

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

December 15, 2024

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	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	Doris Supan	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	Gerry & Dawn Schlechte		

THIS WEEK WITH THE LORD

SUN. 8:30 AM Worship Service-Choir sings
9:30 AM SS, Alpha, W.L.S., H.S., College+
5:30 PM Worship Service @ Grace

TUE. 9:00 AM Morning Bible Study

WED. 8:00 AM **Guide/Bulletin**
8:30 AM Chair Yoga
10:30 AM Advent Service @ Grace
6:30 PM Advent Service @ St. Paul
6:30-8PM WDS

SUN. 8:30 AM Communion Service
9:30 AM SS, Alpha, W.L.S., H.S., College+
5:30 PM Worship Service @ Grace

December 8 8:30: 149 Year Ago: 120 Sunday School: 25

Welcome Welcome! Isaiah declares: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (12:3, NRSV). May we be nourished by God's gift of salvation as we worship. *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.

****New Address**** Doris Stremming's new address is: Doris Stremming, Willowbrook House #1, 100 E Blohm Ave., Effingham, IL. 62401. Doris will be celebrating her 96th birthday on Monday, December 16 and would enjoy receiving cards.

FOR THE LORD'S WORK

<u>CURRENT OFFERINGS</u>	<u>\$ TO MEET YEARLY BUDGET</u>	<u>\$ RECEIVED</u>	<u>\$ DIFFERENCE</u>
Dec 8	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 5,232.00	\$ 1,482.00
year-to-date	\$ 173,625.00	\$192,435.56	\$18,810.56
<u>Synod-Offerings</u>			
Dec 8	\$ 481.00	\$ 515.00	\$ 34.00
year-to-date	\$ 22,569.00	\$22,649.00	\$ 80.00
TRINITY GOAL-\$10,000		Total to Date	\$8,975.00

Building \$825 Trinity \$125 Seminary Student \$305 Rev. Alex Gordon \$100
 Choir \$50 Lutheran Care Center \$100 LYF \$25 Lutheran Hour Ministries \$30
 Food For the Poor \$500 Ladies Aid \$100

Dec 4 \$267.00
Dec 5 \$785.00
Dec 8 \$6,855.00

12/24 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Service @ St. Paul's
 12/25 9:00 AM Christmas Day Service @ Grace
 12/26 8:30 AM Blanket Making

Christmas Eve Program Our children are busy preparing for the Christmas Eve program. This year's title is "His Name Shall Be Called". The children will explain the different names of Jesus we so often use around Christmas time. Hymns that will be sung that evening are also centered around this theme. Autumn McCormick is leading the preschool and kindergarten students from her Sunday School class. Dee Dee Batson and Susie Allen are directing the program for grades 1-8. Sheryl Vonderheide is leading the music and chimes. The congregation will be surprised and delighted as Mary and Joseph enter during the reading of Luke 2. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. on December 24. Offerings from the Christmas Eve program go towards the Education (Sunday School) fund.

January Newsletter Please have your January news articles in the office by December 15th. Thank you!

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



ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

15-Chris Storm
16-Doris Stremming; Blakely Tabbert
17-Collin Ohnesorge
18-Tina Daniels
20-Ellen McCoy
21-Mark Kull ; Christian Merriman;
Shelby Wirth; Cody* Logue

HOUSEHOLDS OF THE WEEK

Jonathan & Abby Luce, Mark & Melissa Luce, Sarah Luce, Kathy Manhart, Wes & Rose Manhart, Cassie Schultheis, Dean Schultz, Gary & Johnna Schultz, Alex Shadwell, Brian & Lisa Shelton, Ashley Sherrill

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**

3rd Sunday In Advent – Setting Four

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

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 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, 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 146:5–8; 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

Zephaniah 3:14–20

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Philippians 4:4–7

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Sings “When Will He Come” (Besig/Price)

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

Luke 7:18–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh 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.**

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

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness, All you children of the day!"
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv'n;
- 4 So, when next He comes in glory And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy And with words of love draw near.
- D 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion To the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit While eternal ages run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt. Text: Public domain

Sermon Philippians 4:4-7 "Rejoice"**Prayer of the Church**

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For pastors and church workers, that God would send them as messengers before the face of Jesus to prepare His way, making known His saving name; and that Christ would open the ears of all who hear to rejoice, repent and firmly believe, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who suffer for the name of Jesus, that our heavenly Father, who rescues the daughter of Zion, would look on them with compassion, giving them wisdom when they are pressured to compromise, providing for them when they suffer loss, granting courage when they are afraid, and delivering them from all evil, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our homes, that God would provide companionship for those who are alone, strengthen the bonds of marriage, and equip parents to raise their children in love and faith; and that, for Jesus' sake, our homes would be places of joy, reasonableness, peace and prayer, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our republic in its need, that abandoning all anxiety, we would instead, by prayer and thanksgiving, make our requests known to God; for the authorities and those newly elected, that God would give wisdom, health and success to those who govern us; and for peace in our time, even as we rest confident in the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the anxious, that the God of all joy would forgive their doubts, reveal the causes of their doubts, and guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, through whom all prayers are heard, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those in need, [*especially* _____,] let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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.**

Benedicamus

LSB 212

P 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.**

Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing

LSB 737

- 1 Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing,
A cheerful trust maintain;
For God, the source of ev'rything,
Your portion shall remain.
- 2 He is your treasure, He your joy,
Your life and light and Lord,
Your counselor when doubts annoy,
Your shield and great reward.
- 3 Why spend the day in blank despair,
In restless thought the night?
On your Creator cast your care;
He makes your burdens light.
- 4 Did not His love and truth and pow'r
Guard ev'ry childhood day?
And did He not in threat'ning hour
Turn dreaded ills away?
- 5 He only will with patience chide,
His rod falls gently down;
And all your sins He casts aside
In ocean depths to drown.
- 6 His wisdom never plans in vain
Nor falters nor mistakes.
All that His counsels may ordain
A blessèd ending makes.

7 Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,
And trust His guiding love;
Then like a rock your peace shall stand
Here and in heav'n above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt. Text: Public domain

Next Week's Readings – Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45

This Week's Memory Verse – Philippians 4:7 "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understating, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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