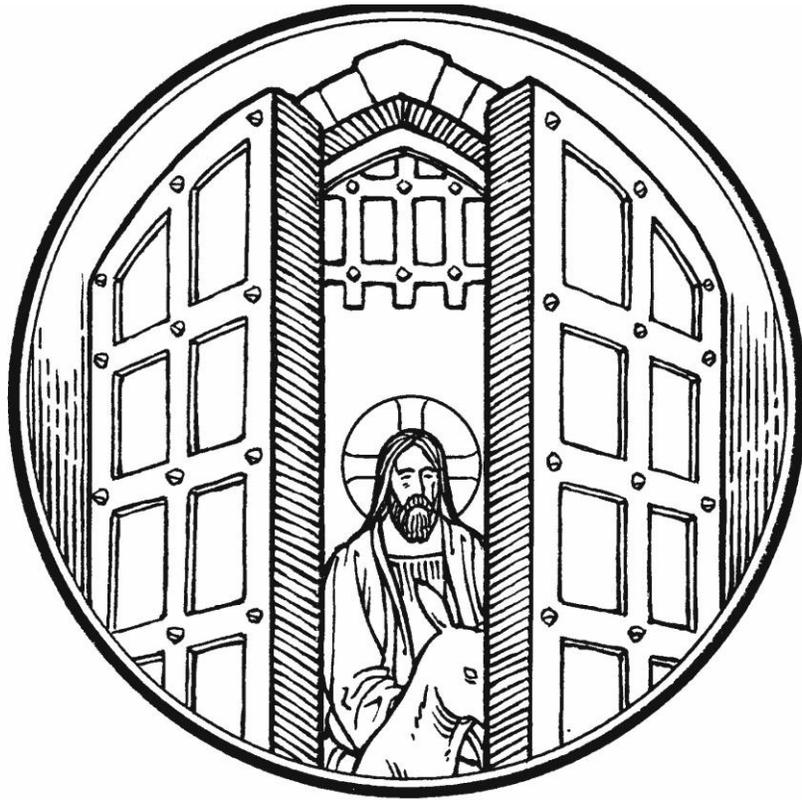


The First Sunday in Advent
The Sunday of the Great Entrance
“The Lord Comes Even Now”



“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

Matthew 21:9

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
239 Frank Street, Council Bluffs, IA
November 30, 2025**

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 Sherrill

Organist: Rev. Timothy Frank, Elizabeth Johnson

Violinist: Clara Klinge (8:00 a.m.)

Kantors: Ivy Farrell (8:00 a.m.); Hector Raymond (10:45 a.m.)

The Word in Music

Prelude: "Savior of the Nations, Come" – Partita by Kenneth Kosche

Offering: "Savior of the Nations, Come"- Setting by Hugo Distler

Distribution: "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"

Postlude: "Savior of the Nations, Come" – Toccata by Jacob Weber

Kantor's Notes: The word *advent* means "to **come**." Accordingly, the hymn "Savior of the Nations, **Come**" has been called "the advent hymn *par excellence*" and has long been used in Lutheran churches as the Hymn of the Day for Advent 1. This hymn was originally written in Latin by Ambrose of Milan (339/40-97) who is nicknamed the "father of Latin hymnody." Martin Luther subsequently adapted it for the German language probably in Advent 1523. Today, the hymn continues to instruct us in the doctrine of Christ's Incarnational **coming**. Confessing the One who **came** as "God of God, yet fully man," we call upon this same Jesus to **come** to us now and to "make whole all our ills of flesh and soul."

Prayer Request Cards are now available in the Church Narthex on the lectern side table, in the pamphlet holder rack, and on the information table in the Church Lounge. You may complete the Prayer Request Card and give to an Usher before the start of each Worship Service, or place in the collection plate.

Divine Service Setting 3

Prelude:

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.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1875; 1790; John Chandler, 1886-70, as
found in *Worship* (1972)
Text and Tune: Public Domain

Stand

Confession and Absolution

LSB 184

Invocation

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

C Amen.

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 sal- | vation;*
for you I wait all the | day long.**

May integrity and uprightness pre- | serve me,*
for I | wait for you.

**Redeem Israel, | O God,*
out of all his | troubles.**

**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.**

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.

Kyrie

LSB 186

**☩ Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

☐ Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

Sit

Old Testament

Jeremiah 23:5–8

⁵“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

⁷“Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ ⁸but ‘As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.’ Then they shall dwell in their own land.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB 357:1,4,7

Epistle

Romans 13:8–14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse

LSB 190

C Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia.

A Give ear, O my people, to my | teaching;* incline your ears to the words | of my mouth!

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1–9

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

LSB 191

C **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.**

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.

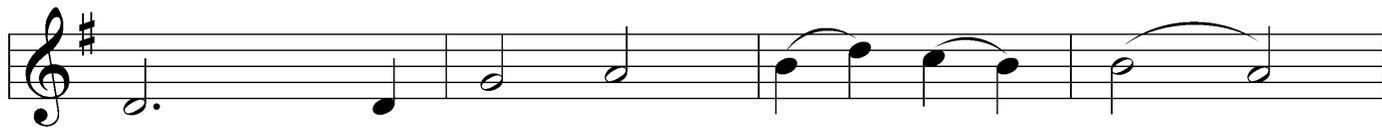
Sit

Distribution

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;



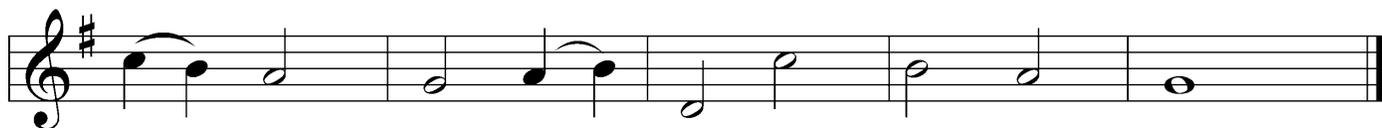
Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 Those who set at naught and sold Him,
 Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



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!

334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



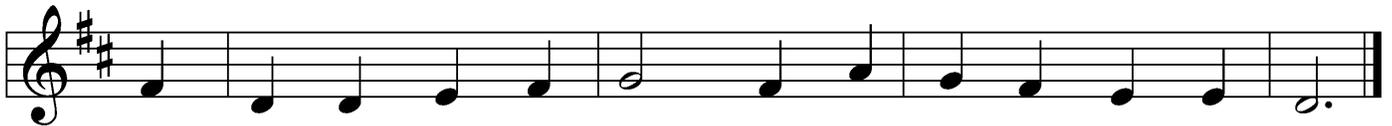
1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!
And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new
A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.
And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.
That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
Cannot His love erase;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon
And cover by His grace.
He comes, for you procuring
The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing
Eternal life in heav'n.

6 He comes to judge the nations,
A terror to His foes,
A light of consolations
And blessèd hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so
cheering,
And guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Text and tune: Public domain

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!

350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text: Edward Gerhard Oberlin, 1622-1711; in: Angew. Chel. 1847-1825, 4th
Edition. New arrangement: Christian Müller/Sören Gröning, 1978. Darmstadt.
© 1978 by Luther-Verlag, Leipzig, Germany.

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 ✠ give you peace.
C Amen, amen, amen.

335 O Bride of Christ, Rejoice



1 O bride of Christ, re - joice; Ex - ul - tant raise thy voice
2 Let shouts of glad - ness rise Tri - um - phant to the skies.
3 A hum - ble beast He rides, Yet as a King pre - sides;
4 The weak and tim - id find How meek He is and kind;
5 Then go thy Lord to meet; Strew palm leaves at His feet;



To hail the day of glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Now comes the King most glo - rious To reign o'er all vic - to - rious.
Though not ar - rayed in splen - dor, He makes the grave sur - ren - der.
To them He gives a trea - sure Of bliss be - yond all mea - sure.
Thy gar - ments spread be - fore Him And hon - or and a - dore Him.

Refrain



Ho - san - na, praise, and glo - ry! Our King, we bow be - fore Thee.

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Postlude:

Acknowledgments

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Opportunities for Growth

Today	8:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	9:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Class, Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Divine Service
Monday	6:00 p.m.	Bells
	7:00 p.m.	Festival Choir
Tuesday	6:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday	5:00 p.m.	Christ Academy
	6:30 p.m.	Advent Worship
Friday	6:30 p.m.	Music Conservatory Recital
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Music Conservatory Recital
Next Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:45 a.m.	Divine Service

The Congregation at Prayer

Those ill or recovering: *Lance Maness, Diane Machmuller, Mary Johannes, Elizabeth Bowerman, Trent Casey, John Shafer (father of Kelli Salin), Tina Lamason (sister of Brad White), Cole (cousin of Kelli Salin), Lu Schwery (mother of Denise Krohn), Pastor North Sherrill, Rev. Lee Seetin (cousin of Kent Seetin), Andrea Williams (Jeff and Ronda Thomas' niece), Brian Nohr (friend of Jeff & Ronda Thomas), Ethel Engel (mother of Coreen Trost), Roger Escritt* and all our shut ins.

Our missionaries: Deaconess Sandra Rhein & Ms. Becky Bartelt

Our local missions: St. Paul's Early Childhood Center & St. Paul's Music Conservatory

News and Notes

Please stop by the Media Center Room after Worship Services on Sunday mornings and see the new Audio Mixer purchased with St. Paul's Memorial Funds. The Media Team will be glad to show you all the capabilities of the new mixer. Thank you again to all who have donated over the past year to St. Paul's Memorial Fund.

Volunteers are needed to help set up the outdoor Nativity display on the east side of the Church on Wednesday afternoon, December 3rd, beginning at 4:30pm, weather permitting. If you can help, please contact Bill Wege at 402-212-3204, or the Church Office at 712-322-4729. Thank you.

Dear Members of St Paul's, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the prayers, cards, texts, calls and food during my illness. All of these things have been a comfort to me and I am feeling stronger day by day, with the Lord's help. God bless you all! With love and thanks in Christ's name, Diane Machmuller

St. Paul's Altar Guild is asking for volunteers to help give the Church Sanctuary a "deep cleaning" on Wednesday afternoon, December 3rd, from 2:00pm to 4:30pm. If you can help, please contact Kathleen Seipold (402-250-8729), Amy (712-310-2457), or the Church Office (712-322-4729). Thank you.

Save the Date! – Dale and Julia Burris are having their annual Christmas Tree OPEN HOUSE on **Sunday, Dec. 7th and Sunday, Dec. 14th from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. \$5 per person or \$10 per family.**

Catechism

Review Close of the Commandments

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says, "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Exodus 20:5-6)

What does this mean? God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

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 Emeritus - Rev. Robert Lindau

Parish Administrator - Heidi Bernhards

splccboffice@splccb.org

St. Paul's Lutheran 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 – Glenda Hedlund

glenda.hedlund@splecc.org

Early Childhood Center 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

www.stpaulsmusicconservatory.org

Administrator - Rev. Timothy Frank

Cell: 712-269-3683

pastorfrank239@gmail.com