



FIRST SUNDAY
OF
Advent

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE! May this hour be a journey of the heart, a renewal of spirit, a pause in our lives as we worship the Lord our God together. If you are a guest this morning, we extend a special welcome to you and invite you to sign our guest book located in the gathering space outside of the sanctuary, also known as the narthex. Following our worship service, we invite you to share in a time of fellowship over coffee, juice, and snacks in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in learning more about our congregation and becoming a member, please visit with any member of the congregation. Thank you for celebrating the love of Jesus Christ with us at St. Paul Lutheran Church!

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME HERE! We feel strongly that the faith formation of youth—just as any adult’s—develops through experience; because of this, we welcome youth of all ages to participate fully in worship and invite them to serve in a number of roles, such as ushers, greeters, readers, and musicians. While we expect that children will behave as children—giggles, wiggles, and all—we also understand that sometimes they (and their parents or guardians) need a break; on those occasions, you are welcome to utilize the nursery (unstaffed) located on the north end of the narthex. Additionally, there is a playroom for children and a couch room for older youth on the west end of the Fellowship Hall. You can also find children’s bulletins and crayons on the table as you enter the main church building doors.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP As Lutherans, worship is connected with and central to everything we do—uniting us in celebration, engaging us in thoughtful dialogue, and helping us grow in faith. At the heart of our worship life is the presence of God through the word proclaimed and the sacraments—Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; this is because worship is—first and foremost—fundamentally about what God is doing in the world and in our lives, and then our response to God’s action. In the context of worship, we find our response in the liturgy, which is a way of living God’s story. The liturgical texts that form the prayers we pray, the texts we say, and the songs we sing find their roots in the Bible; for more information see the back of the hymnal, ELW pp. 1154-1159. Furthermore, these liturgical texts invite each and every one of us—not just the pastor or choir or any other worship leader—to use our voices to praise God. Through worship we are shaped to be participants in God’s life in this world.

PLEASE ASK AN USHER, GREETER, OR STAFF MEMBER FOR...

- Assistance with wheelchair seating • Assisted listening devices •
- Large print bulletins • Directions to restrooms • Communion in the pew •

AED Unit an AED is found in the coat area when you enter the main entrance.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent and Holy Baptism

November 30, 2025

+Indicates to rise as you are able. Congregational responses are printed in **bold**.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

WELCOME

L: God is good! C: **All the time!**

L: All the time! C: **God is good! All are welcome here!**

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP- HOPE

Leader 1: We gather in the season of Advent, waiting and watching for the One who comes not in splendor, but in humility. The God of the universe has changed addresses—leaving heaven's throne to dwell among us in a manger. This is grace: not earned, not expected, but freely given.

Leader 2: We light the candle of Hope, trusting that the God who moved into our neighborhood, who doesn't pretend to be one of us, but really is one of us, brings light to our darkest places.

All: Emmanuel, God with us, you chose a manger over a palace. Let your presence fill our longing hearts with hope.

+ADVENT WREATH SONG GROUND FLOOR GRACE

To the tune of "Away in a Manger"

Verse 1 – HOPE

A candle is burning, its flickering light,
Proclaims that our Hope has pierced through the night.
The God of creation came close to our pain,
And dwells in the dust, where our sorrows remain.

+PRAYER: God of hope, dwell among us. Set us upon the foundations of your grace. Let your humble birth remind us that no place is too lowly for your love to enter. Amen.

+HYMN “O, Little Town of Bethlehem” ELW #279

+GREETING

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.**

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. You, O God, work through grace-filled beginnings. Open our eyes to your truth and lead us to your grace. In all things, help us to know that your grace is for us, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

1ST READING Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: “Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!”

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 122 *congregation responds with even number verses.*

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.” (Ps. 122:1)

¹ I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

² **Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

⁴ **To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**

⁵ For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.**

⁷ Peace be within your walls and security within your towers.”

⁸ **For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.”**

⁹ For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

2ND READING Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ’s coming in the future.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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+ GOSPEL *Matthew 24:36-44*

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE WORD (CHILDREN AND ADULTS)

GATHER GROW GO

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE “What is Advent?”

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY “Canticle of the Turning” ELW #723

HOLY BAPTISM

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. The power of sin is put to death in this holy flood, and we are raised with Jesus Christ to new life. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and sent out in mission for the life of the world.

Parents and Sponsors, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have these children baptized into Christ?

Parents and Sponsors: We do.

As you bring these children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that they may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help them grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Sponsors: We do.

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support Kandice, Kole and Ethan and pray for them in this new life in Christ? **People: We do.**

As parents, sponsors and members of this congregation, the family of God, I ask you to reject sin, profess your faith in Christ, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

We do.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

We do.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

We do.

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**People: I believe in God the father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his
only son, our Lord. He was conceived
by the power of the Holy Spirit and
born of the virgin Mary. He suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died, and was buried. He descended**

into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living
and the dead.**

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Pastor: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood, you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery in Egypt into freedom. At the river, your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Kole Edward/Kandice Jo/Ethan Kole, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your sons and daughters new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain the baptized with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **People: Amen.**

Pastor: Kandice/Kole/Ethan, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever in this baptism!

Pastor: Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven!

Pastor: Let us welcome these children into God's family by singing twice "Jesus Loves Me"

**All: Jesus loves me this I know For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong.
They are weak but he is strong. Yes! Jesus loves me. Yes! Jesus loves me.
Yes! Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so. (sing twice)**

+PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition concludes: God of hope, **Receive our prayer.***

+PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also, with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, & BIRTHDAYS

“Happy Birthday dear friends, may Jesus bless you!”

OFFERING- CHILDREN’S OFFERING

Thank you for your time, talents, and treasures. These offerings support the ministry of St. Paul. You may also visit www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving to set up a one-time gift or regular, electronic giving. Children are welcome to come up and put in their own personal offering in the Nativity Crèche/Basket. Thank you for being a part of what God is doing at St. Paul Lutheran!

OFFERING

+OUR MISSION

What is the mission we share together?

Our mission is to GATHER as God’s people; to GROW in faith, love, and service; and to GO into the community and world as disciples of Jesus.

+BLESSING

The God of hope fills us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

+SENDING SONG

“Joy to the World” ELW #267

+DISMISSAL

Go in peace to Love and Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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This worship service is being broadcast via Live Stream on our Web Site. It is also being recorded and will be available on our website.

Taken from “Advent 2025 Worship Resources based on ‘Ground Floor Grace’ by John Stevens” Western North Dakota Synod of the ELCA 2024

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

***We welcome through Holy Baptism today, Kandice Jo, Kole Edward, and dad Ethan Steele.** Mom and wife is Elisa Duben Steele.

***Today we begin the Advent Season.** During the Season of Advent, we will have a Jesse Tree in the entrance. The Jesse Tree is a bare branch that we as a congregation will decorate with hats, mittens, and scarves. They will be donated to the Food Pantry.

Volunteer Opportunities

***Fellowship:** We need your help serving fellowship! Please check out the sign-up sheets at the volunteer desk in the greeting area/narthex.

***Readers & Acolytes** are needed in December. A sign-up sheet and a copy of the readings is on the signup table in the entry.

Upcoming

***Dickens Bake Sale Booth:** There is a worker's sign-up sheet and a baked goods sign-up sheet along with a suggested price sheet in the Narthex. We will appreciate all donations and workers. The money is used for children's camperships to Camp of the Cross, and other benevolences. Contact Nancy Livesay or Loree Jeffers with any questions.

***Women of Faith on Tuesdays:** on December 9th at 10AM we will be showing the movie "Amish Grace". Then that evening we will be showing it again at 6PM. All are welcome at either time!

Outreach

***"Little Lunches Backpack Program"** is hosted by St. Paul. If you would like to get involved, please let Dawn Kolden or Pastor Sloka know.

General

***Christmas Choir practice has started.** This is open to all members of the congregation and community. Please invite a friend. The Christmas Choir will sing on Sunday, December 14th. A practice schedule is posted at the offices. See Lisa Haugen for questions.

***The council for the purposes of safety and security have decided the following:**

The sanctuary (worship space) will be always locked when we do not have worship. During office hours only the main entrance door will be unlocked, and the fellowship hall door will remain locked, unless an activity is taking place in the fellowship hall.

***Spring Raffle for the Supper.** We are looking for donations as prizes for the Women's Spring Raffle to be held during the Spring Supper on Sunday, March 1st. Please let Loree know if you would like to donate a prize by Sunday, December 22nd. You could also give a donation towards a Krause's or Cenex Gift Card.

You are invited to visit www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving to set up a one-time gift or regular, electronic giving.



**We also now offer Venmo and PayPal
Thank you for being a part of what God
is doing at St. Paul!**



venmo

In Our Prayers...

Clair Eslinger, Lisa Otteson, Duke Kastner, Linda Ravnaas, Rachel Everett, Agnes and Harold Lindsey, Becky Tebby, Laken Beyer, Pete Stanius, Terry Kolden, Jessica Johns, Chet Adam, Kayla Neilsen, Wanyce Arndt, Debbie Stratton, Jylann Hanson, Jan Clapper, Andy Zietz, Mary Thorson, Paul Hellebush, Jeff Wretling, Alton Krebsbach.

Family and Friends of Niah Haugen at her uncle's death, John Otteson, Delores Luedke's brother-in-law and Larry Rime.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS THIS WEEK

Andrew Haugen	November 30
Cambree Koelzer	November 30
Kayla Macheledt	December 01
Traci Ruhland	December 01
Bennett Essler	December 02
Marion Roberts	December 03
Marlyn Zimmerman	December 03
Michael Hanson	December 04
Julie Ginger	December 05
Emmit Lagge	December 05
Jan Norenberg	December 05
Kimber Rime	December 05
Kelsey Kolden	December 06



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Today, Sunday, November 30th First in Advent

9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Baptism

10:00 NO Sunday School

10:15 Fellowship

Monday 1:00 p.m. Quilting

Tuesday

10:00 Women of Faith DVD'S

10:00 Men's Bible Study

Wednesday

9:30 Circle Meeting Breakfast by the staff

3:00 Sonshine Friends (A)

5:30 Sweet Sounds Practice

6:30 Advent Worship Service

7:00 Christmas Choir Practice

Thursday

10:00 Community Bible Study

Friday

12-7 Women's Bake Sale

4PM Fleishkeukele

Saturday

12-7 Women's Bake Sale

4PM Fleishkeukele

Next Sunday, December 7th

2nd Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Bishop Craig Visit

SAM installations

10:00 Sunday School

LOL

10:15 Fellowship

CASEY'S DAY

written by Ron Vandenburg
illustrated by Chad Thompson

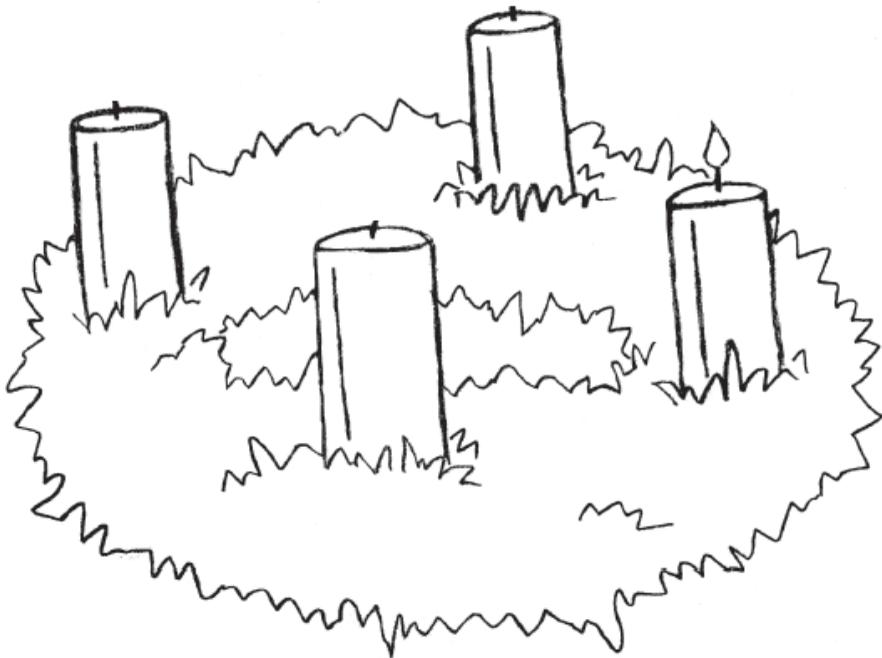




PRE-READER

Advent 1

- Today is the 1st **Sunday** in **Advent**.
 - During Advent we **wait** for Jesus to come.
 - The symbol we see for Advent is an Advent **wreath**.
 - The candles in the wreath give us **light**.
-





2025

Advent and Christmas are one of the most important times of the church year. It is the season that we celebrate the birth of Jesus. There are many special church activities in December.

- *Advent Sundays* November 30, December 7, 14 & 21 at 9:00 a.m.
- *Mid-Week Advent* We are having our midweek Advent services this year at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, December 3, 10 & 17
- *The Choir Festival* is Sunday, December 14th, at our regular 9:00 a.m. We will be worshipping with Our Savior, Max.
- *The Children's Christmas Program* will be during worship on December 21st.
- *The Blue Christmas Service* will be Sunday, December 21st at 3PM at St. Paul. The holidays can be challenging times for anyone who has suffered loss or hurt. A service of comfort is a way we can recognize the depth of the season and help process those negative feelings that might be held within during the holidays. By doing so, we can all celebrate more fully, knowing we have acknowledged those who are no longer with us or what we might have left behind.
- *Christmas Eve* Two Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight services will be available at 2:30 and 4:30 p.m.
- *Christmas Day* No Christmas Day service will be held in person. *However, a virtual pre-taped service will be available by the staff @ 9:00am. It will be on our Web site.*
- *Sunday, December 28th* A Lessons and Carols Service will be celebrated!
Bring your leftover goodies for Fellowship!
Please join us in celebrating Jesus' birth during these services!

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH + ELCA

P.O. Box 726 – Garrison, ND 58540

stpaul@restel.com

Church Office: 701-463-2019

Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.

www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com

pastorsloka@gmail.com

Pastor Janis Sloka, III Cell: 701-861-9915

Sunday School Sept-May – 10:00 a.m.

SERVING IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH

<i>Ministers</i>	The People of St. Paul Lutheran
<i>Pastor</i>	Rev. Janis Sloka, III
<i>Faith Formation Director/Treasurer</i>	Holly Klemisch
<i>Synodically Authorized Ministers</i>	Lisa Haugen and Michael Youngs
<i>Partner in Ministry</i>	Our Savior, Max
<i>Church Council President</i>	Clair Eslinger
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Loree Jeffers
<i>Custodian</i>	Pam Kolden
<i>Missionaries</i>	Anne & Willie Langdji; Katie Narum Miyamoto
<i>Sweet Sounds Coordinator</i>	Loree Jeffers
<i>Choir Director</i>	Lisa Haugen
<i>Musicians</i>	Kim Gehring and Sundi Lagge
<i>Reader</i>	Marian Lehnherr
<i>Ushers</i>	Tonya and Tod Graeber
<i>Greeters</i>	Darci Behles
<i>Acolyte</i>	Lucie Dewitz
<i>Door Attendant</i>	
<i>Fellowship Hosts</i>	Self-Serve
<i>Technology</i>	Lisa Maki
<i>Council Member</i>	Wade Kolden

MISSION STATEMENT

As we share the gospel of Jesus Christ, our mission is to GATHER as God's people; to GROW in faith, love, and service; and to GO into the community and world as disciples of Jesus.