

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ DECEMBER 15, 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 & 4

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow.

You bring water to parched ground and life out of death.

Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away.

Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises.

Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

Amen.

please stand in body or spirit

Opening Hymn

"How Many Kings"

see following pages

How Many Kings

Words and Music by
Marc Martel and Jason Germain

J=162 **VERSE 1**

B G#m

1. Fol - low the star to a place un - ex - pect - ted. _ Would you be - lieve _ af - ter all _

7 C#m B

_ we've pro - ject - ed, a child in a _ man - ger? _ Low - ly and small, the

15 G#m C#m

weak - est of all, _ un - like - li - est _ he - ro wrapped in His _ moth - er's shawl - just a child. _

22 F#sus F# **CHORUS 1**
B

_ Is this who we've wait - ed for? _ 'Cause how ma - ny _

30 G#m

kings stepped down from their _ thrones? How ma - ny _ lords have a - ban - doned their _ homes?

37 C#m F#sus F# B

How ma - ny _ greats have be - come the least _ for me? _ And how ma - ny _ gods have

45 G#m C#m

poured out their hearts to ro - mance a world that is torn all a - part? _ How ma - ny _

52

2nd time to Coda

VERSE 2
B

F#sus F#

fa - thers gave up their sons for me? _____ 2. Bring - ing out gifts for the

61

G#m

C#m

new - born Sav - ior all that we have, wheth - er cast - ly or mock, be - cause we be -

68

B

G#m

-lieve. _____ Gold for His hon - or and frank - in - cense for _____ His plea - sure and

76

C#m

myrrh for the cross He'll suf - fer. Do you be - lieve? Is

81

F#sus

F#

to chorus
D.S. al Coda

this who we've wait - ed for? _____

87

Coda

BRIDGE

F#sus F# F#sus F# A E/G#

_____ On - ly one - did that _____ for me. _____ Oh, _____

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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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

Zephaniah 3:14 - 20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading

Isaiah 12:2 - 6

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4 - 7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Children's Sermon

Joyce Schlesselmann

please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

"Love Has Come"

#292 vs 1

Gospel

Luke 3:7 - 18

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is

more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

“All Earth Is Hopeful”

#266

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. 3

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

"He Came Down"	#253
"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"	#240
"Angels We Have Heard on High"	#289

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

“Go, Tell It On the Mountain”

#290

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

"THE HOPE OF CHRIST"



Welcome: On this third Sunday of Advent, we're glad you've joined us to prepare for Christ's coming — at Christmas, at the end of time and as we gather here today. Welcome!

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.



Esther Schlesselman, 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 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.



With Sympathy: We also pray for those families who have lost loved ones; family and friends of Lowell Dean (Tiny) Viebrock.



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

Staffing Update: After serving as church secretary for many, many years here at St. Paul's, Shirley recently announced her intention to retire from the position. First, let us all offer our thanks to Shirley for all that she has done for St. Paul's. We are truly grateful and are working on plans to celebrate her time. Secondly, we are now beginning the search for someone to fill that position. The office is currently staffed for 18 hours each week across four days. If you or anyone you know might be interested in applying for the secretary position please speak with Pastor Stephen or Jake Jackson.



Thank You: The Congregation Council wishes to thank you for all your financial support during 2024, particularly knowing the economic conditions and inflationary pressures that we have all faced throughout the year. As of the end of November our home purpose fund is running a deficit, and there are still some major end of year bills to be paid (hello insurance!) Additionally, our crisis fund is nearly empty (Pastor Stephen uses this for member or community member's emergency needs) and our benevolence giving to the Central States Synod is quite behind (this is our partnership with Lutheran churches in Missouri and Kansas). As we approach the end of the year, we encourage you to continue your regular offerings and prayerfully consider any additional gift. Thank you for your continued support of our mission together.

Little Blessings Angel Tree: There is an additional Angel Tree in the Gathering Space which is designated for the Little Blessings Day Care. The angels on the tree contain gift ideas for the day care, including non-perishable food items, needs for infant and toddler care, or a monetary donations. These gifts can be bagged and placed under the tree through Christmas Day. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plates, designated for the Little Blessings Day Care. **Thank you** for your generosity for our day care kiddos!



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.



Circle: Esther Circle will meet on Monday, **December 16th** at 7:00pm at the home of Rhonda Schlesselman.

Let's Sing Again: If anyone is interested in singing in the choir on Christmas Eve, practice will be Tuesday, **December 17th** at 6:30pm. You can contact Joyce Schlesselmann if you have any questions .



Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **December 19th** 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!



Newsletter: The Sunbeam committee will meet on Friday, **December 20th** at 3:00pm.

Worship: There will be no Casual Worship Service on Saturday, **December 21st.**





Angel Tree: Thanks to all who have supported our Angel Tree this year. Any gifts to residents of our local care facilities should be dropped off under the tree by Sunday, **December 22**.

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.



Poinsettias: 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.

Lessons & Carols: Worship for the first weekend following Christmas will take the form of A Service of Lessons & Carols on Sunday, **December 29th**, at 10:00 am. There will be no communion that morning. There will also be no Saturday Casual Worship service on December 28th, and no Sunday School classes on December 29th.



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!

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, December 15:	9:00am	Christmas Program Practice
	9:00am	Sunday School / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
Monday, December 16:	7:00pm	Esther Circle
Tuesday, December 17:	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Thursday, December 19:	8:00am	BCHD
Friday, December 20:	3:00pm	Sunbeam
	5:30pm	Winterfest
Saturday, December 21:	NO	Casual Worship
Sunday, December 22:	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



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



Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 22, 2024

Assisting Minister Tom Oelrichs
Communion Assistants Trisha Goosen & Stephanie Randall
Reader Shirley Cash
Children's Sermon Pastor Stephen Zeller
Acolytes Grant Kullman & Mason Randall
Flowers Advent Wreath