Leroy Polderick, Carly Rosenboon, John Tackitt, Yvonne Watkins, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiantz, and Norma Zamzow

For those in the military: Nick Adams, Anthony Alvarez, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Jon Wayne Schulz, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva

Baptized today is Lucas Francisco Witte, son of Dustin & Jackie Witte. Lucas' sponsor is Andrew Witte.

Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul's by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul's. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us. **If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance**, please signal an usher.

Coming Events

Let's join together and PARTICIPATE

Arden & Roxanne Dorn
Wish you a
frohe Weihnachten!
Merry Christmas!
And
Invite you
To their Annual Festive

German Christmas Dinner Party

on

Sunday, December 23, 2018

6:00 pm

at

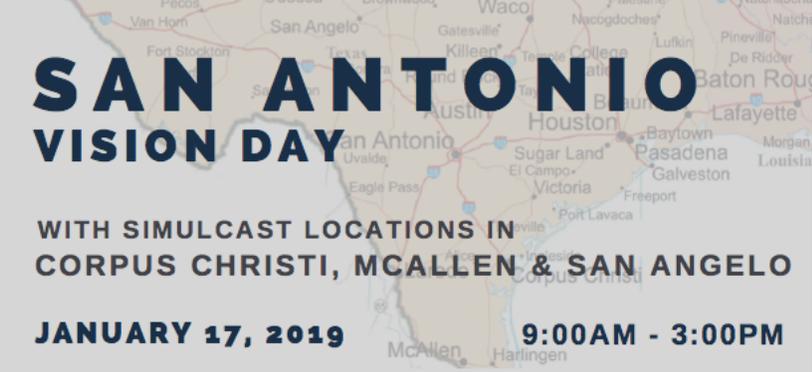
714 Turtle Hill

San Antonio, Texas 78260

Special Guest Entertainment
Celeste Morales

RSVP: ardendorn@aol.com: 602/565/9793
Gate Code:1289

Christmas Eve Worship, 5:00 p.m.



SAN ANTONIO
VISION DAY

WITH SIMULCAST LOCATIONS IN
CORPUS CHRISTI, MCALLEN & SAN ANGELO

JANUARY 17, 2019 **9:00AM - 3:00PM**

MAIN LOCATION:
UNIVERSITY UMC SAN ANTONIO
5185 DE ZAVALA RD
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78249

3 INTERACTIVE SIMULCAST LOCATIONS: CORPUS CHRISTI
MCALLEN
SAN ANGELO

A Vision Day is a one-day training event that provides an opportunity to discover what it means to be the Church in new and creative ways, hear from Fresh Expressions practitioners, learn how to renew existing congregations through fresh expressions of church, and discern what this could mean for your region, community, or neighborhood. There is active discussion as well as opportunity to build networks and relationships among those in your area.

REGISTER TODAY
FreshExpressionsUS.org/event/VisionDaySanAntonio

\$25/person - San Antonio location
\$20/person - Any satellite location
ticket includes lunch



Sunday, January 20, 2019 will be the Annual Meeting immediately following the worship service. All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

Anyone that would like to place their name on the ballot for council member contact a council member.

For those that would like for the church to record offerings to St. Paul's, the Council will offer that service beginning January 2019. Please contact a member of council for more information.

