

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Bonduel, Wisconsin
December 7/10, 2023

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Advent. Coming.



He is coming. This season of Advent grabs us from two pinnacles of history. God promises an earth-shaking Advent, both at the coming of His Son, born Christmas Day, and at His reappearing at the end of the age to judge the world. Our Advent worship this year focuses on this Good News of God's twofold promise to COME.

December 3, 2023

Good News

Earth and Heaven will be no more

December 10, 2023

Good News

The New Heaven and New Earth

December 17, 2023

Good News

A Messenger of Good News

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Come Lord Jesus!**

Confession and Absolution

page 184

Psalmody — Psalm 85

LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.

You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!

Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
**for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.**

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

*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.*

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading — Isaiah 40:1–11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music **7:00pm** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Epistle Reading — 2 Peter 3:8–14

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” ⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

inside back cover of hymnal

Good News For Kids

(children through sixth grade invited up)

Hymn 344 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

Sermon “Good News: The New Heaven and New Earth”

Offertory page 192

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.**

Offering (*Please fill in the friendship register found at the end of each pew.
Offering plates are in the narthex.*)

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn 343 *Prepare the Royal Highway*



Acknowledgments

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Serving the Lord in Worship

Pastors Rev. Timothy J. Shoup Rev. Mark R. Palmer
Organist Mrs. Lorraine Doell
Music Grades 5 & 6

Prayers

In Need of Healing . . . *Jon Baker, Bonnie Buss, Bruce Heling, Ron Kohn, Gregory Kopitske, Jr., Tom Kriehn, Joyce Moeller, Sue Nohr, Theresa Runge, Marlene Schmidt, Dalton Schmidt, Aurelia Steinbach, Tracy Sundstrom, Marilyn Tessmann, Dick Wegner, Mark Welch, Jacob Worthington, and Deb Zernicke.*



Announcements



Christmas Poinsettias . . . Orders are now being taken for poinsettias. Please write your information on the envelope provided, and enclose the correct cash or a check written out to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Place the envelope in the wooden box in the narthex. The cost is \$20 per plant. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 17. Questions may be directed to Jean Hedtke at 715-758-2728.

The Booster Club . . . is introducing a new way to support St. Paul's athletic department. You can now become a Comet Backer. A Comet Backer is a membership that involves a monetary donation towards the Booster Club. There are different levels of memberships, all including mentions in every home game program and other package bonuses, depending on the level you choose. The Booster Club raises funds to improve the quality of our athletic programs in various ways and enhance the values that come from participating in athletics. If you would like more information, there are forms available in the office or they can be emailed to you. As always, we appreciate your support!

Mission Circle Christmas Meeting . . . ALL ladies of the congregation are invited to join us for a Christmas meeting and program on Thursday, December 21 at 1:00pm in the fellowship hall. Bryan Wussow will be the special guest and will update his work with Wycliffe Bible Translators. The program will also include a Mite Box devotion and special offering for Shepherd's Watch Christian Academy in Mattoon. Bring a gift to exchange if you wish, and enjoy a light lunch with fellowship. Please mark your calendar, and invite a friend or neighbor to attend with you. Contact Sharon Schrader at 715-524-4014 if you have any questions.

Attended/Communed — November 30/December 3, 2023

Thursday	11/30	7:00pm	88/ 73
Sunday	12/3	8:00am	172/147
		10:15am	<u>180/110</u>
		Total	440/330

Livestream Views

Labor of Love Million Dollar Campaign . . . *What is it?* The North Wisconsin District is committed to raising ONE MILLION DOLLARS in the next two years to reduce the educational debt of NWD professional church workers. *Why do we need it?* We are called to make disciples, to baptize and teach. There is a shortage of called church workers, and the educational debt of young people who do enter the ministry can range from \$40,000 to as high as \$122,000. This level of debt can impede the effectiveness of a professional church worker in the course of their ministry. The Million Dollar Campaign endeavors to “equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12). *How can we help?* We will be sharing more information in January. In the meantime, you can go to the district website, nwdlcms.org, and select “Campaign.” There you will find information and a short video to help you learn more.

The Lutheran Hour . . . Life After Landing" Isaiah 61:1–2

What happens when a passenger suddenly has to be the pilot? Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about the power of words to save. Tune in next Sunday at 7:30am to WTCH/960 AM, WRVM/102.7 FM at 10:00am, or go to lutheranhour.org.

WRLHS Free Christmas Community Event . . . will be held **today**, Sunday, December 10, beginning at 1:30pm. Activities for children, crafts, cocoa, cookies, and meeting Santa will take place. At 4:00pm the WRLHS Choir will sing, followed by Jennie Williamson. Everyone is welcome!

NEW Lutheran High School . . . is searching for a head baseball coach for the 2024 spring season and a head cross country coach for the 2024 fall season. For more information contact Jared Gosse at 920–469–6810 ext. 1005 or 920–676–3686.

Family Devotions Online . . . Starting this Monday, December 11, use our All Things St. Paul QR code (back of the bulletin) for a short pastor led video that will bring encouragement from God's Word for all families. These videos may also be found at the St. Paul Bonduel YouTube website under Playlists.

Associate Pastor Call Update

Questionnaires, which ask us to rank nine pastoral skills or traits desirable in our next associate pastor, are due **today**, December 10. The Board of Elders will use the findings together with a district-provided congregational self-assessment tool to help create a description of our congregational needs and desires in our next associate pastor. The next major step will be the forming of a *call list*. A *call list* is a list of candidates provided by the district president. Each of us will be welcome to submit the name of a pastor to be added to our call list. A form to submit the name of a pastor to be added to the call list will be forthcoming. Meanwhile, we pray, asking the Lord to continue to bless our congregation with faithful pastors and teachers willing to serve.

Director of Church Ministry (DCM) Call Update

At the October Quarterly Voters' Meeting, our congregation elected to expand our ministry by calling a part-time DCM to begin serving here in early 2024. The DCM will report to the administrative pastor and Board of Elders, and will serve God's people by coordinating missions emphases, evangelism efforts, and congregational events, by visiting members and shut-ins, and by teaching Bible classes. Candidates for this position will have a corresponding degree from a Concordia University. If you would like more information, or know of a possible candidate for this called position, please contact Al Kohn or one of our pastors by December 31, 2023.

Camp Luther News . . . Apply Today for Summer Staff / Junior Counselor! Time serving at Camp Luther is time well spent. Discover and cultivate your gifts, talents, and passions. Be encouraged in your faith. Find belonging and enjoy fellowship with others looking to serve God. Find purpose in being a part of something bigger than yourself. Applications will be open until early February so don't miss your chance to serve God through Camp Luther. Are you ready to spend time this summer telling others about Jesus? Apply today at campluther.com/why-serve?



Earn exceptional interest while supporting the mission of the LCMS!

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is launching a 2.5-year term note at a fixed rate of 6.25%. It's available to both LCMS individuals and congregations, is fast and easy to open and is also available as an IRA. Why should you consider this investment?

First, whether you have \$500 (minimum to open an account – new money only) or much more to invest, this is an ideal way to preserve funds you've set aside, either as an individual or an organization, and earn a very solid rate of return on top of it. (For example, \$6,000 invested now will mature at \$7,006 after 2.5 years.)

Next, this investment works twice as hard for you. Investing with LCEF means you earn competitive interest rates while making funds available for Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ministries and individuals. For example, investments make low-interest LCEF home loans available to our rostered church workers, enable building loans that give new life to aging ministry facilities, and finance school expansions across the North Wisconsin District. If you take a CD out through a bank, it helps build another bank. If you take one out through LCEF, it helps build Lutheran churches and schools.

Through this limited time offer, LCEF is looking to raise over \$100 million in new money because loan demand is very high; that demand means schools are being strengthened, churches sustained, and more people reached with the love of Christ. So, God be praised! Once LCEF nears that \$100 million threshold, it will close this opportunity.

Please share this message with friends and family. Let people know anyone in the LCMS can open an account—individuals, churches, schools or organizations. It's fast and easy, so don't miss out!

You can start an account today at <http://www.lcef.org>. Should you have any questions, please call LCEF's toll-free helpline at 800-843-5233.

Events and Opportunities This Week

Sunday	12/10	8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study/Sunday School 9:15am Fellowship (Men's Club) 10:15am Preschool, 4K, Kindergarten Christmas Program
Monday	12/11	7:30am Strong Bodies
Tuesday	12/12	<i>Amico's Pizza Fundraiser-SPYRT (mention St. Paul)</i> 7:00am Bible Study 8:00am Quilting
Wednesday	12/13	8:15am Chapel 11:00am Worship — Holy Communion 4:00pm – 5:00pm Food Pantry 5:30pm Public School Confirmation 5:30pm SPYRT Christmas Party 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Church Council 7:05pm Choir
Thursday	12/14	7:00pm Worship — Holy Communion
Friday	12/15	7:30am Strong Bodies
Saturday	12/16	
Sunday	12/17	8:00am Worship — Holy Communion 9:15am Bible Study/Sunday School 9:15am Fellowship (Mission Circle) 10:15am Worship — Holy Communion

SCRIP SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK

Dec. 14	Sheila Bahr	
Dec. 17	Louise Reisler	Peggy Buchholz

Children's Christmas Services



Sunday, December 10 10:15am – Preschool and Kindergarten

Monday, December 18 7:00pm – Grades 1-4

Wednesday, December 20 7:00pm – Grades 5-8



All Things St. Paul



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

Rev. Timothy J. Shoup, Administrative Pastor
Rev. Mark R. Palmer, Associate Pastor
Mr. Aaron M. Landgrave, Principal
Mrs. Lorraine Doell, Music Director
Mrs. Robin Reep, Youth Director

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