

Third Sunday in Advent

December 12, 2021

+SERVICE OF THE WORD+

Divine Setting Five

BELL CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates”

#341

INVOCATION +CONFESSION +ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord!....our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for confession)

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

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

P: Upon this your confession.....and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

KYRIE *(tune of Hark the Glad Sound)*

Have mercy on your people, Lord.

Have mercy, Christ our King

Renew us by your mercy, Lord;

Accept the prayers we bring.

GLORIA *(tune of Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)*

1. *“Glory be to God on high!” This is now our joyful cry.*

Peace to all who live on earth, Grace and favor for new birth.

You we praise and glorify. Worship you, O Lord most high.

Gracious Father, heav’nly King To your name alone we sing;

Praise the glory of your name, Now and evermore the same!

2. *Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, sole-begotten, holy one,*

Born on earth From realms on high, Born true man for us to die.

Lamb of God, You take away This world’s sin; Grant peace we pray.

With the Spirit You alone Are most high, O God the Son,

And the father God above, Praise we now Your glorious love.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray... **C: Amen**

OLD TESTAMENT

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (ESV)

Zephaniah calls God’s people to rejoice and sing because God will not remain at a distance. In Jesus, God draws near to us, saves us from our sins and turns our grief into joy.

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

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

C: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

L: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

C: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

L: who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

C: 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.

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: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4-7 (ESV)

Paul exhorts us to rejoice, pray and give thanks in all circumstances. God's presence in our lives can fill us with a peace that transcends all present troubles.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

GOSPEL

Luke 7:18-28 (ESV)

Even as he pointed others to Christ, John the Baptist himself sometimes questioned God's choice in a Savior. The blessings of the Old Testament could not compare to the New.

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

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

When John's messengers had gone, 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? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

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

CREED (tune of O Come, Little Children)

The Father has showered His gifts from on high.

Most precious of gifts in the manger doth lie.

Our God and Creator has now sent His Son

That we with our God might forever be one.

The Savior, Christ Jesus, is our Holy King.

Of Him our glad praises this day do we sing

The cross in His future Brief sorrow would bring.

In His death and rising the Grave lost its sting.

The Spirit we treasure; Our hope can't grow dim.

For He is the star that hath brought us to Him.

Let Heaven rejoice as with Him we proclaim

That we are believers in God's Holy name.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jody Wiemer

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Once in Royal David's City"

#376

SERMON

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Create in Me"

#956

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

#374

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rev Mike Neidow, Rev Ben Kaiser, Emmanuel Lutheran Church & School, York
Rev Eddie Mekasha, missionary to Sudanese and Ethiopian Immigrants

For Our Congregation and Community:

Pastor Gudgel receiving chemo

**Dylan & Sabrina Wiemer,
whose baby Carter passed away Wednesday**

Bobbi Luce having surgery on Tuesday

Barb Barth knee surgery on Wednesday

Dealing with an illness: Joan Naber, Dick Rhodes, Pauline Bulgrin, Bil Rodgers, Artie Rutledge, Kelly Hesel (friend of Cristy Richters), Taida Grantski, Jenni Conell, Shelley Scheele, Roger Rhodes, Mitch Peeks, 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, Aletta Klepper

Declining Health: Wilmer Ritterling, Sheila Franks

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

December 5: Inperson Attendance: 237 Visitors: 15 Online: 65 Sunday School: 45 Communion: 162

VOLUNTEERS:

Today: 12-12-21 Acolyte: Nya Fischer Lay Reader: Seth Ford Organist: Donneta Schmieding

Next Week: 12-19-21 Acolyte: Meg Hoffschneider Lay Reader: Colleen Classen Organist: Dylan Teut

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY (12-12)	9:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Bible Study/Sunday School
	6:30 PM	St Paul School Christmas Celebration
MONDAY (12-13)	9:30 AM	Bible Study
	TUESDAY (12-14)	8:00 AM
1:30 PM		Nimble Thimbles (<i>one week early</i>)
WEDNESDAY (12-15)		8:30 AM
	3:45 PM	Midweek
	5:30 PM	Advent Meal provided by the Confirmation Class Pulled Pork
	7:00 PM	Advent Worship
THURSDAY (12-16)	-----	
FRIDAY (12-17)	6:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
SATURDAY (12-18)	-----	
SUNDAY (12-19)	9:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Bible Study/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
	6:00 PM	Junior High Youth Ministry
	7:30 PM	Senior High Candle Light Service Practice

As of 12-07-21	Amount received 12-05-21	Needed each week	Received YTD 2021	YTD Amount needed to cover 2021 budget	Difference
General Fund	\$30,431.00		\$636,752.00		
Thrivent Choice	\$0.00		\$4,386.00		
School Tuition	\$0.00		\$36,286.00		
Total	\$30,431.00 Week over/ (under)	\$40,304.00 -\$9,874.00	\$677,424.00	\$752,279.00	-\$74,855.00
Building Fund	\$0.00		\$102,350.00	Bldg Fund	\$8,554.00
Teacherage Fund	\$50.00		\$650.00	Teacherage Fund	\$975.00
Restricted Funds (other than bldg)	\$0.00		\$1,608.00		
Mekasha Mission (9/21-8/22) 5k goal	\$30.00	\$97.00	\$1,320.00	\$1,346.00	-\$26.00

Current Operating Note: \$53,000.00 (debt limit is \$90,000)



Thank you for your generous support these last two Advent meals. Through the free-will donation, we raised \$1,022 for our LCMS Youth Gathering trip! Please join us this upcoming Wednesday as we raise funds for our confirmands Confirmation Retreat at Camp Luther.

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.

"The Poinsettia Tree: We will again be displaying the Poinsettia Tree for the Christmas season. You can make a donation of \$10.00 in "honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one for the poinsettia plants. After the New Year's Eve worship service, you can then take the plant(s) home (pray that we can keep them looking good!!). Donations and questions can be directed to the Church office. **We need to receive money and "in memory of / in honor of "names" to the church office by Sunday, December 19th.**

Church Custodian Needed St. Paul's is looking for someone to fill our church custodian position starting January 1st, 2022. If you know of someone who might be interested, please visit with Eric Peeks, our head trustee, to learn more. Many thanks to the Gierhan family for the excellent job they've done keeping our church facilities clean over the past two years and especially through COVID restrictions!

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](tel: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.

Camp Luther Financial Aid Available! Early bird registration for Camp Luther (Columbus, NE) begins December 13th, and it's a good time to think about sending your kids to summer camp. St. Paul's has set aside funds to help your family choose this wonderful Christian camp experience for your children. We will reimburse an equal percentage of each camper's camp fee up to 50% depending on the funds available. Please contact the church office if you have kids going to camp. If you know of a family who would like to send their kids to camp but have financial needs, please talk to Pastor Dunbar.

Save the date for Valentine Adventure

Wednesday February 2nd @ 5:59 pm

Windsor Loin Meal

St Paul School Gym

Entertainment provided by the K-2 students. More information to come!