

✠ **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: Hope Nienhueser

Divine Service 10:00am

"The Child Christ, lying in the manger and nursing at the breasts of Mary the virgin, has created heaven and earth..."

- Martin Luther, 1538-

First Sunday of Christmas
December 27, 2015

A Service of Prayer and Preaching
From CPH Worship Supplement, 1969

Hymn

p. 388 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Sentence for the Service

P: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

An Act of Adoration

P: Let us adore our heavenly Father, who created us, who sustains us, who loves us with an everlasting love and gives us the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Christ.

C: **We praise You, O God. We acknowledge You to be the Lord.**

P: Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor; who in every respect was tempted as we are, yet without sinning; who went about doing good and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom; who became obedient unto

death, even death on a cross; who died and is alive forevermore; who has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers; who is seated at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father; who will come again, as Judge and King.

C: **You are the King of glory, O Christ.**

P: Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, by whom we are born into the family of God, and made members of the body of Christ; whose witness confirms us, whose wisdom teaches us, whose power enables us to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.

C: **All praise to You, O Holy Spirit.**

An Act of Confession

P: O God, our Father, since You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son, we confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, our reluctance to bear the cross.

C: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

P: Forgive us the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in Your service, our imperfect stewardship of Your gifts.

C: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.**

P: Forgive us that so little of Your love has reached others through us, that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, grudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

C: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

All: **Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.**

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

New Testament Lessons

Colossians 3:1-17

Luke 2:22-40

Hymn

p. 389 "Let All Together Praise Our God"

The Sermon

The Offering and Musical Offering

An Act of Supplication

P: The Word became flesh in order that all people might be revealed as God's sons and daughters. Let us pray for our own parish community, for the church throughout the world, and for all people, that we may respond wholeheartedly to the appeal of God's love:

For the Church, visible sign of God's saving presence among people, for all the clergy, that their lives echo the holy Word they preach, for all who walk in darkness, that they come to know Christ, the Light of the world, let us pray:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For statesmen and world leaders, that they sincerely strive for peace and unity among nations; for the new year we begin, that it mark a new dedication to the cause of peace and human liberty; for artists, architects and craftsmen, that their work mirror the truth and integrity of creation, let us pray:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For members of the armed forces, and for all men and women stationed far from home; for orphans and children of broken homes, that they find love and affection and a sense of belonging; for those who die alone and forgotten, that they rejoice forever in the company of the saints, let us pray:

C: We ask You to hear us, good Lord.

P: For the charitable organizations of our parish, and for all our efforts for the relief of the poor; for renewal in our parish, that we may better manifest the mystery of Christ and His Church; for this holy assembly, that nourished with the Eucharistic bread and wine, we may bear Christ in our lives, let us pray:

C: Mercifully hear the prayers of Your people, Lord God, as we rejoice in the mystery of the Incarnation; grant that the divine light with which You flood our minds may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

All: Our Father...

The Blessing

P: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

Hymn

p. 373 "See amid the Winter's Snow"



☪ "And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem." (Luke 2:38 ESV) Notice here how giving thanks to God leads to good works (speaking about Jesus, in this case). Thankfulness toward God for all He has done for us is the foundation of a Christian life lived in godliness. For if we know all that the Lord has done for us, how can we not strive to honor Him with what we think say, say and do?
www.lcms.org

January newsletter is in your mailbox.

Pick up your copy of the *Portals of Prayer* from an usher today.

St. Paul's Mission Calendar

Today 9:00 AM Sunday School & Bible Class
 ♦ 10:00 AM Divine Worship
Tues. 7:00 PM Church Council
Thurs. ♦ 7:00 PM New Year's Eve Communion Service
Fri. **Happy New Year!**



♦ **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.*

A "Life Quote" . . .

"Satan would love us to believe that the Herod-like destruction of unborn children and the abuse of women through this destruction are political issues and do not belong in the Church. But this is precisely where they belong! We have the Gospel, the only message that can shatter the darkness and bring hope". *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans for Life. www.lutheransforlife.org*

I would like to thank everyone for the many cards and other acts of kindness shown to me for my 85th birthday. I certainly appreciate it. May God Bless all of you. Harriette Finnigsmier



Church Office Vacancies to be filled in 2016

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

- Financial Secretary
- Elder • Trustee • Secretary
- Board of Education
- Board of Evangelism/Stewardship

Please prayerfully consider using your God given talents and gifts if asked to serve.

Church Council Meeting: Monday, December 28th, 7:00 p.m.

Annual Church Voters Meeting, Sun., January 10th, 2:00 p.m.

Church Scholarship Fund In Need: St. Paul's Scholarship Fund is in need of replenishment. Donations are used to fund scholarships for our students attending Lutheran Church Synod colleges, such as Concordia in Seward. More students our using our help to further their education which means more funds will be needed in the not to distant future. St. Paul's Scholarship Fund is a separate account on the church records. If you donate to St. Paul's Scholarship Fund, be sure to specify on the check memo line and/or on the outside of the envelope that it is for the scholarship fund and include your church envelope number also. Offering envelopes could also be used, just designate current-scholarship. Thank you. Church Council

I am only one, but still I am one.
 I cannot do everything, but still I can do something;
 And because I cannot do everything,
 I will not refuse to do something that I can do.

Edward Everest Hale's pledge

Please remember these people in your prayers -

Pastor Paul Duffy and family

Birthdays:

- Dec. 27 Landon Krous
- 28 Archie Augustin
- 29 Lottie Schirmer
- 30 Riley Beal; Logan Pritchard; Debra Streff
- Jan. 2 Tim Schirmer

In the Service: Austin Applegate, Alec Applegate, Trevor Stickels, Julian Tucker, Hannah Panwitz, Danielle Burr, Darren Woodside

Missionaries: Sharon Owens, Macau, China
Pastor John Reehl, Russia and the Baltics

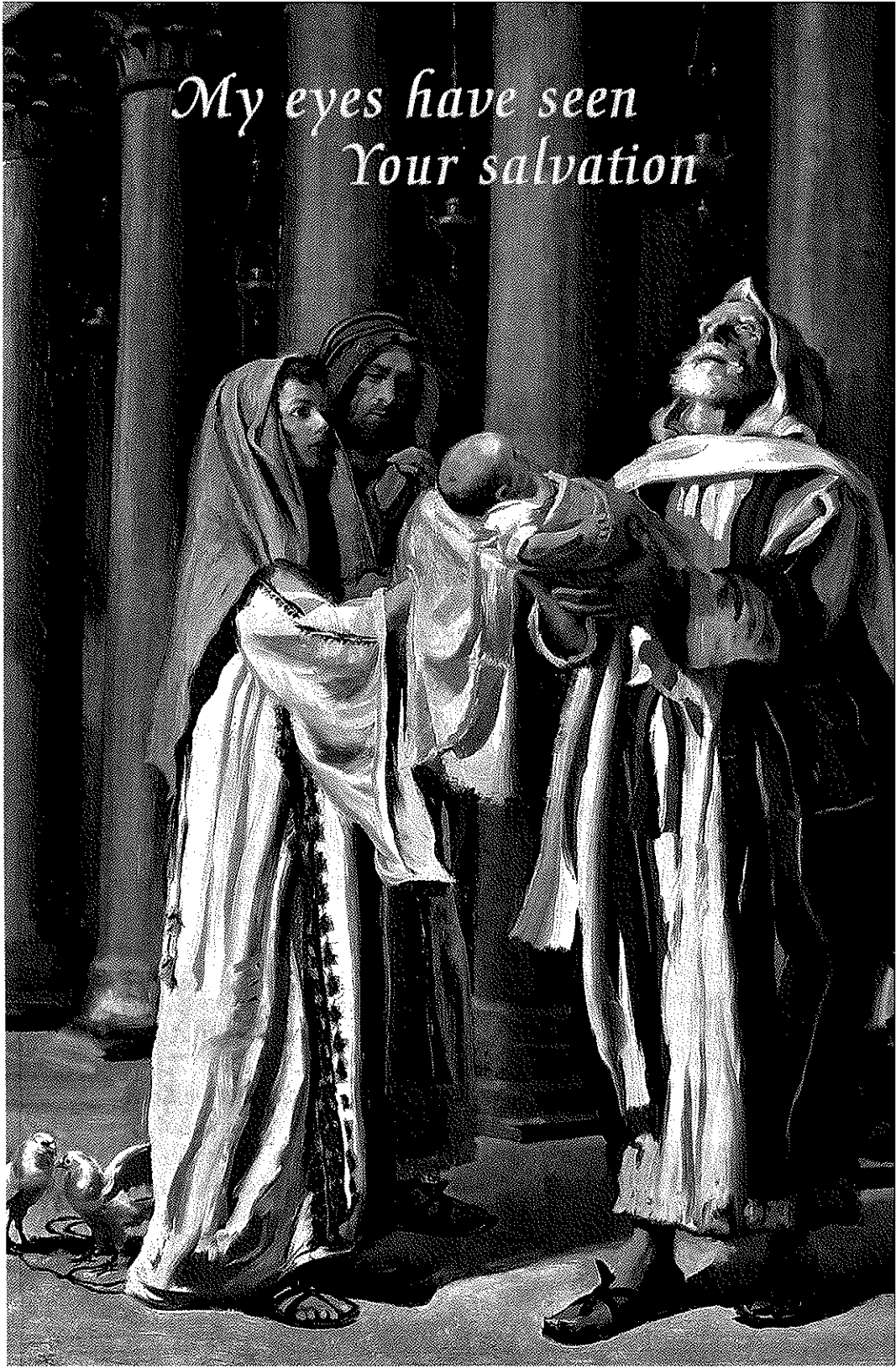
Ladies' Bible Study: The study, "Fatal Distractions" by Kay Arthur, begins Mon., January 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Our Expression of Love

December 20, 2015	Attendance 128	
Current Envelope		\$2,910.00
Current Plate		1,167.00
Sharon Owens		25.00
Russian Orphanage		<u>515.00</u>
Total		\$4,617.00



About the Cover: Simeon, a longtime faithful servant of God, is overjoyed because he has been allowed to see with his own eyes the salvation God had promised to His people from the beginning of time. He holds in his hands the Babe of Bethlehem, the revealed Savior of the world. We share Simeon's joy each time we hear God's Word, remember our Baptism, or receive Holy Communion, for we also then see His salvation.



*My eyes have seen
Your salvation*