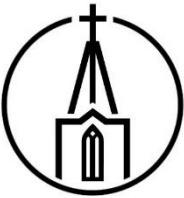
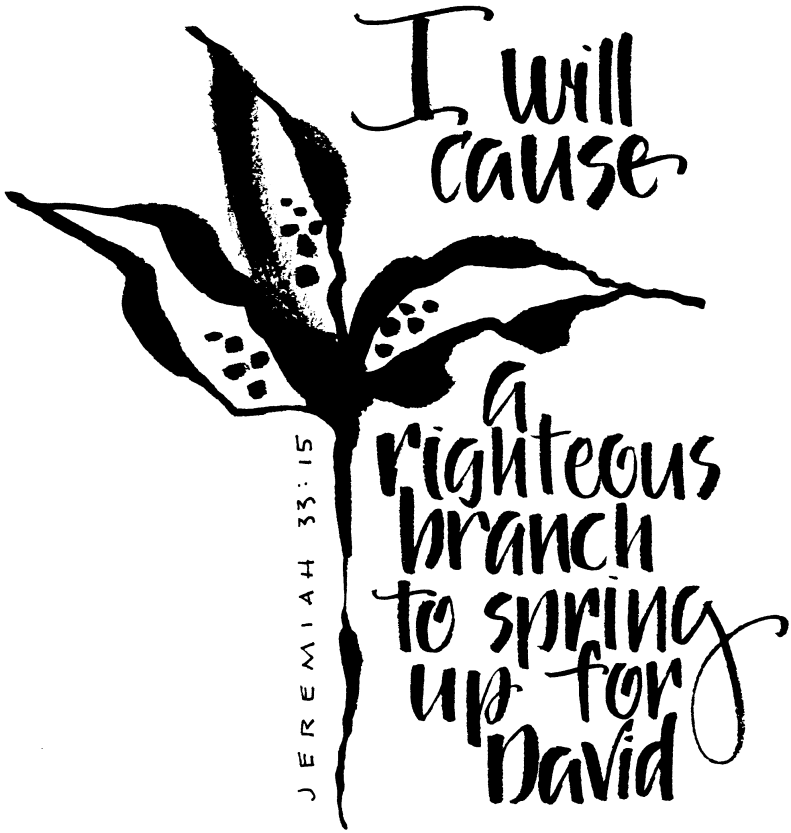


Saturday & Sunday, November 30 & December 1, 2024  
The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent



**St. Paul's  
Lutheran Church**

1100 Georgia Ave., Norfolk, Nebraska

Office & Website:  
(402)371-1233 [www.stpls.com](http://www.stpls.com)

# Welcome to the Lord's House!

*The family of Christians we call St. Paul's is here to serve members and non-members with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray that this Christian family can help you in many different ways. We're a Christian family that encourages and helps in challenging times, and a family that joins in rejoicing when days are filled with happiness!*

*We all could use some help in so many different ways, but we know the best way to serve anyone is through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. It is our first priority and highest goal to help a person's spiritual needs, and that is done through the preaching and teaching of God's Holy Word, whether in a formal worship service, or an informal conversation and visit.*

*We believe that all people need a Savior because all people have failed to meet God's holy requirements. God demands perfection, and there is not a single person who is perfect. But there is hope for us! God offers Christ's perfection for our imperfection. He offers Christ's death for our life. He offers forgiveness for our sins. These are THE regular, primary truths which are taught here at St. Paul's.*

*The season of Advent has the purpose of preparing us for the birth of Jesus Christ, which was the beginning of Jesus' holy life on earth. Jesus' humble birth was the beginning of God's direct plan of salvation which eventually included Jesus' death on Good Friday, and His glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday.*

*Our purpose and goal, as a forgiven family of believers, is to grow in and share this message of God's grace! We're glad we can do that through this service, but if we can help out in any way individually (official member or not!), please call and talk to Pastor Hirsch (402.649.9268).*

## **PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

*Lord, prepare us for Christmas by cleansing our sinful hearts and taking up permanent residence there. Bless our worship today and send Your Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith as we hear Your Word.  
Amen.*

## Be Prepared for Jesus' Coming

*Advent refers to "coming." Jesus comes first to supply us with a righteous, perfect life that God applies to us through faith. Then he comes to us through the Gospel of His Word, and finally, He comes on Judgment Day to remove us from the pain and problems of this world and share with him the perfect life with him in eternity.*

### OPENING HYMN

(Tune CW #38)

Lord Jesus Christ, be present now,  
Our hearts in true devotion bow,  
Your Spirit send with grace divine,  
And let your truth within us shine.

Unseal our lips to sing your praise,  
Our souls to you in worship raise,  
Make strong our faith, increase our light  
That we may know your name aright.

Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise throughout eternity!

*P: Dear friends, this Advent season we again prepare for the joys of Christmas by turning our spiritual eyes toward Bethlehem, the birthplace of our Savior. The prophet Micah prophesied in Micah 5:2...*

**C: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."**

*P: Heavenly Father, in a most glorious, yet humble way, You sent and prepared Your Son, Jesus, to be the son of Joseph and Mary. This Son of God and Son of Man would be the holy sacrifice for the sins of all people.*

**C: Galatians, chapter four, verses four and five... "But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law."**

*P:* As we joyfully anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birthday,  
**C:** Strengthen our faith so that we see Him, not only as a humble baby born in Bethlehem, but also as the divine Conqueror of sin and Satan!

**ALL SING** CW #8, vss 1&2 "Come, O Precious Ransom Come"

Come, O precious Ransom, come, Only Hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to you all portals.  
Come, your beauty let us view; Anxiously we wait for you.

Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly.  
Ah, what riches will be mine When you are my guest divine!

### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

*P:* We join together to confess our sins.

**ALL:** Almighty God, our Creator and Redeemer, You alone are worthy of all praise and glory. But we often find ourselves living our lives that don't glorify You, even though we know better. Jealousy and anger fill our hearts much too often. Too often we're not content with the blessings You give us.

*P:* For these and all our other sins, we show that we don't deserve Your love, but instead Your punishment.

**ALL:** But every time we sin, remind us that Your Son shed His blood on the cross of Calvary to wash us and make us clean. Lead us to trust in Him alone for our forgiveness, and then to live our lives as your holy people, blameless in Your sight because of Jesus.

*P:* For these and all our other sins, we show that we don't deserve Your love, but instead Your punishment.

**ALL:** I confess all my sins to You in humble and confident repentance. Please forgive me for Jesus' sake.

**ALL SING** #6 "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"



1 Come, O long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set your peo - ple free;  
2 Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a king,



From our sins and fears re-lease us By your death on Cal - va - ry.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now your gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's Strength and Con - so - la - tion, Hope to all the earth im - part,  
By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to your glo - rious throne.

## **THE ABSOLUTION OF OUR SINS**

*P: Dear friends in Christ, our Savior God most certainly assures that through His gift of faith our sins are removed as far as the east from the west! Our sins are forgiven through Jesus! We pray.*

**ALL: Heavenly Father, we know that Your Son shed His blood on the cross of Calvary to wash us and make us clean. Lead us to trust in Him alone for our forgiveness, and then strengthen us to live our lives as your holy people, blameless in Your sight because of Jesus. Amen.**

*P: In the peace which this forgiveness gives us, let us praise the Lord.*

## **All Sing** (CW #12) "Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the captives to release,  
In Satan's prison held.  
The gates of brass before him burst;  
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace  
To enrich the humble poor.

## **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to us this Advent season. Protect us by the strength of Your Word and sacraments, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## **THE EPISTLE LESSON**     1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13

*St. Paul rejoices that the Thessalonians have been given saving faith. It is his prayer that the Lord keep them in the faith until they enter eternal life on the last day when the Lord comes again.*

<sup>2:17</sup> Brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. <sup>18</sup> For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way. <sup>19</sup> For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup> Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

<sup>3:1</sup> So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. <sup>2</sup> We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, <sup>3</sup> so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well that we are destined for them. <sup>4</sup> In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. <sup>5</sup> For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.

<sup>6</sup> But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that

you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. <sup>8</sup> For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. <sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. <sup>12</sup> May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. <sup>13</sup> May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

### **THE GOSPEL LESSON**     Luke 21:5-8a, 25-36

*Jesus explains that the end of the world will be preceded by many gloomy signs which have appeared throughout history. These are reminders that the coming of the Lord is near. Watch and pray that we do not fall away but stand firm in the faith.*

<sup>5</sup> Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, <sup>6</sup> “As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.”

<sup>7</sup> “Teacher,” they asked, “when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?”

<sup>8</sup> He replied:

<sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. <sup>30</sup> When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. <sup>31</sup> Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

<sup>32</sup> “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. <sup>35</sup> For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

**HYMN** #76 “Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love”

**MEDITATION** Jeremiah 33:14-16

### WHAT’S IN A NAME?

<sup>14</sup> “‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

<sup>15</sup> “‘In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land.

<sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called:  
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

Sung to the melody of “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*” - #65

- 1) In God the Father we believe,  
The Lord of hosts his name.  
All things from him their form receive;  
By his strong Word they came.  
By him was all created In earth and heav’n above.  
He made them all, things great and small,  
By his great pow’r and love.



- 2) In God's Son Jesus we believe,  
Who came at God's own hour,  
Whom virgin Mary did conceive  
All by the Spirit's pow'r.  
He suffered, died, was buried,  
Was raised at God's own call  
To reign on high, and to draw nigh  
At last as Judge of all.
- 3) In God the Spirit we believe  
And in Christ's church on earth.  
The saints, united, faith receive,  
A gift of precious worth.  
He sanctifies and keeps us  
By his empow'ring love.  
Forgiven, from the grave we'll rise  
To live with God above.

### **THANK-OFFERING & PRAYER**

Generous Father, we thank You for the blessings of the world You created for us, and by which You give us our daily bread and so much more! Most importantly we thank You for the gift of grace through Your Son Jesus! Please accept the gifts we bring to You now, and use them for Your glory and the work of Your Gospel ministry here in Norfolk and throughout the world. Amen.

*Our financial offerings are one way we give back to God in response for ALL He has done for us! As members of St. Paul's, we now gather our thank-offerings which are used to support Gospel ministry locally, nationally and internationally. Scanning this QR code works too! Thanks for your generous gifts! God blesses a cheerful giver!*



Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

***On page 156 in the front section of the hymnal there's a short, concise "Q&A" format to help remind and prepare individuals for properly receiving the Lord's Supper.***

## RESPONSIVE ADVENT PRAYER

*P: During this Advent season, we lift up our prayers to You, O Lord.*

**C: As You have promised, please answer our prayers according to Your perfect wisdom. Give us extra patience and trust in those times when we may not understand or agree with Your answer.**

*P: Through the power and truths of Your Word, lead us in Your truth and teach us, for You are the God of our salvation.*

**C: O Holy Father, motivate fathers and mothers of St. Paul's to lead their families in Your Word so that they grow in Your grace here in Your house, as well as in their homes.**

*P: As Your Old Testament people waited eagerly for the first advent of the Savior,*

**C: Help us also to eagerly prepare our hearts for the celebration of that same first advent, but also prepare our hearts for Jesus' second advent on Judgment Day!**

*P: Lead us by Your Holy Spirit to an understanding of our sinfulness and our need for repentance.*

**C: Help us to hate sin, but love to follow Your holy will.**

*P: Be our strength in the hour of temptation and help us to serve You by bringing glory to Your name.*

**C: Send the light of the Gospel to the ends of the earth that all may know Your love in Jesus Christ.**

*P: Grant Your abiding peace to all who are gathered around Your Gospel here today.*

**C: To those among us who are struggling, give Your strength and peace so that they may bear their burdens in Christian hope and confidence.**

*P May all our decisions, words and actions be reflections of hearts that are truly thankful for Your great mercy.*

**ALL: We ask for all these things in the name of the King of kings and Lord of lords, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who has also taught us to pray... Our Father, who art in heaven...**

*Visitors: St. Paul's practices close communion. Without judging anyone's heart, we humbly ask that only members of our congregation or of the Wisconsin Synod partake of the sacrament. The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. If you would like to join us in the future, please speak to Pastor Hirsch after the service.*

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*P: The Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

*P: Lift up your hearts.*

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

*P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**C: It is good and right so to do.**

## **WORDS of INSTITUTION** *Spoken together! Matthew 26:26-28*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, *"Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, *"Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

May the peace of forgiveness we have through Jesus' body and blood always be with us! Amen.

## **THE DISTRIBUTION**

*Sunday School kids are excused after the distribution has begun.*

## **THE COMMUNION BLESSING**

**HYMN** #316 “O Jesus, Lord, to Thee

O Jesus, blessed Lord, to thee  
My heartfelt thanks forever be,  
Who hast so lovingly bestowed  
On me thy body and thy blood.

Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:  
What wealth is come to me this day!  
My Savior dwells within my heart—  
How blest am I! How good thou art!

**Closing Prayer** (Spoken together)

*Heavenly Father, thank You for blessing and strengthening me through Your Gospel in Word and sacrament. In the days ahead, help me remove the distractions that lead me away from the strength I've received here through Your Word and sacrament, and give me the opportunities and courage to share this Good News with those around me. I ask for this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

**BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN** #14, vss 1&4 “Arise, O Christian People”

Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today.  
Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away.  
To us by grace alone The truth and light was given;  
The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,  
And help me to receive you This blessed Adventtide.  
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;  
I'll sing your praises gladly And forth your glory show.

## Upcoming Holiday Worship Information

**School Kids' Services:** Wednesday, 12/18, 2:30 & 6:30 PM  
**Christmas Eve:** Tuesday, December 24, 6:30  
**Christmas Day:** Wednesday, December 25, 9:00 AM  
**New Year's Eve:** Tuesday, December 31, 6:30 PM

### Worshipping the Lord

Last Week's Attendance:

Saturday – 74 Sunday – 150 **Total: 224**

Sunday Bible Class – 26 Wednesday Bible Class – 16  
Sisters in Faith – NA Donnerstag – NA

### Serving this Week

**Worship Leader:** Pastor Hirsch **Organist:** Diane Herbolsheimer  
**Elder:** Joe Myers **Usher:** Gary Johnson/Don Lau  
**Radio Broadcasters:** Glynn Grebe/Katy Nichols  
**Video Tech:** Darol Dusseau  
**Power Point:** Jett Leuthold – 11/30 Flor Koinzan – 12/1

### Serving Next Week Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

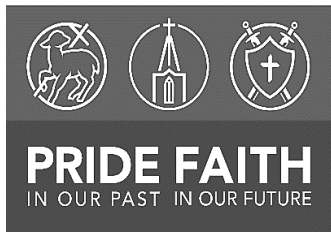
**Worship Leader:** Pastor Hirsch **Organist:** Alicia Moyer  
**Elder:** Jeff Sperry **Usher:** Eric Nunnenkamp/Joe Myers  
**Radio Broadcasters:** Glynn Grebe/Katy Nichols  
**Video Tech:** Darol Dusseau  
**Power Point:** Athena Bretschneider - 12/7 Caleb Brown - 12/8

### **St. Paul's General Fund – Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Yearly Needed: \$479,710.00 YTD Need: \$172,424.20  
YTD Offerings: \$176,717.59 YTD Need vs Offerings: \$4,293.39  
Last Week Received: \$15,086.51 Weekly Need: \$9,412.43  
Difference: \$5,674.08

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## ***Building Project Update 11/21/2024***



**Project Cost:** \$4.2 million  
**Pledged Amount:** \$1,915,891  
**Pledges Received:** \$1,584,803.36

**CEF Loan Amount:** \$3.9 million  
**Total Paid to CEF:** \$1,185,658  
**Debt Incurred:** \$705,934

*4.32% interest-only payments on debt incurred until February, 2026.*

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## **SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1) Trinity Lutheran Church in Hoskins invites you to join us for an Advent and Christmas Hymn Sing on December 15th, 4:00-5:00 PM.** Following the hymn sing, we'll have fellowship and snacks. You are welcome to bring a light snack to share with the group. We'll provide the warm beverages! There are so many great Advent and Christmas hymns that we don't always get to sing, but we'd love to get together and enjoy them with you! You may even learn some fun facts about some of the popular Christmas songs! This is open to all, feel free to invite friends and family!
- 2) For the Bible Class Sundays in November (11/24) and December (12/1,8,22)** we'll be looking at a series that encourages and trains us as individuals in our personal evangelism called "One By One."
- 3) LADIES ADVENT FELLOWSHIP** Ladies, please put Saturday, December 7th from 1:00-3:00 on your calendar. An Advent devotion, Christmas carols and a cookie exchange will held that afternoon in the church basement. This will replace Advent by Candlelight this year because Thanksgiving is so late. Please plan to bring 2 dozen cookies, a take home container, and your recipe. Feel free to bring friends, daughters, grand-daughters. A sign-up sheet is at the Communication Center.

- 4) **SCRIP Cards for Christmas Gifts!!** We have a wide variety of cards available to order - Cabelas, Scheels, Old Navy, Maurice's, Chipotle, Olive Garden, Omaha Steaks, prepaid Visa cards, hotels, and many other clothing and restaurant options. We will try to keep the on hand cards well stocked - Lou's, HyVee, Walmart, Target, Amazon, Bath and Body, Starbucks and many other local locations. Stop by the scrip table to get more information. You can pay by check or cash or online at [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com). The money generated helps with tuition assistance or will go to the school. Thanks.
- 5) There will be **NO** Donnserstag Group held in December.
- 6) The **NELHS Christmas concert** will be held on Sunday, December 8, 4:00 PM, in the south gym.
- 7) ***Please put on your calendar!!*** On Sunday, December 8, a **special congregational/voters'/call meeting will be held to discuss a proposed called-worker compensation plan, and to hopefully extend a call for a principal.**
- 8) Please feel free to bring a **poinsettia** or two to church in the near future as we go through another Advent season, gearing up for Christmas!
- 9) There will be **NO Wednesday morning Bible Class** this week, December 4.
- 10) **Barb Brandt** went home to heaven on November 22. A Christian memorial service for her will be held here at St. Paul's on Saturday, December 21. A visitation will be at 10:00 AM, with the service led by Pastor Schlieve at 11:00 AM. A lunch will be served after.

## Upcoming Events This Week:

- Sunday, 12/1**      Worship Service w/ HC, 9:00 AM  
Sunday School, 10:00 AM  
Bible-Study w/ coffee & donuts, 10:15 AM
- Monday, 12/2**      Sisters in Faith, 6:30 PM
- Tuesday, 12/3**      Boards Meetings, 6:00 PM
- Wednesday, 12/4**      Chapel, 8:15 AM  
NO Bible Class  
Christmas Song Night PK-8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM  
Cookie Exchange following Song Night
- Thursday, 12/5**      Ladies in Faith, 1:00 PM
- Saturday, 12/7**      Womens Advent Event, 1-3:00PM  
Worship Service, 6:30 PM
- Sunday, 12/8**      Worship Service, 9:00 AM  
5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Sings, 9:00 AM  
**Tentative Congregational/Voters' Call Mtg. – after service**  
Tentative Bible-Study, 10:15 AM

## Church Cleaning Teams

Weeks of November 24<sup>th</sup> & December 1<sup>st</sup> Team #3

Loren & Marianne Bloomquist, Jim & Diane Herbolsheimer,  
John & Sarah Kouba

Weeks of December 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Team #4 Pat Jamison,  
Leonard Janovec, John & Jan Schlomer, JoAnn Winter

## St. Paul's Contact Information

Pastor Paul Hirsch  
[pahirschki@gmail.com](mailto:pahirschki@gmail.com)  
402-649-9268

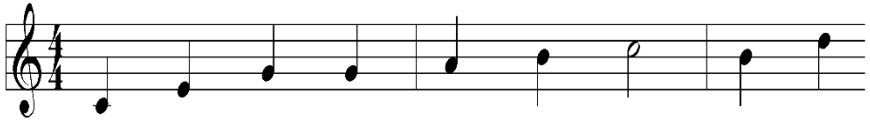
Principal Aaron  
[amarkgraf@stpls.com](mailto:amarkgraf@stpls.com)  
920-248-2223

Kathy Wiedeman, Secretary  
[office@stpls.com](mailto:office@stpls.com)  
School Office 402-371-1233

Website: [www.stpls](http://www.stpls)  
WELS: [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)



## Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love



1 Je - sus! Name of won - drous love, Name all  
 2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the  
 3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the  
 4 Je - sus! On - ly name that's giv'n Un - der  
 5 Je - sus! Name of won - drous love, Hu - man



oth - er names a - bove, Un - to which must  
 maid - en moth - er told— Kneel - ing in her  
 fall - en here on earth For the prom - ise  
 all the might - y heav'n Where - by all, to  
 name of God a - bove; Plead - ing on - ly



ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
 low - ly cell— By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.  
 that it gave, "Je - sus shall his peo - ple save."  
 sin en - slaved, Burst their fet - ters and are saved.  
 this, we, too, Flee, O God, in faith to you.