



Behold the days are coming,
declares the Lord, when I will
fulfill the promise I made to the
house of Israel and the house
of Judah...And this is the name
by which He will be called: The
Lord is our righteousness.

Jeremiah 33:14, 16

*Those Days, These Days,
and That Day*

First Sunday in Advent

December 1, 2024



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)
Sunday School classes for ages three-sixth grade
Confirmation Instruction (grades 7-8) led by Pastor Patterson
Sr. High Youth in the Youth Room led by Mrs. Probst
Signs, Symbols, and their Meaning led by Pastor Bauman meets in the fellowship room.

Serving Today

Organist: Kantor Dan Mau
Acolytes: 8 AM Service Kinze Fischer
10:45 AM Service Faith Wofford

Church Calendar

Today	<i>Mite Box Sunday</i> 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 Youth Gingerbread Dough Making 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 12:15 PM Confirmation Make-up/Work Ahead Session 1:15 PM Jr. Handbells 1:45 PM Choristers 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM
Monday	8:30 AM Gingerbread House Baking 10:00 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10:00 AM Moms in the Word 10:00 AM Small Group Handbells
Tuesday	10 AM-Noon Orphan Grain Train Workday
Wednesday	9:00 AM Bible Study 10:15 AM Matins Service 5:30 PM Sr. Handbells 6:45 PM Advent Service 7:30 PM Sr. Choir
Thursday	7:00 PM Tri-W Meeting
Friday	5:30-8 PM Fellowship Room Reserved
Saturday	9:00 AM Church Decorating 10 AM-Noon Cookies and Chrismons Event
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 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 12:15 PM Confirmation 1:15 PM Jr. Handbells 1:45 PM Choristers 5:00 PM Fellowship Room Reserved 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

2025 FLOWER CHART AND RADIO MINISTRY SIGN-UP... are posted in the gathering space. Radio sponsoring for our worship service and the Lutheran Hour is \$105 per Sunday.

First Sunday in Advent

Prelude

Small Group Handbells: *Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come* (LSB 350)
Savior of the Nations, Come (LSB 332)
The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns (LSB 348)

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Record of Fellowship

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Hymn

332

Confession of Sins

please stand pages 184-185

Introit

from Zechariah 9:9 and Psalm 89

- P** Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation. Who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD? Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before You. Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of Your face, who exult in Your name all the day and in Your righteousness are exalted. For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

G *(all sing—page 186)* **Glory be to the Father and to the Son...**

Kyrie

page 186

The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent. The service continues with the Salutation and Collect for the Day.

Salutation and Collect for the Day

page 189

P The Lord be with you.

G *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G *(sung)* **Amen.**

please be seated

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which He will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'"

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

[Paul writes:] What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Triple Alleluia

please stand page 190

☞ (all sing) Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 21st chapter.

☞ (sung) Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

And He told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

☞ (sung) Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

page 191

Little Sermon

Hymn of the Day

357 stanzas 1-5

Sermon

Those Days, These Days, and That Day

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Offering

357 stanzas 6-7

Prayer of the Church

please stand

Service of the Sacrament

pages 194-198

Distribution

331, 339 stanzas 1-3, 350, 333, 335

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

Closing Liturgy

please stand pages 199-202

Closing Hymn

339 stanza 4

Postlude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel—R. Powell

The *Gloria in Excelsis* is omitted during Advent. Advent is a penitential season as we prepare for the birth of our Savior. The *Gloria in Excelsis* begins with the song of the Christmas angels: *Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth.* We will refrain from singing this hymn of praise in our liturgy during Advent until we come to Christmas and join with the angels in rejoicing in our Savior's birth.

Today is the final day to sign up for poinsettias to beautify our church this holy season.

Those Days, These Days, and That Day

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Some days are more important than others.

Jesus' days on earth some 2,000 years ago are "Those Days" that bring mercy and hope to all other days.

Question: Why were the people of Jeremiah's time more focused on their own days ("These Days") rather than on the days when Jesus would come? ("Those Days") In what ways are we guilty of the same?

The Church observes a religious calendar called "The Church Year" that focuses on the days of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection so that we always remember "Those Days."

There is another great day coming when Jesus comes again to take us home to heaven. Jesus calls it "THAT Day."

Next Sunday's Readings Malachi 3:1-7b; Philippians 1:2-11; Luke 3:1-14

LIVING THE SERMON... Reflect on the ways in which you can focus more on "Those Days" and "That Day" so that you find more peace and hope and courage to face "These Days."

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH... Jesus says, "Surely I am coming soon." The faithful respond, "Amen. Come Lord Jesus!" Pray this prayer daily for yourself and all believers. Ask God to comfort the suffering and the discouraged by turning their hearts away from "These Days" to "Those Days" of Jesus and to "That Day" of his second coming in glory!

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK... *And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion in the day of Jesus Christ.* Philippians 1:6

Advent and Christmas Special Services and Events

Wednesdays, December 4, 11 and 18: 6:45 PM Midweek Advent Services

Saturday, December 7: 10 AM-Noon Cookies and Chrismos Fellowship Event

Sunday, December 15: 3 PM Christmas Caroling; 5 PM Christmas Family Fun Night

Thursday, December 19: Early Childhood Ministry Parents Day; 8:20 AM Chapel

Saturday, December 21: 5 PM Posadas Service and Fiesta

Sunday, December 22: 9:30 AM Grades 7-12 Christmas Party in the Education Building

10:45 AM Children's Christmas Service; Rehearsal is Saturday, December 21st 9-10:30 AM

7:00 PM Christmas Concert; 6:40 PM Pre-Concert Harp Recital

Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24: **5:30 PM** Candlelight Service; Pre-Service Carol Singing at 5:10 PM

10 PM Candlelight and Communion Service; Pre-Service Carol Singing at 9:40 PM

Christmas Day Wednesday, December 25: 10 AM Festival Communion Service

Christmas Celebration Sunday, December 29: 9:30 AM Together as Family Day

New Year's Eve Tuesday, December 31: **5:30 PM** Divine Service

Epiphany Celebration Sunday, January 5: Divine Services with Installation of Officers



Extending Christ's Love

Christmas Wall Hanging. Marilyn Brown is a gifted seamstress. For more than 20 years she has made our baptismal banners as well as other banners. This wall hanging will be available as a silent auction item. Bids will be accepted through **this morning at 9:30 AM** with the winner announced at the beginning of Sunday School. The wall hanging is displayed in the fellowship room. Thanks to Marilyn for her time and talent to support Extending Christ's Love.



If God has blessed you with special gifts of time, talent, or treasure that you desire to employ to support our Extending Christ's Love Campaign, please contact Finance Committee Chair Phil Burbrink.

Upcoming Youth Events

KFC (Kids for Christ—fifth graders and younger) Our December all Youth and Family Event is Christmas Family Fun Night on **Sunday, December 15th**. Christmas caroling to our shut-ins is at 3 PM with supper, activities, and gingerbread house decorating beginning at 5 PM. *Please bring some candy to share for gingerbread house decorating!*

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

Today: Youth will enjoy pizza after second service and then make the dough for the gingerbread houses. Parents are also welcome to serve. Pick-up is at 2 PM.

Sunday, December 15th: Christmas Family Fun Night—Join us at 3 PM as we spread the joy of Jesus' birth to our shut-ins by Christmas caroling. At 5 PM, we will enjoy supper, activities, and gingerbread house decorating. All youth will be able to decorate their own gingerbread house.

Sunday, December 22nd: Youth in grades 7-12 will have their annual Christmas party in the education building during the Sunday School hour. Youth are to bring "silly socks" as their gift to share. Who will bring and who will go home with the silliest socks!?!?



Friends are always welcome at our youth events!

Annual Meeting Highlights

Thanks to everyone who attended last Sunday's Annual Meeting. We had a great turnout for the meal and the meeting, enjoying time together with our church family. Here are some highlights of the meeting:

- The proposal for Jennifer Probst to serve as Director of Christian Education, overseeing the early childhood ministry, youth, and education beginning May 19, 2025, was approved.
 - Pastor Fickenscher will serve as our pastoral delegate to the Indiana District Convention in June. Wiley Umphress will be our lay delegate and Jim Brock is our alternate lay delegate.
 - The 2025 budget was approved with a \$19,676 deficit with 186 pledges returned (compared to 195 pledges returned last year).
 - Officers and Board Members were ratified as presented. Those who are beginning to serve include Rachel Fohne as Financial Secretary, Jacob Howarth on the Youth Board, Emily Linke on the Early Childhood Ministry Board, and Chad Fohne on the Education Board.
 - We recognized those completing terms of service: Melissa Pevlor as Financial Secretary, Dave Probst on the Youth Board, Mackenzie Wint on the Early Childhood Ministry Board, and Rachel Fohne on the Education Board.
- If you did not receive a copy of the Annual Meeting packet and would like a copy, please contact Mackenzie in the church office by email (secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org) or phone 812-376-6504.

IN OUR PRAYERS... Divine Call: Pastor Bauman to First Trinity Lutheran Church, Bloomfield, Nebraska; **Sick and Recovering:** Nancy Lipka (surgery Tuesday), Betty Korcek (Don Strietelmeier's sister—surgery Tuesday), Maddy Dougherty, Kay Newton, Lynn Hoeltke, Jan Sherbundy, Bob Runge, Kathy Hoover, Jill Scheidt, Pam Jenkins, Kristina Hargitt (Kim Chandler's friend), Ed Vogel (Eddie Vogel's father), Francis Hughes (Glenn's brother), Cora Waterman (Mark Wint's mother), Jim Baute (Jeff Booher's uncle), Naomi Gillespie (Haak's great-niece); **Active Military:** Garrett McGaha, Noah Hoeltke, Evan Rickus, Michael Mullins (Sperry's friend), Sam Studler (Kalli's friend), Ty Chamberlain (Taffy Schroer's relative)

PRAYER LIST UPDATE... Our prayer listed has been updated. We gladly lift up in prayer all who are in need. If you or a loved one was removed from the prayer list and is still in need of our prayers, please email Mackenzie Wint at secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org or write a note and give it to one of the pastors or Mackenzie, and we will pray for them.

SUNDAY LUNCH MENUS...

Today: Pizza – Gingerbread Dough Making Day

Next Sunday, December 8: Chicken Sandwiches

December 15: Taco Bar

December 22 and 29: No Lunch Served

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT... St. John's, White Creek invites women of all ages to Advent by Candlelight **this afternoon** at 2 PM. The theme is *All Things Work Out for Good* focusing on the women in the lineage of Jesus. Suggested donation is \$3. Dress is holiday attire.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE BAKING AND ASSEMBLY...

We need many servants to help us make and bake the gingerbread house pieces **tomorrow, Monday, December 2nd** beginning at 8:30 AM. Come for all or some of the morning. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated! Volunteers are also needed for assembling the gingerbread houses on **Wednesday, December 11th** beginning at 10 AM.

MOMS IN THE WORD... All mothers and children are invited to Moms in the Word **tomorrow, December 2nd** at 10 AM in the conference room. Join us for a children's devotional and fellowship.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN WORKDAY... is **this Tuesday, December 3rd** from 10 AM-noon at the Jonesville Warehouse. The need for volunteers and donations is great. You may volunteer any time Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 AM-3 PM.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES BEGIN THIS WEEK... *To Us...Is Given* is the theme of our midweek Advent and Christmas season services. During Advent, we will be looking at the names of the Messiah as found in Isaiah chapter nine. Advent services are **Wednesdays, December 4th, 11th, and 18th** at 6:45 PM.

FELLOWSHIP EVENT... Join us for a Cookies and Chrismons Fellowship Event **this Saturday, December 7th** from 10 AM-noon at the church. Plan ahead now to bring in two or more dozen of your favorite holiday cookies to share. Everyone in attendance will have an opportunity to mix and match all kinds of holiday treats to take home to their friends and families for the holidays. We'll also be decorating Chrismons for our homebound and shut-in church members.

MIDWEEK ADVENT COMMUNION SERVICE... On **Tuesday, December 10th**, we will host the Aurora Circuit Pastors Conference. You are invited to attend the Divine Service which begins at 10:30 AM.

KIKAI ORCHESTRA CONCERT... St. Peter's, Columbus invites you to a concert featuring the Kikai Orchestra on **Saturday, December 14th** at 1:30 PM at the church. The concert will feature a variety of Christmas tunes as well as other classical pieces.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING AND FAMILY FUN NIGHT... is **Sunday, December 15th**. Caroling begins at 3 PM. Young and old, are invited to join us as we share the good news of Christ's birth and bring Christmas cheer to our shut-ins. Please meet at the church.

Family Fun Night begins at 5 PM with a supper of hot dogs, sloppy joes, veggies with dip, baked beans, chips, cookies, hot chocolate, and drinks served by the Tri-W, devotions, Christmas activities, and gingerbread house decorating. *Please bring bags of candy to share and invite others!*

POSADAS SERVICE AND FIESTA... On **Saturday, December 21st** 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 Mexican Cuisine, 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... *Love Extended*, based of the hymn *God Loves Me Dearly*, is the theme of our Children's Christmas Service on **Sunday, December 22nd** at 10:45 AM. Please plan to attend as our children share the good news of God's love through Word and song. Due to the Children's Service, Communion will be offered following the service.

Rehearsal for the Children's Service is **Saturday, December 21st** from 9-10:30 AM.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bauman or Katie Arnholt.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT... You and your friends are cordially invited to attend the annual St. Paul Christmas Concert, **Sunday, December 22nd** beginning at 7 PM. A pre-concert harp recital by Dr. Heaven Fan will begin at 6:40 PM. Directed by Dr. Michelle Louer, the Second Presbyterian Church Beecher Singers and Orchestra will present their ninth Christmas concert at St. Paul. Organist will be Dr. John Allegar.

CONCORDIA COUNSELING MATCHING GRANT...

Thanks to all who contributed to the Concordia Counseling \$50,000 Matching Grant. If you would like to make a contribution, you may send your gift by mail to Concordia Counseling, 504 North Walnut Street, Seymour, Indiana 47274. You can also make a donation online at concordiacounseling.org. All gifts received by December 15, 2024, will be matched dollar-for-dollar.

THANKS FROM... Darlene Bower for all the cards and prayers during her surgery and recovery. What a blessing we have at our church with our beautiful church family!

THANKS FROM... Jill Scheidt for all the prayers, cards, meals, and words of support and encouragement. They are greatly appreciated.

THANKS TO... all who donated items for the military care packages and to the LWML for sponsoring the event.

The Response of God's People

Last Sunday, November 17th

Divine Service Attendance: **382**; Communion: **299**

Sunday School Attendance: **180**

Offering: **\$29,236.56** Needed Weekly: \$15,397

Extending Christ's Love: \$78,665

Additional Gifts: Special Projects: \$35,000; SGO

Donations: \$11,075

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

Church and ECM Secretary Mackenzie Wint; secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-528-1176

Church Financial Secretary Rachel Fohne; financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-343-3786

ECM/ECL Financial Secretary Melissa Pevlor; ecmfinancialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-344-1919

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

Latino Outreach Coordinator Renee Strietelmeier; riskplants@yahoo.com; 812-343-6466

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

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

ECM Assistants: Gayla Alesandro, Sally Haak, Sarah Lewis, Caroline Wilcox, Glory Wofford, Amy Yeley

Reaching out with Christ's Love to Serve and Grow