

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

December 22, 2024

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	stpaulsstrasburg@gmail.com
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	Doreen Whybrew	YouTube	St. Paul's Lutheran Church Strasburg Illinois
Organist	Muriel Merriman		
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 Communion Service
	9:30 AM SS, Alpha, W.L.S., H.S., College+
	5:30 PM Worship Service @ Grace
MON.	6-7 PM WDS Christmas Eve practice
TUE.	6:30 PM Christmas Eve Service
WED.	9:00 AM Christmas Day Service @ Grace
SUN.	8:30 AM Worship Service-Choir sings
SUN.	9:30 AM SS, Alpha, W.L.S., H.S., College+
	5:30 PM Worship Service @ Grace

December 15 8:30: 137 Year Ago: 128 Sunday School: 41

Welcome Welcome to worship. Like Mary and Elizabeth, we share the anticipation of what God is birthing — through Jesus, and in all our lives always. *If you are a visitor, we invite you to worship with us again and to please sign our guestbook.*

Thanksgiving Offerings The Thanksgiving offering totaled \$1,005.00 and will be split in the following percentages. Lutheran Care Center (20%) \$201, Lutheran Hour Ministries (15%) \$150.75, LWML Mites (15%) \$150.75, KFYO Radio (10%) \$100.50, Bethesda (10%) \$100.50, LCMS World Relief (10%) \$100.50, Food for the Poor (10%) \$100.50, Dakota Ranch (10%) \$100.50

Lutheran Witness The December Lutheran Witness edition is available in the narthex.

2025 Elected Officers The elected officers for 2025 are as follows: President - Gerry Schlechte, Vice President - Otto Rincker, Secretary - Lisa Rincker, Treasurer- Bob Schlechte, Elder - Heath McCormick, Church Trustee- Don Telgmann, Sunday School Superintendent- Diane Jack, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent - Troy Uphoff, Head Usher - Gary Kull, Stewardship - Kay Dust. We extend our thanks to all who have served and continue to serve as officers.

Blanket Making There will be no blanket making on Thursday, December 26th.

Thank You LYF would like to thank the church members that joined us in Christmas Caroling! It was a great afternoon visiting our friends and family.

FOR THE LORD'S WORK

<u>CURRENT OFFERINGS</u>	<u>\$ TO MEET YEARLY BUDGET</u>	<u>\$ RECEIVED</u>	<u>\$ DIFFERENCE</u>
Dec 15	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,115.00	\$ -635.00
year-to-date	\$ 177,375.00	\$195,550.56	\$18,175.56
<u>Synod-Offerings</u>			
Dec 15	\$ 481.00	\$ 410.00	\$ -71.00
year-to-date	\$ 23,050.00	\$23,059.00	\$ 9.00
TRINITY GOAL-\$10,000		Total to Date	\$9,035.00
Building \$230 Trintiy \$60 Seminary Student \$275 LYF \$50 Ladies Aid \$100 Cemetery \$5			
		Dec 11	\$1,533.00
		Dec 15	\$2,712.00

12/31 6:30 PM New Years Eve Service @ Grace
1/1 10:00 AM New Years Day Service @ St. Paul's

Christmas Eve Practice The final Christmas Eve practice for the children will be Monday, December 23 from 6-7 p.m.

Time and Gifts Inventory- Thanks again for returning your Time and Gifts Inventories to St. Paul's. The results were tallied and have been given to the appropriate church council members to invite our members to serve. Praise the Lord! We had hoped we would receive a lot more surveys, but we did receive 23. Many were interested in helping plant flowers and weed the garden/landscaping areas around the church. We have several volunteers to donate their time in decorating the church for holidays. One new member wants to serve as a church officer that is not already doing so! Many will be happy to place flowers in church, donate food at the funeral dinners and help set up for those events. WE have several people willing to write members in the military! We are fortunate to have members that will teach WDS, SS and help with Bible School as they have done in the past. We also have several church members that are willing to house visiting Pastors and provide a meal for visitors—great stewards! Perhaps you failed to turn in those inventories in Oct.. And you have many talents to share or would like to volunteer to help YOUR home church in various ways.....please let any church council member or our Pastor know anytime. Thank You

Offering Envelopes You can pick up your 2025 offering envelopes in the narthex. You can begin using them on **January 5, 2025.**

LYF Soup Luncheon The Joint LYF of Grace, St. Paul's, and Trinity will be hosting a Soup Luncheon on Sunday, January 12 at Trinity Lutheran Church. The youth will begin serving homemade chili and chicken noodle soup, hot dogs, potato chips and desserts from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Dine-in and To-go available! Proceeds from your freewill donations will go toward local youth group activities and trips. We appreciate your support and hope to see you after church on the 12th!

January LYF Meeting The January LYF meeting will be held on Sunday, January 5th at St. Paul's, 6:30pm. Following the meeting, members will be preparing for the soup luncheon.



BIRTHDAYS

22-Jennifer* Wirth
23-Molly Gilbert; Gentry Fender
24-Maude Hartman; Luke Wetherell;
Phyllis Weiss
25-Chris Tabbert
26-Kingston* Rincker
27-Don Doehring; Breck Beltz
28-Noah Vonderheide

HOUSEHOLDS OF THE WEEK

Lori & Kevin Mathis, Arlene McCormick,
Heath & Autumn McCormick, Nick & Kelly
McCormick, Ellen & Matthew McCoy,
Allison & Jacob McIlwain, Troy & Carol
Salazar,
Bob & Ronda Schlechte, Rosemary
Schlechte, Gerry & Dawn Schlechte,
Whitney & Blake Furr

Recorded Services

Website: stpaul-strasburg.com

YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Strasburg Illinois

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church

PRAYER

Dianna Gibson	Anna Schlechte
Nick Hanfland	Kendall Fulk
Frances York	Wayne Wirth
Robert Pfeiffer	Ronda Schlechte
Margaret Swank	Nick Oller
Beulah Ulmer	Debra Richards
Karla Tabbert	

LIMITED MOBILITY

Rose Schlechte- StoneBridge
Robert Stremming
Imogene Lading – Villas of Holly Brook
Bill Orr
Rosemary Sporleder-Brookstone
Mattoon
Mildred Rincker – Heartland, Neoga
Doris Stremming – Willowbrook,
Effingham
Margaret Swank – Willowbrook
Effingham

FRIENDS & FAMILY **(non-members)**

Cody Chasteen (Sue's nephew; ATV
Accident)
Ken Daily (Karen Pfeiffer's father)
stroke
Zona Doty (Health)
Walker Warden (cancer)
Christie Dust (Howard & Kay's
daughter) (Primary Progressive
Multiple Sclerosis)
Laikyn Bauer (Digeorge syndrome)
Matt Durbin
Ivan Crutcher (cancer, Karen Rentfro's
uncle)

Adopted Seminary Students 2024-25

4TH Year Student

Micah Brown (Wife Jen)

6C Founders Way

St. Louis, MO 63105

mrbrown5462@gmail.com

2nd Year Student

Hunter Kinnison (Wife Naomi)

6600 North Clinton St., Box 194

Fort Wayne, IN 46825

**2024-25 Vicar assignment at Concordia
Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN**
Joshua Gerken (Wife Rachel, son Callan)
5418 Brighton Dr.
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

4th Sunday in Advent – Setting One

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343

1 Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story: Refrain

ref Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

2 God's people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain

3 Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him! Refrain

4 His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding: Refrain

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001500

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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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

1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b–7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b–47

Kyrie

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

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

Micah 5:2–5a

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Hebrews 10:5–10

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

C **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**
Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39–45

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

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

The Gospel is Read

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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'rst 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 Micah 5:2-5a "Our Peace"

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.**

Prayer of the Church

Offertory

LSB 159

- C** *What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.*

Preface

LSB 160

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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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 161

C *Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be

our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

- C** *Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.*
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed

LSB 560

- 1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.
- 2 Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,
Christ crucified, I come.
- 3 Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain,
Christ crucified, I come.
- 4 And then for work to do for Thee,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me,
Christ crucified, I come.

Text: Genevieve M. Irons, 1855–1928
Text: Public domain

I Lay My Sins on Jesus

LSB 606

- 1 I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From the accursèd load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.

2 I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases; My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.

3 I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces; I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89 Text: Public domain

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

LSB 627

- 1 Jesus Christ, our blessèd Savior,
Turned away God's wrath forever;
By His bitter grief and woe
He saved us from the evil foe.
- 2 As His pledge of love undying,
He, this precious food supplying,
Gives His body with the bread,
And with the wine the blood He shed.
- 3 Jesus here Himself is sharing;
Heed then how you are preparing,
For if you do not believe,
His judgment then you shall receive.
- 4 Praise the Father, who from heaven
To His own this food has given,
Who, to mend what we have done,
Gave into death His only Son.
- 5 Firmly hold with faith unshaken
That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are distressed,
By hearts that long for peace and rest.

- 6 Agony and bitter labor
Were the cost of God's high favor;
Do not come if you suppose
You need not Him who died and rose.
- 7 Christ says: "Come, all you that labor,
And receive My grace and favor:
Those who feel no pain or ill
Need no physician's help or skill.
- 8 "For what purpose was My dying
If not for your justifying?
And what use this precious food
If you yourself were pure and good?"
- 9 If your heart this truth professes
And your mouth your sin confesses,
You will be your Savior's guest,
Be at His banquet truly blest.
- 10 Let this food your faith so nourish
That its fruit of love may flourish
And your neighbor learn from you
How much God's wondrous love can do.

Text: John Hus, c. 1369–1415; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2, 4–5, 7, 9): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (sts. 3, 8): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 6, 10): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, alt.
Text (sts. 1–2, 4–5, 7, 9): Public domain
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Thank the Lord

LSB 164

- C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.***

Post-Communion Collect

- P** 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.

Benediction

LSB 166

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.

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

LSB 375

- 1 Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.
- 2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending
And in love our race befriending;
In our need His help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe.
- 3 Jacob's star in all its splendor
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender,
Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.
- 4 From the bondage that oppressed us,
From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us,
We, the captives, now are free.
- 5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing
That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

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Next Week's Readings – Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:22-40

This Week's Memory Verse – Micah 5:5a "And he shall be their peace."

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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