

✠ St. Paul's Lutheran Church ✠
Kenesaw, NE

Pastor Paul S. Duffy

402-752-3421, 3536; 308-216-1254

Organist: Mrs. LaMoine Fischer

Sunday School 9:00am

Acolyte: Rhett Augustin

Divine Service 10:00am

Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2015

AS WE GATHER

Where God plants the seed of faith, His Holy Spirit produces both sorrow over sin as well as love, hope, joy, peace, and patience. John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for the Messiah; preaching a message of repentance that led to His joyful welcome. This Advent, may we experience a sincere repentance that leads to a full and complete joy in the certainty of our salvation through faith in Jesus Christ!

Divine Service, *Setting Four* p. 203

Opening Hymn p. 341 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Confession and Absolution p. 203

Psalm 66:1-12

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!

So great is your power that Your enemies come cringing to You.

All the earth worships You and sings praises to You;

they sing praises to Your name."

Come and see what God has done:

He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.

He turned the sea into dry land;

they passed through the river on foot.

There did we rejoice in Him,

who rules by His might forever,

whose eyes keep watch on the nations —

let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

Bless our God, O peoples;

**let the sound of His praise be heard,
who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.**

For You, O God, have tested us;

You have tried us as silver is tried.

You brought us into the net;

You laid a crushing burden on our backs;

You let men ride over our heads;

**we went through fire and through water; yet You have brought
us out to a place of abundance.**

**GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON AND TO THE
HOLY SPIRIT; AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND
WILL BE FOREVER. AMEN.**

Kyrie p. 204

Gloria in Excelsis p. 204

Salutation and Collect of the Day p. 205

Old Testament Malachi 3:1-7

"Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, He is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of His coming, and who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear Me, says the Lord of hosts.

"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.

Epistle Philippians 1:2-11

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Alleluia and Verse p. 205

Holy Gospel Luke 3:1-14

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect

no more than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

Nicene Creed p. 206

Hymn of the Day p. 344 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

Sermon "The Voice of John the Baptist" (Luke 3:1-6)

Prayer of the Church

Offering and Musical Offering

✦ **Service of the Sacrament** p. 208 ✦

Parents are welcome to bring their children to the altar for a blessing

Communion Hymn p. 624 "The Infant Priest Was Holy Born"

Nunc Dimitis Song of Simeon p. 211

Post Communion Collect p. 212

Benedicamus and Benediction p. 212

Closing Hymn p. 793 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"



St. Paul's Mission Calendar

Today	9:00 AM	Sunday School & Bible Class
	✦ 10:00 AM	Communion Worship (common cup)
Mon.	9:00 AM	Bible Study
Wed.	10AM-2PM	OGT Sort & Pack Day
	3:30 PM	Midweek
	6:30 PM	Confirmation
	5:30-7 PM	Advent Supper
	✦ 7:30 PM	Advent Worship Service Choir Following the service
Thurs.	9 AM-2PM	Pastors' Conference, Zion-Hastings

"Jesus, Thou Son of David"



✦ Advent Services ✦

Sundays, Dec. 6, 13, & 20 at 10:00 AM
Wednesdays, Dec. 9, 16 at 7:30 P.M.

Advent Suppers - Wednesdays * 5:30-7:00 PM * Fellowship Hall
Dec. 9th - **Smoked Pork Sandwiches**

Dec. 16th **LWML Soup Supper and Bake Sale.** Proceeds from the bake sale are designated for the Kenesaw Backpacks of Love Program.

Advent Supper Help Needed: If you would be willing to bring food and/or help with the Advent Supper this Wednesday, Dec. 9th, there will be a short meeting after the service today in the Education wing to finalize the plans. Thanks for your help!

Open House at the Parsonage Today: Pastor, Sharon and family invite all of you to the parsonage to help celebrate the Christmas Season. Come join us for fellowship and refreshments from 2-5 PM. It's our way of saying Merry Christmas to you! Jesus is born!

Emergency Water: After disaster strikes, contaminated water is a very real threat to families. During the month of December the Sunday School Children have designated their offering for a powerful filtration system, that delivers immediate potable water. The cost per unit is \$190 from Lutheran World Relief. Water the gift of life! What a great blessing for a family in need.

Bible Study: Sign up for ladies six week Bible study by Dec. 16th, the sign-up sheet is by the mailboxes. The study, "Fatal Distractions" by Kay Arthur, begins Mon., January 4th at 7:00 p.m. Feel free to invite others!

January Newsletter Deadline: Monday, Dec. 14th to be in mailboxes Sunday, Dec. 27th. Please place any news items, articles, volunteer lists, etc. on the desk in the work room. Thanks!

A "Life Quote" . . .

"Why is God's Son in a manger, a feeding trough for animals? Because He is the Bread of Life, spiritual food for starving mankind. So the True Bread from Heaven is first encountered by humble shepherds in a place where food is placed for animals, in Bethlehem, which means, 'House of Bread.' What's more, the Good Shepherd was found by the shepherds!" *James M. Kuschiner, the Fellowship of St. James*

www.lutheransforlife.org



Church Office Vacancies to be filled in 2016

- Financial Secretary
- Elder ● Trustee ● Secretary
- VOLUNTEERS** ● Board of Education
- NEEDED** ● Board of Evangelism/Stewardship

Please prayerfully consider using your God given talents and gifts if asked to serve.

Church Council Meeting: Monday, December 28th, 7:00 p.m.

☞ "Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:28 ESV) When the world starts to fall apart, when things go badly, when nation rises against nation - Jesus tells us to lift yup our heads because redemption is nigh. What a wonderful reminder that we Christians really do have nothing to fear! Jesus has conquered and He will deliver the full victory to us in Hs Second Advent. Therefore we are free to live godly, generous, faithful lives here and now: for we have nothing to be afraid of.

www.lcms.org

Please remember these people in your prayers -

Pastor Paul Duffy and family

Birthdays:

Dec. 8 Marc Kroll; Ted Stade
9 Lane Kelley; Josh Powell
12 Pastor Duffy

In the Service: Austin Applegate, Alec Applegate, Trevor Stickels,
Julian Tucker, Hannah Panwitz, Danielle Burr, Darren Woodside

Missionaries: Sharon Owens, Macau, China
Pastor John Reehi, Russia and the Baltics

Our Expression of Love

November 29, 2015	Attendance 141	
Current Envelope		\$1,192.00
Current Plate		275.50
Mission Plate		66.00
Advent		50.00
Total		\$1,583.50

Our Expression of Love

December 2, 2015	Attendance 76	
Current Envelope		\$227.00
Current Plate		99.25
Total		\$326.25



About the Cover: Most all of us enjoy the variety of fruits that the Lord allows to grow and ripen each year. Some are green, some red, some orange, some yellow, but all are from the Lord's hand and are for our good and enjoyment. It's the same with the fruits of repentance. As God's people, we live lives of repentance; therefore, we bear wholesome fruits in keeping with that repentance.

