



Oh, that You would rend the
heavens and come down,
That the mountains might
quake at your presence.
—Isaiah 64:1

Rend the Heavens

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

First Sunday in Advent
December 3, 2023

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 812-392-2732 to activate our **Prayer Chain**. Your fellow church members will pray for you.

Our Communion Practice: Scripture teaches that the Lord's Supper is a meal for baptized believers where the bread and wine are the true body and blood of Jesus Christ, and that through this Sacrament God grants us the forgiveness of sins and strength for our faith. Holy Scripture reminds us in 1 Corinthians 11:27-34 that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great harm. It is out of love and care for each individual that comes to the Lord's Supper that we ask that those who hold a different belief or church membership than that of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are not instructed and confirmed in the faith, or doubt the presence of Christ and His power in the Sacrament to refrain from attending the Lord's Supper. Please respect our position of love in this matter of pastoral care and speak with a pastor with any questions regarding the Lord's Supper.

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) meet in the Nursery

Sunday School classes for ages three-sixth grade

Confirmation Instruction (grades 7-8) led by Pastor Patterson Sr. High Youth in the Youth Room

The Faith in Art led by Deaconess Fickenscher meets in the conference room

Connected to Christ in Worship led by Pastor Bauman meets in the fellowship room

Serving Today

Organist: Kantor Dan Mau

8 AM Acolyte: Kinze Fischer

10:45 AM Acolyte: Kevin Chun Escalante

Church Calendar

Today

Mite Box Sunday

8:00 AM Divine Service

9:10 AM Fellowship

9:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM

10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish

Noon Lunch

Noon Planning Comm. Follow-up Forum

Noon Convivio/Spanish Bible Study

12:15 PM Confirmation

12:15 PM SPY and C4Life Icing Making

12:30 PM Jr. Handchimes

1:15 PM Jr. Handbells

1:45 PM Choristers

7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

Monday

10:00 AM Homeschool Religion Class

10:00 AM Moms in the Word

11:00 AM Small Group Handbells

Tuesday

10 AM-Noon OGT Workday

6:30 PM Girl Scouts

Wednesday

RFD Filming Day

9:00 AM Bible Study

10:00 AM Gingerbread House Assembly

5:45 PM Sr. Handbells

6:30 PM Pre-Service Music

6:45 PM Midweek Advent Service

7:45 PM Sr. Choir

Thursday

Shut-in Visits

7:00 PM Tri-W Meeting

Friday

5-10 PM Church Reserved

Next Sunday

8:00 AM Divine Service

9:10 AM Fellowship

9:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM

10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish

Noon Lunch

Noon Planning Comm. Follow-up Forum

12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study

12:15 PM Confirmation

12:30 PM Jr. Handchimes

1:15 PM Jr. Handbells

1:45 PM Choristers

3:00 PM Christmas Caroling

5:00 PM Christmas Family Fun Night

7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

175th Anniversary

Preserving the Past – Embracing the Future
Centered in Christ

This Wednesday, December 6th—RFD-TV Filming

Day: RFD-TV will be highlighting our church for their Christmas special. They will conduct interviews in the afternoon and will be recording our choirs and congregation before, during, and after the advent service. Pre-service music will be from **6:30-6:45 PM**, and the service will begin at **6:45 PM**.

Sunday, December 24th—Together as a Family Day:

Adults and children will gather together for Sunday School. We will celebrate Christ's birth and have a special presentation on German Christmas customs. Plan to attend this time of learning and celebrating together with your church family.

IN OUR PRAYERS... Sick and Recovering: Miriam Brouger, John Jones, Charlotte Williams, Dawn Deiwert, Sharon Cline, Kay Newton, Nora Cleary, Walter and Debby Rhodes, Jan Sherbundy, Gloria Schultz, Kathy Adams, Gayle Tertocha, Dorothy Hischke, Phyllis Fox, Kathy Hoover, Tony Balsler (Jen Pollert's father), Betsy Birch (Todd Scheidt's mother-in-law), Roe East (Dean and Donna Hartke's brother-in-law), Carl Lienhoop, Rick Sapper (Cleary's brother-in-law), Lewis Pollert (Bruce's brother), Steven Alderson (Lisa's husband), Donna Glick (Marybeth Glick's mother-in-law), Bruce Lagneau (John's brother), Rena Dillman (Kris Taylor's friend), Andrew Hamm (Nikolai Haak's friend), Preston Humbel (Woffords' friend), Susan (Arnholt) Hornback, Henrietta Nyffeler, Jeff Dyer (Nancy Dyer's son), Brent Pavey (Dean and Donna Hartke's son-in-law), Charles Oliver (Corbin Oliver's grandfather), Connie Ball (Jan Voelz's friend), Janeen Blumenberg, Regan Hoevener (Kristy Hall's sister-in-law), CW Milam (Sandy Lagneau's brother), Ron and Dianne Hargraves (Carolyn Schuette's sister and brother-in-law), Naomi Gillespie (Haak's great-niece), Noah LaSpina (Renee Strietelmeier's friend); **Active Military:** Noah Hoeltke

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK... *Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.* Isaiah 40:1-2

IN THE GATHERING SPACE...

- December Newsletters (also at stpaulcolumbus.org)
- 2024 Offering Envelopes
- January-March Portals of Prayer

SUNDAY LUNCH MENUS...

Today: Latino families providing meal
Next Sunday, December 10th: Spaghetti
December 17th: Pancakes
December 24th and 31st: No lunch served

PLANNING COMMITTEE FOLLOW-UP FORUMS...

Members from the Planning Committee will be available in the fellowship room **today and next Sunday, December 10th** following the 10:45 AM services to share the plans with those not in attendance, receive feedback, and answer questions.

MILITARY CARE PACKAGES... Do you have a friend or family member serving in the military? St. Paul LWML would like to send Christmas cards and CARE packages to members of the armed forces. Please provide names and addresses to Sally Haak at mrs.haak@pax-domini.org **today**.

MOMS IN THE WORD... meets **tomorrow, December 4th** at 10 AM in the fellowship room for fellowship and devotions. All mothers and children are welcome to attend.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN SERVICE DAY... The next service day for Orphan Grain Train is **this Tuesday, December 5th** from 10 AM-noon. If you cannot attend, the need for volunteers is ongoing so feel free to volunteer anytime during their regular hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 AM-3 PM.

GINGERBREAD ASSEMBLY... Volunteers are needed **this Wednesday, December 6th** to construct gingerbread houses beginning at 10 AM.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES... are **Wednesdays, December 6th, 13th, and 20th** at 6:45 PM. These Wednesdays are commemorations days of three saints on our church calendar. These three saints will encourage us in our life of faith. This Wednesday, we will commemorate St. Nicholas of Myra. **This Wednesday, December 6th**, please come at **6:30 PM** for fifteen minutes of pre-service music by our choirs and congregational singing of Christmas carols. After the service, we will sing *Silent Night* by candlelight for the RFD-TV recording.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING AND CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN NIGHT... Join us **next Sunday, December 10th** for Christmas caroling and our Christmas Family Fun Night. At 3 PM, we will meet at church and go Christmas caroling to our shut-ins.

At 5 PM, our Christmas Family Fun Night will begin! Supper will be served by Tri-W, followed by devotions and other activities, including the decorating of gingerbread houses. Please bring a bag or two of candy to share. This is the KfC event for December. All are invited! No RSVP is needed.

EUCHRE NIGHT AND HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE...

Join us for a euchre tournament and game night at the church on **Friday, December 15th** at 6 PM. We will be collecting a freewill offering to sponsor one year of boarding school for a Kenyan youth (\$300 per year). This euchre night will also feature a **holiday cookie exchange**. We ask attendees to bring 2-4 dozen cookies or bars to display during the games. Everyone will have a chance to sample the goodies brought in, and everyone will swap their favorites and go home with a sweet assortment at the end of the night. Those not wanting to bake can also bring another dish to share. Sign up to bring cookies or bars on the LWML board in the gathering space.

LAS POSADAS SERVICE AND FIESTA... On **Saturday, December 16th** 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... The Children's Christmas Service is **Sunday, December 17th** at the 10:45 AM service. The theme this year is *Connected*. Rehearsal is Saturday, December 16th from 9-10:30 AM. Music has been emailed and also reading parts for third-sixth graders. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bauman.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT... On **Sunday, December 17th** at 7 PM a Christmas Concert will be presented by the Beecher Singers and Orchestra of Second Presbyterian Church in

Indianapolis, directed by Dr. Michelle Louer. Pre-concert harp recital begins at 6:40 PM. Organist Dr. John Allegar will play Christmas favorites and lead the congregation in carol singing. Their music is beautiful and this will be their 8th Christmas Concert at St. Paul. This is a good opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to visit St. Paul.

CHURCH AND SCHOOL DECALS... Thanks to everyone who ordered church and school apparel to support our early childhood ministry. Decals with our new logo are available for a donation on the table in the gathering space.

CONCORDIA COUNSELING CENTER... Thanks for your prayers and financial support for this new outreach initiative. If you would like to donate, please make your check out to Concordia Counseling Center and mail it to PO Box 704, Seymour, Indiana 47274. The Indiana District LCMS will match donations up to \$100,000. Donation forms are available in the gathering space.

2024 FLOWER AND RADIO MINISTRY CHARTS... are posted in the gathering space. The cost to sponsor the radio ministry is \$105 (sponsors our Sunday radio worship service at 9:30 AM and the Lutheran Hour at 7 PM).

The Response of God's People Thanksgiving Eve, November 22nd

Divine Service Attendance: **137** Communion: **123**

Last Sunday, November 26th

Divine Service Attendance: **357** Communion: **270**

Sunday School Attendance: **196**

Offering: **\$14,146.46** Needed Weekly: \$14,426
Additional Gifts: \$150 RFD-TV; \$105 Radio Ministry; \$100 Youth Fund; \$46.32 *Lutheran Witness*

St. Paul Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Ministry

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Pastor Jeff Patterson; pastorpatterson@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-569-2471

Pastor Daniel Fickenscher; pastorfickenscher@stpaulcolumbus.org; 260-710-6750

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Early Childhood Ministry Director Jen Probst; director@stpaulcolumbus.org; 765-491-7818

Social Media Coordinator Kacey Patterson; socialmedia@stpaulcolumbus.org; 251-463-1906

ECM Teachers: Anne Wiltsey (kindergarten); Jen Probst and Michelle Schultz (preschool)

ECM Assistants: Gayla Alesandro, Sarah Lewis, Glory Wofford, Amy Yeley, Jenna Green