

St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Crossroads (ELCA)

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Sunday, December 2, 2018

First Sunday in Advent

Holy Communion

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.



LET YOUR GUARD DOWN,
LET GOD IN,
BE AMONG FRIENDS

WELCOME . . .

We are privileged to have you as our guest in the Lord's house this morning. We pray that the time you share with us will be meaningful for you and that God will bless you through it. If you have a question that is not answered here, please don't hesitate to ask someone around you.

Registry: Please take time to complete the registry/attendance sheet found in the pew in the black folder at the center aisle. It is important to us that we know who is worshipping with us today. Thank you.

Worship: This booklet is our order of worship for today. Hymns are found in the "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" hymnals located in the racks on the back of the pew in front of you. Everything else is printed in this booklet.

Our worship includes **Holy Communion**. As Christians in the Lutheran heritage, we believe that our Lord Jesus is physically present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine we receive. However, if you believe that Jesus' body and blood were given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins, you are welcome to commune with us, regardless of your faith background. A white grape juice is available at the center of the tray for those who do not wish to receive wine. Gluten-free wafers are available for those with gluten sensitivity.

If you desire to receive communion but are unable to come forward to the communion rail, inform the usher of such and communion will be brought to you.

. . . WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Ministers:	The people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Crossroads
Pastor:	Pastor Creighton
Greeters:	Les and Martha Kessens
Accompanist:	Andrea Westerfeld
Acolytes:	Emily Borgman and Ashton Turner
Assisting Minister:	Mary Lou Krieger
Reader:	Adam Mack
Communion Assistant:	Gene Krieger
Sound System:	Brandon Borgman
Offering Counters:	Les Kessens and Gary Westerfeld
Altar Committee:	Alvin and Sheryl Harmeyer

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (*Assisting Minister*)

- Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday in which we recall the hope we have in Christ.
- As the followers of Christ, we await his return.
We remember that as he came to us humbly in a manger at Bethlehem and gave light to the world, so he is coming again in power to redeem all of creation.
- We light this candle to remind us to be alert and to watch for his glorious return.

Light the First Candle

- LET US PRAY - Loving God, we thank you for the hope you give us. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming. Bless our worship. Help us live holy and righteous lives. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. **Amen.**

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.
Amen.

Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

To you, O God,
**we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you.
Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love.
Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth,
for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation.
Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of † Jesus;

you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve.
Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG:

ELW 254

GREETING

The presiding minister and assembly greet one another.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

DIALOGUE

The assisting minister leads the assembly in dialogue.

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

So that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

A reading from the thirty-third chapter of Jeremiah.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In 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. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

The psalm is read responsively.

¹To you, O LORD,

I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;

rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;

remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your

goodness, O LORD.

**⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

**¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

A reading from the third chapter of 1 Thessalonians.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to acclaim the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 142

♪Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 253

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer.

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Equip your church, merciful God. Secure our roots in the soil of your eternal word. Ease our worries and remove our shame. Grow our faithfulness and let your steadfast love blossom among us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sustain your creation, holy God. Water the parched soil. Restore depleted fields. Send farmers, forest rangers, and gardeners to care for fig trees and wheat fields, gardens and arboretums. Increase our love for the land. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grow peace within us, abundant God. Raise up leaders in every community grounded in your justice and mercy. Increase their love for all people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Feed the hungry, living God. Gather our harvest into a feast for our neighbors. Move us to nurture those who are bereaved and lonely. Empower those living with HIV/AIDS and all who are sick, especially those listed in the bulletin and prayer book, and those we name aloud or in our hearts at this time. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Increase our joy, wondrous God. Plant thanksgiving in our hearts and multiply the good fruit of our outreach ministries and creation care programs. Guide us in our service to local and global neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving, we remember all who have died and now rest in your glory. Hold all who mourn in the comfort of your eternal light and bring us to delight in the new life you promise. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray and all for whom we have forgotten or neglected to pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING SONG:

ELW 247

OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister leads a prayer.

Let us pray together.

God of abundance,

we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

ELW p. 144

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 144

**¶Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r 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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Introduction by Pastor



Gathered into one by the Ho-ly Spir - it, let us pray as Je-sus taught us.

Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The presiding minister addresses the assembly in invitation.

The assembly is seated.

All are welcome at Christ's table! If you are a visitor and receive communion at your home church, you are invited to do so here. Everyone is invited to receive communion or a blessing.

COMMUNION SONG

ELW p. 146

**♪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.**

COMMUNION

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond Amen.*

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

After Holy Communion has been distributed, the assembly stands, and the presiding minister may say:

The body and blood of our risen Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION: *Wait for the Lord* ELW 262

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be

messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessings.

Go out into the world in peace;

have courage;

hold on to what is good;

return no one evil for evil;

strengthen the fainthearted;

support the weak, and help the suffering;

honor all people;

love and serve the Lord,

rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *People, Look East*

ELW 248

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

We remember in Prayer:

Carol Bergman

Chris Meyer

Leon Siebert

Aaron Nicholson

Todd Siebert

Art and Karen Salvitti

Marlin and Julia Siebert

Melody Briner (Marilyn Gausman's daughter)

Kasey Hester (friend of Marilyn Gausman's son Michael)

Nick and Ivy Gunter and their unborn twins
Ruth Booster (wife of former pastor)
Lois Bastien Brown (Tim Salvitti's grandmother-in-law)
Marie Dierckman (Ginny Low's mother)
Steve Gookins (Friend of Les & Martha Kessens and Dennis & Andrea Westerfeld)
Leonard (husband of Lisa Gausman's friend)
George Lerosé (Art Salvitti's brother-in-law)
Stella Long (Marilyn Gausman's sister-in-law)
Tessa Mayer (wife of Wanda Siebert's principal)
Nate McClintic (Spouse of Debbie Mack's co-worker)
Bekah Netherton (daughter of Debbie Mack's friend)
Erin Newcomb (Hauser HS student)
Ronnie Nicholson (Darrell's brother)
Barry Norman (Lisa Gausman's former principal)
Carol Rayve (Karen Salvitti's mother)
Ted Rayve (Karen Salvitti's brother)
Beverly Richardson (Laura Nicholson's mother)
Kristina Salvitti (Art's daughter)
Gary Schopmeyer (friend of Anita and Bob Krieger)
Charlie Seibert (friend of Anita and Bob Krieger)
John Ward (Eunice Sisson's brother-in-law)
Jasmine Westerfeld (Sharon Brown's great-granddaughter)
Melinda Wilson (wife of Ben Wilson)

anyone affected by natural disasters, warfare and violence
all who serve in the military

Honored Members:

Allen and Mary Lou Narwold Bill Westerfeld

Our members at St. Andrew's: Julia Siebert Ruth Thackery

Our Partner Churches: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lithuania and Zion Lutheran Church, Manchester

Today:

A blessed Advent to you! Today as we worship, we begin the season of anticipation, hope and preparation for the coming Messiah. **Welcome.**

Please plan to remain after worship to help with the **Hanging of the Greens**. Many hands make light work!

Pr. Creighton will be leading a **Blue Christmas worship service** this evening at 6:30 pm. This service is designed for those for whom the holiday season may be difficult.

This Week:

Office Hours – Monday	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Pr. Creighton’s office hours – Monday – Thursday	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Monday –

Church Council meeting at Izzy’s	6:30 PM
Busy Bees 4-H Club meets in basement	7:00 PM

Tuesday –

SEIC Clergy meeting	10:00 AM
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Wednesday –

Advent worship service	6:30 PM
Choir Practice	7:30 PM

Thursday –

Batesville Area Ministerial Assoc. meeting	1:30 PM
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Sunday -

Sunday School	9:00 AM
Worship Service	10:00 AM
Christmas Caroling	1:00 PM

Upcoming Events / Announcements:

The Food Pantry is **collecting items for the holiday baskets**. They are asking us to collect another 300 canned fruits and/or vegetables before Christmas. Please consider assisting with this vital community ministry. Your generosity and cooperation are greatly appreciated by our neighbors in need.

Advent worship services will be on Wednesdays during December at 6:30 pm. Please consider taking a quiet break from the hustle and bustle of the season to prepare yourself for the Christ Child's coming.

Plan ahead for December events:

Christmas Caroling – December 9th at 1:00 pm

Sunday School Program – December 16th during worship

Christmas Eve Service – December 24th at 7:30 pm

Friends of the Batesville Library are hosting an **Almost New Book Sale** on December 7 and 8. Please see the bulletin board for more information.

St. Anthony Church in Morris is presenting their **Live Nativity** on December 7-8. A flyer with more information is posted on the bulletin board.

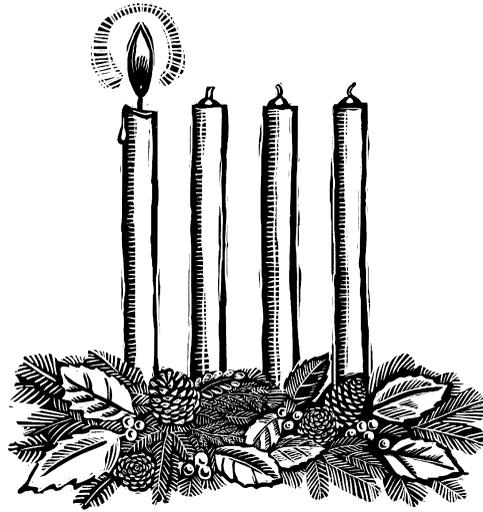
FCN Bank is hosting a **Blood Drive** on Tuesday, Dec. 11th at their Batesville location. Times are 10am – 12:15pm and 1:30 – 3:30pm. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

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First Sunday in Advent

Don't Wait for the Kingdom—See It

As Advent begins, we look forward to the celebration of Jesus' first coming to the world in the light of a text that promises his final coming. We, like the gospel writer, Luke, live in the time between these two "advents" of Jesus. Today's gospel gives us guidance on how to live faithfully as we wait for Jesus to return. However, in this in-between time, it is easy for us to become distracted and lose sight of the promises of Jesus. Daily tasks and routines can lull us into apathy. Ease and success can allow us to ignore our spiritual needs. Struggles, setbacks, and disappointments can cause us to lose hope and fall into despair. But Jesus tells us we should not feel beaten down or defeated by the struggles of this world, but instead "stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28).

Jesus goes on to say that there will be signs, signs of new life and growth, such as the sprouting of a leaf on a fig tree in the summertime. These signs are perceptible to us here and now. These signs help us know that God's kingdom is coming. In fact, they remind us that in Jesus, God's kingdom has already come near, and Jesus words will not pass away until this kingdom has fully come. We should live with our eyes focused on today's signs that demonstrate God's reign and trust that Jesus' redemption of the world will one day be complete.