

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Growing in Faith, Missions, Living, and Giving

Bonduel, Wisconsin
December 10/11, 2016

The Third Sunday in Advent

Welcome to the House of the Lord

John the Baptist is Advent's key figure, at first. But he points to One greater, One whose sandals he is not worthy to stoop down to untie. That was last week's Gospel reading in Matthew 3. In chapter 11, today's reading, John is in prison, wondering if Jesus really is the One who would introduce the reigning, acting power of God. If he is, John wonders why he is in prison! Why would he be beheaded? Often, our appointed Epistle readings do not complement the Old Testament and Gospel theme. Today's does. "Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord." That's good biblical advice established in God's promise, the "coming of the Lord". He will return. He keeps us ready. With John the Baptist, with James the apostle, and with Christians near and far who suffer strife from this world's sin, we wait patiently, but confidently, for the Lord is coming soon. Welcome to all who gather in the name of Jesus, our Lord.



Opening Hymn

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Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Confession and Absolution

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Psalmody

Psalm 146

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD his God.

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in princes,

in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

When his breath departs he returns to the earth;

on that very day his plans perish.

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD his God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed,

who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The LORD will reign forever,

your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn of Response

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1–10

The 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

James 5:7–11

Be 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music

7:00pm

Savior of the Nations, Come

The Holy Gospel

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

Now when 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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

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Hymn

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God Loved the World So That He Gave

Sermon

Offering

Recognition of Mr. Carl Kosbab – Sexton

8:00am

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn **348** *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*



Acknowledgments

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SERVING THE LORD IN WORSHIP

| | | | |
|------------------|--|----------------|-----------------------|
| Liturgy | Rev. Mark R. Palmer | Sermon | Rev. Timothy J. Shoup |
| Organists | Saturday Mrs. Debbie Welch | | |
| | Sunday Mrs. Lorraine Doell | | |
| Music | 7:00pm Schmidt Quartet | | |
| | 10:15am Preschool, 4K, and Kindergarten Christmas Service | | |
| Acolytes | Alicia Oviedo | Carli Anderson | Jake Dreyer |

PRAYERS

In Need of Healing . . . *J.J. Brusewitz, Kay Brusewitz, Makenzie Dingeldein, Kathy Ebert, Michelle Hermann, Wally Kirsch, Gregory Kopitske, Jr., Mary Luepke, Willa Rusch, Brittany Slack, David Wegner, Pat Wudtke, and Joan Zittlow.*



We pray for . . . the family of *James Brandt*, who passed away on Sunday, December 4 and was given Christian burial at St. Paul on Thursday, December 8.

We pray for . . . the family of *Lee Alan Renard*, son of Eric and Kristen, who was prematurely born after a 6-month pregnancy and passed away on Tuesday, December 6.

Baptisms . . . *Parker Robert Davis*, born February 15, 2011, and *Benjamin Lee Davis*, born August 17, 2012, sons of Ben Davis and Kaelyn Swosinski, were baptized Friday, December 9. Their sponsor is Travis Lewis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Orders are now being taken for poinsettias . . . Sign up in the narthex, church office, or you may call Karen Baker at 715–853–9137. Cost is \$16 per plant. Checks should be made out to St. Paul Lutheran Church. The deadline for ordering poinsettias is Sunday, December 18.

| <i>Attended/Communed – December 3 & 4, 2016</i> | | | |
|--|------|---------|---------|
| Saturday | 12/3 | 7:00pm | 83/ 67 |
| Sunday | 12/4 | 8:00am | 200/159 |
| Sunday | 12/4 | 10:15am | 263/139 |
| Total | | | 546/365 |

November 2016 Thrivent Choice Dollars . . . were \$1,873.

Church Offerings

We have given 2% more than last year through the first five months of this fiscal year. We give thanks to God for this. However, our offerings are less than what we planned/budgeted to receive so far. ***Our General Fund operating debt (which covers our total church and school budget) has increased to \$146,000.*** At Christmas time, our joy in giving becomes especially apparent. While our response for the “So They Set Their Hope in Him” emphasis is truly amazing, surely we will continue to give to the Lord with joy and thanksgiving to support our week to week needs as well. Printed below is the allocation to date, as well as the amount already received to date, for our “Hope in Him” emphasis.

So They Set Their Hope in Him Stewardship Emphasis Update

| Mortgage | School Repair | WRLHS | Missionaries | Total | Received |
|-----------|---------------|----------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| \$515,822 | \$366,817 | \$99,819 | \$35,930 | \$1,018,389 | \$103,680 |

Attention Mission Circle Members . . . The Mission Circle’s Christmas Meeting will be on Thursday, December 15, at 1:00pm. Besides the regular Mite Box collection, there will be a special offering to benefit the Derricks and Lutherans for Life. There will be a \$3 gift exchange for anyone who wishes to participate. Guests are always welcome.

Children's Christmas Services

Sunday, December 11 – 10:15am Preschool, 4K, and Kindergarten

Monday, December 19 – 7:00pm Grades 5 – 8

Thursday, December 22 – 7:00pm Grades 1 – 4

Reminder that the Christmas Care event . . . will take place **today**, Sunday, December 11 after the 10:15am service at 11:30am in the fellowship hall.

Endowment Fund requests . . . are now being taken. An electronic form may be found on the St. Paul website at www.stpaulbonduel.com on the Links page under the Resources tab. Email the form to t.anderson@stpaulbonduel.com.

Lutheran Hour . . . "Peace On Earth, Peace That Lasts" (Matthew 1:18–25) What is the key to real and lasting peace on earth? Jesus, God with us. Tune in next Sunday to hear Lutheran Hour Speaker Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz at 7:30am on WTCH/960 AM or at 10:00am on WRVM/102.7.

Pastor Naumann's Newsletter . . . may be found and picked up in the narthex.

Give the Perfect Gift . . . Give Blood. A blood drive will be held in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, December 13, from 12:00 – 5:00pm. To make an appointment, sign up in the narthex, or register online at redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code stpaulbonduel. Volunteers are needed. Contact Audrey Wussow at 715–758–8856 with questions.

St. Jakobi Lutheran Church . . . will present *A Musical Gift to the Christ Child* on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30pm. There will be fellowship with refreshments and snacks after the concert.

Acolyte Schedule Next Week

12/17 Austin Prochaska

12/18 Hailey Zernicke Charlie Tauchen

SCRIP Schedule Next Week

12/17 Sandy Staszak

12/18 Patti Rosin Pam Schmidt

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

- SUN. 12/11** 8:00am Worship
9:15am Bible Bowl Practice
9:15am Bible Class (8th grade room)
10:15am Worship – Preschool, 4K, and Kindergarten Christmas Service
11:30pm Christmas Care
5:00pm SPYRT Christmas Party Potluck
- MON. 12/12** 7:30am Strong Bones
6:00pm Board of Parish Education
6:00pm Board of Parish Fellowship
- TUES. 12/13** 7:00am Bible Study
8:00am Quilting
12:00pm – 5:00pm Blood Drive
7:00pm Church Council
- WED. 12/14** 4:00pm – 6:00pm Food Pantry
5:00pm Public School Confirmation
6:00pm 5/6 Grade Confirmation
6:00pm Bell Choir
6:30pm SPYRT Feed the Flock
7:00pm Board of Elders
7:05pm Choir
- THURS. 12/15** 1:00pm Mission Circle
6:30pm Family Ministry
- FRI. 12/16** 7:30am Strong Bones
SCRIP due by noon
- SAT. 12/17** 7:00pm Worship – Holy Communion
- SUN. 12/18** 8:00am Worship – Holy Communion
9:15am Bible Bowl Practice
9:15am Bible Class (8th grade room)
10:15am Worship – Holy Communion



Rev. Timothy J. Shoup, Administrative Pastor, Rev. Mark R. Palmer, Associate Pastor

Mr. Gerald R. Schmidt, Principal

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