

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

"Be faithfully obedient to the living Christ in making disciples of all people."

The Coming of the Christ Brings True Rejoicing in His Forgiveness

When he preaches repentance, John the Baptist points us to Christ Jesus. John was sent by God *"as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him"* (John 1:7). He baptizes with water in order to *"make straight the way of the Lord,"* who shall redeem His people from their sins (John 1:23). That Lord Jesus *"who comes after"* John now stands among us and makes Himself known to us (John 1:26–27). He has been anointed by the Holy Spirit *"to bring good news to the poor"* and *"to bind up the brokenhearted"* (Is. 61:1). By the washing of the water with His Word and Spirit, He clothes His Church with *"the garments of salvation"* and adorns her with His own righteousness *"as a bride adorns herself with her jewels"* (Is. 61:10). Therefore, we *"rejoice always"* in the Lord, *"pray without ceasing"* and *"give thanks in all circumstances"* (1 Thess. 5:16–18). For *"the God of peace,"* who has called you by the Gospel, will surely *"sanctify you completely,"* so that *"your whole spirit and soul and body"* will *"be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Thess. 5:23–24).

Thanks to those who Served Today

Elder: Gary McCall

Ushers: Jim Thies, Denny Mordhorst

Organist: Lynette Thies

Screen: Audrey Gust

Altar Care: Teresa Mordhorst **Altar Flowers:** Deanna Sorensen

Finance: Audrey Gust, Dave Seieroe, Linda Seieroe

Acolytes: Josiah Peitsch, Michael Sorensen

Midweek Service: Hannah Peitsch, Morgan Teut

Sunday Acolytes: Carter Leitz

Christmas Eve program: Leah Kelm, Hannah Peitsch

Those Serving in January

Elder: Steve Gust

Ushers: Gary Goslar, Kevin Vogt, John Thies

Organist: Lynette Thies

Screen: Audrey Gust

Altar Care: Linda Seieroe **Altar Flowers:** Terri Mohr

Finance: John Thies, Harvey Thies

ABOUT THE SERVICE

WELCOME: We welcome you to St Paul's! It is a joy to have you here to worship with us. Our Lord has done a great many things through our congregation over the past 125 years and we look forward to what He will do through us as we work together as His children for many more years to come. May God bless us all as we worship together in His house!



ABOUT THE LORD'S SUPPER: By celebrating the Lord's Supper we care for Christ's people, Christ's Supper, and Christ's teachings. What Jesus gives us in the Lord's

Supper is His true body and blood under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins. God's Word also teaches that receiving the Lord's Supper together implies that we share the same beliefs. Therefore, we kindly ask that guests who desire to receive the Lord's Supper today speak to the Pastor prior to the beginning of the service.

STANDING: Although it is proper to sit and stand at certain times during the Divine Service, please feel free to sit when needed.

WEEKLY CALENDAR:

Sun: 9:00 a.m. – Christmas Eve practice/Sunday School & Bible Class
10:00 a.m. – Divine Service w/Holy Communion
Special Voters meeting after church
Tues: Pastor in Mapleton
Wed: 11:00 a.m. – Bible Class
No Catechism classes
6:00 p.m. – Midweek Advent supper
7:00 p.m. – Midweek Advent service
Fri: Pastor Family Day
Sun: 9:00 a.m. – Christmas Eve practice/Sunday School
10:00 a.m. – Divine Service
6:00 p.m. – Sunday School Christmas Eve Program

Divine Service 1—page 151

(^ indicates worshipers stand)

Prelude, Ringing of the Bell

Hymn..... #349

"Hark the Glad Sound"

^Confession & Absolution.... p.151

^Introit..... Sheet

^Kyrie..... p.152

Hymn..... #357

v.1, 6-7 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

^Salutation and Collect..... p.156

Readings..... Sheet

Old: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

^Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Hymn..... #849

"Praise the One Who Breaks the
Darkness"

Sermon: "Sprouts of Praise"

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

^Nicene Creed..... p.158

^Prayer of the Church..... p.159

Offering

Offertory..... p.159

^Preface..... p.160

^Sanctus..... p.161

^Lord's Prayer..... p.162

^The Words of our Lord..... p.162

^Agnus Dei..... p.163

Distribution

^Post Communion Canticle... p.164

^Post Communion Collect.... p.166

^Benediction..... p.166

^Hymn..... #921

"On What Has Now Been Sown"

CURRENT BIBLE CLASSES:

- Wednesday Morning Bible Class (Meets in the LYF Room- 11am).

ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY & OTHER INFORMATION

SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING: Short Special Voters meeting today after the service.

GIVING TREE: Help us decorate our Christmas giving tree in the back of church with hats, mitten & socks this Christmas season. The tree will be there until December 31st. All items collected will be donated to the local schools.

CATECHISM: No Catechism on December 20th & 27th

CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE: Sunday School will begin at 9:00 a.m. with Christmas Eve practice first next Sundays. All children who plan to be in the Christmas Eve Program must come to practice.

ADVENT SERVICE: We will be having Midweek Advent services on Wednesday night December 20 at 7:00 p.m. with supper starting at 6:00 p.m.

LYF BIBLE STUDY: LYF Bible Study is today from 7:00-8:30 pm

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE: Pastor and his family would like to invite you to a Christmas Open House at the parsonage on Saturday, January 6 from 2-4pm.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE: Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion will be held at 10:00 a.m.

POINSETTIAS: Congregation members are invited to donate poinsettias to beautify the church during the Christmas season. They may be brought in and left on the table in the overflow room. Put your name on a label and attach it to the container. Fill out the sheet with your name and who is being remembered.

CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM: The Sunday School Christmas program will be presented Christmas Eve at 6:00 p.m.

OLD TABLES: St. Paul's has some old folding tables that we no long use and would like to find a new home for them. For more information please call Gary Goslar 712-882-3066

OLD SPIRES: We are needing to make room in the church shed. So we are look for people that would like to be entered into the drawing for 1 of the 4 old spires that were atop the church for many years. If you are interest, put you name in the box in the back of church. The drawing will be hold on January 14th at the Voter's meeting.

STANDING DURING HYMNS: An ancient part of Christian piety, honor, and respect has been shown throughout history by standing for God. We continue this tradition standing during the doxological stanzas of a hymn. —those stanzas which specifically state the Triune God's Name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Third Sunday in Advent
December 17, 2023**



John 1:6-8, 19-28

St. Pauls Lutheran Church—LCMS

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Secretary cell #: 208-0224

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Church Website: stpaulsute.org

Pastor Email address: pastornpeitsch@gmail.com

Elders: Head Elder: Bruce Mohr: 269-8771;

Steve Gust: 840-1598; John Thies: 882-3379;

Gary McCall: 269-9021