



December 24th, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Pastor Christopher P. Vossler

Organist: Sara Glynn-Dishaw

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

2045 LYNN RD | SANFORD, MI 48657

- Welcomes you! -

Hymn: 353 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
 2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
 3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
 4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
 worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
 sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
 hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
 To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in

the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b

Show, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;*

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.*

In them he has set a tent | for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,*

and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them,*

and there is nothing hidden | from its heat..
Show, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;*

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.



Kyrie

LSB 186

C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

C Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And

Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’” ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Special Music-Choir

Epistle

Romans 16:25–27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26–38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold,

you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn:

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

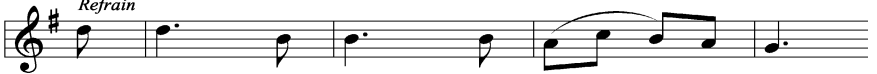


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
 And open wide our heav'nly home;
 Make safe the way that leads on high,
 And close the path to misery. Refrain
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Sermon

“Help Us by Your Might” Collect of the Day

Pastor Christopher P. Vossler

Goal: That the hearers would lay their sins on Jesus’ shoulders.

I. Introduction

-

II. Weight of Sins

- From where does this weight come?
- What responses might we have to this weight of sin?

III. Lifted Away

- Can we take away this burden of sin on our own?
- How can the weight be removed from us?

IV. The Lord’s “Might”

- Where do we see the Lord’s might made clear to us?

V. Conclusion

-

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive
those who trespass against us;

**and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glory forever and ever. Amen.**

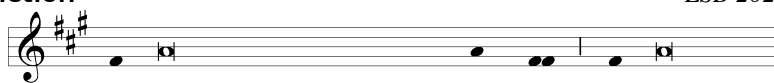
Collect for Peace

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

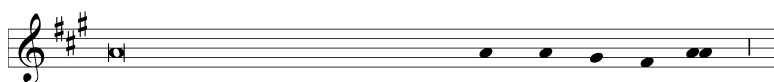
C Amen.

Benediction

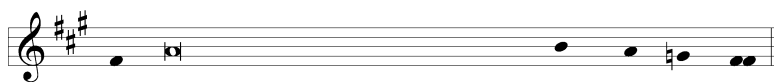
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn:

337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending



1 The night will soon be end - ing; The dawn can -
 2 The One whom an - gels tend - ed Comes near, a
 3 The earth in sure ro - ta - tion Will soon bring
 4 Yet nights will bring their sad - ness And rob our
 5 God dwells with us in dark - ness And makes the



not be far. Let songs of praise as - cend - ing Now
 child, to serve; Thus God, the judge of - fend - ed, Bears
 morn - ing bright, So run where God's sal - va - tion Glows
 hearts of peace, And sin in all its mad - ness A -
 night as day; Yet we re - sist the bright - ness And



greet the Morn - ing Star! All you whom dark - ness
 all our sins de - serve. The guilt - y need not
 in a sta - ble's light. As old as sin's per -
 round us may in - crease. But now one Star is
 turn from God a - way. But grace does not for -



fright - ens With guilt or grief or pain, God's ra - dant
 cow - er, For God has rec - on - ciled Through His re -
 ver - sion Is mer - cy's vast de - sign: God brings a
 beam - ing Whose rays have pierced the night: God comes for
 sake us, How - ev - er far we run. God claims us



Star now bright - ens And bids you sing a - gain.
 demp - tive pow - er All those who trust this child.
 new cre - a - tion—This child its seal and sign.
 our re - deem - ing From sin's op - pres - sive might.
 still as chil - dren Through Mar - y's in - fant Son.

Dismissal for Sunday School

Dismissal for Youth Bible Study

P Go in Peace, serve the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude



. Church Office: 989-687-2824
 E-Mail: stpaul Lutheran@tds.net |
www.stpaulsanford.org

WELCOME:

We join in welcoming our visitor's this morning. If you would please be sure to sign the guest book (Elders can direct you to the location), Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL
SUNDAY: <i>Christmas Eve Morning Service 9:30am / 10:30am Fellowship / 6:30pm Candlelight Service Sing / 7pm Candlelight Service</i>
MONDAY: <i>Christmas Morning Service 9:30am</i>
TUESDAY:
WEDNESDAY: <i>Ladies Aid Meeting 10am/Choir 7pm</i>
THURSDAY:
FRIDAY: <i>Stephen Ministry Training Class 10am</i>
SATURDAY: <i>Band Rehearsal 4pm</i>
SUNDAY : <i>New Year's Eve Morning Service 9:30am / 10:30am Fellowship</i>

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD 12/20/23

OFFERINGS	mom	Memorials	TOTAL	ATTENDANCE
Env / Plate				
\$695/88		-	\$783	39

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD 12/17/23

OFFERINGS	mom	Memorials	TOTAL	ATTENDANCE
Env / Plate				
\$2550/175	41	-	\$2766	74

Tomorrow, December 25th Christmas Day Service at 9:30am

The most **delicious Peanut Brittle** you will find **on sale now-\$10/bag**. Please see a Ladies Aid member for purchase. You will be glad you did :)

Ladies Aid ~ End of year meeting will be December 27th@ 10am

Thank you to all who donated to the Holiday Gift Baskets 😊 -

Today we recognize **Lucas Miller** for excellence in Sunday School attendance. **Way to go Lucas** 😊!

Mission of the Month: In December is the **Life Clinic of Midland County**. **The LifeClinic**, provides information so individuals can make the most informed, empowered decision possible for their physical, mental, and emotional health and that of their unborn child. Poster for the narthex is coming soon 😊

Youth Movie Night-Saturday, January 13th @ 6pm Pizza/popcorn/smares and movie discussion. 😊



For more information about youth group, Sunday School, youth bible study and events, please use the QR code to get to the form.

Prayer Request: *If you or someone you know are in need of prayers please call or email Edna Rottiers at 989-687-9687 / hughrottiers@gmail.com . Those with additional prayer request please complete a prayer slip and give to one of our Elders before the service or to one of the Ushers during the offering. Your prayers are important and our Lord does promise to answer*

December Altar Guild representative is Carolyn Sutton 989.631.3953



Today's Flowers Sponsored by the Altar Guild in *Celebration of the birth of Jesus*



The 2024 Flower Sign up is now available. Sign up to celebrate your events with decorative flowers!



January 14th Voter's meeting will include voting for board members. Please let board know if you are interested.

To our families with small children: Relax! You and your children are welcome to our worship service! Being in worship with you to observe and



participate in the service will help them to learn how to behave in church – and they will learn that best by watching you worship on a regular basis! Sit anywhere in the sanctuary that you wish. The last two rows of pews are set aside for families with small children, but you don't *have* to sit there. In fact, sitting close to the front so your children can see what's happening may help them to feel more involved in the service. If they need something to keep their hands occupied, please ask one of the ushers for a copy of the children's bulletins for them to color. If for any reason you need to take your children out of the sanctuary so they can calm down, feel free to bring them into the bathroom at the back of the church. In addition, at the bottom of the stairs we have a cry room to the right, as well as the fellowship hall to the left. With the speakers in the basement, you will be able to hear the service while your child calms down. If your children don't want to sit still or be quiet through the whole service, there is absolutely nothing wrong with them: they are young and learning. The sound of children in worship is the sound of the Church's future.

Blacktop Project-We are accepting donations to the Blacktop project as we work toward the upgrade to the parking lot in the future.

Pastoral Care: Please contact the Pastor @ cell 973-303-8252, office 989-687-2209, or email stpaulrev@tds.net. The Church Office (989-687-2824) / cell (989 859-9300) email stpaul Lutheran@tds.net, or Deacon Don Barnard (989-751-7726) email: stpauldeacon@tds.net or esocidnator01@gmail.com if you or anyone you know are in need of a visit from the Pastor or Deacon whether it's an illness, hospitalization, nursing home or shut-in. It is important to us that we receive these communications to plan a call or visitation. May God's blessings be upon you today and every day!

#Up Coming Events#

Christmas Eve Morning Service 9:30am / 10:30am Fellowship / 6:30pm Candlelight Service Sing / 7pm Candlelight Service

Monday, **December 25th Christmas Day Service** at 9:30am

*Youth Movie Night-Saturday, January 13th @ 6pm
Pizza/popcorn/smores and movie discussion. 😊*

January 19th @ 6pm **Wild Game Dinner** with Guest Doug Roberts of ConQuest Scents

January 28th, 1pm Youth Group outing to the **Live Oak Café**, Midland where we will be brainstorming youth activities.

3 Lent Crosses – First showing of the 3 crosses made by Mike Schweigert, Randy Engblade, and Don Retzloff will be Feb 11th

Interested in joining the **Youth Ministry Board**,. Next meeting is Thursday, January 25th @ 6pm. The board will focus on the planning of education and activities designed for our congregation's youth. Please let Gerianne or Pastor know if interested.

Sanford Food Pantry: The current needs for the Food Pantry are **Boxed Potatoes-Scalloped, AuGratin, Mashed.** There are refillable canvas bags from the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry available on the food pantry table in the fellowship hall. The bags have a suggested list of items and instructions. You may take these bags home and place the

purchased items in the bag and return it to the church. The bags will be delivered to the Sanford Food Pantry the last week of the month. The empty bags will be returned to the church to be used again. *Thank you for all of the items and monetary donations. Please remember that the food pantry does not accept expired or dietary food.*

SERVING	This Week 12/24	Next Week 12/31
Flowers:	Altar Guild	Open
Music:	Sara Glynn-Dishaw	Sara Glynn-Dishaw
Proclaimer:	Pastor Christopher P. Vossler	Deacon Donald M. Barnard
Fellowship Host	Bill & Ruth Draves	Myrna, Patty, Christy
Ushers	Elders	Elders
Acolytes	Jackson	Natalie & Madison
Greeters	Deklan Finney & Bill & Ruth Draves	Andrea & Dave MacDonald



ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2023 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

2045 Lynn Road * Sanford, Michigan *

989.687.2824

Website: www.stpaulsanford.org

CELEBRATE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

December 3rd – December 25th

CHRISTMAS WEEK

Sunday the 24th 9:30am Advent IV Worship

Sunday the 24th 6:30pm Christmas Eve- Candlelight Service

Christmas the 25th

9:30am Worship

NEW YEAR'S EVE

9:30am Worship with Communion/Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Read the Bible in a Year!

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

For Christians – and especially for Lutherans – nothing is more important than God’s Word. God speaks to us through His Word, and we do well to listen to what He has to say to us. That is why regular devotions and prayer and Scripture reading are so important for our spiritual life.

It’s always a good time to start a plan to read the Bible! And in fact, you can read through the entire Bible in a year, with only 15-20 minutes per day. Are you worried that the Bible might be too much for you to read in a single year? There are resources that can help. One option that is available is on your smartphone: Download the YouVersion Bible App and look up the “Reformation Reading Plan,” which was developed by the Michigan District to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

If you don’t have a smartphone, you can follow this reading plan in the bulletin every week, along with suggested readings from Luther’s Small Catechism. Note that whatever day you start the reading plan in the app will be “Day 1,” so you may find yourself on a different day than what is in the bulletin.

Daily Readings:

Days 57-63	Reading	Catechism
Monday	Romans 14, Romans 15:1-13, Exodus 9,10,11	Symbols and their Meanings
Tuesday	Romans 15:14-33, Exodus 12,13,14	A Short Form of Baptism
Wednesday	Romans 16, Exodus 15,16	The Ten Commandments
Thursday	Galatians 1, Exodus 17,18,19	The Creed
Friday	Galatians 2, Exodus 20,21,22	The Lord's Prayer
Saturday	Proverbs 4:20-27, Psalm 32,33	The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
Sunday	Isaiah 61: 10-62: 3, Psalm 111, Galatians 4: 4-7, Luke 2: 22-40	Confession

Daily Devotion Resources:

Daily Prayers for Morning, Noon, Evening, Close of Day (LSB 294-298)/*Treasury of Daily Prayer*/Portals of Prayer

Prayer Requests:

- Youth in the Church, especially our Confirmands
- Our Shut-ins
- Peanut Brittle Sales
- Pastors of our congregation and Synod, and for increase in the numbers of Seminary students for future Pastors

