

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

**December 18, 2022**

**Fourth 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	stpaulcms@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	Karen Rentfro	Pause for Peace	217-644-3124
Accompanist	Sheryl Vonderheide	Prayer Chain	217-821-3038
Greeter	Dean Schultz		

**THIS WEEK WITH THE LORD**

SUN.	8:30 AM	Worship Service
	9:30 AM	SS, Alpha, W.L.S., College Plus, H.S.
TUE.	9:00 AM	Morning Bible Study
WED.	8:00 AM	<b>Guide/Bulletin</b>
	8:30 AM	Chair Yoga
	<b>6:00-7:30 PM</b>	<b>WDS</b>
SUN.	8:30 AM	Communion Service-Choir Sings

**December 11 8:30: 124 Year Ago: 131 Sunday School: 23**

**Welcome** "... and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:23, NRSV). What message is more comforting and praiseworthy? Welcome 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 18<sup>th</sup> join us by bringing items to be donated for babies such as diapers, wipes, etc.

**Evangelism Project 2022** Christmas is just a week away here and all over the world. In planning your Christmas gifts to God consider giving a financial gift to St. Paul's Evangelism Project. For the month of December these will be designated for use by Rev. Gordon Alex in Kenya, Africa and Hayden Rensner in the Czech Republic. Both ministries need financial assistance and our prayers. The end goal is for more people to hear of God's salvation and be saved. How blessed we are to be a part of those two ministries.

**Sympathy** Please keep the family of Larry Lenz in your thoughts and prayers. Larry passed away Friday, December 9, 2022. Visitation was held Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Funeral was held Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's Lutheran Church with the Rev. Kene Whybrew officiating and Rev. Gary Fortkamp as the Liturgist.

## FOR THE LORD'S WORK

<u>CURRENT OFFERINGS</u>	<u>\$ TO MEET YEARLY BUDGET</u>	<u>\$ RECEIVED</u>	<u>\$ DIFFERENCE</u>
December 11	\$ 3,782.00	\$3,149.00	\$ -633.00
year-to-date	\$ 185,318.00	\$188,819.00	\$ 3,501.00
<u>Synod-Offerings</u>			
December 11	\$ 385.00	\$ 495.00	\$ 110.00
year-to-date	\$ 18,865.00	\$25,447.00	\$ 6,582.00
<b>TRINITY GOAL-\$10,000</b>		Total to Date	\$9,575.00
Building \$390 LYF \$200 Evang. Project \$520 Trinity \$120 Organ Maint \$120			
Bell Tower \$100			

**December 7 \$331.00**  
**December 11 \$4,763.00**

12/27 9:00 AM Morning Bible Study  
12/28 8:30 AM Chair Yoga  
2:30 PM Social Hall Communion  
12/31 6:30 PM New Year's Service @ Grace

**2023 Offering Envelopes** The 2023 offering envelopes are ready to be picked up in the narthex. Please **DO NOT** begin using the envelopes until **January 1, 2023.**

**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

**Time Change** The weekday school Christmas practice will be 6-7:30 p.m. on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**NO Class** There will be no Sunday School classes on December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**2023 Elected Officers** The elected officers for 2023 are as follows:  
President- Gerry Schlechte, Vice-Pres.- Jim Weiss, Secretary- Lisa Rincker, Treasurer-Bob Schlechte, Elder- Mike Rincker, Trustee- Tim Lenz, S.S.Supt.- Karen Kull, Assistant Education- Troy Uphoff, Head Usher- Dalton Storm, Stewardship- Kay Dust, Dir. Of Technology- Mike Pfeiffer. We thank all who volunteered to participate in the election. We also thank those who have served as officers during past years.



**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**BIRTHDAYS**

18-Tina Daniels  
 20-Ellen McCoy  
 21-Mark Kull; Christian Merriman;  
 Shelby Wirth; Cody\* Logue  
 22-Jennifer\* Wirth  
 23-Molly Gilbert; Gentry Fender  
 24-Maude Hartman; Luke Wetherell;  
 Phyllis Weiss

**HOUSEHOLDS OF THE WEEK**

Barry & Courtney Wittenberg, John & Judy Wittenberg, Dustin & Karen York, Francis York,

**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. 19<sup>th</sup>. 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
Kendall Fulk	Robert Pfeiffer

**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

O God of God, O Light of Light

LSB 810

- 1 O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and King of kings:  
To you in heaven's glory bright The song of praise forever rings.  
To Him who sits upon the throne, The Lamb once slain but raised again,  
Be all the glory He has won, All thanks and praise! Amen, amen.
- 2 For deep in prophets' sacred page, And grand in poets' wingèd word,  
Slowly in type, from age to age The nations saw their coming Lord;  
Till through the deep Judean night Rang out the song, "Goodwill to men!"  
Sung once by firstborn sons of light, It echoes now, "Goodwill!" Amen.
- 3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in hate and scorn—  
These all are past, and now above He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.  
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates! So sang that host beyond our ken.  
Lift up your heads, your King awaits. We lift them up. Amen, amen.
- 4 Then raise to Christ a mighty song, And shout His name, His mercies tell!  
Sing, heav'nly host, your praise prolong, And all on earth, your anthem swell!  
All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain! Forever let the song ascend!  
Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign, All glory, pow'r! Amen, amen.

Text: John Julian, 1839–1913, alt. Text: Public domain

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

P O almighty God, merciful Father,  
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1*

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

### **Kyrie**

*LSB 186*

C **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 7:10–17*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <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>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall

conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Romans 1:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, 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>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his 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 for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Choir Sings – My Soul Glorifies the Lord (Foley)

### Alleluia

*LSB 190*

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### Holy Gospel

*Matthew 1:18–25*

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and

bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

### **Apostles' Creed**

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was  
buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He  
ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

### **Children's Message – Children Through Grade 6 are encouraged to come forward**

#### **Hymn of the Day**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*LSB 357*

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. Refrain

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. Refrain

- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## **Sermon** Romans 1:1-7 “You Who Are Called To Belong”

### **Offertory**

*LSB 192*

- C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.  
Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

- P** Lord God, You promised the virgin-born Son to reluctant King Ahaz, and in the fullness of time the Word became flesh. Open our hearts and strengthen our faith gladly to receive Your Son in the signs where He is present: not in signs of our own choosing, but in the Holy Word and Sacraments. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord God, preserve Your apostolic Gospel and its ministers. Cause the name and the resurrection of Christ Jesus to be proclaimed among all the nations, including among us who are called to belong to Him, that the obedience of faith may be brought about in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord God, it is Your will that we live chaste and decent lives in all that we say and do. Preserve all couples who are engaged to be married in faithfulness and honor, that they may come to their wedding day without fear, shame or disgrace. Since Christ is Immanuel, who saves His people from their sins, clothe all brides and grooms in the forgiveness of Jesus, in which all can stand before You cleansed and confident of Your blessing. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord God, You do not bear with the tiresome flattery and unbelief of kings and rulers forever. Have mercy on us, Lord, and spare our nation. Clear away all empty shows of



piety and renew genuine faith in the virgin's Son, that His coming at the last may not be a sign against us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, You named Your Son "Jesus" because He was born to save us from our sins. Give us repentant hearts. Do not let us bow to temptation or abuse His name by seeking our own way, but lead us to confess our sins and rejoice in His salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, look with kindness on the sick and those in any need [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_].  
Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is truly Lord and ruler of the house of Israel. With the Holy Spirit, You spoke to Moses out of the burning bush and gave the law in terror to test Your ancient people, that the fear of You would be before them. As Moses stretched out his arm at Your Word to bring Israel out of bondage, and as he stood in the breach against Your wrath, so You have given Christ to redeem us with His arms outstretched on the wood of the cross. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; for You live and reign, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

*LSB 196*

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.**

### Benedicamus

*LSB 202*

P Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### Benediction

*LSB 202*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.

C **Amen, amen, amen.**

### **Recessional Hymn**

Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

*LSB 900*

- 1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Name all other names above,  
Unto which must ev'ry knee Bow in deep humility.
- 2 Jesus! Name decreed of old, To the maiden mother told,  
Kneeling in her lowly cell, By the angel Gabriel.
- 3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth To the fallen of the earth  
For the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall His people save."
- 4 Jesus! Name of mercy mild, Given to the holy Child  
When the cup of human woe First He tasted here below.
- 5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n Under all the mighty heav'n  
Whereby those to sin enslaved Burst their fetters and are saved.
- 6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Human name of God above;  
Pleading only this, we flee Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-97, alt. Text: Public domain

### **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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