

**Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
(LCMS)  
321 N 10th, Beatrice, NE 68310  
***December 14, 2025, Third Sunday of Advent***

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Hymns from the Lutheran Service Book in the pews. We're using Divine Service, Setting 1, page 151 in the front section of the hymnal.  
(♫ denotes responses that are to be sung.) (P= Pastor; C= Congregation)

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**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**Opening Hymn 338: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

**Invocation** page 151

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

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

***Silence for reflection***

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Introit:** *(Psalm 105:4–8; antiphon: Isaiah 40:3b)*

P: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**C: Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!**

P: Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

**C: O offspring of Abraham, his servant,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**

P: He is the Lord our God;  
his judgments are in all the earth.

**C: He remembers his covenant forever,  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.**

***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.***

P: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**Kyrie:** ♪ page 152-153

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

- **Need to reserve the church or school?** Call Wayne Oestreich. (402-440-5054).
- **Busy Bags** for kids are in the narthex under the bulletin board.
- **Church office hours** vary at this time. Please leave a message at 402-228-1540 or email [stpaulbeatrice@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulbeatrice@gmail.com).
- **For immediate or pastoral assistance**, contact Church Chair Rod Aden: 402- 239-5305 or Elder Dave Doering: 402-806-1015.
- **Large print hymnals** are available by the elevator and in the back pews.

### Remaining Advent and Christmas Service Schedule

**Sunday, Dec 14, (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent)**

**9:00 a.m. Divine Service**

**3:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program**

**5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program**

**Wednesday, Dec 17, 10:30 am & 5:30 pm, followed by meals**

**Sunday, Dec 21, (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent)**

**9:00 a.m. Divine Service**

**Wednesday, Dec 24, 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm, Divine Services**

**Thursday, Dec 25, 9:00 am, Divine Service**

**Sunday, Dec 28, 9:00 am Divine Service**

**Wednesday, NY's Eve, Dec 31, 7:00 p.m. Divine Service**

**Salutation and Collect** ♪ pg 156

♪P: The Lord be with you.

♪C: **And also with you.**

P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

♪C: **Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 35:1-10

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

<sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.  
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.  
<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### **Epistle Reading: James 5:7-11**

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### **Alleluia and Verse ♪**

**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Congratulations** to Jarrett & Natalie Schultze on the birth of their son Henry James on Friday, December 5.

Helpers are needed to **fill communion cups on Saturday mornings and wash them after** services. You would be assigned one weekend a month. Thanks for considering to help with this.

Our school saves **Russ's Market Register Receipts** (from September through March), **Our Family and Best Choice UPC** codes. Please turn them in at the school or to the box in the church narthex. Thank you for helping with these collections. Our current total of Russ's receipts is \$154,064.94.

**December Chapel Offerings** are for the Coat Closet at First Christian Church. New and gently used coats, gloves, hats and monetary donations will be collected. If you want to donate, you can put a designated offering for school chapel in the offering plate or take coats to the school.

**School's Ongoing Scrip Card Fundraiser:** Order your gift cards through St. Paul's Lutheran School "Script Card" Program and our school automatically gets money in return at no extra cost to you! Order forms are located at the school office and on our school website. Orders will be placed December 8. Order Forms with payment can be turned in at the school.






**School Prayer Families** the week of December 15 are Calvin & Hannah Hennerberg, Joseph & McKenzie Henrichs, and Shea & Malary Herron.

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**St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)**  
**Address:** 321 N 10<sup>th</sup> St, Beatrice, NE 68310 **Office:** 402-228-1540  
**Website:** [www.stpaulbeatrice.org](http://www.stpaulbeatrice.org) **Email:** [stpaulbeatrice@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulbeatrice@gmail.com)  
**Pastor:** Rev. Karl Hollibaugh; 225-361-5121;  
[revdochollibaugh@gmail.com](mailto:revdochollibaugh@gmail.com)

**St. Paul's Lutheran School, Pre-School & Childcare**  
**Address:** 930 Prairie Lane, Beatrice, NE 68310;  
**Phone:** 402-223-3414 **Website:** [stpaulbeatrice.org](http://stpaulbeatrice.org)  
**Email:** [stpaulschoolbeatrice@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulschoolbeatrice@gmail.com)  
**Lead Teacher:** Jonetta Hagemeyer  
**Childcare Director:** Sheridan Martinez

As we wrap up the 2025 Fall Food Shelf Challenge with the Thrivent Member Network, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you. Your leadership, time, and commitment to your communities made this effort not only possible but truly impactful. Because of your dedication, together we achieved:

-  **60,392 items collected**
-  **\$5,948 donated**
-  **2,867 volunteers** contributing **1,992 hours of service**
-  Impact across **35 counties in Nebraska**
-  And as a generosity multiplier to your efforts, **\$25,000 will be donated directly to local food shelves**

These numbers represent more than statistics - they reflect hope, generosity, and the power of community. Each can of food, each dollar given, each hour volunteered was a gift to neighbors in need.

**Confirmation Class Pictures wanted!** We are looking for group pictures of the confirmation classes of 2010, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2022, 2023, and 2024 for the display in the basement. If you have any of these, would you be willing to put it in an envelope and leave it in the church office? We would appreciate it if you could name the youth in the picture. We will make a 5 x7 copy of the picture and return yours to you. Thank you!

**The theme for Advent 2025 Wednesday evening services** is based on the first stanza of the Advent/End Times hymn, "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers":

*Rejoice, rejoice, believers  
And let your lights appear:  
The evening is advancing,  
And darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing night.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle:  
At midnight comes the cry.*

The lyrics encourage us to be Up! For Advent...and to 'pray and watch and wrestle.' Each Wednesday in Advent, we will consider what these calls mean in the context of this holy, anticipatory season of the Church. Please join us!

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

♪ **C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

### **Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, 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? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

""Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

♪ **C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

### **Apostles Creed (all)**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third

day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Hymn of the Day 398: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"**

### **Sermon**

### **Prayer of the Church**

Congregation responds "**hear our prayer**" after each petition.  
"**Amen**" after final petition.

### **Offering**

### **Offertory**

♪ C: What shall I render to the Lord  
for all his benefits to me.

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation  
and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now  
in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

### **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT** page 160

### **Preface: ♪**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### **Happening this week:**

Sunday, Dec 14	8:00 am KWBE Broadcast of previous week 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 3 & 5 pm Children's Christmas Programs
Wednesday, Dec 17	10:30 & 5:30 pm Advent services followed by a meal 6:30 pm Confirmation Class
Thursday, Dec 18	7:00 pm Banner Committee
Friday, Dec 19	10:30 am <i>Jesus Birthday Party</i> at school 11:45 am Early Dismissal. Out until Jan. 6
Sunday, Dec 21	8:00 am KWBE Broadcast of previous week 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Study

**Poinsettias:** The church will not be taking orders for poinsettias this year but we invite you to share poinsettias you have purchased personally (from anywhere). You may bring them to church anytime and place it in the chapel area. The altar guild will arrange them in the front of the church. All sizes and colors are welcome! We are excited to see the wide variety displayed!

The Board of Education is requesting monetary donations to **help us fill treat bags for the children after their Christmas programs** this afternoon, Dec. 14th. If you care to contribute or offset the cost, please put your donations in the offering plate marked Christmas treat bags. Thank you so much for any contribution. The children look forward to this treat, and we look forward to providing them with this small gift.

**Call Committee update:** As you are aware, congregational members were asked to fill out a questionnaire provided by the district. Once those were completed, the Committee summarized the results and submitted them to District President Snow. President Snow gave a presentation to anyone in the congregation who was interested and made suggestions for additional ideas for our responses. The Committee met again to consider his suggestions and to supply some updated statistical data. That information was submitted to Pastor Snow. The Committee is now waiting for a list of potential candidates from Pastor Snow.

**Pastor Karl Hollibaugh**, our Interim Pastor, is at church Wednesday afternoons to commune shut-ins and evenings for confirmation class. If you'd like to see him please call him at 225-361-5121 to schedule an appointment.

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**Serving Today:**

Elder: Chuck Baker	Pastor: Rev. Karl Hollibaugh
Organist: Bev Duensing	Reader: Dave Doering
Greeter: Vaughn & Tina Wright	
Acolytes: Sloan & Sawyer Penner	
Ushers: Dale Hagemeyer, Cliff Kumm, Rod Aden, Steve Schmidt	

**Today's broadcast and bulletin** are sponsored by Kathleen Totten, Michelle Baker's sister, in celebration of Chuck & Michelle's anniversary on December 18 and in memory of Lois & Max Totten's wedding date of December 14, 1945.

**Children's Bulletins this quarter are sponsored by** Jared & Hannah Himmelberg in honor of Everett's Oct 7 Baptism Anniversary  
*(Sponsorships are available of broadcasts (\$100), bulletins (\$25) & children's bulletins. Call the church office to schedule.)*

**Birthdays this week:** *(if yours is missing, let us know!)*

Dec 14: Emmett Jurgens, Shonielle VanLaningham, Donnetta Wilkinson  
15: Jonetta Hagemeyer, Mackenzie Holthus, Nicholas Teeter, Carolyn Wiegand  
16: Aaron Blythe  
17: Lois Sohl, Denise Spilker, Aaron Meyer  
19: William Kelley III, Faith Campion, Syjlas Lerma, Michael Lueders, Lynn Gruis  
20 Craig Fisher

**Anniversaries this week:** *(if yours is missing, let us know!)*

Gary & Jan Busboom, Dec 15, 46 years  
Chuck & Michelle Baker, Dec 18, 15 years

**Proper Preface**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary..... praising You and saying:

**Sanctus: ♪**

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might;  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth....

**C: Amen.**

**The Words of Our Lord** pg 162

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Proclamation of Christ**

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion. Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven:  
give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass  
against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

### Pax Domini 🎵 page 163

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C: Amen.

### Agnus Dei 🎵

C: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.

### Distribution

Hymn 636: "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

Hymn 511: "Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment"

Hymn 570: "Just as I Am, without One Plea"

### Thank the Lord 🎵 pg 164

C: Thank the Lord and sing His praise;  
Tell ev'ry one what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His nae.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
With shouts of thanksgiving, Alleluia, alleluia.

### Post-Communion Collect

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

### Benediction 🎵

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
C: Amen.

### Departing Hymn 346: "When All the World was Cursed"

*\*\*Please greet each other as you exit.*

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**Acknowledgments:** Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book; unless otherwise indicated, scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved; created by Lutheran Service Builder ©2024 Concordia Publishing House.

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**Please remember with prayers, cards, texts, or calls, our sisters- and brothers-in-Christ who are hospitalized or at home:** Mary Scheve, Angie Fossler, Mike Holthus, Cheri McConnell, Cindy Weise (all with cancer); Pat Nave; Carline Mencl; Doris Sohl (Holly Norris' mother); Marge Itzen; and Olivia Hatzenbuehler and William Kelley (military). **\*\*Please contact the church by Thursday morning if you have a prayer request or when you no longer wish to be on the prayer list.**

**Welcome!** We're glad you're here and hope to see you again soon! Please sign the guest book at the entrance of the church. If you do not have a church home, are interested in the teachings of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, or interested in becoming a member of St. Paul's, please speak to the Pastor, Elder, Usher, or the church office.

**Communion Guidance:** Visitors wanting to commune should speak to the pastor or an elder prior to the service. Our summary of faith is available on our webpage and in print in the pews to help you determine if you share in our confession of faith. LCMS members and those from congregations in fellowship with LCMS are always welcome to participate in communion.