

Advent I

ADVENT – an ancient word referring to the appearing of a god or king. For Christians, **ADVENT** refers to the appearing of Jesus Christ, our God and King, in a two-fold manner.

- ❖ **Christmas Day** – His first appearing – the Spirit-conceived Child born of the Virgin Mary, prophesied and fulfilled.
- ❖ **Judgment Day** – His second appearing – in glory on the Last Day to judge the living and the dead, to give eternal life to all believers, to those whose robes have been washed in the blood of the Lamb.

BEHOLD,
YOUR KING
IS COMING
TO YOU;
RIGHTEOUS
AND
HAVING
SALVATION.

ADVENT CUSTOMS

- ◆ The **WREATH** – symbolizes Jesus, the Light of the world, which the darkness of sin and death cannot overcome.
- ◆ Advent **BLUE** – is a royal, majestic color, a color of hope. Biblical New Testament hope means to have a guaranteed outcome of a future event. Christ will come again for us and for our salvation.
- ◆ **O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL** – the beautiful 12th century hymn is based on seven ancient prayers printed beside hymn #357. You may wish to turn there for pre-service meditation.

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Growing in Faith, Missions, Living, and Giving

Bonduel, Wisconsin

December 2/3, 2017

The First Sunday in Advent



Ringling of the Church Bells

We begin worship singing the first stanza of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” unaccompanied. With one voice we humbly enter the presence of the Lord, pleading for God to be with us.

Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (357)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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

Advent Litany

A profound mystery believed in faith and revealed in Scripture is our state of hopelessness apart from Christ’s righteousness and forgiveness. Let us confess our sins with the very words of Isaiah.

Behold, you were angry,
and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time,
and shall we be saved?

O LORD, remember not iniquity forever.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

O LORD, remember not iniquity forever.

But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look,
we are all your people.

O LORD, remember not iniquity forever.

Behold, your King is coming to you, righteous and having salvation. As His called and ordained servant, in His stead and by His command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Psalmody — Psalm 80:1–7

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,

stir up your might and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

O LORD God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears

and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,

and our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

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.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading — Isaiah 64:1–9

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading — 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— ³⁶lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

page 158 or inside back cover of hymnal

Hymn **339** *Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors*

Sermon

Offering *Please complete the friendship register found at the end of the pew.*

Prayer of the Church

The Service of the Sacrament **page 160**

Note for those desiring to commune... Our practice of close communion is the Biblical and historic practice of the Christian church. It is prompted by love, both for God's Word and for His people since it seeks to prevent spiritual damage to those who do not recognize the true body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine in this Holy Supper (1 Corinthians 11:29). Furthermore, it does not deny that members of other denominations are Christians. Rather, it bows the knee to the Bible's deep concern for doctrinal truth (Romans 16:17) and the Bible's witness that the Lord's Supper is the highest expression of fellowship and doctrinal unity (Acts 2:42). For this reason, guests who are not a member of a sister LCMS congregation are asked to speak to our pastor before communing.

Distribution Hymns **621** **341** **348** **624**

Closing Hymn *Savior of the Nations, Come* **(332)**

Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.



Serving the Lord in Worship

Liturgy Rev. Mark R. Palmer **Sermon** Rev. Timothy J. Shoup
Organist Mrs. Debbie Welch
Acolytes Austin Prochaska Hailey Zernicke Alicia Oviedo

Prayers

In Need of Healing . . . Carol Bartels, Carl Busch, Michelle Hermann, Shirley Kieckhafer, Lee Kohn, Gregory Kopitske, Jr., Jim Luepke, Brittany Slack, Grant Staszak, Todd Wegner, and Gary Wolf.



We Pray for . . . the family of *Carole Newman*, who was called to her eternal rest on Sunday, November 26, and given Christian burial at St. Paul on Thursday, November 30.

Announcements

Sunday Morning Bible Class . . . A six-week session based on the movie *Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the World*, will begin **today**, December 3. (Please note we will not meet December 24 and December 31.) Each session consists of watching approximately fifteen minutes of the movie and then reviewing what we saw, making Scriptural connections, and discussing how what we viewed applies to our lives today. Please consider joining us in the fellowship hall after the first service for refreshments, fellowship, and Bible study.

Attendance – November 22/23, 25/26 2017

Wednesday	11/22	7:00pm	134
Thursday	11/23	9:00am	121
Saturday	11/25	7:00pm	147
Sunday	11/26	8:00am	165
Sunday	11/26	10:15am	<u>181</u>
		Total	748

December calendars . . . Pick up a December calendar from the table in the narthex.

A Note from Pastor Shoup...

Think of our congregation moving like an inch worm. The middle part scooches up, the tail follows, while the front is motionless. Next, the front end nudges forward, the back portion is still, and the middle stretches out. What am I getting at? We move and grow, struggle and stretch at different times in different respects at St. Paul Lutheran. Our pre-school is strong in enrollment again, and these families provide opportunity for us to bring salvation to them in Christ. Stretching! Our K–8th grade has a recent record enrollment of 181, the highest in at least 10 years – moving forward! In a couple years it appears our enrollment will jump up again after our smaller-in-number 7th grade class graduates. More children receiving a foundation in Christian faith through our school. It's wonderful! Our Wednesday evening public school confirmation program is well attended too, this year with sixteen 7th and 8th graders. More movement! Let's think of our school as the back and middle portions of our "inch worm" church, moving forward. Meanwhile, in the sanctuary, we are actually not idle, or moving forward. We've backed up, for a few different reasons. Like school enrollment, our total church membership continues on an upward trend, however, this is not carrying over to more people hearing the Lord and receiving His supper each week in worship. Approximately 10% fewer people are worshipping each week for the months June through October of 2017 as compared to the same months in 2016. Our offerings have followed the same path. We need to get this moving forward again. Many of you reading this note are core members of St. Paul, children of God who have been here for years or even for generations, or for a short while, but who are humbly grateful for the ultimate gift of forgiveness and salvation, *and* who have a deep sense of ownership in our congregation and total ministry including our school and missions. We need to intentionally work together to "move the front portion forward", to continue to make sure we are fed in faith while drawing and inviting the people around us to come closer to the core, to the center of our congregational life, to share a sense of ownership, to see Christ and Salvation as the absolute center of life, and therefore our work together as a congregation as a key part of life, too. Time to be depressed? Nope. We have significant participation of members in dozens of ways. Our Hope in Him special three year offering is going beautifully, a third of the money already received. Children are full of joy in our school and full of Christ. Above all, the Lord knows where we are, what we need, and what we need to do here at St. Paul. He is here to bless and keep us this Advent Season, at Christmas, and upon His Return. He's on our side. He's in your lives. His Word is present and active, the power of God unto salvation for us and for those yet to believe. We are a part of His everlasting Body. Let's share the Good News with those we love and meet each week, and encourage them to be here with us.



Christmas Poinsettia Orders . . . are now being taken. Write your information on an envelope provided in the narthex and enclose a check or correct cash. Place the envelope in the box in the narthex. Cost is \$17 per plant. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 17. Checks should be made out to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Questions may directed to Jean Hedtke at 715-758-2728.

Sunday School . . . The next session of Sunday School will begin at 9:15am on December 10th. No registration is required. **We are still looking** for a Sunday School teacher for our 1st – 3rd grade class. If interested please contact Bridgett Dingeldein at 715-853-7991.



Benefit . . . a benefit for Brittany Slack is being held on December 9th in Kewaunee. This event is being sponsored by her brother-in-law. He asked us if we want to help by finding some items for a silent auction. If anyone has items they may want to contribute, it would be greatly appreciated. Any item may be dropped off at the school office or at 104 Maple Drive. Brittany is our granddaughter, and Tim and Debbie's 26 year-old daughter. She has a seven-month old baby, and she has been battling lymphoma for the past 14 months.
Bill and Tillie Kallies



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive . . . Blood donations often decline this time of year when donors get busy with festivities of the season and travel. Severe winter weather and seasonal illnesses can also have a serious impact on blood donations, but the need for blood remains steady. Eligible donors with ALL TYPES ARE NEEDED, especially those with O negative, A negative and B negative. A blood drive will be held in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, December 12, from Noon – 5:00 pm. To make an appointment, sign up in the narthex or register online: redcrossblood.org. **Enter sponsor code: stpaulbonduel.** Individuals who are 17, weigh at least 110 pounds, and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Volunteers are also needed for registration, workers in the donor area, and cookies for the canteen. The December donor treat is hot chocolate. Your commitment is appreciated for this worthwhile cause.

The Lutheran Hour . . . "Prep Time" (*Mark 1:1–3*) Preparing for Christmas is quite different than preparing for Christ. Today's Lutheran Hour message explores those differences. Tune in next Sunday to hear Lutheran Hour guest speaker Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus at 7:30am on WTCH/960 AM or at 10:00am on WRVM/102.7 FM. The weekly broadcast may also be heard anytime online at [.org](#).

A Musical Gift to the Christ Child . . . will be given once again to enrich your real celebration of Christmas at St Jakobi Lutheran Church, 2 miles west of highway 47 on County A, on Wednesday, December 13, at 6:30pm. The program will include choral selections by the St. Jakobi "Voices of Praise", St James Lutheran school hand chime choirs, Wolf River Lutheran High School Choir and ensemble, instrumental solos, Bible readings of the Christmas story, individual musical selections, and hymns by the congregation. There will be fellowship with refreshments/snacks after the service/concert.

Alleluia! It's Christmas! . . . a family event will take place Wednesday, December 13, 5:30pm – 8:30pm, at Alleluia Lutheran Church, 6725 Elmro Rd., Greenleaf, WI. Activities include live nativity walk, live music, free hot dogs, apple cider, cookies, hot cocoa, face painting, ornament making, and photo station.

Acolyte Schedule Next Week

Dec. 9	Cashten Davis	
Dec. 10	Reid Schwerin	Ella Hischke

SCRIP Schedule Next Week

Dec. 9	Sandy Staszak	
Dec. 10	Patti Rosin	Sheila Bahr

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sun. 12/3 8:00am Worship– Holy Communion
9:00am Fellowship (Parish Fellowship #1)
9:15am Bible Study (Martin Luther)
10:15am Worship– Holy Communion
SCRIP collected



Mon. 12/4 7:30am Strong Bones
6:00pm Board of Trustees
6:00pm Board of Parish Fellowship
7:00pm Church Worker Scholarship Meeting

Tues. 12/5 7:00am Bible Study
8:00am Quilters

Wed. 12/6 5:00pm Public School Confirmation
6:00pm 5th & 6th grade Confirmation
6:00pm Youth Christmas Party
6:00pm Bell Choir
7:00pm Board of Elders
7:05pm Choir

Thurs. 12/7 1:30pm Ladies Aid
7:00pm Men's Club

Fri. 12/8 7:30am Strong Bones
SCRIP due by noon

Sat. 12/9 7:00pm Worship
SCRIP collected

Sun. 12/10 8:00am Worship
9:00am Fellowship (Mission Circle)
9:15am Bible Study (Martin Luther)
9:15am Sunday School
10:15am Worship– *Preschool, 4K, and K Christmas Service*
SCRIP collected



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

Rev. Timothy J. Shoup, Administrative Pastor

Rev. Mark R. Palmer, Associate Pastor

Mr. Gerald R. Schmidt, Principal

Mrs. Lorraine Doell, Music Director

Mrs. Robin Reep, Youth Director

Mrs. Donna Niles, Preschool/4K Director

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