

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Bonduel, Wisconsin
December 14/17, 2023

THE THIRD 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

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Psalmody — Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then they said among the nations,

“The LORD has done great things for them.”

The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,

like streams in the Negeb!

Those who sow in tears

shall reap with shouts of joy!

He who goes out weeping,

bearing the seed for sowing,

shall come home with shouts of joy,

bringing his sheaves with him.

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.

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 61:1–4, 8–11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor;

he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,

and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;

³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;

that they may be called oaks of righteousness,

the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;

they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,

the devastations of many generations. . . .

⁸For I the LORD love justice;

I hate robbery and wrong;

I will faithfully give them their recompense,

and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations,

and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge them,

that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God,

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,

and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,

so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Music

8:00am

The King Shall Come

Epistle Reading — 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

7:00pm / 10:15am

inside back cover of hymnal

Hymn 346 *When All the World Was Cursed*

Sermon “**Good News: A Messenger of Good News**”

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.*

New Member Welcome **8:00am**

✧ **Holy Baptism** *Amber Ann Moede*

✧ **Adult Confirmation and Affirmation of Faith**

Arlyn and Julie Busch	Aaron Landgrave
Sheldon and Merissa Cannon <i>Trenton, Robert</i>	Wayne and Kay Lardinois
Jackie Christensen	Daltyn and Nichole LeClair † † <i>Evalynn, Ariana</i>
Jacob Eggert	Jeremy and Kelly Leitzke <i>Adalyn, Grayson</i>
John and Darlene Gishkowsky	Tricia Luepke †
Bruce Heling	Erin Mathew †
Matthew Homan	Amber Moede † †
Joshua and Lisa Hughes <i>Lila, Theodore</i>	Donna Rusch
Paul and Linda Kirchner	Susan Stevens
Mike and Kaila Klug <i>Huxley, Colton</i>	Trent and Sherry Wegner †
Mark Kupsky	† – <i>Adult Baptism</i> † – <i>Adult Confirmation</i>

Prayer of the Church

For our guests desiring the Lord's Supper...

Holy Communion is the eating and drinking of Christ's crucified and risen body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, for strength for this life, and for the assurance of everlasting life with Him. It is a miraculous gift full of grace.

The Bible also teaches that anyone who receives the Lord's Supper who does not believe or has not been taught our Lord's teaching, or who is unrepentant, receives Christ's body and blood to his or her harm. Out of love for you, we kindly ask you to speak to one of our pastors before communing if you are not a member of an LCMS congregation.

Distribution Hymns 338 352 354

Nunc Dimittis / Benediction

Closing Hymn 357 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

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

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



Acknowledgments

Serving the Lord in Worship

Pastors Rev. Timothy J. Shoup Rev. Mark R. Palmer
Organist Mrs. Lorraine Doell
Music 8:00am Bell Choir

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, Orpha Swift, Marilyn Tessmann, Dick Wegner, Mark Welch, and Jacob Worthington.*



Baptism . . . *Frankie Rose Frechette*, daughter of Dillon and Alexa Frechette, will be baptized after the 7:00pm service this weekend. She was born on November 22, 2023, and her sponsors are Brett and Abby Krull.

Bulletin Sponsor . . . This weekend's bulletin is sponsored to the glory of God by Mike and Marilyn Hille in thanksgiving for Mike's **80th** birthday, which will be December 23.

A Plant . . . is placed to the glory of God by *Ken and Cheryl Kohn* in thanksgiving for their **50th** wedding anniversary on December 15.

Announcements



Christmas 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 is **today**, Sunday, December 17. If questions call Jean Hedtke at 715-758-2728.

Family Devotions Online . . . 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.

Attendance — December 7/10, 2023

Thursday	12/7	7:00pm	93
Sunday	12/10	8:00am	185
(Preschool, 4K, and K Program)		10:15am	<u>334</u>
Total			612
Livestream Views			119

The Lutheran Hour . . . "Community and Conversation" *John 1:1*

This Christmas Eve, God wants to be found in the human community gathered in the name of Jesus and in the conversation connected with Him. Tune in next Sunday to hear Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler at 7:30am on WTCH/960 AM, WRVM/102.7 FM at 10:00am, or go to lutheranhour.org.

Pastoral Call Process and Questionnaire Update

We received approximately 60 completed questionnaires ranking nine pastoral skills or traits according to what you think is most important for our congregation in our next associate pastor. Thank you for participating! Preaching and Pro-Lutheran School were among the higher ranked qualities. We will post the results after Christmas, as the questionnaire assists the Board of Elders in formulating a description for President Lueck of our congregation's needs and desires in our next associate pastor. We pray for God's will and guidance. Also, after Christmas, look for a "candidate submission form" for any member to submit the name of a pastor you would like to be added to our list of candidates.

Director of Church Ministry – DCM

At the October 24 Quarterly Voters' Meeting, our congregation elected to expand our ministry by calling a part-time DCM to begin in early 2024. The DCM's purpose will be to support and help expand the gospel ministry at St. Paul by assisting our pastors with coordinating events, visiting shut-ins and members in need as assigned, teaching Bible class, helping lead evangelism, and facilitating communication with our members and the community. Candidates for this position will have a corresponding earned 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 this year's end.

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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry . . . will not meet on Monday, December 18.

A Word from Your Wolf River Principal . . . I often tell people that it is important to remember the true reason for the season – Jesus, and to slow down and not be too busy and stressed. Well, this past week I have not remembered this. I have been so busy finalizing our upcoming Christmas events that the Christmas spirit has diminished to a dim light. As I sit here writing my message I realize that I need to slow down, spend time in the Word, and fill my heart with the good news. I challenge each of you to read the Christmas story, listen to Christ-focused Christmas music, spend time spreading Christmas cheer, go outside and enjoy God's creation, and finally, have a movie night and watch "The Chosen." Through all the busyness Christ needs to be the focus! Also, thank you for attending our Christmas Extravaganza and Christmas community event. Your support is so important to us! Blessings, *Mrs. Kosmerchok*

WRLHS Annual Campaign . . . Wolf River Lutheran High School has started its annual campaign. This year it's titled "I Can Only Imagine". We're hoping, with your generosity, we will be able to pay off the mortgage on the school. Currently we owe \$176,000. God has brought us so far already with His school. All donations will be going 100% to debt reduction. Need some end of year tax deductions? Prayerfully consider giving to God's mission "I Can Only Imagine", where this school is headed, and what God's plan is for it. Campaign letters are available in the narthex. Thank you!

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.

A Thank you from the Shoups

Twenty-five years ago, St. Paul church members were carrying boxes, beds, and furniture into the parsonage adjacent to our former 1916 sanctuary. In 1998, daughter Hannah (and husband who now have five boys) was entering 4th grade. Caleb was five. Abel and Ben were toddlers. The Lord had extended a call to me through St. Paul Lutheran, Bonduel, bringing us closer also to Nancy's family. At that time, the existing church building was separated from the school building by the playground and the waterway ditch that ran across the property. A tarred lane alongside the grove connected the church and school. We formed a Staffing and Facilities Planning Committee which paved the way for our calling a full-time Director of Parish Music, expanding the Youth Director to quarter-time, and for the 2007 construction project ground-breaking. The Lord God was present, and still is, speaking His Word of forgiveness, faith, and everlasting life into our hearts. Grandparents Days and Christmas Programs continue. Track & Field Days make memories. Baptisms, one by one, mark new birth into God's family. There remains a place for each of us at the Lord's Table to receive His true body and blood up to the day it becomes our turn to be numbered with the saints above. I did not tally the number of funerals in these twenty-five years. Know that as a pastor prays for his time with a family in their bereavement to be a blessing to them, God surely uses these hours and days to further mold and bless your pastor. And so, each week we hear and take to heart God's Word proclaimed from the pulpit. The years pass, ministry continues, and we now live in unchartered American waters. Faith, family, and country – three solid institutions for most of my lifetime – are largely discounted and under attack. We go with one arm up, on guard, and the other arm pointing people to the Word of the Lord, a good Word for all unto salvation, a Word that He promises will not pass away. We keep on serving Him together and reaching out. We are adding Lutheran Heritage Foundation to the mission efforts we support in addition to our care for Viola and the Vankos. We recently added a Financial Reporting Manager thereby also freeing up Trisha to provide support to our pastors and members from the church office. In January, our congregational plan is to call a part-time Director of Church Ministry, a degreed position to help bring God's Word and blessings to members and guests, and to help coordinate missions and ministry events. But... this note is supposed to be a "thank you" and it truly is. Nancy and I are so humbled, and are extremely grateful for the cards, support, and collective gift you gave to us this past Reformation Sunday in recognition for the 25-year milestone we reached in our ministry together. And that too – our ministry together – is what this note has attempted to convey. We are truly thankful to be a part of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, and for however the Lord is using us to serve you, know that He continues to use you to bless us. Thank you, very much, for your care and love.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor and Nancy

Events and Opportunities This Week

- Sunday** **12/17** 8:00am Worship — Holy Communion
9:15am Bible Study/Sunday School
9:15am Fellowship (Mission Circle)
10:15am Worship — Holy Communion
- Monday** **12/18** 7:30am Strong Bodies
6:00pm Board of Evangelism/Online Ministry
7:00pm Grades 1–4 Christmas Program
- Tuesday** **12/19** 7:00am Bible Study
8:00am Quilting
7:00pm Choir
- Wednesday** **12/20** 5:30pm Public School Confirmation
7:00pm Grades 5–8 Christmas Program
- Thursday** **12/21** 8:15am Chapel
1:00pm Mission Circle
NO 7:00pm Worship Service
- Friday** **12/22** *NO School*
7:30am Strong Bodies
- Saturday** **12/23**
- Sunday** **12/24** **NO Morning Worship Services**
2:00pm Worship — Christmas Eve Worship
4:00pm Worship — Christmas Eve Worship
7:00pm Worship — Christmas Eve Worship
- Monday** **12/25** *Christmas Day*
9:00am Worship — Holy Communion

Children's Christmas Programs



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

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



All Things St. Paul



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
Church Office 715-758-8559 School Office 715-758-8532
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