

First Sunday in Advent

November 28, 2021

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+SERVICE OF THE WORD+

WELCOME

BELL CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING SONGS

“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

CONFESSION + ABSOLUTION

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Shout to the Lord”

COLLECT

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 23:5-8 (ESV)

Jeremiah foretells the coming of a wise and mighty king who would deliver God's people from their enemies. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy when he gave up his own righteous life for us.

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.' "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' but 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' Then they shall dwell in their own land."

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE INTROIT

Psalm 89

L: Behold, your king is coming to you: righteous and having salvation.

C: Who in the skies can be compared to the Lord? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,

L: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

C: Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,

L: who exult in your name all the day and in your righteousness are exalted.

C: For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

All: 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.

L: Behold, your king is coming to you: righteous and having salvation.

EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (ESV)

The apostle Paul prayed that he might be able to visit the Christians in Thessalonica who brought him much joy. He also called them to abound in love for one another.

For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 21:25-36 (ESV)

Jesus warns us about the time of increasing turmoil and persecution of believers that will come prior to his return. We should remain watchful and pray, and remember the Lord's promises.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the twenty-first chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

"And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.

For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Brittany Fulcer

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

SERMON

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG

"Comfort, Comfort, All My People"

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

"My Life Is In You Lord"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIDEONS PRESENTATION

† St. Paul Visitation Ministry †

**Duane Barth Don Butzke Bil Rodgers Christine Erks Jim Klepper Rosemary Matlock Elsie
Pirrie Alretta Klepper LaVerne Rohren *Bill West *Marilyn Ziemke Delores Nordmeyer
Ardith Stuhr Bryce Clausen Darrell Gocke Farmer Bob Brauer** *denotes nonmember

Growing as We Wait! 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Introduction and Goal

Annual Christmas letters are interesting as they are put together and also as they are received.

May we grow in thankfulness for our fellow Christians, grow in our love for others, and grow in holiness as we await being in the full and visible presence of our Lord and Savior.

We first of all rejoice that we can grow in _____ to God.

We wish to thank God for giving us all _____ things.

We can join with Paul and give thanks for fellow _____ .

We grow in thankfulness as we hear _____ reports.

As we wait to be in Christ's visible presence, we also grow in our _____ for others.

We grow in love for others as we see _____ of love set by others.

The love that we have for others is a love that overflows from _____ to us.

Paul expresses the fact that he anxiously awaits being with the Thessalonians again so that he can continue sharing the _____ with them.

The text for today also urges us to grow in the _____ we have been given.

We grow in holiness as we stay in the _____ .

Each of us as faithful Christians eagerly awaits the time we will be in the presence of _____ .

The holiness which has been given us by the Holy Spirit produces even more _____ and more _____ .

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rev Matthew Mau & St John Lutheran Church, Waco

Rev Eddie Mekasha, missionary to Sudanese and Ethiopian Immigrants

For Our Congregation and Community: **Monica Colburn recovering from COVID**

Dealing with an illness: Pauline Bulgrin, Bil Rodgers, Artie Rutledge, Kelly Hesper (friend of Cristy Richters), Paula Young (niece of Maribelle Gierhan), Taida Grantski, Andrea Swanson Kuester, Jenni Conell, Shelley Scheele, Stephen Ramsey, Roger Rhodes, Mitch Peeks, Bill Chessar (brother of Teresa Rathjen), Sheila Franks, Dick Greenwood, Carole Stern (Heather Wellman's mother), Shelley Neemeyer (Sheri Hahn's sister-in-law), Anna (Friend of DuAnne Deremer)

Recovering from surgery: Lois Richters, Aretta Klepper, Penny Watson, Lindy Wiemer, Barb Barth

Declining Health: Wilmer Ritterling

St. Paul Lutheran Church: 1100 D Street, Utica, Nebraska 402-534-2200 (phone); School:402-534-2121
Pastor: Rev. Jon Dunbar; 402-641-4813 **Visitation Pastor:** Rev. Terry Groth; 402-641-0991 **Principal:** Mr. Bob Brauer; 402-534-3406 **DCE:** Brittany Fulcer; 414-292-8069

In Response to God's Love

November 21: Inperson Attendance: 232 **Visitors:** 18 **Online:** 75 **Sunday School:** 31 **Communion:** 169

VOLUNTEERS:

Today: 11-28-21 Acolyte: Kendra Sugden **Lay Reader:** Jeff Wellman **Organist:** Pat Koch
Next Week: 12-05-21 Acolyte: Ella Baack **Lay Reader:** Justin Slawnyk **Organist:** Carol Erks

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY (11-28)	9:00 AM	Contemporary Worship
	10:30 AM	Bible Study/Sunday School
	6:00 PM	Junior High Youth Ministry
	7:30 PM	Senior High Youth Ministry
MONDAY (11-29)	9:30 AM	Bible Study
TUESDAY (11-30)	-----	
WEDNESDAY (12-01)	8:30 AM	Chapel
	3:45 PM	Midweek
	5:30 PM	Advent Meal provided by the Care Committee
	7:00 PM	Advent Worship
THURSDAY (12-02)	7:00 PM	Administrative Meetings
FRIDAY (12-03)	6:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
	5:00 PM	Wedding Rehearsal
SATURDAY (12-04)	3:00 PM	Wedding
SUNDAY (12-05)	9:00 AM	Worship w/Communion
	10:30 AM	Bible Study/Sunday School
	6:00 PM	Junior High Youth Ministry
	7:30 PM	Senior High Youth Ministry

As of 11-23-21	Amount received 11-21-21	Needed each week	Received YTD 2021	YTD Amount needed to cover 2021 budget	Difference
General Fund	\$8,614.00		\$586,602.00		
Thrivent Choice	\$399.00		\$4,386.00		
School Tuition	\$0.00		\$36,286.00		
Total	\$9,013.00 Week over/ (under)	\$34,213.00 -\$25,199	\$627,274.00	\$721,574.00	-\$94,300.00
Building Fund	\$50.00		\$102,350.00	Bldg Fund	\$8,604.00
Teacherage Fund	\$0.00		\$600.00	Teacherage Fund	\$975.00
Restricted Funds (other than bldg)	\$0.00		\$1,608.00		
Mekasha Mission (9/21-8/22) 5k goal	\$50.00	\$98.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,154.00	-\$54.00

Current Operating Note: \$50,000.00 (debt limit is \$90,000)

Sunday School Christmas Program Practice

The first Sunday for Christmas Program practice was Sunday, November 21st. Our extended practice is scheduled for December 19th with lunch provided ending at 2pm. Christmas Eve Family Worship is at 4pm on December 24th.

Carter & Paxton Fritz, Barrett Struble, and Benjamin Luebbe with their Trail Life Troop 48 are collecting items to make Orphan Grain Train Hygiene Kits. They will have collection box on Sunday Dec 5th and Dec 12th. Items needed are: Bath towels / Wash clothes / Bars of soap / Toothbrushes / Combs / Band aids / Travel size kleenex / Nail clippers. Thank you for helping with the project.

Check out Mardel Christian & Education, a new Christian bookstore in Lincoln (100 South 66th Street). It has a large inventory of faith resources including Bibles and devotionals. You can also go online to www.mardel.com. Another good place to find resources that are specifically Lutheran is Concordia Publishing House, online at www.cph.org.



The Christmas Decorating Team is in need of more helpers to beautify our sanctuary for the Christmas season. No experience necessary! Please visit with Pastor Dunbar or Brent Uffelman to learn more.

SCRIP GIFT CARDS = \$\$ FOR OUR SCHOOL: Holiday time is the #1 time to help our SCRIP program grow! HOW CAN YOU HELP? Use Scrip gift cards for your Christmas shopping, gift-giving, and groceries (all year long!) These gift cards are the same as those available at any store and many are available as ecards for your online shopping as well. (Don't forget to use AmazonSmile for extra earnings for St. Paul.) We have a large list of retailers and restaurants available, including a reloadable Walmart/Sams Club card and Pac n Save right here in Utica. Call Pam Johansen @ 402-534-5138 or email rpjoh89@gmail.com to place your order or answer any questions. All special Christmas orders are needed by Sunday, December 12th. Pick up an order form at the Welcome Center any time.



Ladies Aid update: Inviting all ladies of the congregation on the second Thursday of December, 12-09-2021, at 2 o'clock in the Fellowship Hall to the Ladies Aid Christmas Tea. The first & second graders will entertain us with songs; then will enjoy cookies and coffee and hot tea and conversation/fellowship; then will close with singing favorite Christmas carols and a short devotion - hopefully by Pastor.

Did you know. . . That November is National Alzheimers Awareness Month and also National Caregivers Month? And that 6 million people in our country and their caregivers are affected by this disease? To better understand the disease and learn ways you might help, pick up the tract called "Alzheimers: The Loss of a Lifetime" located at the Welcome Center.