

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 19, 2021

+SERVICE OF THE WORD+
Divine Setting Five

BELL CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“A Great and Mighty Wonder”

#383

INVOCATION + CONFESSION + ABSOLUTION

LSB pg 213

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 READING

Micah 5:2-5a (ESV)

Centuries before the birth of Jesus, Micah prophesies that a mighty king will be born in the humble little village of Bethlehem. He is our Good Shepherd who brings peace to the earth.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

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

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 10:5-10 (ESV)

Christ came to earth to carry out the will of His heavenly Father. Instead of continuing the old covenant of the law, Jesus instituted a new covenant of salvation by his own blood.

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-56 (ESV)

Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is also pregnant with a son, John the Baptist. Overwhelmed that God has chosen her to be the mother of Jesus, Mary bursts into song.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St Luke the first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED (tune of O Come, Little Children)

1. *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.*
2. *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.*
3. *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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Rachel Saunders

#361

SERMON

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Create in Me"

#956

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

+SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT+

PREFACE

SANCTUS (tune: Holy, Holy, Holy)

1. *Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Day and night we join to praise
Your love and majesty.
You alone are holy, worthy and righteous.
God in three persons! Blessed Trinity!*
2. *Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
We rejoice to join the hymns
of earth and sky and sea.
Generations praise you, with saints and angels.
Holy and bless'd through all eternity!*

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PEACE OF THE LORD

AGNUS DEI (tune: *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*)

Oh, Lamb of God we pray

Take all our sins away

Our faith increase

Have mercy on us all

Strengthen us when we fall

Answer our fervent call

And grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#352 *“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”*

#370 *“What Child Is This”*

#374 *“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”*

#350 *“Come, Thou Precious Ransom Come”*

DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rev Ben Francisco, Faith Lutheran Church & School, York

Rev Eddie Mekasha, missionary to Sudanese and Ethiopian Immigrants

For Our Congregation and Community:

Dealing with an illness: Pastor Gudgel, Joan Naber, Dick Rhodes, Pauline Bulgrin, Bil Rodgers, Artie Rutledge, Kelly Hesper (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: Bobbi Luce, Barb Barth, Lois Richters, Aletta Klepper

Declining Health: Wilmer Ritterling, Sheila Franks, Bryce Clausen

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 12: Inperson Attendance: 200 Visitors: 6 Online: 89 Sunday School: 36

VOLUNTEERS:

Today: 12-19-21 Acolyte: Meg Hoffschneider

Lay Reader: Colleen Classen

Organist: Dylan Teut

Next Week: 12-26-21 Acolyte: Lexi Kraus

Lay Reader: Jamie Kovac

Organist: Carol Erks

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY (12-19)	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 Candle Light Service Practice
MONDAY (12-20)	9:30 AM	Bible Study
TUESDAY (12-21)	1:30 PM	School Dismissed for Christmas Break
WEDNESDAY (12-22)	8:45 AM	Orphan Grain Train
	5:30 PM	Advent Meal provided by the 5-7 Grade Youth Ministry
	7:00 PM	Candlelight Advent Worship
THURSDAY (12-23)	-----	
FRIDAY (12-24)	4:00 PM	Children's Christmas Eve Service
	7:00 PM	Traditional Christmas Eve Service
SATURDAY (12-25)	9:00 AM	Christmas Day Worship w/Communion
SUNDAY (12-26)	9:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Bible Study

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)

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.

"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.**

Watch Our Services on Facebook Thanks to great volunteers and technology upgrades, we are able to live stream weekly services and special programs over our website: live.stpaulutica.com. In the event that you have trouble with the live stream feed or you want to watch a service later, you can also go to Facebook and search **"St Paul Utica Service Videos"**. Videos are posted there after the live stream is finished, usually by the next day.

New Member Potluck Dinner

The congregation is invited to attend a church potluck on Sunday January 9th, 2022 in honor of all who have joined us over the last two years. The meal is hosted by the Board of Elders, with main course, drinks, and table settings provided. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. The meal will be served in our school gym after the Education hour.

2022 Church Officer Installation

All newly elected and returning church officers for 2022 will be installed during the worship service on Sunday January 9th, 2022. Special thanks to all our outgoing officers as well as to everyone who agreed to be considered for election.

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!

Paul Heidorn's family expresses their gratitude to St Paul congregation shown to him during 50 years as he enjoyed God's many blessings while teaching and working among you. During the time together memories, stories and relationships grew. Utica and Nebraska became home to him. When Paul received the call in 1996 to become your school principal, teacher, leader, coach, etc little did he know the remainder of his life would be lived in this friendly community. God has been good to him and his family. Since Paul's death we do say thank you for your prayers, comforting messages and words, memorials, hugs and thoughtfulness. We thank God for the blessings He has bestowed on St Paul Congregation and pray for continued blessings to each of you.

All Praise and Glory be to God, the Paul Heidorn Family