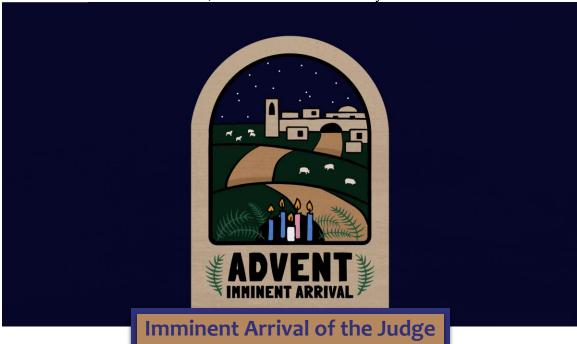


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 7, 2025 - The Second Sunday in Advent



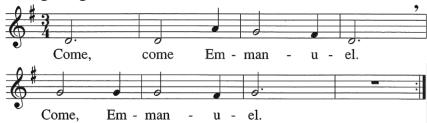
Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word, and through the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Restrooms and a drinking fountain are located on the right in the hallway outside the sanctuary. We have personal hearing devices. If you need one, please let an usher know before the service. If you are a parent with young children, we want you to know that we love having children worship with us since worship includes them, too. At the same time, we know that children sometimes like to make their presence known in spite of the best efforts to keep them quiet. For your convenience and in consideration of those seated near you, we have a Family Room located through the door in the back of the Fellowship Hall. The facility includes a TV, a window, and speakers so that you can still follow along with the worship service. Busy bags are also available near the central sanctuary doors.

Prayer before worship: Lord Jesus, the time is near to commemorate your birth as our Savior. Though our hearts are stained with sin, help us receive you rightly. Heal us and root out all our unrighteousness with distractions, keep us looking forward to your coming, not only as the baby in Bethlehem, but as the King of kings returning in the skies! Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Advent Gathering Song

James J. Chepponis



Verses chanted by the pastor:

For a shoot—from Jesse will... [refrain]
He will judge—with justice and... [refrain]
For the source of all patience will... [refrain]
Now accept one another and... [refrain]
Oh reform, for God's reign—has... [refrain]
Oh prepare—the way—and... [refrain]

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting

P: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

C: We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way for the Lord.

P: We hear his call to repent.

C: We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.

P: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Two Advent candles are lit.

Confession

P: Dear Friends in Christ, the Bible says, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, *God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness*" (I John 1:8-9). Therefore, as we gather together for worship in the presence of God, together we pray, humbly confessing our sins and asking for his forgiveness. C: O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy, and in your faithfulness, come to my relief. Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you. Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

(Taken from various Psalms)

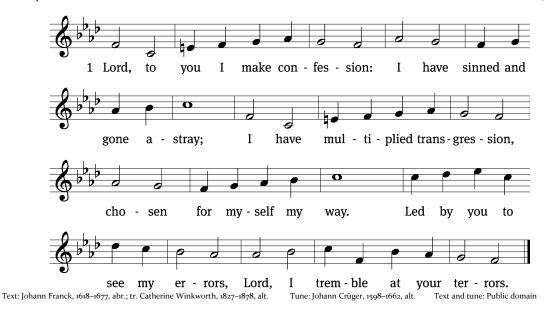
Brief silence for meditation

P: We confess:

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them. I humbly ask for your forgiveness.

Lord, to You I Make Confession

CW 653 st. 1



P: Jesus says to his people, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this? C: Yes, I believe.

Lord, to You I Make Confession

CW 653 st. 4



Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Absolution

P: Because of the promise of our Savior, Jesus, I forgive all your sins. Be assured that you are a redeemed child of God, bought with the blood of Jesus Christ. "The blood of Jesus purifies us from all our sins" (I John 1:7). With your sins forgiven, know that you are an heir of eternal life. We pray together:

C: O Lord, my God, I called to you for help, and you answered me. I thank you for the love you have shown me in Jesus Christ, my Savior. Through him you have rescued me from the guilt of my sin and given me the peace of forgiveness. Help me fight against temptation, correct whatever wrongs I can, and serve you and those around me with love and good works. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Prepare the Royal Highway

CW 302

We welcome the King of kings because he brings his promised healing, peace, justice, truth, and love.



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 715833

Tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading Isaiah 11:1–10

Isaiah gives the credentials of the one who would come to judge.

¹A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears,

⁴but with righteousness he will judge the poor, and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death.

⁵Righteousness will be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his hips. ⁶The wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together, and a little child will lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear will graze together, and their young ones will lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the cattle. ⁸The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole, and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as

¹⁰This is what will take place on that day. The peoples will seek the Root of Jesse, who will be standing like a banner for the peoples, and his resting place will be glorious.

the waters cover the sea.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

130G I Will Wait for You

The choir will sing the Psalm. The congregation is invited to join in singing the choruses.



Chorus: I will wait for you, I will wait for you; on your word, I will rely. I will wait for you, surely wait for you, till my soul is satisfied.

- 3 So put your hope in God alone; take courage in his pow'r to save—completely and forever won by Christ emerging from the grave. *Chorus*
- 4 Now he has come to make a way, and God himself has paid the price, that all who trust in him today find healing in his sacrifice. *Chorus/Finale*

Chorus: I will wait for you, I will wait for you; on your word, I will rely.
I will wait for you, surely wait for you, till my soul is satisfied.

Finale: I will wait for you, I will wait for you; through the storm and through the night.

I will wait for you, surely wait for you, for your love is my delight. (Outro)

Outro

I wait—my soul waits—for the Lord; my hope is in his word. More than the watchman waits for dawn my soul waits for the Lord.

Outro (cont'd)

O Israel, put your hope in God, for mercy is with him and full redemption. From their sins his people he'll redeem.

Tune: Hugh Wilson

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Second Reading Romans 15:4–13

God's people face the coming judgment with hope, not fear.

⁴Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. ⁵And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. ⁸For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. ⁹He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles, and I will sing to your name.

¹⁰And again it says:

Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.

¹¹And again:

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples give him praise.

¹²And again Isaiah says:

There will be a Root of Jesse, and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles; on him the Gentiles will place their hope.

¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Come, Messiah! Adult Choir

O come, Divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day when hope shall sing its triumph, and sorrows flee away.

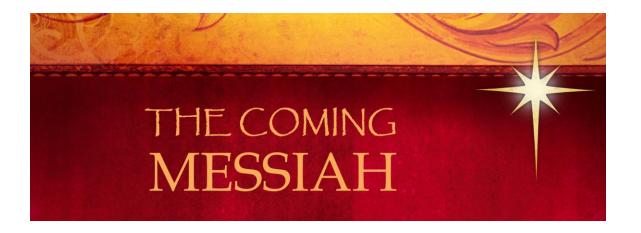
O come, Desire of nations, whom priest and prophet long foretold, and break the chains that bind us, redeem your long-lost fold.

Come, Messiah! Dispel our night with the dawn of grace. Come, Messiah! We long to see your face. Come, Messiah, come!

O come, dear Child of promise, for lowly shall your cradle be; though clothed in human likeness, we shall the Godhead see!

Come, Messiah! Dispel our night with the dawn of grace. Come, Messiah! We long to see your face.

Come, Messiah! Dispel our night with the dawn of grace. Come, Messiah! We long to see your face, your face. O come, Messiah, come! O come, Divine Messiah. O come, Divine Messiah. Come, Messiah, come!



P: Alleluia! Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. And all people will see God's salvation. Alleluia!

GospelMatthew 3:1–12

John prepared people for the arrival of the Judge by emphasizing the nearness of God's kingdom.

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

¹In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, ²"Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!" ³Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

"Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight."

⁴John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him. ⁶They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! ⁹Do not think of saying to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰Already the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance. But the one who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

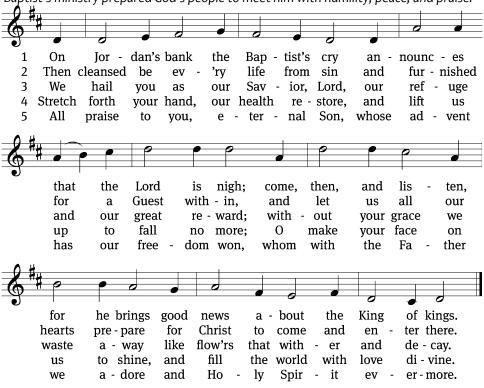
P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

CW 316

John the Baptist's ministry prepared God's people to meet him with humility, peace, and praise.



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. Composite

Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Matthew 3:1-12

Don't forget the Advent ax.

Thoughts to ponder after hearing the sermon:

- 1) Make a reprioritized Christmas prep list.
- 2) When someone asks how I can act so well-rested during this busy season, how will I use the Advent ax to help explain?

Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated 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.

Offering

To our guests: Our offering is not a debt we owe God but a way that we return to God a portion of what he generously gave to us. Our motivation, then, is not obligation but love for God. Please do not feel obligated to contribute. We're happy that you're with us to hear about God's love for you.

NOTE: At this time we are not passing the offering plates. You can place your offering in the plate in the Gathering Area as you leave today.

Prayer of the Church

P: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

P: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

P: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your love.

P: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

P: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

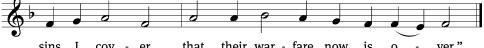
Comfort, Comfort All My People

CW 312

Rather than fear, God's judgment brings us comfort, for he repairs and restores us completely.



pre - pare way; now o'er earth is spread a - broad, and all flesh shall



that their war - fare now ver." sins Ι cov - er, is 0 ev - er - spring-ing glad - ness. ach-ing sad - ness in to rise to meet bow down to him and the hills greet him. see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1611-1684; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

C: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

P: May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (I Thessalonians 5:23, 28)

C: And also with you. Amen.

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

CW 318

As the Judge approaches, we give thanks for he is the Lamb who cleanses us from all sin, fear, and doubt.



Text: Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878, alt.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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+ Ministry Notes +

Our good day in God's house continues after worship, too.

Our after-worship adult Bible Class time is a great time for good Christian encouragement as we grow in the Word together and take time to pray for one another. Today we will have a study focused on Christmas. Sunday School for the children is at the same time.

Who feels like singing?!

Anyone who would like to sing some Christmas carols can join us next **Sunday**, **December**, 14th at 2:30 PM. We will carpool to several facilities around the area and then return to church for some food and fellowship time (including a chili cookoff for those who would like to participate). A signup sheet is in the Gathering Area to indicate how many people will attend. Members of all ages are welcome!

LWMS Reporter needed!

We are grateful to Sue Leinberger for serving as our LWMS Reporter. Sue has chosen to step down from her position, so we are now in need of another woman in the congregation to help promote and serve as contact for the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society. If you are interested in learning more or would like to be considered for the position, please speak with Pastor Saatkamp.

Mow, Mow, Mow (Y)our Lawn

We are looking for volunteers to help assist with the lawn mowing rotation. During the winter months we will only need to mow about once each month, but during the summer it's much more frequent. If you would like to participate and help out, please speak with Rob Banker.

Can you fix it?

We are looking for a maintenance supervisor for our campus. If the Lord has blessed you with the skill and time, please consider this wonderful (and paid) position, and speak with Rob Banker if interested or have questions.

All aboard this train

St. Paul's family member Justin Shue is away on deployment. To support Justin and Emily and family, there is a "meal train" set up here: https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/rolzɪl If you need technical help (or if you just don't want to use a computer or smartphone), see tech support (aka Pastor James) to get signed up. Thanks!

Upcoming Christmas Service Schedule

We invite you to join us as the students of St. Paul's Lutheran grade school and Precious Lambs Preschool share the joy of the season through songs and Scripture, celebrating the birth of Christ. We welcome your family to attend the following service dates:

Preschool and Kindergarten Christmas Service – Tuesday, December 16th at 6:00 PM **1**st-**8**th **Grade Christmas Service** – Thursday, December 18th at 6:00 PM

In addition to our regular Sunday services (9:30 AM) we will have several special services throughout the month, including:

Advent by Candlelight - Saturday, December 13th at 6:00 PM

- A service for women, composed of lessons, songs, and prayers.

Christmas Eve Candlelight - Wednesday, December 24th at 6:00 PM

- Celebrate the peace of our Savior's birth with lessons, carols, and candles.

Christmas Day Festival – Thursday, December 25th at 9:30 AM

- A joy-filled service glorifying God for sending the Savior from sin!

New Year's Eve - Wednesday, December 31st at 6:00 PM

- A service of reflection and repentance, rejoicing in God's grace for another year.

Our Christian Stewardship of God's Gifts

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. – 1 Cor. 4:2

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE: 92 LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS: \$3,383

PREACHER: James Saatkamp **PRESIDING MINISTER:** Tim Rosenow

ACCOMPANIST: Cindy Lendt USHERS: Rob & Sandy Banker STREAMING: Tony Moore FLOWERS: Sandy Banker

Let's pray this week!

birthdays | Mia Marasco (12-8), Susan Clonts (12-9); Rob Banker (12-11); Sharon Welfel (12-11); Olivia Eynon (12-12); Susan Rammel (12-12); Newton Trimmer (12-13)

anniversaries | (none this week)

homebound members | Dave Brandt, Bee Grunig, John Hambel, Leona Harms, Leon and Barbara Johnson, Susan Rammel, Kathy Saracione, Josephine Throo, and Paula Vitolo

health | Linda Bond (upcoming surgery); Tom Colwell (ongoing pain and cancer treatment); Madison Duncan (Becky Ramsey's daughter, ongoing autoimmune issues); Rick Robinson (recovering from a fall); Barbara Sadler, Kathy Babcock (Barbara's daughter), and Kathy's daughters (genetic health issues); Nancy Scruton (recovering from her medical procedure); Jim Teller (ongoing heart issues)

Serving in worship next week

Ushers: 12/14 Rick Freihofer and Dan Cerney

Streaming: 12/14 Bill Hoeltke

This Week | December 7th - 13th

TUE - Council of Ministry 5:15 PM

WED - Isaiah Bible Study 10 AM

THU - Choir 6:30 PM

FRI – Chapel 8:30 AM; VPK Afternoon chapel 12:30 PM

SAT – Advent by Candlelight

Upcoming Events

December 14 - Christmas Caroling (meet at 2:30 PM)

December 16 - PreK-Kindergarten Christmas Service 6 PM

December 18 – 1st-8th Grade Christmas Service 6 PM

December 22 – January 2 – NO SCHOOL (Christmas Break)

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6 PM

December 25 – Christmas Day Festival Service 9:30 AM; Christmas Church Family Dinner 3 PM

Who We Are

(Our Mission)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family. Like any family, we have our strengths and we have our weaknesses. We experience successes and we experience struggles. These are the things which unite us. For we know that we aren't perfect, but our Heavenly Father is; and he has loved us with a perfect love, sending his Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins and to give us eternal life in heaven. With that same love, he comes to us through his Word, the Bible, to equip us and encourage us as we live in a world which can leave us feeling discouraged and hopeless at times. So, as a family, we **gather** together around God's Word in church and in Bible classes. We have a school where children can **grow** in their relationship with our Heavenly Father and where we can **go** to share the love of Jesus with them. We want as many people as possible to know the joy and hope which we have as members of God's family.

If you would like to learn more about our church family or the ministries we offer through our church, school, and preschool, please speak with our pastor, principal, preschool director, faculty, or one of our members.

Thank you for being a part of our church family today!



Church and School Precious Lambs Preschool

> 6150 N Lecanto Hwy Beverly Hills, FL 34465 352.489.3027 www.stpauls.edu office@stpauls.edu

Sunday worship: 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class: 10 minutes after



OUR STAFF

James Saatkamp Pastor

pastor.saatkamp@stpaulsk8school.org 414.335.2316

Timothy Rosenow *Pastor*

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Dave Goddard Principal

Principal@stpaulsk8school.org 813.702.5853

Sharon Welfel Preschool director

Sharon.Welfel@stpaulsk8school.org 352.462.1814

Becky Ramsey Preschool teacher

Lucy Siegler Kindergarten teacher

Hannah Foley 1st grade teacher

Cindy Lendt 2nd grade teacher

Lindsey Klingenschmitt 3rd and 4th grade teacher

Noah Uhlenbrauck 5th and 6th grade teacher

Justin Siegler 7th and 8th grade teacher

Dorothy Draeger Administrative assistant