

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

Pastor Paul S. Duffy

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

Mrs. LaMoine Fischer, Organist

Bible Class/Sunday School 9:00am

Acolyte: Payton Morrow

Divine Service 10:00am

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 29, 2015

AS WE GATHER

Different cultures celebrate their new year at different times. The Church commemorates the beginning of the church year on the first Sunday in Advent. This new beginning reminds us of the newness of life that is ours through faith in Jesus. The new church year carries with it a call to repentance and the preparation for Christ's return. As God works through His Word and Sacraments, we are prepared to welcome Him through His birth at Christmas and His return on Judgment Day to take us home.

+ PREPARATION +

HYMN p. 349 "Hark the Glad Sound"

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His Word I put my hope.

People: My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Pastor: O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,

People: for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption.

All: Blessed are those who wait for Him! *Psalm 130*

Pastor: One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek:

People: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.

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Pastor: Wait for the Lord;

People: be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

All: Blessed are those who wait for Him! *Psalm 27*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Jesus invites us to begin the new church year in our baptismal remembrance. He invites us to approach Him with sincere repentance when He says, "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." *Matthew 11:28-29*

Men: What is man that You are mindful of him,

Women: the son of man, that You care for him? *Psalm 8:4*

Men: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Women: Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight...

Men: Surely I was sinful at birth,

Women: sinful from the time my mother conceived. *Psalm 51: 4-5*

All: We seek Your forgiveness. In the name of Jesus, our Savior; O Lord, have mercy on us and forgive us of our sins.

Pastor: Our great Redeemer, Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, came down from heaven to be our Savior. He took on our sin that we might be forgiven through faith in Him. Because of His incarnation, death, and resurrection we have forgiveness in His name declared now and affirmed when He returns. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

RESPONSORY p. 338 "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: O Lord, open our eyes to see the importance of Your coming as a baby in Bethlehem, but help us also to await patiently Your protection at the Judgment, Your rescue from evil, and Your deliverance unto eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Jeremiah 33:14-16

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

PSALMODY Psalm 25:1-9

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies exult over me.

Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

they shall be ashamed who are treacherous without excuse.

Make me to know Your ways, O Lord;

teach me Your paths.

Lead me in Your truth and teach me,

for You are the God of my salvation.

For You I wait all the day long.

Remember your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches the humble His way.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21st chapter.

All: Glory to You, O Lord!

(Jesus said) “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

And He told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (*Children gather at the altar with Pastor*)

HYMN OF THE DAY p. 332 (vv. 1-4) "Savior of the Nations, Come"

SERMON "Christ Will Come Again" (Luke 21:25-36)

OFFERING AND MUSICAL OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Almighty God, You remind us to be prepared, watchful, and vigilant as we await the return of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the babe of Bethlehem and Lord of heaven and earth. Help us willingly and joyfully to remain involved in worship and the study of Your Word, knowing that through these means, You keep us prepared and ready. Hear us,

People: now and in the fullness of Your time, for Jesus' sake.

Pastor: Almighty God, be with the members of this congregation, that Your presence and the reality of Your loving care would surround us always. Hear us,

People: now and in the fullness of Your time, for Jesus' sake.

Pastor: Almighty God, in particular we pray that You would bring to us every spiritual encouragement, endurance in suffering, patience amidst trial and tribulation, and hearts prepared for Your coming into this world. Hear us,

People: now and in the fullness of Your time, for Jesus' sake.

Pastor: Almighty God, we pray for our nation, and our leaders, who need discernment and integrity; for us as citizens of this country, especially unbelievers, that they may be led to see Your glory. Grant us all patience as we await Your perfect rule in the life to come. Hear us,

People: now and in the fullness of Your time, for Jesus' sake.

Pastor: Almighty God, we pray for our church body, that You would guide her daily through Your Holy Scriptures, assuring believers of forgiveness, strengthening lives for service, granting patience to see Your gracious will, and empowering a joyful witness to the only God,

who graciously offers salvation through faith in Jesus. Hear us,
People: now and in the fullness of Your time, for Jesus' sake.

Pastor: In the name of Jesus, we pray, confident that in Your grace, You will answer our prayers.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.

People: You, too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. *James 5:7-8*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord look upon you with + favor and give you peace.

All: Amen. Blessed are those who wait for Him! Amen.

CLOSING HYMN p. 332 (vv. 5-8) "Savior of the Nations, Come"



New Members: This morning, we are blessed to welcome into the St. Paul's family, Chris and Sami Powell and their daughter, Rilyn. They enter our fellowship by their profession of the Christian faith as found in Luther's Small Catechism. May God bless them as they grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus our Savior!

☞ *Matthew 21:3: "If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once."*

Consider the faithfulness of that man who owned the donkey and the colt. All he needed to hear was, "The Lord has need of it" - and he willingly gave. The Lord has given each of us various callings in life (in our homes, in the Church, and in the communities we live in). In each calling we have good work to do which comes from the Lord's hand. The Lord has need of us in each calling. How is He calling you to generous giving in each of your vocations?

www.lcms.org

Please remember these people in your prayers -

Pastor Paul Duffy and family

Birthdays:

Nov. 29 Brett Ehly; Randy Kennedy

Dec. 1 Joyce Hadenfeldt

2 Cody Klusman

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

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

Our Expression of Love

November 22, 2015	Attendance 112	
Current Envelope		\$3,609.00
Current Plate		129.00
Mission Envelope		500.00
Russian Orphanage		<u>60.00</u>
Total		\$4,298.00

Our Expression of Love

November 25, 2015	Attendance 63	
Thanksgiving Envelope		\$170.00
Current Plate		<u>89.00</u>
Total		\$259.00



BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES

LUKE 19:38



About the Cover: The shouts of the people, particularly the children, resounded around His ears: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" At the start of this Advent season, we remember the humble way our King rode into Jerusalem to offer His life as a sacrifice, and we even take up their words on our lips to greet the King, who comes to us still in His Means of Grace.