

✠ **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** ✠
Kenesaw, NE

Pastor Paul S. Duffy 402-752-3421/3536; 308-216-1254
Mrs. LaMoine Fischer, Organist Bible Class/Sunday School 9:00am
Acolyte: Rhett Augustin Divine Service 10:00am
Crucifer: Jenna Jaeschke

**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
CHRISTMAS DAY**

December 25, 2015

AS WE GATHER

This day, we celebrate the birth of the infant Christ, our Lord. As Jesus came as the Son of Mary, a newborn child, so God grants us new life and salvation through the name of His one and only Son. Let us with joyful hearts confess the Christ-Child as Lord, Savior, and King of the Universe!

+ PREPARATION +

CAROL p. 368 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song,
People: for He has done marvelous things! Psalm 98:1,

Pastor: O Lord, our God,
People: we confess to You that we have not lived up to Your expectations. Like our first parents, Adam and Eve, we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to give You unwavering love and have faltered in our prayer and worship life. Forgive our sins for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: Christ is the incarnate Son of God whom the Father sent as a sacrifice for our sin. God's love for you, and His forgiveness is extended to You in the infant life of Jesus. Through faith in Christ, your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

People: break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Psalm 98:4

CAROL p. 386 (vv. 1-2) "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song,

People: for He has done marvelous things!

Pastor: O God, we thank and praise You for the wonderful and mysterious incarnation of Your Son, Jesus. Continue to bless us through Word and Sacrament with the precious gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

People: break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

CAROL p. 386 (vv. 3-4) "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

Vocal Selection "Beautiful Savior" (*The Duffy's; Signe Norrby*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song,

People: for He has done marvelous things! Psalm 98:1-2

Pastor: Grant, almighty God, that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in human flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
People: **break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 52:7-10

PSALM 2

Why do the nations rage

and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth set themselves,

and the rulers take counsel together,

against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,

"Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

He who sits in the heavens laughs;

the Lord holds them in derision.

Then He will speak to them in His wrath,

and terrify them in His fury, saying, "As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, my holy hill."

I will tell of the decree:

The Lord said to Me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten You.

Ask of Me, and I will make the nations your heritage,

and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron

and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Now therefore, O kings, be wise;

be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way,

for His wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.

EPISTLE Hebrews 1:1-6

Musical Selection (*Harp - Michelle Rose Tucker*)

GOSPEL John 1:1-18

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

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

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CAROL p. 393 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

SERMON "Preparing for a Blessed Christmas"

CAROL p. 365 "Away in a Manger"

APOSTLES' CREED (*Back of Hymnal*)

OFFERING AND MUSICAL OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we pray that You would be in our midst each and every day and that You would continually bless Your holy Church with Your presence through Word, water, wine, and bread. Children of all ages cherish Christmas time because of the tender images concerning Your birth. By Your Holy Spirit, keep us ever mindful of the tremendous sacrifice You have made on our behalf, to become infant and child. In Your holy name.

People: **Amen.**

CAROL p. 374 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

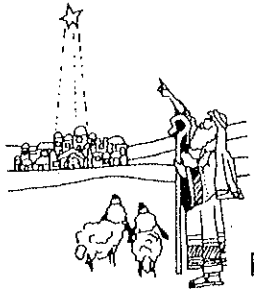
Pastor: Lord Jesus, as You have dwelt in the midst of saints, young and old, near and far, so also dwell in our hearts and minds that we may know peace in this world. You alone, Lord, have granted us life and salvation. Increase our joy throughout the year that we may praise and honor Your holy name.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN p. 358 (vv. 13-15) "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

BLESSING



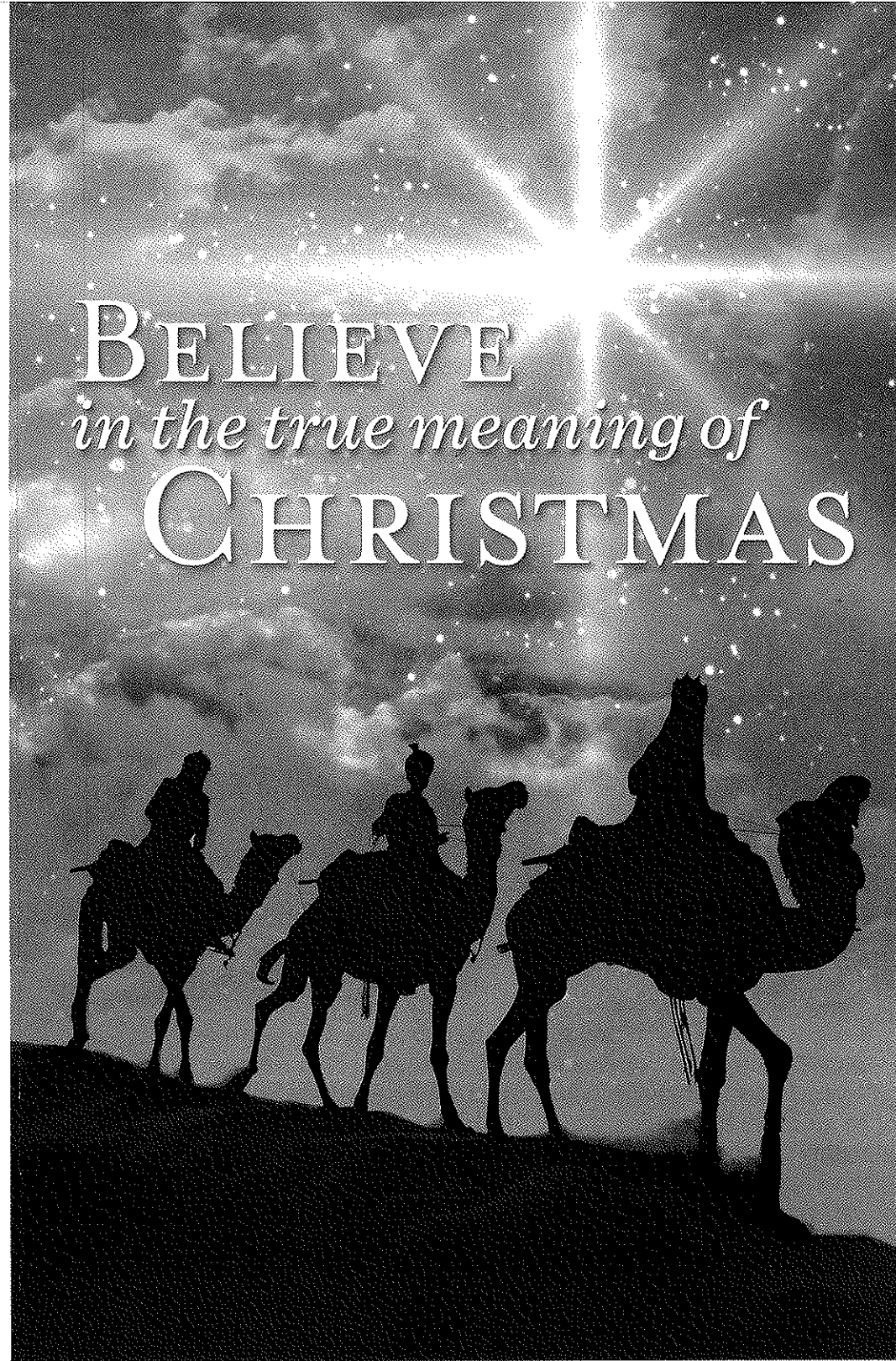
New Year's Eve Service
Thursday, December 31st - 7:00 PM
Communion (individual cup)

Prepare for the new year in celebration with Christ.



◆ **Midweek Epiphany Service** ◆
Wednesday, January 6th - 7:30 PM

The anniversary of the arrival of the wise men is time to focus on the mission of the Christian faith and believers -
Jesus came to offer salvation to all.



BELIEVE
in the true meaning of
CHRISTMAS