

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 18, 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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*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. 4

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

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

#242

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 hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*please be seated*

## First Reading

Isaiah 7:10 - 16

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

## Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**<sup>2</sup>In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**<sup>4</sup>O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**<sup>6</sup>You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**<sup>17</sup>Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**<sup>19</sup>Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**



## Second Reading

Romans 1:1 - 7

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Matthew 1:18 - 25

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 1st chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

"That Boy Child of Mary"

#293

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

"Hark, The Glad Sound!"

#239

"Wait for the Lord"

#262

"Away in a Manger"

#278

*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

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#257 vs 5-8

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

*O come,  
O come,  
Emmanuel*



# "AWAITING OUR SAVIOR"



**Welcome:** We welcome all who have come to this house of God on this fourth Sunday of Advent! God can and does meet us here in special ways in our common worship. But God also comes to us unexpectedly, just as he did when he surprised us by appearing on an ordinary night in an obscure town in the form of a baby boy.

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

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



Kathy Regekr, Kayla Wasson (family of Diane Banks), Bill Talbot (friend of Connie Gerken), 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.





**Baptismal Grace:** On Friday, December 9th, Leighton Kay Alcorn was washed clean in the waters of Holy Baptism. We welcome her into the fellowship of faith that we all share through baptismal grace of God. Leighton is the daughter of Dalton and Angela Alcorn and was born on October 18th. Leighton's sponsors are Morgan Berendzen and Randy Schlesselman.

**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.



**Ushers:** Their will be a short meeting after worship for all the new and current ushers **today**.

**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 **today**.



**LBPS:** Little Blessing Preschool will be in session on Tuesday, **December 20th** and Wednesday, **December 21st** from 8:00am until 11:15pm in the church basement.

**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.

**Choir:** There will be choir practice on Wednesday, **December 21st** at 6:30pm and Saturday, **December 24th** for warm up practice.



**Health Care:** The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **December 22nd** from 8:00am until 10:00am to help you with your health care needs.



**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.

**Save-the-Date:** Womens' Retreat, Saturday, **February 4th** (Heit's Point). Come join for a half day with women of all ages and any friends. We'll have sign ups soon. Any questions see Pr. Kim.



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

<b>Sunday, December 18:</b>	9:00am	Program Practice / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
	AW	Ushers Meeting
<b>Tuesday, December 20:</b>	8:00am	LBPS
<b>Wednesday, December 21:</b>	8:00am	LBPS
	3:00pm	Sunbeam
	4:30pm	Christmas Caroling
	6:30pm	Choir Practice
<b>Thursday, December 22:</b>	8:00am	BCHD
	3:00pm	Ambrose
	6:00pm	Christmas Program Practice
	7:00pm	Online Service of Hope & Healing
<b>Saturday, December 24:</b>	6:30pm	Choir Warm Up Practice
	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
<b>Sunday, December 25:</b>	10:00am	Christmas Worship Service
		Holy Communion at the Altar



**~ \* ~ 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

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



## Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 18, 2022

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



## Christmas Day ~ December 25, 2022

<b>Assisting Minister</b>	.....Tom Oelrichs
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	.....Glenalee Dillon & Norma Schlesselman
<b>Reader</b>	.....Shirley Cash
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	.....Pastor Kim Knowle-Zeller
<b>Acolytes</b>	.....Lucas Eckhoff & Grant Kullman
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	.....Mary Haluptzok