

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ DECEMBER 1, 2024**



**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 250 \* 205 West Jefferson Street  
Cole Camp, MO 65325**

**"Being Transformed By God's Grace To Love And Serve."**

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*If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated. The congregation responds where it is bold print.*



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*please stand in body or spirit*

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

One of the best-known customs for marking time and preparing for Christ's arrival during this season is the Advent wreath. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. Lighting the four candles marks the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of Christ's light among us. **As we wait and prepare, we cry out to God, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."**

*First Sunday of Advent*

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #257 vs. 1 & 2

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. Amen.**

*please stand in body or spirit*

Opening Hymn "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" #244

## Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.....Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*please be seated*

## First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14 - 16

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Reading:

Psalm 25:1 - 10

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9 - 13

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

Special Music

“I Am Thankful”

Kid’s Choir

Children’s Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

*please stand in body or spirit*

Gospel Acclamation

“Love Has Come”

#292 vs 1

Gospel

Luke 21:25 - 36

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 25th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” <sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with

dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*please be seated*  
Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

*please stand in body or spirit*  
Hymn of the Day

“Fling Wide the Door”

#259

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*please be seated*  
Offering

*please stand in body or spirit*  
Offertory

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

#490 vs 1

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.....Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**(1) O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!**

**O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!**

**Come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

**O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

(2) Sharing a table, Jesus and disciples,

Blessing and breaking bread, he said to them:

"This is my body, take it and remember."

**O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

(3) Then, after supper, Jesus blessed the chalice,

"This, a new covenant, for you and for all."

Eat this, and drink this, do this in remembrance.

**O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**



**(4) Sing, "Holy Holy," sing in exultation,**

**sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:**

**"Glory to God.., in.. the.. highest!"**

**O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

The Lord's Prayer

Hear, O Lord, the prayer you taught us to pray.....**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.**

*please be seated*

HOLY COMMUNION

At the Altar

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.  
Red wine or white grape juice is available.

Our first table for Holy Communion this morning will be for those who do not wish to climb the stairs. Please watch for direction from the ushers.

Communion Hymns

- “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” #241
- “My Lord, What A Morning” #438
- “What Child Is This” #296

*please stand in body or spirit*

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.....Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.  
**Amen.**

Blessing

God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,

‡ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“The King Shall Come”

#260

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**



# "THE HOPE OF CHRIST"



**Welcome:** We greet one and all in the name of Jesus Christ. On this first Sunday of Advent, may we all prepare spiritually for Christ's birth. The light shines in the darkness!

*We invite everyone to enjoy coffee and fellowship before worship in the Gathering Space. Please join us!*

**In Our Prayers:** "Unspoken prayer concerns", Jill Logan, Ron Eickhoff, Gordon Ives, Norene Ives, Jon Beckman, Scott Cash, Judie VonHolten, Greg Ives, Dewey Jobe, Judy Smith, Renee Weller and Kyle Luetjen.



David Mobely (brother-in-law of Randy Healan), Stacy Morrison (friend of Teresa Viebrock), Scott Roark, Joyce Jones (sister of Connie Gerken), Kaleb Mundy, Junior Garr, Kris Barnes (friend of Julie Cronin), Donna Allen (mother of Adrienn Dieckman), Jamie Simon, Joe Campbell, Don Brooks, Vernitta Brooks, Dustin Woods, Liz Smart, Don Gibbs, Art Heimsoth, Cliff Eckhoff, Carmilla Swaim and husband (friends of Debbie Eckhoff), Joseph Fuelling (nephew of Paul Fuelling), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan), Ronnie Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Marlin Lackas (brother-in-law of Paul Fuelling), and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).



**Nursing Home:** Vern Dean Bohling: *Ambrose*. Marie Viebrock & Florence VonHolten: *GSCC*.

**Military:** Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen) Lt. Col. Ron Poe, SSG Nick Smith and Major Joseph Strathman.



**Prayers:** If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.



**Prayer Chain:** If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, receiving prayer requests as needed and lifting them up throughout the week, please contact Ruth Ann.

**Christmas Choir:** Anyone interested in singing on Christmas Eve with the choir, please see Joyce.



**Volunteers:** The Little Blessings Day Care is reaching out to our church family asking for volunteers to prepare and serve lunch for our day care kiddos one to two days a week. Our director prepares weekly menus (which can be subject to change) and does the grocery shopping. Having a break from preparing and serving lunch daily would greatly help Barbara to address the required daily record keeping in a more timely manner. If interested, please contact Janice (or if you have questions). Thank you for your consideration!

**Count your Blessings!** With Thanksgiving approaching, it is time to count our blessings! Once again, it is time for the Women of the ELCA yearly Thank Offering season. As last year, we are using envelopes rather than the traditional offering boxes. Many of you ladies received a Women of the ELCA Thankoffering envelope last Sunday. If you did not receive an envelope, please see an usher as they are at each ushers' stand.



Please, place your check relative to your year's blessings in your envelope and bring your envelope to any service in December and place it in the offering plate. Your Thank Offering (100%) will be donated to the Churchwide Women of the ELCA for our ministries and publications. Last year, we donated a total of \$1,043.00! Thank you, for you are indeed blessed to be a blessing!



**Advent Dinner:** Our annual Advent Dinner will be held **today**, after worship. This is a time for us as a congregation to celebrate the start of the Advent season and share in a festive program. Everyone is welcome!

**Christmas Program Practice:** The children of St. Paul's (PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade) will present the Story of Christmas during the evening worship service on Christmas Eve. Program practice for youth in grades 1-8 began **today**, at 9:00 am (during the Sunday School hour) in the Fellowship Hall and runS each Sunday until Christmas. Starting December 15<sup>th</sup>, preschool and kindergarten children will join the rehearsals.



**Angel Tree:** Thank you for your support of the Christmas for Kids program in Benton County. There are hundreds of children who will receive an extra blessing this Christmas because of your compassion and generosity. Those gifts need to be brought to church **TODAY!** New angels have arrived on the Angel Tree! These are gifts for the residents of our local care facilities. Those wrapped gifts need to be brought to church by **December 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

**One Stitch at a Time:** The Sewing Group will not meet again until spring. Please check the different St. Paul's communications for the next time they meet.



**Meeting:** The Evangelism Committee will meet on Wednesday, **December 4<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00pm.

**Health Care:** The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **December 5<sup>th</sup>** from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.



**Christkindlmarket Caroling:** St Paul's has been asked to provide a group to sing Christmas carols at various locations in the downtown area on the evening of **December 6th** during the Christkindlmarket event. More detailed information will be provided soon. If you are available and would like to participate, please add your name to the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the link.



**Planning:** The Worship & Music committee will meet on Thursday, **December 12th** at 3:30pm.

**Meeting:** The Council will meet on Thursday, **December 12th** at 7:00pm.



**Winterfest:** Bundle up (depending on the weather) and come celebrate with us the joy of the season! Winterfest will be held on Friday evening, **December 20th**, at our new Grove Street property behind the church. Join us at any point in the evening. Starting at 5:30 pm, we will have a bonfire with hot chocolate, hot dogs, and other snacks. At 6:30 pm, a hay wagon will be leaving and driving around town for some caroling (we'll make a few stops along the way) and a festive ride. We'll return to the property by 7:30 pm where you can continue to hang by the fire, enjoying the food and company. The church building will be open for restrooms or to warm up if necessary. Bring a chair, a friend, and we'll see you at Winterfest!

**Outdoor Christmas Photo Scene:** There's nothing more iconic than family photos at Christmas. Not to mention all the must-stop places in the area for photos: the Magic Tree in Sedalia, the lights at Drake Harbor, etc. This year, as a gift to the community, St. Paul's is planning to offer our own Outdoor Christmas Photo Scene for anyone to come and use as a background for their pictures. It will be set up around Thanksgiving, behind the church building, and be available through Christmas. It can be used anytime during the day or evening. Any and everyone is welcome to come take their pictures here. Help us spread the word, this is our gift to you!

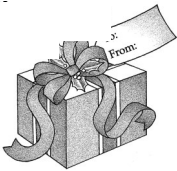


~ \* ~ IN OUR COMMUNITY ~ \* ~



**German Christmas Concert:** The Cole Camp Low German Club will be hosting traditional German Christmas Songs and Carols preformed by the German Singers. It will be **today** at St. Paul's. Pre-music will begin at 6:45pm and the concert at 7:00pm. There will be refreshments and fellowship following the concert in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited!

**Winter Concert:** On Tuesday, **December 3rd**, State Fair Community College will host its Winter Concert featuring the Concert Band and Chamber Choir. The concert starts at 7:00 pm and will be held at First United Methodist Church, 916 Thompson Blvd, Sedalia. Seating is very limited so arrive early. The concert is free but donations of a box of snacks (Little Debbie's, granola bars, fruit snacks, etc) are welcome and will be given to Christian Campus Connection, benefitting SFCC students in need.



**Christkindlmarket:** The Annual Christkindlmarket will be held on Friday evening, **December 6th**, from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. Live Nativity from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. Check the Cole Camp Christkindlmarket Facebook page for more information.

**Christmas in the Country:** Trinity Pymont Lutheran church invites you to their Ole Tyme Christmas in the Country event, Saturday, December 7th, 7:00pm. This year's theme is "Singing with the Angels". Singing of Carols accompanied by Myrna Schroeder, piano, and Amy Wilson, Violin, begins at 6:45pm. The freewill offering will be divided between The Stover Food Collective and The Cole Camp Food Pantry. Come and enjoy the program as well as cookies, hot chocolate and hot cider. The church is located 7 miles north of Stover on Highway 135, then ¼ mile on Pymont Road. Thrivent is supporting this event with an action team.



**THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

|                               |         |                             |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Sunday, December 1:</b>    | 9:00am  | Christmas Program Practice  |
|                               | 9:00am  | Sunday School / Adult Class |
|                               | 10:00am | Worship Service             |
|                               |         | Holy Communion at the Altar |
|                               | AW      | Advent Dinner               |
| <b>Monday, December 2:</b>    | NO      | Sewing                      |
| <b>Wednesday, December 4:</b> | 7:00pm  | Evangelism                  |
| <b>Thursday, December 5:</b>  | 8:00am  | BCHD                        |
| <b>Saturday, December 7:</b>  | 5:30pm  | Casual Worship              |
| <b>Sunday, December 8:</b>    | 9:00am  | Christmas Program Practice  |
|                               | 9:00am  | Sunday School / Adult Class |
|                               | 10:00am | Worship Service             |
|                               |         | Holy Communion by Stations  |



**~ \* ~ Coming Events ~ \* ~**

|             |                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| December 1  | Advent Dinner                   |
| December 20 | Winterfest                      |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Worship & Program |
| December 25 | Christmas Worship               |

# Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

**Ministers** ..... The Whole Congregation  
**Presiding Minister** ..... Pastor Stephen Zeller  
**Organist** ..... Lois Viebrock  
**Pianist** ..... Jeannette VonHolten  
**AV Technicians** ..... Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk  
**Altar Guild** ..... Kathy Oelrichs & Sharel Wienberg  
**Ushers** ..... Justin Tinney, Head Usher  
..... Victoria Fox, John Oelrichs, Braden Poe & Ryan Schlesselman



## First Sunday of Advent ~ December 1, 2024

**Assisting Minister** ..... Anne Goosen  
**Communion Assistants** ..... At the Altar  
**Reader** ..... Dennis Moellmann  
**Children's Sermon** ..... Pastor Stephen Zeller  
**Acolytes** ..... Gannon Elliott & Ben Goosen  
**Flowers** ..... Advent Wreath



## Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 8, 2024

**Assisting Minister** ..... Melisa Balke  
**Communion Assistants** ..... Greg Bredehoeft & Ruth Ann Kreisel  
**Reader** ..... Kelsey Viebrock  
**Children's Sermon** ..... Pastor Kim Knowle-Zeller  
**Acolytes** ..... Miranda Gerken & Lena Smith  
**Flowers** ..... Advent Wreath



*Advent*