

## *The Third Sunday in Advent*

...and said to him,  
“Are you the one who  
is to come, or shall we  
look for another?”

*Matthew 11:3*

# St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Bonduel, Wisconsin  
December 14/15, 2019

## *The Third Sunday in Advent*

### **Welcome to the House of the Lord**

John the Baptist is like the “best supporting actor”. God uses John to point us to Jesus and to point Him out to us. John was bold. He lived in the wilderness. He confronted the pharisees, the people, and Herod. However, his bold faith lived out in bold speech landed him in prison. That’s where we find the prophet John in today’s gospel reading, in prison, awaiting his execution by beheading. He stopped preaching. He began questioning. He suffered doubt ahead of his death. He asked of His Lord, “Are you the One? Or should we look for someone else?”

God includes today’s reading in Holy Scripture for those of us with reason to doubt God’s timing, care, power, or presence. The season of Advent catches us where we are, in the middle of life’s grip, with our anxieties, disappointments, sins, and doubts clamping down on us. And Advent brings to us the One who releases us from it all. Blessings on your worship.

Look forward to:

Christmas Caroling – this (Sunday) afternoon 3:30pm

Christmas Programs — 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm grades 5-8 — 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm grades 1-4

Christmas Eve worship - 2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm

Christmas Day worship - 9:00am

A Bible Book of the Month - for home devotions beginning in January

New Bible Classes - beginning in the new year



**Confession and Absolution**

page 184

**Psalmody — Psalm 146**

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.**

Blessed 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 Ghost;**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.***Salutation and Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

*And with thy spirit.*

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; <sup>2</sup>it 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. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say 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.” <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then 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; <sup>7</sup>the 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. <sup>8</sup>And 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. <sup>9</sup>No 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. <sup>10</sup>And 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.**

**Music**      8:00am      *God with Us, Emmanuel*

## 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. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, 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.**

## **The Holy Gospel**

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

*Glory be to Thee, O Lord.*

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples<sup>3</sup> and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”<sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the 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. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”<sup>7</sup> As 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? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’<sup>11</sup> Truly, 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. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise be to Thee, O Christ.*

**Nicene Creed**

**page 191 or inside back cover of hymnal**

**Hymn**

**760**

*What God Ordains Is Always Good*

**Sermon**

**“When I See What God Is not Doing...”**

*(Matthew 11:3)*

**Offering**

Music during offering

8:00am

*An Advent Alleluia*

**Prayer of the Church**

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 one of our pastors before communing.

**Distribution Hymns**            **348**                            **346**                            **353**

**Nunc Dimittis**            **page 199**

**Closing Hymn**            **350**            *Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*            **(1 and 2)**



Acknowledgments

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## *Serving the Lord in Worship*

**Pastors**            Rev. Timothy J. Shoup and Rev. Mark R. Palmer  
**Organist**            Mrs. Lorraine Doell  
**Music**            8:00am – St. Paul Adult Choir  
**Acolytes**            Griffin Uelmen            Paige Rank            Madysun Marohl

## *Prayers*

**In Need of Healing . . .** *Hailey Born, Bob Buettner, Gabe Delzer, Judy Dobratz, Shirley Kieckhafer, Gregory Kopitske, Jr., Carl Kosbab, Maribeth Peterman, Kevin Schneidewend, Brittany Slack, and Sandy Wegner.*



**Altar Flowers . . .** are placed to the glory of God by Karl and Suzanne Beilfuss, in honor of their son, *Ethan John Beilfuss*, who is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Officer in the Army, and who graduated from UW-Stephens Point on Saturday with honors.

**Bulletin Sponsor and Floral Arrangement . . .** For God's glory and in honor of *Sheldon Born's* 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, the bulletin has been sponsored and a floral arrangement has been placed by his wife, Barbara.

# Announcements

## Children's Christmas Services

**Grades 5 ~ 8**  
December 16 — 7:00pm

**Grades 1 ~ 4**  
December 19 — 7:00pm

## Candlelight Services

**Christmas Eve — December 24**

2:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm

**Christmas Day Service — December 25**

9:00am — With Holy Communion



**Christmas Caroling . . .** Help spread Christmas cheer! Join us for Christmas caroling **today, December 15 at 3:30pm**. We will go to homes of our shut-ins as well as Bonduel and Shawano care facilities to sing Christmas carols, followed by a chili and potluck supper in our fellowship hall. Those attending supper are asked to bring sandwiches or a dessert to pass.



**Christmas Poinsettias . . .** Orders are now being taken for poinsettias. Write your information on an envelope provided in the narthex and enclose a check or the correct cash. The envelope should be placed in the box in the narthex. Cost is \$17 per plant. The deadline for ordering is **today, Sunday, December 15**. Checks should be made out to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Questions may be directed to Jean Hedtke, 715-758-2728.

**Sunday Morning Bible Class . . .** Do you think you could get excited about reading Genesis? Please join us today in the eighth grade classroom between services. Your answer may just surprise you. We will not meet on December 22 or 29. Study of the first eleven chapters of Genesis resumes on January 5.

**Sunday School . . .** Wow! What a busy time of year! We still had a nice group of children last week. Please join us this weekend as we learn about Esther and how God's power saves us. The 4th-6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be discussing the Lost Son.

**The College Ministry Board . . .** is looking for new or updated addresses for college students and military personnel. Please forward addresses to Pastor Palmer or to Bridgett Dingeldein (715-853-7991).

***Attended/Communed – December 7/8, 2019***

Saturday	12/7	7:00pm	89
Sunday	12/8	8:00am	275
Sunday	12/8	<u>10:15am</u>	<u>395</u>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>759</b>

**So They Set Their Hope in Him**

**3-year special offering**

**As of November 30, 2019**

	<b>Mortgage</b>	<b>School Repair</b>	<b>Missions</b>	<b>WRLHS</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Pledged</b>	\$548,185	\$388,845	\$40,442	\$107,314	\$1,084,786
<b>Received</b>	\$534,239	\$327,749	\$32,263	\$92,047	\$986,298

**2020 Contribution Envelopes . . .** are ready to be picked up in the narthex/fellowship hall. Please notify the church office at 715-758-8559 if you have any questions. If you do online giving and would like envelopes for special occasions, notify the church office and they will be issued. Please do not use 2019 envelopes next year. Unused offering envelopes are recycled and used for chapel offerings. Please drop off your unused 2019 envelopes in the box provided in the narthex or the church office.

**Clean, Empty Frosting Tubs Needed . . .** The teachers of Grades 1 – 4 need frosting tubs for a spring arts and crafts project. Your help in saving these would be greatly appreciated. Drop them off in the office at your convenience. Thank you in advance!

**St. Paul Mission Circle's Christmas Meeting and Program . . .** will take place on Thursday, December 19, 1:00pm in the fellowship hall. The special offering will go to Lutherans for Life. Those interested in participating in the gift exchange can bring a \$3–\$5 gift. Guests are welcome to come. Anyone wishing to send a Christmas greeting to Elliot & Serena Derricks can send it to 3659 S. Michiels Rd., Denmark, WI 54208.



**American Red Cross Blood Drive . . .** will be held in the fellowship hall **this Monday, December 16, from 12:00 – 5:00pm.**

To make an appointment, sign up in the narthex. Online registration is also available: **redcrossblood.org** and enter sponsor code **stpaulbonduel** A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Your commitment is appreciated for this worthwhile cause.

## Hope in Him



Praise God – Pledge cards are coming in!

Giving a special offering ...

- ❖ Is a sign of our thanksgiving to God
- ❖ Shows our love for God to our children and grandchildren
- ❖ Gives us things to talk about –
  - We thank God for our church and school and missionaries
  - We praise God for His Word proclaimed here at St. Paul
  - We desire for people young and old to hear God's Good News in Christ

Our extended three-year Hope in Him offerings will be applied to our building mortgage, school improvements, missionaries, and WRLHS.

**The Lutheran Hour . . . "Here to Stay"** — So long as there is time, God won't leave us alone, even if we say that's what we want. The message of Christmas is that God has come to be with us and He's here to stay. How do we know? Dr. Michael Zeigler says God has given us both direct and indirect signs that point us toward this truth. (Matthew 1:18-25) Tune in next Sunday at 7:30am on WTCH/960 AM, at 10:00am on WRVM/102.7 FM, or go to [.lutheranhour.org](http://lutheranhour.org).

### Acolyte Schedule Next Week

**December 21**     Kaiden Thornborrow  
**December 22**     Charlotte Luepke                     Quinn Wesenberg

### SCRIP Schedule Next Week

**December 21**     Patti Herrmann  
**December 22**     Peggy Buchholz (both)

## Thank You From Isaac Palmer

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church and School,

Thank you to St. Paul Lutheran for all of your support and prayers for this incredible mission trip I was on to Africa and Europe. I am overly blessed and honored to have had this international mission opportunity. I am yet even more humbled by all of the supportive people who value so much in continually supporting the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. Thank YOU for your support.

*Isaac Palmer*



## Camp Luther News



### Camp Luther Gift Certificates

Looking for the perfect gift for your children or grandchildren? A Camp Luther Gift Certificate can be purchased in any amount and may be used for Camp Luther summer camps, cottage bookings, and in the canteen! To order, call camp at 715-546-3647.

### Junior Counselor Application Open!

Being a JC is truly a once in a lifetime experience! You meet new friends, grow in your leadership, and get to share your faith in God's beautiful creation. You'll learn from mentors all around you what it means to follow Christ and how to guide campers in that journey. JCs are such a blessing! So, what are you waiting for? If you're in 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, apply today!

[.com/juniorcounselor](http://www.camp-luther.com/juniorcounselor)

## EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

- Sunday 12/15** 8:00am Worship — Holy Communion  
9:00am Fellowship (Men's Club)  
9:15am Bible Study  
9:15am Sunday School  
10:15am Worship — Holy Communion
- Monday 12/16** 7:30am Strong Bones  
12:00pm – 5:00pm Blood Drive  
**NO** Prayer Shawl Ministry  
7:00pm Grades 5–8 Christmas Service
- Tuesday 12/17** 7:00am Bible Study  
8:00am Quilting
- Wednesday 12/18** 11:00am Worship — Holy Communion  
5:00pm Grades 7 & 8 Confirmation Class  
6:00pm Grades 5 & 6 Confirmation Class  
6:30pm SPYRT Christmas Party  
7:05pm Choir
- Thursday 12/19** 1:00pm Mission Circle  
7:00pm Grades 1–4 Christmas Service
- Friday 12/20** 7:30am Strong Bones
- Saturday 12/21** 7:00pm Worship
- Sunday 12/22** 8:00am Worship  
10:15am Worship



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

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