



December 10th, 2023

Second Sunday in Advent

Pastor Christopher P. Vossler

Organist: Heidi Stecker

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

2045 LYNN RD | SANFORD, MI 48657

- Welcomes you! -

Hymn: **354 Arise, O Christian People**



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
 high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
 heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Stand

Confession and Absolution

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 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: v. 3

Restore us, | O God;*

let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph |
like a flock!*

**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine
forth.**

You brought a vine out of | Egypt;*

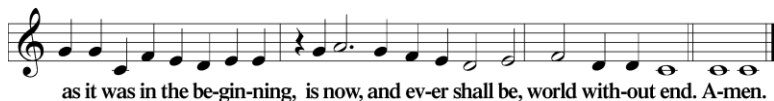
it took deep root and | filled the land.

Restore us, O | God of hosts;*

let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Restore us, | O God;*

let your face shine, that we | may be saved!



Kyrie

LSB 186



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



G And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



G A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our
God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*

From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle

2 Peter 3:8–14

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand
Alleluia

LSB 190



Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

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



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C 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.

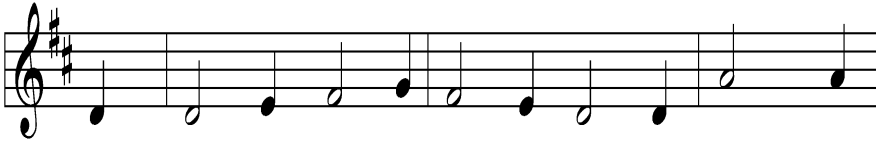
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn:

344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 Δ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Pastor Christopher P. Vossler

Goal: That the hearers would “make ready the way of” Jesus.

I. Introduction

- What distracts you most during this time of year?

II. We Are Stirred

- Why do we pray for God to “stir up our hearts”?
- What means does God use to work on our hearts to stir us to action?

III. We Make Ready

- How did God prepare the way for Jesus’ first coming?
- How does God use us to prepare the way for Jesus?

IV. We Serve

- How can we serve Him?
- From where do our “pure minds” come?

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.**

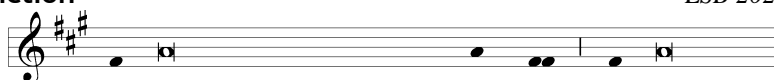
Collect for Peace

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.

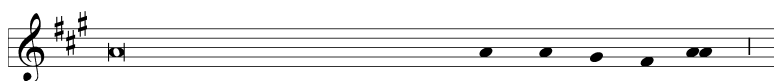
C Amen.

Benediction

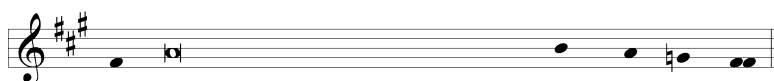
LSB 202



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:

347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

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>Second Sunday in Advent-Worship Service 9:30am/10:30am/ Fellowship/Sunday School/ 11am Voter's Meeting</i>
MONDAY:
TUESDAY: <i>Confirmation Class 5pm</i>
WEDNESDAY: <i>Advent Dinner 6pm/Advent Service 7pm/Choir-after service</i>
THURSDAY: <i>Pastor Hoogerhyde Bible Study 2:30pm 105 E. Youngs Ct. Midland/Elder's Meeting 6pm</i>
FRIDAY: <i>Stephen Ministry Training Class 10am</i>
SATURDAY: <i>Cookie/Ginger Bread Decorating 12- 3pm/Euchre Night 7pm</i>
SUNDAY : <i>Third Sunday in Advent-Worship Service with Communion 9:30am/10:30am/ Fellowship/Sunday School/ 11am Bible Study/Children's Concert 4pm</i>

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD 12/3/23

OFFERINGS	mom	Memorials	TOTAL	ATTENDANCE
Env / Plate				
\$5350/434	75	-	\$5859	82

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD 12/6

OFFERINGS	mom	Memorials	TOTAL	ATTENDANCE
Env / Plate				
\$300/141	-	-	\$441	45

Voter's Meeting today we will be discussing the 2024 Church Budget under topic new business.



This week's flowers are sponsored by **Mike & Laura Schweigert** in celebration of their 67th Anniversary.

Happy Anniversary, Mike & Laura !! 😊

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

Holiday Gift Baskets - Please consider donating this Christmas time. We will have **Holiday Gift Baskets** set up in the fellowship hall to distribute to a few families as Christmas approaches. Please, let us know if you are aware of someone in need this Holiday Season.

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 😊

LWML 2024 Michigan District Convention-
June 28-30, 2024 at Amway, Grand Rapids

LWML Prayer Day/Spring Rally 2024 at St Paul, Sanford. Date to be determined. For more LWML information, Please contact Diana Kausch.



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

Choir Practice-This week Wednesday after midweek service.

January 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 stpaulutheran@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!

Please remember to lock the Church doors and turn out the Lights ☺

#Up Coming Events#

Next Midweek Advent Service is December 13th at 7pm. Advent dinner before service at 6pm-free will offering. Second dinner is sponsored by Youth Group.

Next Saturday, **December 16th Cookie Decorating**

Next Sunday, **Children's Christmas Concert-December 17th @ 4pm**

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

SERVING	This Week 12/10	Next Week 12/17
Flowers:	Mike & Laura Schweigert	Open
Music:	Heidi Stecker	Sara Glynn-Dishaw
Proclaimer:	Pastor Christopher P. Vossler	Pastor Christopher P. Vossler
Fellowship Host	Open	Open
Ushers	Carolyn Sutton & Edna Rottiers	Carolyn Sutton & Edna Rottiers
Acolytes	Lucas & Garrett	Bradyn & Deklan
Greeters	Laura Juengel & Marilyn Bowen & Jace Eshleman	Sally Putnam



**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

DECEMBER

Sunday the 10th 9:30am Advent II Worship

Wednesday the 13th 6pm Dinner

7pm Advent II Worship

Sunday the 17th 9:30am Advent III Worship/Communion

4pm Children's Christmas Concert

Wednesday the 20th 6pm Dinner

7pm Advent III Worship

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/Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

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.*

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.

December 10, 2024 is the Freedom Run with the Rev! You are invited to pray for and support this first ever endeavor in our nation's capital. See <https://runwiththerev.weebly.com/> for more information.

December 15, 2024

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz clarifies the important work set before us. "Our work, whether in politics, business, or other forms of public service, is important, but it can't deal with the ultimate heart and soul issues that still plague us at the end of the day."

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 43-49	Reading	Catechism
Monday	Romans 3, Isaiah 40, 41, 42	How to Receive this Sacrament Worthily
Tuesday	Romans 4, Isaiah 43,44,45	Daily Prayers
Wednesday	Romans 5, Isaiah 46,47,48,49	Table of Duties
Thursday	Romans 6,7, Isaiah 50,51,52	Who is Jesus?
Friday	Romans 8, Isaiah 55,56,57,58	Reading God's Word
Saturday	Proverbs 3:27-35, Psalms 24,25,26,27	What is Worship?
Sunday	Isaiah 61: 1-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thess. 5: 16-24, John 1: 6-28	Simple Prayer

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