

New Year's Eve Divine Worship Service



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
239 Frank Street, Council Bluffs, IA
December 31, 2025
7:00PM

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 at tonight's Divine Service. 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. Timothy Frank

Organist: Brett Allen

The Word in Music

Prelude: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" *Partita by Kevin Hildebrand*

Postlude: "Prelude in E Minor" *J. S. Bach*

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: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" *Partita by Kevin Hildebrand*

Hymn of Invocation: "Across the Sky the Shades of Night" **LSB 899**



1 A - cross the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are
2 Be - fore the cross sub - dued we bow, To You our prayer ad -
3 We gath - er up in this brief hour The mem - 'ry of Your
4 We now re - mem - ber, as we pray, Our dear ones in Your
5 Then, gra - cious God, in years to come, We pray Your hand may



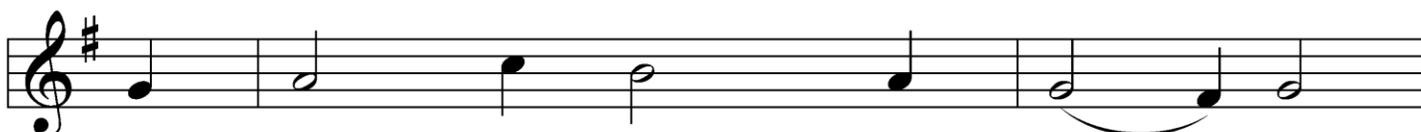
fleet - ing. We deck Your al - tar, Lord, with light, In
dress - ing, Re - count - ing all Your mer - cies now, And
mer - cies: Your won - drous good - ness, love, and pow'r Our
car - ing Who bright - ly shine in end - less day, Past
guide us, And, on - ward through our jour - ney home, Your



sol - emn wor - ship meet - ing; And as the year's last
all our sins con - fess - ing; Be - seech - ing You this
grate - ful song re - hears - es; For You have been our
death and all de - spair - ing. At our life's end, Lord,
mer - cy walk be - side us Un - til at last our



hours go by, We raise to You our ear - nest cry,
com - ing year To keep us in Your faith and fear
strength and stay In man - y a dark and drea - ry day
as Your own, Bring us with them a - round Your throne,
ran - somed life Is safe from per - il, toil, and strife



Once more Your love en - treat - ing.
And crown us with Your bless - ing.
Of sor - row and re - vers - es.
The joys of heav - en shar - ing.
When heav'n it - self shall hide us.

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.

Psalm 90 From Everlasting to Everlasting

(Congregation Chants Bold)

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:

in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed.

You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.

For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil.

Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

Kyrie

LSB 186

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

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

P Glory be to God on high:
C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament

Numbers 6:22-27

Aaron's Blessing

²² The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus zyou shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

²⁴ The Lord abless you and bkeep you;

²⁵ the Lord cmake his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the Lord dlift up his countenance3 upon you and give you peace.

²⁷ e“So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual: “The Ancient Law Departs” (kantor)

LSB 898

Epistle

Romans 8:31b–39

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia Verse

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²¹ And pat the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, ahe was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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.



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
 Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
 From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 Soon bears us all away;
 We fly forgotten as a dream
 Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
 Our hope for years to come,
 Be Thou our guard while troubles last
 And our eternal home!
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon: "Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love"

Romans 8:31b-39

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

**☐ 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 Hymns:

Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LSB 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come___ ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to Thee___ be___ glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God___ In___ the___ high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

Hymn: "Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love" LSB 900



1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid - en moth - er told,
3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Kneel - ing in her low - ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.
For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo - ple save."
When the cup of hu - man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n
Under all the mighty heav'n
Whereby those to sin enslaved
Burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.
Text and tune: Public domain

Hymn: "God Loves Me Dearly"

LSB 392



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Text and tune: Public domain

Hymn: "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice" LSB 390



1 Let us all with glad - some voice Praise the God of heav - en,
2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sad - ness,
3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a won - der?
4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, Be Thou ev - er near us.



Who, to bid our hearts re - joice, His own Son hath giv - en.
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.
There - fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

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.

Hymn of Departure: "O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly" LSB 897



1 O re - joice, ye Chris - tians, loud - ly, For our joy has
2 See, my soul, thy Sav - ior choos - es Weak - ness here and
3 Lord, how shall I thank Thee right - ly? I ac - knowl - edge
4 Je - sus, guard and guide Thy mem - bers, Fill them with Thy



now be - gun; Won - drous things our God has done.
pov - er - ty; In such love He comes to thee.
that by Thee I am saved e - ter - nal - ly.
bound-less grace, Hear their prayers in ev - 'ry place.



Tell a - broad His good - ness proud - ly, Who our race has
Nei - ther crib nor cross re - fus - es; All He suf - fers
Let me not for - get it light - ly, But to Thee at
Fan to flame faith's glow - ing em - bers; Grant all Chris - tians,



hon - ored thus, That He deigns to dwell with us.
for thy good To re - deem thee by His blood.
all times cleave And my heart true peace re - ceive.
far and near, Ho - ly peace, a glad new year!



Refrain
Joy, O joy, be - yond all glad - ness, Christ has done a -



way with sad - ness! Hence, all sor - row and re - pin - ing,



For the Sun of Grace is shin - ing!

Acknowledgments

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Opportunities for Growth

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:45 a.m.	Divine Service
Tuesday	6:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Elders Meeting
Wednesday	5:00 p.m.	Christ Academy
		1 st Wednesday of the month Potluck
Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Church Council Meeting

The Congregation at Prayer

Those ill or recovering: *Don Kadereit, Shawna (friend of Matt and Elizabeth Escritt), 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), C.C. Harris (wife of Tristan), the family of Louise Rettig JoAnn Gohlinghorst* 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

Poinsettias may be picked up after tonight's service and Sunday January 4th.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & MUSIC CONSERVATORY

2025-2026 MUSIC SERIES PIPE ORGAN DEDICATION

SUNDAY JANUARY 18TH
4:00PM



Featuring Rev. Kantor Timothy Frank,
A Program of varied repertoire highlighting the
beauty of St. Paul's organ renovated by
Bedient Pipe Organ Company
Reception following in Church Undercroft

For more information:
www.splccb.org

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+712-322-4729



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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712-322-4729

www.stpaulscouncilbluffs.org

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Cell: 712-310-4248
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Associate Pastor/Kantor - Rev. Timothy Frank
Cell: 712-269-3683
pastorfrank239@gmail.com
Pastor 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.
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