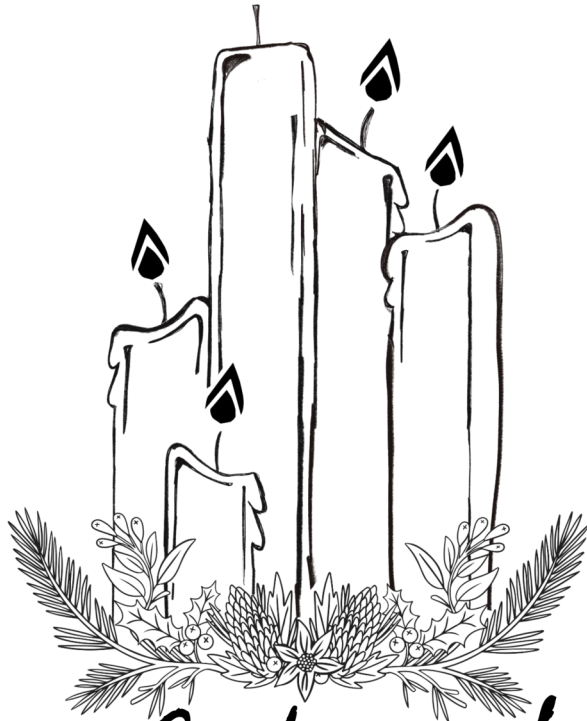


FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ DECEMBER 22, 2024



Fourth Sunday of
Advent

**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 & 5

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones.
As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you.

**Bless us and let your face shine upon us,
more radiant than these candles,
and more dear than all else we seek.**

Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good,
and banish all our fears.

**We pray in the name of Emmanuel,
your promised child and our Savior. Amen.**

please stand in body or spirit

Opening Hymn

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

#275

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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

please be seated

First Reading

Micah 5:2 - 5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading

Luke 1:46b - 55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.**

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5 - 10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." ⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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 1:39 - 45

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

#251

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. 4

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

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

#270

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#279

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

“Joy to the World”

#267

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

"THE HOPE OF CHRIST"



Welcome: On this last Sunday of Advent we happily reach out to all who have come to approach the throne of Grace. Christmas will be truly Christmas when we center our minds on the Christ child who came to offer the world salvation and hope.

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), 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 Sandra Goodman (relative of Pastor Stephen) and Esther Schlesselman.



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

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 **today**.



Let's Sing Again: If anyone is interested in singing in the choir on Christmas Eve, practice will be **today** at 1:00pm. You can contact Joyce Schlesselmann if you have any questions .

Christmas Program Practice: There will be a practice for the Christmas program today at 2:00pm.



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.



Out of Office: Pastor Stephen will be on vacation from Thursday, **December 26th** through Wednesday, January 1st.

Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **December 26th** from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.





Worship: There will be no Casual Worship Service on Saturday, **December 28th.**

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.



Annual Meeting: It is time to regroup and find out where we have been in 2024 and where we want to be 2025. Come and spend time with us on Sunday, **January 19th.** We will begin with Sunday School Class at 9:00am. Then worship will begin at 10:00am. After worship we will enjoy a soup and chili lunch together, stretch our legs and then gather at 12:15pm in the sanctuary for the annual meeting.

Do you have reports that you would like to include in the Annual Report? Please submit them to the church office by Sunday, January 5th.

Envelopes: The 2025 offering envelopes are available in the link. If there isn't a box for you and you would like 2025 offering envelopes, please contact Russell Oelrichs, or the church office to request a box.



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.





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!

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 and will remain up until the start of the new year. 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** ~ * ~



Concert: Everyone is invited to the "Join the Angels" Concert presented by the Cole Camp Community Choir on Sunday afternoon, **January 5th**, beginning at 4:00p.m. The concert, a collection of inspirational vocal Christmas songs by a variety of composers, will be performed at Trinity Lutheran Church, located at 104 East Butterfield Trail in Cole Camp. There will be a free-will door offering to benefit the Cole Camp Regional Ministry's music fund and other worthwhile projects.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, December 22:	9:00am	Christmas Program Practice
	9:00am	Sunday School / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
	1:00pm	Choir Practice
	2:00pm	Christmas Program Practice
Tuesday, December 24:	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship & Program
Wednesday, December 25:	10:00am	Christmas Day Worship
Saturday, December 28:	NO	Casual Worship
Sunday, December 29:	10:00am	Lessons & Carols



~ * ~ Coming Events ~ * ~

December 24.....	Christmas Eve Worship & Program
December 25.....	Christmas Worship
December 29.....	Lessons & Carols
January 8.....	WELCA Quarterly Meeting
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



Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 22, 2024

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



First Sunday of Christmas ~ December 29, 2024

Worship Leader Darin Oelrichs
Communion Assistants No Communion
Readers Melisa Balke, Paul Fuelling,
..... Rhonda Schlesselman & Sandy Schlesselman
Children's Sermon No Children's Sermon
Acolytes Grady Elliott & Tristan Fox
Flowers Mary Haluptzok

