

++++THE GUIDE +++
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-STRASBURG ILLINOIS

December 11, 2022

Third Sunday in Advent

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Pastor | Kene Whybrew | Secretary | Sue Bowers |
| Pastor's Cell | 815-383-1148 | Secretary HRS | M-W 4-7PM TH 12-4PM |
| Pastor's Home | | Church Office | 217-644-2661 |
| Pastor's E-mail | chebrev@yahoo.com | E-mail | stpaullicms@consolidated.net |
| Pastor's Address | 512 S Walnut St Strasburg | Address | 511 S Walnut St Strasburg |
| Sunday School Supt | Karen Kull | Website | stpaul-strasburg.com |
| Altar Flowers | Kenna Wirth | YouTube | St. Paul's Lutheran Church |
| Organist | Muriel Merriman | | Strasburg Illinois |
| Choir Director | | Pause for Peace | 217-644-3124 |
| Accompanist | | Prayer Chain | 217-821-3038 |
| Greeter | Dean Schultz | | |

THIS WEEK WITH THE LORD

SUN. 8:30 AM Communion Service
 9:30 AM SS, Alpha, W.L.S., College Plus, H.S.
 9:30 AM Council Meeting
 7:00 PM Christmas Cantata @ Grace

TUE. 9:00 AM Morning Bible Study
 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

WED. 8:00 AM **Guide/Bulletin**
 8:30 AM Chair Yoga
 10:30 AM Advent Service @ Grace
 2:30 PM Social Hall Communion
 6:30 PM Advent Service @ St. Paul's
 6:30 PM WDS

SUN. 8:30 AM Worship Service-Choir Sings
 9:30 AM SS, Alpha, W.L.S., College Plus, H.S.

December 4 8:30: 123 Year Ago: 134 Sunday School: 48

Welcome The third Sunday of Advent focuses on joy. "Rejoice in the Lord always," says the apostle Paul (Philippians 4:4). With gladness, we welcome you to worship. If you are a visitor, we invite you to worship with us again and to please sign our guestbook.

Baby Items As we approach the Christmas season we reflect on the wisemen bringing gifts and celebrating the birth of Baby Jesus. Let us spread the love of Jesus by bringing baby items for those in need this Christmas. On December 11th and 18th join us by bringing items to be donated for babies such as diapers, wipes, etc.

Evangelism Project 2022 As you plan your December gift giving remember to include St. Paul's Evangelism Project: Missionaries Rev. Gordon Alex and Hayden Rensner. Rev. Alex is a parish Pastor in Kenya Africa, where his family lives. He and his wife have four children. He leads a program for young orphan children and is assisted in this by two mothers. He hopes to have a two-day camp for them soon. Hayden Rensner is serving the LCMS in Riga, Latvia. She teaches students English as a Second language at the Luther Academy there sharing with the students the love and forgiveness God offers. She also organizes volunteers who provide Evangelism outreach opportunities in the community. Both Rev. Alex and Hayden will very much appreciate your financial support and prayers.

Shut-Ins There are copies of the Shut-ins list available in the narthex.

FOR THE LORD'S WORK

| <u>CURRENT OFFERINGS</u> | <u>\$ TO MEET YEARLY BUDGET</u> | <u>\$ RECEIVED</u> | <u>\$ DIFFERENCE</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| December 4 | \$ 3,782.00 | \$7,691.00 | \$ 3,909.00 |
| year-to-date | \$ 181,536.00 | \$185,670.00 | \$ 4,134.00 |
| <u>Synod-Offerings</u> | | | |
| December 4 | \$ 385.00 | \$ 190.00 | \$-195.00 |
| year-to-date | \$ 18,480.00 | \$24,952.00 | \$ 6,472.00 |
| TRINITY GOAL-\$10,000 | | Total to Date | \$9,455.00 |

Building \$875 LYF \$25 Evang. Project \$675 LCMS World Relief \$40

Food for the Poor \$380 Thanksgiving \$50 Ken Hagan Mem. \$35

Ken Hagan Mem. \$35.00

December 4 \$8,939.00

December 5 \$735.00 ACH

November 30 \$252.00 Advent

12/20 9:00 AM Morning Bible Study

12/21 8:30 AM Chair Yoga

6-8 PM WDS Christmas practice

12/24 6:00 PM Pre-Service Christmas Eve

6:30 PM Christmas Eve Service

Lost and Found There was a light tan leather jacket and also a blue children's jacket left on the coat rack Sunday.

You Are Invited You are invited to the 59th Annual Lutheran Choirs Christmas Cantata! This year the Cantata is at Grace Church on December 11 at 7:00 pm under the direction of Kathy Yakey and accompanied by Krystal Friese. Come join us as we prepare for the birth of Jesus in song!

Agenda There are copies of the Agenda and proposed budget available to pick up in the narthex.

Council Meeting There will be a council meeting following today's church service.

Offering Envelopes Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you wish to **cancel or begin** offering envelopes.

Thank you Thank you to the carolers that came to my home Sunday. They sang praises to God. This put an official start to the Christmas season for me. Thank you one and all. Frances Lee York

Thank you Thank you to the team who helped decorate the church for Christmas on December 3. Mark and Melissa Luce, Gary and Karen Kull, Diane Jack, Lori Pieper, Pastor Whybrew, Jim Weiss, and Arlene McCormick. Your time and talents are much appreciated. Many thanks, Heath & Autumn McCormick and family

Christmas Eve Program We invite you to worship with us on December 24 at 6:30 p.m. as the Pre-K, weekday school and confirmation children once again tell the story of our Savior's birth. There will be 36 participants in this year's program entitled "The Wondrous Birth". A special song will be sung by some of our high school/college students. The program is directed by Dee Dee Batson and Marlene Wirth. The Christmas Eve Offering will go towards the Sunday School programs. Thank you for your support.

Adopted Seminary Student 2022-23 St. Paul's has received information from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana about the student we are sponsoring through the Student Adoption Program. Our student is Joshua Gerken. He is a first-year student at the seminary and is married to Rachel. His hometown is New Haven, IN. His birthday was December 6. Please show support to Joshua with prayers, monetary gifts to the Seminary Student fund, and cards and notes of support. Joshua's address is: 6600 North Clinton St., Box 224, Fort Wayne, IN 46825



BIRTHDAYS

- 11-Sue Bowers
- 12-Kyle Knop
- 13-Neil Pikes
- 14-Deb Rincker
- 15-Chris Storm
- 16-Doris Stremming; Blakely Tabbert
- 17-Collin Ohnesorge

HOUSEHOLDS OF THE WEEK

Danielle Wirth, Darrell & Laurie Wirth,
 Dennis & Kenna Wirth, Gary & Marlene
 Wirth, Kevin & Allison Wirth, Ron & Karen
 Wirth, Shelby (Aurora) Wirth, Tyler &
 Jennifer Wirth, Wayne & Connie Wirth,

Recorded Services

Website: stpaul-strasburg.com
YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church
 Strasburg Illinois
Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church

150th Celebration Committee

The committee will be selling cinnamon rolls for the December fundraiser. The cost is \$10 for 6 rolls. Pick up will be from 6-7 pm on December 23 at the Strasburg Community Building. Orders need to be placed by Dec. 19th. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex.

PRAYER

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Diane Paraiso | Melba Storm |
| Anna Schlechte | Nick Hanfland |
| Frances York | Carolyn Stremming |
| Mary Rincker | Norma Huddleston |
| Wayne Wirth | Floyd Storm |
| Dave Polk | Kay Dust |
| Joe Oakley | Dianna Gibson |
| Robert Pfeiffer | Kendall Knop Fulk |

LIMITED MOBILITY

- Rose Schlechte- Villas of Hollybrook
- Robert Stremming-Heartland Senior Living
- Noma Huddleston - Lakeland Healthcare Center
- Imogene Lading – Villas of Holly Brook
- Bill Orr
- Rosemary Sporleder-Brookstone Mattoon
- Mildred Rincker – Heartland, Neoga
- Doris Stremming – Lutheran Care Center
- Melba Storm- Heartland Senior Living

FRIENDS & FAMILY
(non-members)

- Gayle Klitzing(panc cancer Gary & Roger Kull Cousin)
- Randy Doty
- Pat Williams (bypass surgery)
- Lori Cannon (Chris Kramer cousin-cancer)
- Laikyn Bauer (Digeorge syndrome)
- Matt Durbin
- Ivan Crutcher (cancer, Karen Rentfro's uncle)
- Caralea (Moffett) Smith (cancer, undergoing treatments)

Adopted Seminary Students 2022-23

Joshua Gerken
6600 North Clinton Street
Box 224
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Micah Brown
Campus Post Office Box
801 Seminary Pl.
Saint Louis, MO 63105-3196

Hymn of Invocation

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With Thy belovèd name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51 Text: Public domain

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

Kyrie

LSB 204

C **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament 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 have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not 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 gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

James 5:7–11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do

not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

C ***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" ¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

- C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB 341

- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
- 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.
- 3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.
- 4 Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!

- 5 Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208

C ***Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!***

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, "Come,

Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

- C **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.**

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

- C **1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Distribution Hymns

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

LSB 627

Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

LSB 622

Jesus Comes Today with Healing

LSB 620

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

- C **1 O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace, For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill, The
glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son, All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three
in One; For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338

1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

Next Week's Readings – Isaiah 7:10-17, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25