

# **Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church** **(LCMS)**

*321 N 10th, Beatrice, NE 68310*

***December 7, 2025, Second 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 347: "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"**

**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.**

## 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 11:1-10

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

But with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,

and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,

And the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together,

and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze;

their young shall lie down together,

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,

and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

They shall not hurt or destroy

in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.  
In that day the root of Jesse,  
who shall stand as a signal for the peoples –  
of him shall the nations inquire,  
and his resting place shall be glorious.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Reading: Romans 15:4–13**

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and sing to your name."

<sup>10</sup>And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

<sup>11</sup>And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples extol him."

<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come,  
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope."

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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.**

## **Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

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

♪ **C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” <sup>3</sup>For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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 344: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"**

### **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.**

### 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 337: "The Night Will Soon Be Over"**

**Hymn 345: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"**

**Hymn 617: "O Lord, We Praise Thee"**



### 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 359: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

*\*\*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.

**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: Andrew Landon

Organist: Vivian Zimmerman

Greeter: Lois Podendorf

Acolytes: Travis and Asher Landon

Ushers: Bob Pfingsten, Eric Jobman, Gary Swanson,  
Andrew Landon

Pastor: Pastor Karl Hollibaugh

Reader: Dave Doering

**Today's broadcast** is sponsored by Arvid and Althea Wiest.

**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 7: Adrianna Eisele, Cassandra Hicks

8: Olivia Duever, Elizabeth Huls

9: Helen Grupe, Linda Himmelberg, Christopher Neumann

10: Holdyn Elstun

11: Erica Boerger, Lee Ann Genrich, Jeffrey Hatzenbuehler  
Linda Minge, Tamara Venneman

12: Drake Eckhoff, Travis Landon, Tobin Robinson

13: Jill Hemke, Timothy Theye

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

Dec 9: James & Jami Thavenet, 31 years

### **Happening this week:**

Sunday, Dec 7      8:00 am KWBE Broadcast of previous week  
                         9:00 am Divine Service  
                         10:15 am Children's Sunday School and  
                         Adult Bible Study  
Tuesday, Dec 9      Church Council meeting  
Wednesday, Dec 10 10:30 & 5:30 pm Advent services followed by  
                         a meal  
                         6:30 pm Confirmation Class  
Saturday, Dec 13      10 am Altar Guild meeting  
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

**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!

**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!

**School Prayer Families** the week of December 8 are Justin & Chelsea Guiffre, Dale & Mrs. Hagemeyer, & Nolan & Amanda Hayes.

**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.

**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!

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.

**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.

### **YOUTH GROUP NEWS!**

**Middle and High School groups** meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at school from 5-7 pm for a meal, Bible Study, and some fun activities! Questions? Contact leaders Joanna Gellerman-Long (425-591-5318) or Jessica Leseberg (402-230-0988).

**\*\*We sell discounted Car Wash Tokens** for Super Wash: 5 for \$20! They are available in the church office or from school.

### **COMMUNITY EVENTS:**

**Homestead Harmonizers and Beatrice Regional Orchestra Christmas Concert** December 7, 2:00 pm at the Hevelone Center at the Beatrice High School. Adults \$10, students free.

## **Your Elder through December 31:**

Jared Himmelberg, 402-416-3004.....Adam to Carpenter  
Greg Penner, 402-806-3576.....Carel to Fisher  
Kevin Ankersen, 402-239-5870.....Ford to Holle  
Chuck Baker, 714-232-2794.....Holthus to Kuhlmann  
David Doering, 402-223-5123.....Kumm to Mentgen  
Andrew Landon, 402-520-1326.....Meyer to Porter  
David Oltmans, 402-223-8713.....Prall to Schouboe  
Matt Helmke, 402-239-4879.....Schroeder to Thomas  
Steve Sandman, 402-239-7060.....Thomas to Zimmerman

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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)

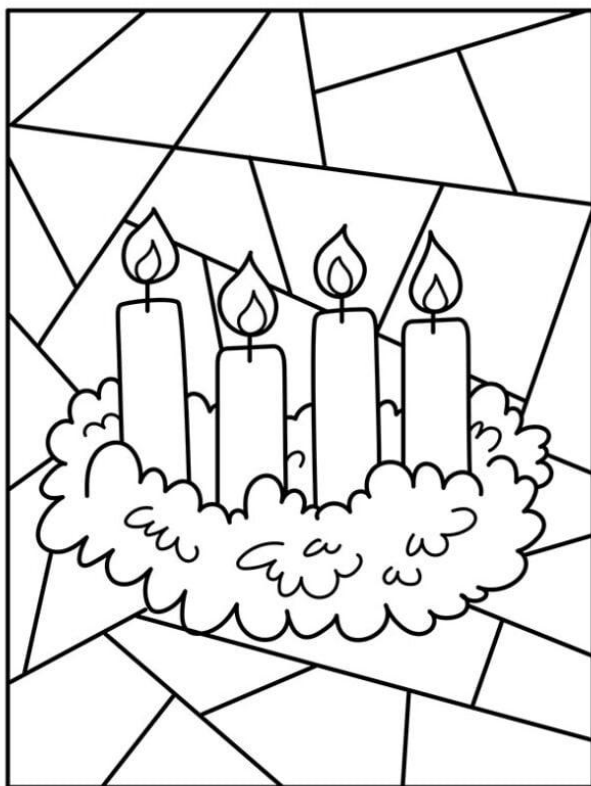
**Email:** [stpaulschoolbeatrice@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulschoolbeatrice@gmail.com)

**Lead Teacher:** Jonetta Hagemeier

**Childcare Director:** Sheridan Martinez

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- **Need to reserve the church or school?** Call Wayne Oestreich. (402-440-5054).
- **Large print hymnals** are in the back pew and near the elevator.
- **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.
- **December's newsletter & calendar** are available in the narthex.



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## **Remaining Advent and Christmas Service Schedule**

**Sunday, December 7, (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent)**

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

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

**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**