

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT



Sunday, November 27, 2022



St. Paul's Lutheran
Church & School

1100 Georgia Ave. - Norfolk, Nebraska

Times to Formally Gather around the Gospel:

Saturday:	6:30 PM	Worship Service
Sunday:	9:00 AM	Worship Service & 10:15 AM Bible Class
Monday:	6:30 PM	“Sisters In Faith” study group
Wednesday:	10:00 AM	Bible Class (in church basement)
Thursday:	6:30 PM	“Donnerstag” (“Thursday” in German) study group

The Sunday service is broadcast live every week on KNEN, 94.7 FM, and livestreamed via our website – stpls.com. These Sunday service video recordings are also archived on Youtube.

Come, Lord Jesus!

The Season of Advent is historically a time of anticipation and waiting. Typically, we look at this waiting from three distinct vantage points:

- ❖ God's Old Testament people waiting for the birth of the Savior,
- ❖ Christians today waiting for the celebration of Christmas, and
- ❖ Christians waiting for the Lord's return on the Last Day.

In every case, God's people were encouraged to wait with expectation and to prepare for the coming of the Lord through repentance and faith.

This First Sunday in Advent service centers on Jesus, the Coming One, and makes extensive use of the hymn, "***Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel***" and its melody. This hymn joyfully reflects our eager anticipation of the advent of Jesus.

The journey from Advent to Bethlehem is never an easy one in our day. We are distracted by so many other things that have come to be associated with this time before Christmas. It's a time filled with noise and commercialization, and many people you will meet these days before Christmas aren't really interested in Bethlehem at all. May these services of this Advent season help us to prepare for Christmas differently than so many people around us, to focus our attention on our coming Savior and strengthen our faith in Him!

OPENING HYMN CW #2 “Savior of the Nations Come”

BEGINNING RESPONSES

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the nations, when our first parents, Adam and Eve, fell into sin, our heavenly Father promised to send You as a loving gift to all mankind.

ALL: He promised to send You, the Offspring of a woman, to crush the serpent’s head for us.

P: Throughout the ages, this promised Gift was repeated through the words of the Old Testament prophets. Generation after generation patiently waited for the day of Your arrival.

ALL: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” Isaiah chapter seven, verse fourteen.

P: Finally, Your chosen time came. You sent John to prepare people’s hearts for Your ministry, and God the Father revealed You as the long-awaited Savior of sinful mankind.

ALL: “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” John chapter one, verse twenty-nine.

P: Bless us with your presence in our worship as we remember Your first advent to save us, and we look forward to Your second advent when You will take us home to heaven!

ALL: Bless our worship service now, and guide us throughout the week as we worship You with our daily lives of service. Lead us to share You as our greatest gift to others, so that we all may hail You, as our Savior and King!

All Sing: CW #23, VSS 1&2 “Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel”
Sung while the first Advent candle, the Prophecy Candle, is lit.

Oh come, Oh come, Emmanuel And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save, And bring them vict’ry o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

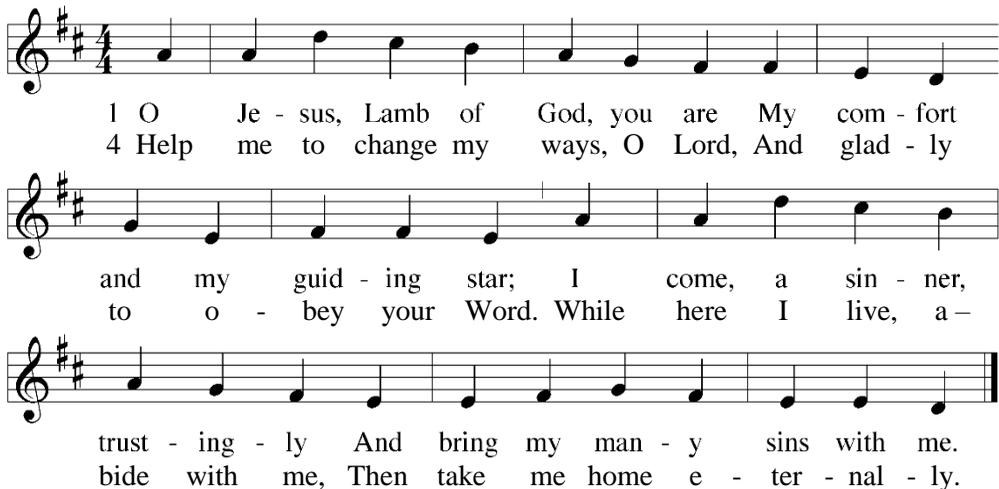
P: In humble anticipation of our forgiving Advent King, let us confess our sins to God our Father:

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

CW #27, vss 1&4 “O Jesus, Lamb of God You Are”



I O Je - sus, Lamb of God, you are My com - fort
4 Help me to change my ways, O Lord, And glad - ly
and my guid - ing star; I come, a sin - ner,
to o - bey your Word. While here I live, a -
trust - ing - ly And bring my man - y sins with me.
bide with me, Then take me home e - ter - nal - ly.

Please be seated.

SCRIPTURE OF PROPHECY

Isaiah 11:1-9

The "Scripture of Prophecy" highlights an Old Testament prophecy that reminded the children of Israel of the promises of a future Savior.

¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

CW #23, vss 3&4 "Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel"

Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

Oh, come, O 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 you, O Israel!

SCRIPTURE OF ANTICIPATION

1 Peter 1:3-12

The "Scripture of Anticipation" highlights a New Testament prophecy of the Savior who will come again at the end of time to deliver His people.

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from

the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Read together!*

Alleluia! Lift up your heads, O you gates;
Lift them up, you ancient doors,
That the King of glory may come in. Alleluia! *(Psalm 24:9)*

HYMN CW #8 "Come, O Precious Ransom Come"

THE SERMON Luke 1:5-25

"SPEECHLESS!"

I. In doubt. II. In awe.

⁵ In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. ⁷ But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the

temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. ¹⁶ Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

¹⁹ The angel answered, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰ And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time.”

²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. ²² When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

²³ When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴ After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵ “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

THE OFFERING PRAYER & HYMN

God of all grace, we can never fully repay You for all Your blessings given to us. As we give You our financial gifts, help us to faithfully use all the gifts You have given us. Thank You for giving each of us the power of Your Spirit as we live to Your glory. You have given each of us different gifts to serve You and Your church. May we faithfully serve You financially with this thank-offering, and spiritually through our selfless service. Amen.

Our thank-offerings are brought to the Lord as we sing!

485 vs 1&2 "We Give Thee but Thine Own"

Please stand and sing, as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

We give thee but thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as thou blessest us, To thee our firstfruits give.

PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISMISSAL *(Revelation 22:20,21)*

P: Behold, He who was to come has come.

C: We welcome Him with thankful hearts.

P: Behold, He who has come is coming again.

C: We wait for Him with fervent faith.

P: He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people.

C: Oh come, oh come Emmanuel! Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *Sung to "Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel" CW #23*

Let us now thank our God, the Lord, Who on us grace and mercy poured;
Who gave his body into death, And blessed us with his dying breath.
Oh tell his love, his name confess. He is: "The LORD, our Righteousness."

So at your Word, your servants go In peace to serve you here below.
For we have seen salvation's Light; Our names are in your Book of Life.
Glory to God! Let men and angels sing To Christ the Lord, our heavenly King.

WELS Connection

Serving In the Lord's House Today

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Hirsch **Organist:** Mrs. Karen Pufahl
Radio Broadcasters: Joel & Kathy Wiedeman
Video Tech: Chad Moyer **Elder:** Curt Dinkel
Ushers: Leon Sweigard & Zach Kruse
Power Point: Weinrichs (Sat.), Katrina Moyer (Sun.)
Greeters: Curt & Kelly Dinkel

SERVING NEXT WEEK

Elder: Dave Nelson **Ushers:** Gary Johnson & Don Lau
Power Point: Jett Leuthold (Sat.), Emma Hockabout (Sun.)

St Paul's General Fund, November 19 & 20, 2022

Yearly Need	YTD Need	YTD Offerings	YTD Need vs Offerings	Last Week Received	Weekly Need	Difference
\$422,052.00	\$163,501.00	\$138,228.91	-\$25,272.09	\$5,665.50	\$8,809.50	-\$3,144.00

Thank You!!

I don't know where to start with my grateful heart. The anniversary celebration on the 13th was amazing! So many people went above and beyond my expectations. From the food and decor to the gifts and warm messages. I am truly thankful and overwhelmed. I hope to be able to pay it forward many times over!

Thank you again, Linda Mullen

Announcements

- 1) **Ladies Aid** will have their Christmas Party & Covered Dish Luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 1, at NOON. Roll Call will be answered with “Favorite Christmas Carol”. School children will entertain. There will be a collection for Missions. Annual Reports are due. Hostesses & Entertainment will be Carol Schlieve, Marian Tinius, Carole Kopietz, & Carol Wachter. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.
- 2) **Norfolk Food Pantry** Once again St. Paul’s is scheduled to help out by manning the Food Pantry, Monday through Friday, January 16–31. Pantry hours are 9:30-11:30 AM, and its recommended that there be three volunteers each day. There’s a sign-up sheet for volunteers at the Communication Center.
- 3) **ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT** Registration forms and invitations are now available for the Sunday, Dec. 11 event being held at the Courtyard at the Midtown Event Center at 3:00. Please complete the registration form (found in the communication center) and place it in the box on the scrip table by Dec. 4th. Feel free to give an invitation (also found in the communication center) to a friend, family member, or co-worker and encourage them to join you. Please consider joining ladies from St Paul’s and the area churches as we share Bible readings and special music to focus on Jesus birth during the Christmas season.
- 4) **St. Paul’s SCRIP** Are gift cards on your list of items to purchase for Christmas? Please consider using the scrip program to order them this year. You may be able to get them all through the SCRIP program, plus school gets a percentage of the sales. Cards ordered usually arrive in a week or two. We keep a variety of local stores on hand, but there are many other options to order. Here are a few: Barnes and Noble, Bass Pro Shop, Buckle, Build-a-Bear, Cabela’s, Chipotle, Fleet Farm, Old Navy, Panera, Scheels, and TopGolf. Stop by the SCRIP table for more info and the complete list.
- 5) **CHRISTMAS CARDS** A few people have asked about Christmas cards from [Hymns In My Heart](#). These are the Christian cards based on hymns that a WELS gal in WI has created and offers for sale. We don’t have any here at church, but orders in the month of November get free shipping, Go to - hymnsinmyheart.com – if you’re interested in options and ordering.
- 6) **Pioneer Basketball** season has begun! The game schedule is posted on the bulletin board by the communication center.

NEWS FROM NELHS

Follow up from November 2022 BOD Meeting

The Board held their annual school visit day on November 11th and observed the teachers' classrooms. Our finances continue to look good - we thank all of our congregations for their continued support as well as the many individuals stepping up and providing needed additional income. Gifts have included grain donations, stocks/securities transfers, and gifts of all sizes. We are also thankful for the people who have named NELHS as a beneficiary in their wills.

Some items being worked on include:

- Development Director / Mission Advancement Director positions
- Improved communication of NELHS to association congregation and delegates
- HVAC repairs
- Locksmith needed
- Staffing for next year
- Filling Board vacancies according to our bylaws

Items of note:

1. Pastor Frey took five young men to visit Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary on a recruitment visit.
2. Silent Auction / Fall Festival was a very successful day with about \$10,000 raised (audio visual and other improvements for south gym). Knight Out Gala has the same funding recipient.
3. NELHS partnered with the Waco Community Betterment Organization on Oct 23 for Trunk or Treat at the ballfield. We had one of our busses out, teachers helped serve from the concession stand too. There were over 100 children attending from our community. Trinity had a trunk...as did the Wellman's and Frey's! Great community connections by our staff - hopefully we can get more students willing to be involved next year.
4. Congregational support intent and delegates sheets all sent out. A couple have come in early.
5. KRT participated in the WELS Choral Fest at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN Nov 3-6. All reports are that our students did an outstanding job and represented us well!
6. Connect the Dots - Career Training: Kathy Bremer took six students (9th-10th grade). Interactive career exploration day, connecting the dots from early high school through post-secondary education according to specific career clusters of interest.
7. Enrollments starting to come in for next year...share the opportunity of attending NELHS with others!
8. Football team made the state playoffs this year. Many football and volleyball players received all area recognitions. Our students represent their Savior and school very well.

Upcoming Events...mark your calendars:

- Christmas Concert / One Act parents night: Dec 4, 2022 (Sunday)
- MLC BB tip off tourney - Dec 7-11, 2022
- Christmas Break Dec 22-Jan 4: basketball games Jan 5 and JV tourney Jan 7th.
- Grandparents Day: Feb 2, 2023 (Thursday) home BB
- LES Cheer Camp: Friday, Feb 3, 2023 (no Saturday home games)
- LES BB Tourney: Feb 24-25, 2023 (Friday, Sat) Spring Break follows
- LES Science/Fine Arts Fair: Sat, Mar 18, 2023
- CRC Honors Choir/Band at NELHS, no school - Mon, Mar 20, 2023
- Easter Concert / Winter Activities Banquet, Mar 26, 2023 (Sunday, 4pm)
- Knight Out Gala 2023: Saturday, April 1, 2023 in McCool Junction @ Stone Creek

SOME CHURCH FUNCTIONS THIS WEEK:

Sunday, 11/27 = Worship Service, 9:00 AM
Coffee / Bible Study, 10:15 AM

Monday, 11/28 = Sisters in Faith, 6:30 PM

Wednesday, 11/30 = Worship Service Broadcast on Local Cable 12, 9:00 AM
Bible Class (Schliewe), 10:00 AM
Choir (balcony), 7:00 PM

Thursday, 12/1 = Ladies Aid Christmas Luncheon, NOON
Donnerstag (Thursday Group), 6:30 PM

Saturday, 12/3 = Worship Service with Communion, 6:30 PM
Organist: Mrs. Diane Herbolsheimer

Sunday, 12/4 = Worship Service with Communion, 9:00 AM
Coffee / Bible Study, 10:15 AM

Church Cleaning Teams:

Nov. 27 & Dec. 4 – Team 5: Gary & Sue Bretschneider, Joan Ellenberger,
Rick & Diane Ellenberger, Shannon Spreeman

Dec. 11 & Dec. 18 – Team 6: Kristin Bauer, Linda Jensen, Kelly Meysenburg,
Daniel & Karen Pufahl, Barb Reeves, Carol Wachter, Veryl Winter

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WELS Website: www.wels.net