

Second Sunday in Advent - Hija Zion

"The Sunday of the Fig Tree"
"The Lord Is Yet to Come Again"



So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.”

Luke 21:21

Welcome

Welcome to all members and visitors! We are pleased to have you with us as we receive Christ's gifts and as we respond in thanks and praise. Guests, please sign the guest register in the narthex. If you need assistance, please ask one of the ushers. Prayers of preparation for worship can be found on the inside front cover of the hymnal.

The Lord's Supper is offered every Sunday of the month. St. Paul's observes the biblical practice of closed communion. **Members of sister congregations** of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are encouraged to commune with us. We ask **visitors who are not members of the LCMS** to speak with one of our pastors if

you are interested in learning more about our church and communion practices. Those not communing with us at this service are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms to indicate this desire.

Those Serving Us

Preacher/Liturgist: Rev. Nathan Sherill

Pianist: Rev. Timothy Frank

Kantors: Johnson Family Kantorei, Samuel Frank

The Word In Music

Prelude: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” – arr. John A. Behnke; “The King Shall Come” arr. John A. Behnke

Offering: “The King Shall Come” arr. John A. Behnke (8:00a.m.); “The King Shall Come” – arr. Stephen R. Johnson (10:45am)

Postlude: “The King Shall Come” arr. Charles Callahan

Kantor’s Notes: In accordance with the day’s theme of Christ’s final return, “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” is the suggested Hymn of the Day for Advent 2. Just as Jesus ascended and “a cloud took him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9), so Jesus will come again amidst clouds of glory. Charles Wesley’s hymn draws on the language of Revelation 1:7, “Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.” On the Day of Christ’s coming, His identity will be clear to all, causing terror to all who have rejected Him. On the other hand, to those who have believed in His Name, that Day will be a glorious Day, as they gaze upon the One whose scars declare His cross and victory. Therefore, with alleluias, we worship Him now and forever as our ever-reigning King.

Hymn of the Season: “Prepare the Royal Highway” (LSB 343)
(www.stpaulscouncilbluffs.org/hymns)

Divine Service Setting 3

Prelude:

516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," The watch - men on the
 2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, And all her heart with
 3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels



heights are cry - ing; "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"
 joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym - bals' clear - est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing
 For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join - ing with the



cry re - joic - es: "Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?
 truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.
 choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne.



The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!
 Now come, Thou Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son,
 No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might



Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your - selves pre - pare
 Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall
 Of Thy glo - ry; There - fore will we E - ter - nal - ly



To meet the Bride - groom, who is near."
 To eat the Sup - per at Thy call.
 Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

Confession and Absolution

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Exhortation

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.

Kneel/Stand

Confession of Sins

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.

Absolution

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.

Introit

Psalm 80:1, 3, 14, 17; antiphon: Isaiah 62:11b; 30:30, 29



Say to the daughter of | Zion,*

“Behold, your sal- | vation comes.”

**The LORD will cause his majestic voice | to be heard,*
and you shall have glad- | ness of heart.**

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

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

Restore us, | O God;*

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

Turn again, O | God of hosts!*

Look down from | heaven, and see.

But let your hand be on the man of your | right hand,*

the son of man whom you have made strong | for yourself!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Say to the daughter of | Zion,*

“Behold, your sal- | vation comes.”

**The LORD will cause his majestic voice | to be heard,*
and you shall have glad- | ness of heart.**

Kyrie

LSB 186

- C** Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- 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.
- C** Amen.

Old Testament

Malachi 4

¹ “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

⁴“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual “O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide” (*LSB 355*) *Arr. D.M. Cherwien*

Epistle

Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name.”

¹⁰And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him.”

¹²And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse

LSB 190

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.

Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25–36

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁵[Jesus said:] “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, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“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. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But 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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

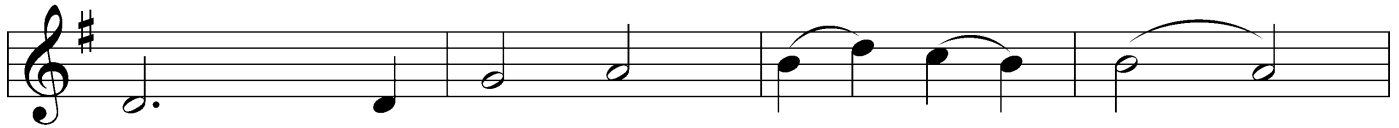
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion
4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,



Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;



Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



Swell the tri - umph of His train:
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
Claim the king - dom as Thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

Sermon

“We Will Stand Before the Son of Man”

Luke 21:36

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

- C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

We welcome communicant members of our sister congregations of the LCMS to join us in receiving the Lord's Supper. Other visitors are welcomed forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms to indicate this desire.

Preface

LSB 194

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them up unto the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

LSB 195

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of
the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

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

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and
when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said:
“Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in
remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given
thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the
new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of
sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

LSB 197

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

- C** **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

Distribution

343 Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

333 Once He Came in Blessing



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
 3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

This edition © 1995 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. by GIA Publications, Inc. 1-800-354-9136. ISBN 0-7937-0100-2. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

331 The Advent of Our King



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

△ 6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

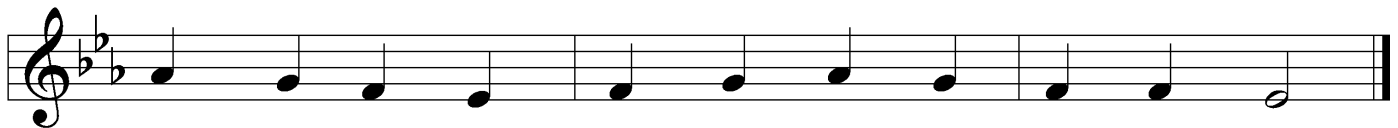
345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
 Δ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

This hymn is in the public domain. © 2014 by the Board of Christian Music, Inc. All rights reserved. This hymn is in the public domain.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
 for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
 a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
 Amen.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Salutation

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ giv]]]e you peace.

C Amen, amen, amen.

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau-ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Postlude:

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

Opportunities for Growth

This Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Bible Study
	10:45 a.m.	Divine Service
	3:00 p.m.	Christmas Recital
Monday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
Wednesday	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Christ Academy
	6:30 p.m.	Advent Service
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Next Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Bible Study
	10:45 a.m.	Divine Service
	4:00 p.m.	Advent Lessons and Carols with Chili Supper

The Congregation at Prayer

Those ill or recovering: *Chris Circo, Mary Johannes, Jayne McIlrath, Elizabeth Bowerman, Karen Brandenburg, Gertrud Rossbund, Ryan Pedersen (son of Art & Julie Gardner), Trent Casey, John Shafer (father of Kelli Salin), Miles Maurice (grandson of Joel & Paulette Maurice), Tina Lamason (sister of Brad White), Marge Miller, Dawn Letcher (daughter of Tony and Shirley Gust), Cole (cousin of Kelli Salin), Lu Schwery (mother of Denise Krohn), Arla Mae Ebers (mother of Julie Moreno),*

Richard Paul, and all our shut ins.

Our missionaries: Deaconess Sandra Rhein & Ms. Becky Bartelt

News and Notes

Christmas Recitals - You are invited to St. Paul's Music Conservatory Christmas recital today at 3:00pm. Come to enjoy good music and support our music ministry and the students who have worked hard this fall.

Christmas Program – Come join the children at SPLECC for their Christmas program of singing and celebrating the birth of Jesus on Wednesday, December 11, at 11:00am, at the Early Learning Center, 1500 North 16th Street.

Advent Lessons and Carols – Next Sunday afternoon join us at 4 p.m. for a special Advent Lessons and Carols service followed by a congregational chili supper!

Christmas Caroling – This year our last Christ Academy on December 18th we will devote to a congregational Christmas Caroling event. We will have no Advent service that night.

New Nursery/Toddler Class – Special thanks to **Tayler Tague** for volunteering to lead our Nursery/Toddler class during Sunday School. If interested, please join them today!

Sing-Along Join Dr. Christensen and friends for the Christmas Sing-Along on Thursday December 17, at 3:00p.m. We'll meet on the 2nd floor of FoxRun Assisted Living (3121 Macineery Dr.)for lots of fun and treats!

You're Invited! The Christmas Trees Scavenger Hunt will be held on December 8th and 15th at the Burris residence. All proceeds will go to Midlands Animal Shelter. Talk to Julia or Dale for more information.

Catechism

The Lord's Prayer

Introduction: Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

239 Frank St.

Council Bluffs, IA 51503

712-322-4729

www.stpaulscouncilbluffs.org

Senior Pastor - Rev. Nathan Sherrill

Cell: 712-310-4248

Nathansherrill1978@gmail.com

Associate Pastor/Kantor - Rev. Timothy Frank

Cell: 712-269-3683

pastorfrank239@gmail.com

Pastors Emeriti - Rev. James Tews & Rev. Robert Lindau

Parish Administrator - Heidi Bernhards

splccboffice@splccb.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Friday 8 a.m. - noon

St. Paul's Early Childhood Center

1500 N. 16th St.

Council Bluffs, IA 51503

712-322-3294

www.splecc.org

Director - Becca Heinicke

becca.heinicke@splecc.org

Administrative Assistant – Glennda Hedlund

glennda.hedlund@splecc.org

School Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Music Conservatory

239 Frank St.

Council Bluffs, IA 51503

712-322-8832

Administrator - Rev. Timothy Frank

Cell: 712-269-3683

pastorfrank239@gmail.com