

A Sure and Certain Hope
Second Sunday in Advent—8 AM Service
December 7, 2025



St. Paul Lutheran Church Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod Columbus, Indiana

Welcome to St. Paul!

We are glad that you have come to God's house to be fed and strengthened by His holy Word. The order of service for today is printed on the **insert** in this bulletin. Guests, we extend a special welcome to you this morning. We are privileged to have you as our guest today and encourage you to worship with us again soon.

The Family Quiet Room and Restroom are located outside the doors of the sanctuary and to the left. In the Family Quiet Room, you can hear and see the service. Assisted hearing devices are available for the service. Please contact an usher.

Do you need prayer support? Please call Bonnie England at **812-447-7895** to activate our **Prayer Chain.** Your fellow church members will pray for you.

Our Communion Practice: We invite and encourage those who have been instructed, confirmed, and confess the faith of this congregation and other congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to receive the Sacrament. Communicants at this altar acknowledge their sins, believe that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, and desire the Spirit's help to turn from their sins.

Those who are not communing are invited to come forward and receive a blessing by placing their arms across their chest.

If you have questions regarding our Communion teaching and practice, please speak to a pastor.

Communion Preparation: To prepare for the Lord's Supper, you may wish to pray the prayer on the inside cover of the hymnal or review the Christian Questions and Answers on pages 329-330.

Today's Christian Education Opportunities

First Steps of Faith (Infants and Toddlers with a parent) meets in the conference room

Sunday School classes for ages three-sixth grade Confirmation Class meets in the confirmation room

SPY Class (grades 9-12) meets in the youth room

The Discussion Class meets in the gathering space for a study on the Early Church

Bible Study in the fellowship room studying the Nicene Creed

Serving Today

Organist: Kantor Dan Mau Acolytes: 8 AM Service Addy Arnholt 10:45 AM Service Leo Patterson

Church Calendar

Today Mite Box Sunday

8:00 AM Divine Service

9:00 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM

9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School

10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish

Noon Lunch

12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 12:15 PM Youth Confirmation 12:15 PM Choristers Rehearsal 12:45 PM Jr. Handchimes Rehearsal 1:15 PM Jr. Handbells Rehearsal

3:00 PM Christmas Caroling in Seymour 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

Monday January Newsletter Deadline

9:30 AM Homeschool Religion Class

10:00 AM Small Group Handbells

Wednesday 9:00 AM Bible Study

10:00 AM Gingerbread House Assembly

10:15 AM Matins Service 5:45 PM Sr. Handbells **6:45 PM Advent Service**

7:45 PM Sr. Choir

Friday 6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal Saturday 3:30 PM Davidson-Smith Wedding

Next Sunday 8:00 AM Divine Service

9:00 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM

9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School

10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish

Noon Lunch

12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 12:15 PM Youth Confirmation 12:15 PM Choristers Rehearsal 12:45 PM Jr. Handchimes Rehearsal 1:15 PM Jr. Handbells Rehearsal

3:00 PM Christmas Caroling

5:00 PM Christmas Family Fun Night 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

IN THE GATHERING SPACE...

- + December Newsletter, also online at stpaulcolumbus.org
- + January-March 2026 Portals of Prayer

Second Sunday in Advent – 8 AM Service

Prelude

Sr. Handbells: *Advent Passacaglia*—L. Lamb *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*—L. Delancy (Hymn 338)

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Record of Fellowship

Ringing of the Bell

Baptism Hymn 605

Sacrament of Holy Baptism Benjamin Jonathan Cline

page 268

Entrance Hymn please remain standing 344

Salutation and Collect for the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. 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.

© Amen. please be seated

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle ReadingRomans 15:4-13

[Paul writes:] For 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. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

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, 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."

And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people."

And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol Him."

And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even He who arises to rule the Gentiles; in Him will the Gentiles hope."

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day

please stand and speak together

Alleluia. 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. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 3:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the third chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 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.'"

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

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. 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. 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.

"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 fire. 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.

Praise to You, O Christ.

please be seated

Little Sermon

Hymn of the Day

337

Sermon A Sure and Certain Hope Romans 15:4-13

Offering 348

Prayer of the Church please stand

Service of the Sacrament pages 194-198

Distribution 346, 347 stanzas 1-3, 355, 336, 342

Visitors: Please read our Communion statement on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

Closing Liturgy please stand pages 199-202

Closing Hymn 347 stanza 4

Postlude Freu dich sehr—G. Böhm (Hymn 347)

A Sure and Certain Hope—Romans 15:4-13

Today, on the Second Sunday in Advent, we focus on the topic of h
Christian hope is not a wish but a complete confidence and a sure conviction of God's g
How do the lives of Job, Joseph, and David give us endurance, encouragement, and hope?
Every trouble we have in life comes from the evil of s
J is God become man to crush Satan's power and destroy sin and death forever.
We need the season of Advent, for Advent cultivates in us the discipline of the endurance of faith and h
Only in C is there any real hope.

LIVING THE SERMON... Our Lord uses us to bring the light of hope into the lives of those who hurt. Especially during this Advent season, give thanks for the hope that Christ gives to you, and pray for those who need His hope.

Next Sunday's Readings—Third Sunday in Advent Isaiah 35:1-10: James 5:7-11: Matthew 11:2-15

Find ways to bring your gifts of encouragement, care, and provision to those God has brought into your life. **PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH...** O Lord, our God – hope of the hopeless – grant your people a sure and certain hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, that they may know the peace and joy of life with you, both now and in eternity.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK... 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 will flee away. Isaiah 35:10

Advent and Christmas Services and Events

This Afternoon—3 PM Christmas Caroling to Seymour Area Shut-ins

Wednesdays, December 10th and 17th—6:45 PM Midweek Advent Services

Sunday, December 14th—Christmas Family Fun Night: 3 PM Christmas Caroling; 5 PM Supper, Family Activities, and Gingerbread House Decorating

Saturday, December 20th—5 PM Las Posadas Service and Fiesta

Sunday, December 21st—10:45 AM Children's Christmas Service; Rehearsal is Saturday, December 20th, 9-10:30 AM Sunday, December 21st—7 PM Christmas Concert; 6:40 PM Pre-concert harp recital

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th—5:30 PM Candlelight Service—Carol singing begins at 5:10 PM; 10 PM Communion and Candlelight Service—Carol singing begins at 9:40 PM

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25th—10 AM Festival Communion Service

Sunday, December 28th—9:30 AM Youth Christmas Party (grades 7-12) in the education building

New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31st—5:30 PM Divine Service

Friday-Saturday, January 2-3 Aurora Circuit Youth Lock-in at St. John's, Aurora (grades 6-12)

Sunday, January 4th—Celebration of Epiphany with Installation of Officers

Extending Christ's Love

Thanks for Your Generous Support!

Through your generosity, Baking for the Building and the Silent Auction raised more than **\$7,000** for Extending Christ's Love. Thanks to all who donated baked goods and auction items and those who participated. Please pick up your auction items today, if you have not already done so.

Playground Project

Thanks to the generosity of church members as well as current and former early childhood ministry families, we need \$12,878 to reach our fundraising goal for the new playground at the Christian Education Center. We have raised over 85% of the funds needed for this project! Every gift given is matched dollar-for-dollar thanks to an anonymous donor.

Grant Received

We have been awarded a \$25,000 grant through the Center for Congregations designated for architect fees for the Christian Education Center. This is the fourth and final grant that we are eligible for and have received through the planning process from the Center for Congregations. All four grants together total \$80,000! We rejoice in all the ways God continues to provide for this endeavor, including your generosity!

Youth Events

KfC (Kids for Christ—fifth graders and younger)

Next Sunday, December 14th—Join us for Christmas caroling at 3 PM and share Christmas joy to our shut-in and homebound members. Our Christmas Family Fun Night begins at 5 PM. Family and friends are invited to join us for an evening of food fun! We begin our time together with a meal. After supper, families will be invited to decorate a gingerbread house that they can take home.



SPY (high schoolers) and C4Life (sixth-eighth grade)

Today—Gingerbread House Icing Making

SPY (grades 9-12) and sixth graders are invited to help us make the icing for the gingerbread houses. Stay for lunch after second service and serve!

Next Sunday, December 14th—Christmas Family Fun Night

Join us for Christmas caroling at 3 PM and supper and gingerbread house decorating at 5 PM. SPY and C4Life youth can decorate their own gingerbread house. Bring a bag or two of candy to share.

Sunday, December 28th—Youth Christmas Party

During the Sunday School hour, youth in grades 7-12 will walk up the hill to the Education Building for their annual Christmas party.

Friday-Saturday, January 2-3, 2026—Aurora Circuit Lock-In

Youth in grades 6-12 and their friends are invited to a fun-filled night of learning, growing, snow tubing, and building relationships with other youth. Sign up by contacting DCE Probst or on the clipboard in the Sunday School hallway.

Friends are always welcome! For more information, contact DCE Jen Probst or a youth counselor.

Christian Leadership Discussion Class

Beginning Sunday, January 4th and continuing through Sunday, March 8th, Zach Mathews will be leading a Christian leadership class using the resource: *Developing the Leader Within You 2.0* by John Maxwell. The course equips participants with the essential principles and practical tools to grow as effective leaders, emphasizing that leadership is developed—not innate. Through ten foundational lessons—including influence, priorities, character, positive change, problem solving, attitude, service, vision, self-discipline, and personal growth—the course provides actionable strategies for inspiring and motivating others in any leadership role. Participants will learn how to leverage the Five Levels of Leadership, cultivate ethical character, serve others, and cast compelling vision, all while engaging in self-assessment and interactive discussions designed to foster integrity, self-discipline, and positive organizational impact. This course is ideal for both new and experienced leaders seeking to enhance their leadership capacity and drive meaningful change within their teams and organizations.

All are invited to participate. **Today** is the deadline to sign up so that materials can be ordered. Register for the class by contacting Zach in person, by phone or email (812-603-9981; zachmathews1@gmail.com).

Online Giving

You can set up your tithing completely online! Follow the link below or QR code on the last page of the bulletin to access our secure, online giving platform. If you forgot to bring cash or check to worship today, you can give a one-time donation at any time through our website where we accept ACH or credit card payments. You can also create recurring donations that happen weekly or monthly. And better yet, you have complete control over any adjustments or modifications that need to be made at any time. You can also indicate specific designations for your donation such as general fund, in memory of, Extending Christ's Love etc. Members and guests are finding this to be a great, convenient way to donate to our church. If you have more questions or would like help setting up your online tithing, please reach out to Rachel Fohne at financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org or 812-343-3786. Thank you for your generous financial support that helps us fund our mission and ministry at St. Paul!

Visit the Link: https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z2RE/campaign/C-125CF

End of Year Giving

Donate to our Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization at St. Paul! A donation to our St. Paul SGO directly benefits our Early Childhood Ministry by helping us fund our mission and ministry! And, even better, you as a donor are eligible to receive a 50% tax credit on your Indiana taxes. You can eliminate a portion or all of your Indiana tax liability!

Farmers-Did you know that you can give a gift of grain? The grain elevator you work with can send your grain check to the Indiana Lutheran SGO, designating our school as the recipient. You do not claim the value of this grain as income AND you would receive 50% back in your pocket as an Indiana tax credit! An example is that \$4,000 worth of grain would not be considered income for the donor, and you would receive \$2,000 back when you file your taxes! St. Paul Early Childhood Ministry would receive the full \$4,000 donation to fund our mission and ministry.

Consider donating by December 31, 2025, so that you can receive your tax credit when you file your 2025 taxes! Please contact Rachel Fohne for more information at financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org or 812-343-3786. You can also visit www.lutheransgo.org to donate directly online or to receive more SGO information!

2025-2026 St. Paul SGO Fundraising Goal \$135,000 Amount Contributed as of October 31, 2025: **\$55.941.45**

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

PRESENTED BY

Second Presbyterian Church Beecher Singers & Orchestra



Dr. Michelle Louer, Director Dr. John Allegar, Organist



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025, 7:00 P.M. PRE-CONCERT HARP RECITAL, 6:40 P.M.



St. Paul Lutheran Church 6045 E. State Street, Columbus, Indiana

You are cordially invited to attend. Admission is free. IN OUR PRAYERS... Baptisms: Benjamin Cline and Besy Eliette Bassett; Marriage: Isaiah and Reagin (Branaman) Nay; Sick and Recovering: Jim Brock (hip replacement surgery on Wednesday), Beverly Neawedde, Gerald Helt, Jim Probst, Marie Tellman, Jill Scheidt, Bob and Marilyn Runge, Marilyn Brown, Sylvan Scheidt (Randy and Jill Scheidts' granddaughter), Al Abrams (Pam Roth's brother), Mike Greve (Nora Cleary's cousin), Marcia Carson and Linda Hall (Gayla Alesandro's friends), Jami Maher (Joanne Kirby's niece), Bob McDonald (Wendy Wiederhoeft's father), Margaret Osmon (Nancy Dyer's sister), Ed Vogel (Eddie Vogel's father), William Leitshuh (Clearys' friend), Marilyn Gifford and Sherry Hart (Hinds' friends); Grieving: Family of Dennis Peters; Active Military: Garrett McGaha, Evan Rickus, Shane McGowen (Sally Haak's nephew), Peyton Mullins (Sperrys' friend), Ty Chamberlain (Taffy Schroer's relative)

PRAYER LIST UPDATED... The prayer list has been updated. If you or loved ones need to remain on the prayer list, please contact the church office or email Mackenzie Wint at secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org.

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST... We rejoice as Benjamin Jonathan Cline, son of Jon and Allie, is baptized at the 8 AM service. Sponsors are Zach and Ashley Roach. At the 10:45 AM service, Besy Eliette Bassett, daughter of Dustin and Paola, is baptized. May Christ keep Benjamin and Besy in the one true faith all their days.

UNITED IN CHRIST... Congratulations and God's blessings to Isaiah and Reagin (Branaman) Nay who were united as husband and wife yesterday.

THE FLOWERS IN CHURCH... are given to the glory of God in celebration of the marriage of Isaiah and Reagin Nay by Reagin's grandparents Glenn and Barbara Hughes.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING... We are offering two opportunities for Christmas caroling this year. **This afternoon** we will carol to our Seymour area shut-ins. Meet at church at 3 PM or at the Lutheran Community Home at 3:30 PM (meet by the chapel). Attendees are invited to enjoy supper together at a restaurant in Seymour after caroling. On **Sunday, December 14**th, we will carol to our Columbus area shut-ins. Meet at church at 3 PM and we will return by 5 PM for Christmas Family Fun Night.

YOUTH ORCHESTRA AND FLUTE CHOIR CONCERT...

St. Peter's, Columbus invites you to a concert featuring the Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and the Indy Winds Flute Choir **this afternoon at 3:30 PM.** St Paul members Aaron and Elisabeth Laws and Providence and Jesse Wofford will be participating in the concert.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE... is tomorrow, December 8th.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE ASSEMBLY... is **this Wednesday, December 10**th beginning at 10 AM. Please join us as we assemble the houses for our Christmas Family Fun Night next Sunday.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES... The Advent<u>S</u> of Our King is the theme of our Midweek Advent services Wednesdays at 6:45 PM.

- + December 10th—Christ Comes
- + December 17th—Christ Will Come Again

Please plan to attend and invite others as we prepare and rejoice in Christ's coming**§** to us!

SPECIAL MUSIC NEXT SUNDAY... The Third Sunday in Advent is "Joy" Sunday. The Columbus String Quartet under the direction of Vanessa Edwards will beautify our services as we make a joyful noise to the Lord.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN NIGHT... is next Sunday, December 14th beginning at 5 PM (following Christmas caroling). We will gather for a supper of hot dogs, sloppy joes, veggies with dip, baked beans, chips, cookies, hot chocolate, and drinks served by the Tri-W. Supper will be followed by gingerbread house decorating and other family activities. Please bring a bag or two of candy for the gingerbread house decorating.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT... Moms in the Word is hosting a Parents Night Out event on Friday, December 19th from 5:30-8:30 PM. Drop off your kids in their favorite Christmas jammies and pick them up fed and ready for bed! This event is a fundraiser for the new playground with all funds matched dollar for dollar.

LAS POSADAS SERVICE AND FIESTA... On Saturday, December 20th at 5 PM, our Latino outreach will be hosting Las Posadas Service. This is a traditional service in Latin America that recounts Mary and Joseph's difficulty in finding a place to spend the night on the first Christmas. A fiesta will follow the service in the fellowship room, with fajitas, rice, and drinks provided.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Although the service will be in Spanish, a bilingual bulletin will be provided. This would be a good way for you and your family to experience Latino culture and food.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE... is Sunday, December 21st during the 10:45 AM service. The theme is *Built on the Rock*. Rehearsal for the service is **Saturday**, **December 20th** from 9-10:30 AM.

Communion on December 21st: Due to the Children's Service, Communion will be offered following the 10:45 AM service.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT... The Beecher Singers and Orchestra will return **Sunday, December 21**st at 7 PM to present their tenth Christmas concert at St. Paul. Preconcert harp recital at 6:40 PM. Please invite your friends and neighbors to attend this inspiring concert.

CHRISTMAS SEASON BULLETIN DEADLINES... The deadline for both the December 28th and January 4th bulletins is **Monday, December 22nd** at 8 AM.

The church office will be closed Tuesday, December 23rd-Friday, January 2nd. If you need pastoral care during this time, please contact a pastor directly.

ECM REGISTRATION... for the 2026-2027 is now open! Please encourage families to visit our website for more information and/or to contact Director Jen Probst to schedule a tour.

THANKS TO... Carl and Mary Shaffer for hosting the church Christmas party. Thanks to the youth and adult volunteers who helped with gingerbread house dough making and baking.

The Response of God's People

Thanksgiving Eve

Divine Service: **146** Communion: **121**

Sunday, November 30th

Divine Service: **324** Communion: **262** Sunday School: **184**



Offering

General Fund: **\$10,073.44** Weekly Need: \$15,933 Extending Christ's Love: **\$4,107.59** including \$500

Playground Project Earl Stam Memorials: \$75

St. Paul Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Ministry

6045 East State Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201 812-376-6504; www.stpaulcolumbus.org

Pastor Doug Bauman; pastorbauman@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-350-4115
Pastor Jeff Patterson; pastorpatterson@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-569-2471
Pastor Daniel Fickenscher; pastorfickenscher@stpaulcolumbus.org; 260-710-6750
Kantor Daniel Mau; kantor@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-927-9319
DCE Jen Probst; director@stpaulcolumbus.org; 765-491-7818
Secretary Mackenzie Wint; secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-528-1176
Financial Secretary Rachel Fohne; financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-343-3786
Latino Outreach Coordinator Renee Strietelmeier; riskplants@yahoo.com; 812-343-6466
Social Media Coordinator Andrea Cotton; socialmedia@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-344-4580
ECM Teachers: Anne Wiltsey (kindergarten); Michelle Schultz, Alyssa Schultz, Glory Wofford (preschool)
ECM Assistants: Gayla Alesandro, Sarah Lewis, Laurie Schultz,

Reaching out with Christ's Love to Serve and Grow

Claudia Sims, Caroline Wilcox, Amy Yeley