

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 11, 2022



**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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YouTube	www.youtube.com/stpaulscolecamp



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

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

Blessed be the ☩ Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

O Lord our God, be gracious to us; **we wait for you.**

Dispel the darkness, **that all nations may come to your light.**

Establish your peace on the earth; **join our voices to sing your praise.**

Comfort the sick and weary; **renew their strength and power.**

O Lord our God, we look for your arrival, **that the earth may behold your glory.**

Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#257 vs. 3

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

"People, Look East"

#248

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 all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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

Isaiah 35:1 - 10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 146:5-10

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading

James 5:7 - 10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

Paul Fuelling

please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

"Love Has Come"

#292 vs. 1

Gospel

Matthew 11:2 - 11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

#264

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 & 2

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.....Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

(Based on "O Come, All Ye Faithful" - #283)

(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) Raising the cup, he gave thanks and he blessed it;

"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 God's holiness:
"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

"Once in Royal David's City"

#269

"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.....Faithful God, in this meal you have shown us your mercy, bringing
heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all
your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and
Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

"Joy to the World"

#267

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.



"AWAITING OUR SAVIOR"



Welcome: On this Third Sunday of Advent, we encourage everyone to think often about God's gift to us in Christ. What love God has for each of us! And what love we should have for one another! Welcome in the name of our Lord.

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

In Our Prayers: "Unspoken prayer concerns" Mary Haluptzok, Gordon Ives, Orlyn Brauer, and Kyle Luetjen.



Kayla Wasson (family of Diane Banks), Jim Brown, Jeff Luetjen, Bill Talbot (friend of Connie Gerken), Jim Mehrens (brother-in-law of Teresa Viebrock), Shirley Boose (mother of Melisa Balke), Annie Bright, Family member of the Kreisels and Browns, Kiley Simon (friend of Jenna Nash), Dorothy Schroder (friend of Debbie Vaughan), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan), Rebecca Heimsoth (friend of Norma Schlesselman), Gerald Goodson (uncle of Melisa Balke), Ronnie Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Marlin & Ruth Lackas (sister & brother-in-law of Paul Fuelling), Reagan Phillips, Bill Hampton, Alex Stevens (friend of Tina Ives), Jeffery Jones (son of Bonnie Bohling) and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).



Nursing Home: Vern Dean Bohling: *Ambrose*. Luella Viebrock, Marie Viebrock, Florence VonHolten & Cecelia Wiedemann: *GSCC*. Kathy Hallauer: *Loving Arms*. Irene Viebrock: *Homebound*.

Military: Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: ENS David M. Gardner (son of Pam Balke), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in-law of Suzanne Lutjen) Lt. Col. Ron Poe, Cpt. Joseph Strathman, Sgt. Russell J. Wiedemann (grandson of Cecelia Wiedemann) and Cpt. Wayne Wiedemann (grandson of Cecelia Wiedemann).



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

Special Advent Reflections: Pastor Stephen will offer a brief time of prayer and reflection each Thursday evening during Advent at 7:00 pm on the church's Facebook page. Tune in at 7:00 pm or come back later to watch the video that will remain online.



Practice: The children of St. Paul's will present the Story of Christmas in worship on Christmas Eve. Practices for the program continues, at 9:00 am (during the Sunday School hour) and run each Sunday until Christmas.

LBPS: Little Blessing Preschool will be in session on Tuesday, **December 13th** and Wednesday, **December 14th** from 8:00am until 11:15pm in the church basement.



Meeting: The Council will meet on Tuesday, **December 13th** at **COUNCIL 7:30pm.**

Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **December 15th** from 8:00am until 10:00am to help you with your health care needs.



Ambrose: Pastor Stephen will be offering communion at Ambrose Park on Thursday, **December 16th**, at 3:00pm in their small dining room. All are welcome.

Angel Tree: The Angel Tree has new angels on the tree that are meant to provide gifts for residents of our local care facilities. Those gifts can be placed in gift bags or wrapped, and need to be returned by Sunday, **December 18th.**



USHERS



Ushers: Their will be a short meeting after worship for all the new and current ushers on Sunday, **December 18th.**

Newsletter: The Sunbeam Committee will meet on Wednesday, **December 21st** at 3:00pm.





Christmas Caroling for ALL Ages: Wednesday, **December 21st** beginning at 4:30. You're invited to bring some Christmas cheer to the nursing home residents and homebound members. Meet at church anytime after 4:30 to make cards and enjoy pizza before heading to Good Samaritan at 5:30 pm.

Hope & Healing: Following the longest night of the year, the Winter Solstice on December 21 when the length of darkness each day begins to shorten once again, we could all use a bit of light and hope as we prepare for the arrival of Jesus. Join us for an *ONLINE* Service of Hope and Healing on Thursday, **December 22**, at 7:00 pm. The service will begin at 7:00, but you'll be able to catch the recording of it anytime after it's over. Have a candle with you and take some time to rest in God's love. Share this with a friend who could use a moment of rest and hope as well!



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 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.



WELCA Thankoffering Boxes: Ladies, the Thankoffering boxes will be collected throughout the month of **December**. If you have misplaced your box, there are a few at each usher's stand. Your offering can be left at each usher's stand. All collected offerings will be sent to the Women of the ELCA church-wide for their various ministries. Count your blessings, be Thankful!!

2023 Secret Sisters: The Advent season brings "Secret Sister" happenings! **First** - It is the time for the 2022 Secret Sisters to reveal their identity to their Secret Sisters for the past year. **Second** - It is also time to sign up for the 2023 Secret Sisters. A sign-up sheet can be found at each usher stand; together with a Secret Sister Inventory Sheet. This inventory gives your Secret Sister information about your "favorites" to make your year together a bit easier. Any questions, contact Janice.



THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, December 11:	9:00am	Program Practice / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
Tuesday, December 13:	8:00am	LBPS
	7:30pm	Council
Wednesday, December 14:	8:00am	LBPS
Thursday, December 15:	8:00am	BCHD
	3:00pm	Ambrose
	7:00pm	Online Advent Devotions
Saturday, December 17:	5:30pm	Casual Worship Service
Sunday, December 18:	9:00am	Program Practice / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
	AW	Ushers Meeting



~ * ~ Coming Events ~ * ~

December 21	Christmas Caroling
December 22	Online Service of Hope & Healing
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship
December 25	Christmas Day Worship

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ministers	.....The Whole Congregation
Presiding Minister	.....Pastor Stephen Zeller
Organist	.....Lois Viebrock
Pianist	.....Jeannette VonHolten
Altar Guild	.....Kathy Oelrichs & Sharel Wienberg
Ushers	.....Greg Bredehoeft, Head Usher
.....	.....Melisa Balke, Eric Kullman, John Oelrichs & Ryan Schlesselman



Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 11, 2022

Assisting Minister	.....Darin Oelrichs
Communion Assistant	.....Trisha Goosen & Stephanie Randall
Reader	.....Grant & Hudson Kullman
Children's Sermon	.....Paul Fuelling
Acolytes	.....Wyatt Keith & Jace Tinney
Altar Flowers	.....Advent Wreath



Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 18, 2022

Assisting Minister	.....Lynn Schear
Communion Assistant	.....Luther League
Reader	.....Luke Goosen
Children's Sermon	.....Joyce Schlesselmann
Acolytes	.....Ben Goosen & Bradyn Rehmer
Altar Flowers	.....Advent Wreath