

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ DECEMBER 8, 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

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.”**

Hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #257 vs. 1 & 3

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.**

please stand in body or spirit
 Opening Hymn

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

#264

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

please be seated

First Reading

Malachi 3:1 - 4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading

Luke 1:68 - 79

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, ⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear, ⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Second Reading

Philippians 1: 3- 11

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Children's Sermon

Pastor Kim Knowle-Zeller

please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

"Love Has Come"

#292 vs 1

Gospel

Luke 3:1 - 6

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd chapter.

Glorify to you, O Lord

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around

the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,
⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of
one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths
straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be
made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made
smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

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

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

#249

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 2

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

By Stations

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.

Communion Hymns

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

#254

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

#282

please stand in body or spirit

Post-Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

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

“Hark, the Glad Sound”

#239

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

"THE HOPE OF CHRIST"



Welcome: On this second Sunday of Advent, we eagerly welcome all who have joined with us in anticipation of the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May this time of worship be encouraging and inspirational to all.

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.



Kylee Scheel (family of Teresa Viebrock), 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 Eickhoff, Carmilla Swaim and husband (friends of Debbie Eickhoff), 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.

Let's Sing Again: If anyone is interested in singing in the choir on Christmas Eve, we will meet in the chapel after worship **today**.



Secret Sisters: Thank you to those who participated in the Secret Sisters for 2024! Secret Sisters may reveal your identity throughout the month of December. The sign-up for **Secret Sisters for 2025** can be found at either Usher's Stand. Please sign-up by the end of the month of December.



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



Angel Tree: The Angel Tree will remain up during December. There are angels on the tree with ideas for a gift collection that can be given to a resident of one of our local care facilities. Those gifts can be wrapped and need to be returned to St. Paul's by **December 22nd**. Again, thank you for your care and generosity this Christmas season!

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.



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.



Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **December 12th** from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.

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!



Christmas Worship: St. Paul's will enjoy the story of the birth of Jesus on **Christmas Eve**. Worship will begin at 7:00pm. We will also have worship service on **Christmas Day** at 10:00am. Please bring your family and share this wonderful time of the year with your church family.

Poinsettia's: If you would like to share a poinsettia with us, please bring them to the church before 9:00am on **Christmas Day**. They will be displayed in the sanctuary adding vivid color to the day's celebration.



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!



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!

~ * ~ IN OUR COMMUNITY ~ * ~



What a Blessing you are! Thank you to everyone who has helped support the Cole Camp Food Pantry during 2024, through your many gifts of food staples, garden surplus, monetary donations, collection drives, etc. We continue to be Thankful and Overwhelmed by this community's caring. Thank you, again and again, for all you have done this year!!

Cole Camp Food Pantry

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, December 8:	9:00am	Christmas Program Practice
	9:00am	Sunday School / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service Holy Communion by Stations
	AW	Choir Meeting
Monday, December 9:	NO	Sewing
Wednesday, December 11:	4:00pm	Band Practice
Thursday, December 12:	8:00am	BCHD
	3:30pm	Worship & Music
	7:00pm	Council
Saturday, December 14:	5:30pm	Casual Worship
Sunday, December 15:	9:00am	Christmas Program Practice
	9:00am	Sunday School / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service Holy Communion by Stations



~ * ~ Coming Events ~ * ~

December 20.....	Winterfest
December 24.....	Christmas Eve Worship & Program
December 25.....	Christmas Worship
December 29.....	Lessons & Carols
January 19.....	Annual Meeting

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



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



Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 15, 2024

Assisting Minister Janice Gerken
Communion Assistants Luther League
Reader Tiffinay Nash
Children's Sermon Joyce Schlesselmann
Acolytes Logan Jackson & Lane Smith
Flowers Advent Wreath

