

Christ Beatrice – 7:45AM

St. Paul's Plymouth – 10:00AM

November 29, 2020

Advent 1



Broadcast Sponsor

Our broadcast this morning is sponsored in loving memory of Dorothy Bekemeyer by her children, Glenn and Pat Bekemeyer and Greg Bekemeyer, and their families. Dorothy entered eternal life November 26, 2002.

St. Paul's Lutheran (WELS)

www.stpaulsplymouth.org
106 East Hwy 4
Plymouth, NE
402-656-3003

Christ Lutheran (WELS)

www.christbeatrice.com
223 N 8th St.
Beatrice, NE
402-223-4250

Welcome!

Welcome

THANK YOU for joining us for worship today!
We pray that your spiritual life will be nourished through Word and Sacrament.

- † Please practice social distancing as to be respectful of others' space during this time.
- † If you do not want to use a paper bulletin this morning, you can access the bulletin on our website – www.stpaulsplymouth.org. The entire worship service is printed out so that you do not need to use the hymnal.
- † Offering plates can be found at the entrances. Although giving offerings for gospel ministry is an act of worship, we will refrain from passing the offering plates during the service at this time.
- † May the Lord bless the time we spend together around His Word this morning! If you are looking for a church to call home, please contact Pastor Berger at any time (email pastorberger@gmail.com; call/text 402-239-4509; or stop by the church office). He would love to serve you with God's Word!
- † If you desire, there is a nursery in the back on the west side of the church, but please know that **your children are ALWAYS welcome** in our service no matter how much noise they make. We're happy to have them hear the Word and join us praising God with their voices!
- † Before you leave, please sign the **guest register**. It is located on the top of the stairs in the church entryway.
- † Please talk to one of the **Elders** (seated in the back of the church) if you have questions about the service or the congregation.
- † **Large print service folders** are available. Please speak to one of the Elders if this would be of assistance to you.
- † Our Sunday morning service can be heard on KWBE 1450AM (94.7FM) and viewed live and archived at www.stpaulsplymouth.org. Please share this information with those who are not able to attend worship.
- † **Prayers before Worship** can be found in *Christian Worship—A Lutheran Hymnal*, pp. 10-11.

Focus for Our Worship

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a season of preparation, repentance (second only to Lent), and anticipation. Our focus is on the "advent" or coming of our Savior: He comes to us now through Word and Sacrament, He will come again on Judgment Day, He has come in the flesh born in Bethlehem, He has come exactly as proclaimed by John. A short prayer from the last chapter of the Bible summarizes the season perfectly: "Come, Lord Jesus. Amen."

Today our emphasis is on the Lord coming to us now through the gospel we receive in Word and Sacrament. Today the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith through the Word as we listen and meditate on it. Today the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith as we remember that God's name was placed on us at our baptisms. Today the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith through the Lord's Supper, where we are assured that Christ comes for us!

The Common Service with Communion

page 15 in *Christian Worship*

Please stand

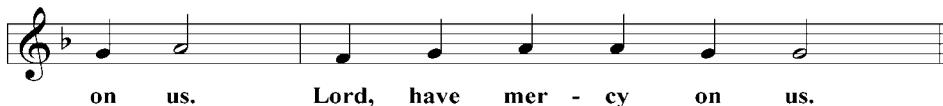
M In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.



Confession of Sins and Holy Absolution

M Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

All Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed You in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve Your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.



Traditionally, the Gloria in excelsis is not sung during Advent. The absence of this song of praise marks Advent worship with a sense of something missing. During the four weeks of preparation, the Church looks forward to the return of the song of the angels on Christmas Day in celebration of God fulfilling His promises in Christ.

In its place we continue by focusing on the Advent Candles.

P We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who continues to come to us today through Word and Sacrament.

C We remember His words, “Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it.”

P Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C Through your Word and Sacrament may our souls be blessed.

Prayer of the Day

M The Lord be with you.



M Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, we ask You, through Your Word and Sacrament, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your deliverance; as You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



First Lesson — Isaiah 55:6-11

Sermon Text

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ⁷Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. ⁸“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. ⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Second Lesson — Romans 13:11-14

Here Paul encourages us to wake up from our spiritual slumber and prepare to meet the Lord. We do this by clothing ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament.

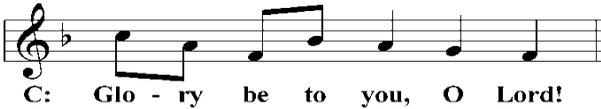
¹¹And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Verse of the Day — Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia. (Revelation 22:20)



Holy Gospel — Matthew 21:1-9

M The Gospel of St. Matthew chapter 21, beginning at verse 1:



The Lord Jesus shows Himself, by His entrance into Jerusalem on His way to the cross, to be the Messianic Savior-King promised by the prophets and so also the “Blessed One” who still “comes in the name of the Lord” through His Word and Sacrament to bring us the forgiveness of sins, spiritual strength, and eternal salvation.

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: ⁵ “Say to the Daughter of Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”



⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest!”

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn



1 Bless - ed art thou that still com - est in the name of
2 Hum - bly cam - est Thou, O Sav - ior, in - to flesh as
3 Low - ly still the garb thou don - nest, as Thou com - est
4 Wed - ding Thy words to mere wa - ter, yea, Thou com - est,
5 In thy bod - y and blood liv - ing, with mere bread and



Zi - on's LORD, Thou that once so hum - bly cam - est
man to die, that Thy blood and Thy be - hav - ior
yet to - day, Thy words, plain but ev - er hon - est,
Lord of lords, to cre - ate us Zi - on's daugh - ter,
wine con - ferred, com - est Thou our sins for - giv - ing,

and wilt come to wield the sword. So "ho - san - na"
 should us sin - ners jus - ti - fy. So "ho - san - na"
 keep the ly - ing world at bay. So "ho - san - na"
 mak - ing sin - ners hea - ven's ward. So "ho - san - na"
 all by vir - tue of Thy Word. So "ho - san - na"

still we sing: come and save us bless - ed King!
 still we sing: come and save us bless - ed King!
 still we sing: come and save us bless - ed King!
 still we sing: come and save us bless - ed King!
 still we sing: come and save us bless - ed King!

6 Yea, "hosanna in the highest!"
 still we cry, O Coming One,
 who with grace still Zion pliest,
 David's Seed and God's own Son.
 So "hosanna" still we sing:
 come and save us, Blessed King!

Text: Douglas McC. L. Judisch

Tune: JESUS, JESUS, NICHTS ALS JESUS (87 87 77) *Das . . . vollkommene Musikalisches Choral-Buch*, Hamburg, 1715, alt.

(To the Tune of CW 538)

Sermon – Isaiah 55:6-11

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it

from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A-men.

New Member Reception

The Sacrament

M The Lord be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

M Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

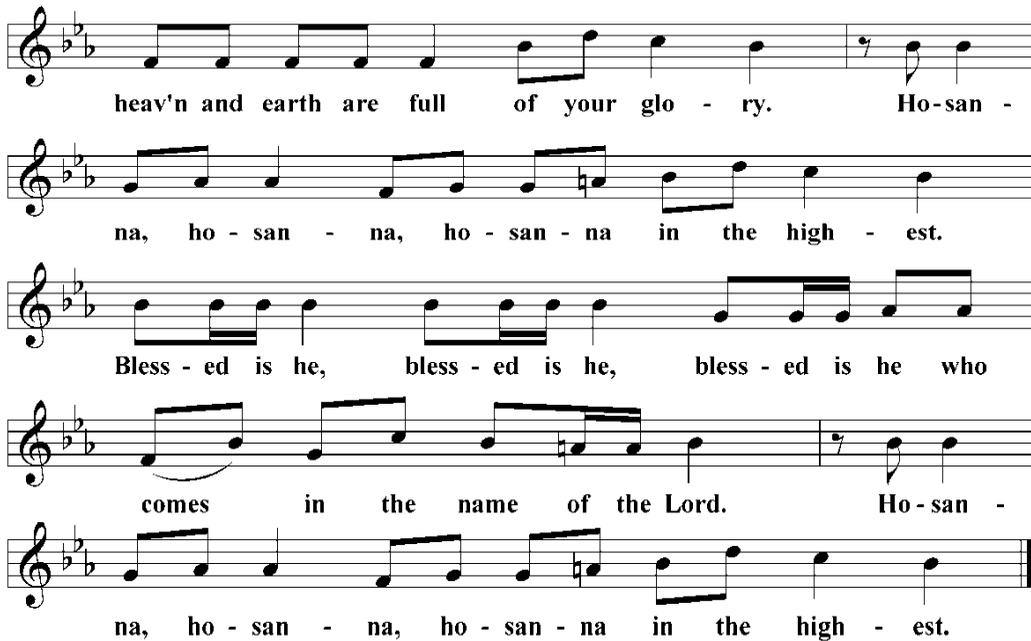
C: It is good and right so to do.

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give You thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise Your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:





heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is My \oplus body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is My \oplus blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

O Christ, Lamb of God



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

Close Communion We ask that only those who have previously spoken to our pastor or are members in good standing of this or another WELS or ELS congregation come to Holy Communion today. Our practice of Close Communion (which has been the practice of the Christian Church throughout the ages) is in no way trying to judge anyone's faith. What we are trying to do is follow the Bible's clear teaching (I Corinthians 11) to first study God's Word together. As we do so, we can share with/review with you what the Lord's Supper is all about. You, then, also have an opportunity to examine what we believe and teach before you come to the Lord's Supper here at St. Paul's/Christ Lutheran and make a public profession that you agree with what we teach.

If you have any questions about this or would like to commune at St. Paul's/Christ Lutheran in the future, please talk with Pastor Berger. He would love to sit down with you on your timetable and at your convenience and talk about these important matters.

Prayer Before Communion

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at Your holy table. But You are a friend of sinners, and You will not cast me out. This bread is Your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is Your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At Your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior. Amen.

32 When Sinners See Their Lost Condition

1 When sin - ners see their lost con - di - tion And feel
 2 When Je - sus en - ters meek and low - ly To fill
 3 When Je - sus en - ters land and na - tion And chang -
 4 When Je - sus comes — O bless - ed sto - ry — He works

the press - ing load of sin And Je - sus comes on
 the home with sweet - est peace, When hearts have felt his
 es peo - ple with his love, When, yield - ing to his
 a change in heart and life; God's king - dom comes with

his blest mis - sion To heal the sin - sick
 bless - ing ho - ly And found from sin com -
 kind per - sua - sion, Our hearts his truth and
 pow'r and glo - ry To young and old, to

heart with - in, All grief must flee be - fore his
 plete re - lease, Then calm and joy with - in shall
 bless - ing prove, Then shall our life on earth be
 man and wife. Through sac - ra - ment and liv - ing

grace, And joy di - vine will take its place.
 reign, And hearts di - vid - ed love a - gain.
 blest; The peace of God on us shall rest.
 Word Faith, love, and hope are now con - ferred.

5 Oh, may he soon to ev'ry nation
 Find entrance where he is unknown,
 With life and light and free salvation,
 That Satan's pow'r be overthrown,
 And healing to all hearts may come
 In heathen land and Christian home!

Prayer After Communion

Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with Your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in You as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of Your Spirit to live and work to Your praise and glory. Amen.

After the Lord's Supper, the congregation stands to sing:

Thanksgiving

Song of Simeon

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac - cord - ing
 to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre -

pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

M O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M O God the Father, source of all goodness, in Your loving kindness You sent Your Son to share our humanity. We thank You that through Him You have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that You will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve You day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

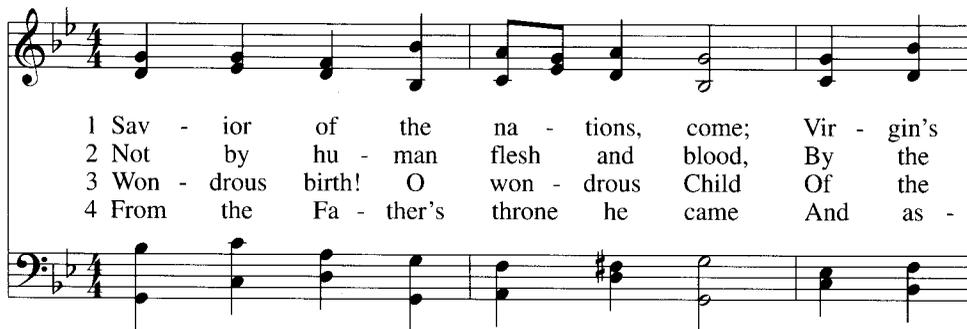
C: A - men.

M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

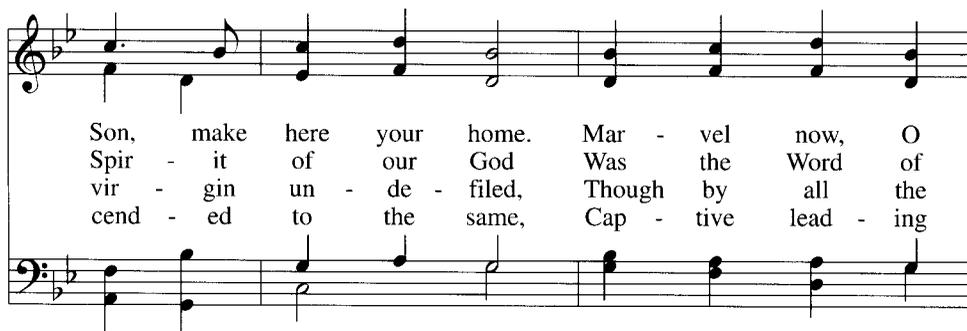
C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Savior of the Nations, Come

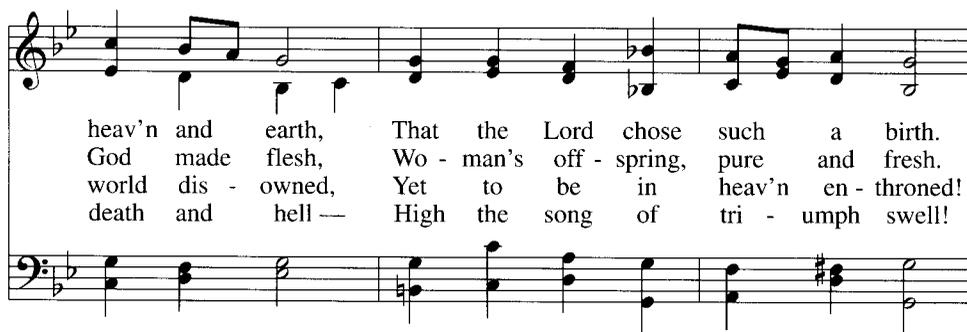
2



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the
 3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child Of the
 4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came And as -



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 Spir - it of our God Was the Word of
 vir - gin un - de - filed, Though by all the
 cend - ed to the same, Cap - tive lead - ing



heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
 God made flesh, Wo - man's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 world dis - owned, Yet to be in heav'n en - throned!
 death and hell — High the song of tri - umph swell!

- 5 Praise to God the Father sing,
 Praise to God the Son, our King,
 Praise to God the Spirit be
 Ever and eternally.

*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but
the word of our God endures forever."*

Isaiah 40:8



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C-402-239-4509 O-402-656-3003
pastorberger@gmail.com

Principal Andrew Danner
C-402-433-5349 O-402-656-4465
danner@stpaulsplymouth.org

Organist: Angie Zulauf
Broadcast Announcers: Tom Hueske, Neil Bekemeyer
Teen Ushers: Matt Scheele, Caleb Kosmos
Childcare: Andrea Weichel, Deb Wells
Greeters: Tim & Sue Likens

St. Paul's Church Family

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Today – LaVon Wasserman **Monday** – Gabe Bruna, Madison Freese, Ethan Schroeder
Tuesday – Ruth Carol Meyer, Josh Swartz, M/M Dustin Schwab
Wednesday – Wes Schroeder, Don Weichel
Thursday – Derrick Damrow, Carter Holtmeier, Mary Nitz
Friday – Autumn Malchow **Sunday** – Dana Upchurch, Derek Weichel

Christ Lutheran's Church Family

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

None this week

Organist: Janice Pieper

This Week, By God's Grace (November 29th – December 6th)

Sunday	Worship with Communion at Christ, Beatrice Christmas Eve Practice and Bible Class Worship with Communion at St. Paul's, Plymouth Outside Drive-thru Communion	7:45am 9:00am 10:00am 11:15am-Noon
Monday	Faculty Meeting Monday Night Worship with Communion at St. Paul's, Plymouth	7:15am 7:30pm
Tuesday	Faculty Devotion School Chapel LES Catechism Class Church Decorating - Plymouth	7:15am 8:30am 9:00am 2:00-7:00pm
Wednesday	PSI Class	6:00-7:30pm
Thursday	Faculty Devotion LES Catechism Class Board of Education Beatrice Church Council Growing in Hope Class Plymouth Church Council	7:15am 8:30am 6:30pm 6:30pm 7:00-8:00pm 8:00pm
Friday	Pastor Leads Chapel at NELHS	10:00am
Sunday	Worship at Christ, Beatrice (Church decorating in Beatrice will take place following Bible Class at 9:45AM) Christmas Eve Practice and Bible Class Worship at St. Paul's, Plymouth (Greeters: Brian & Elaine Burger) (Childcare: Karen Schroeder, Deb Milius) Plymouth Ushers' Meeting NELHS Xmas Concert - livestreamed at https://striv.tv/channel/nebraska-lutheran/	7:45am 9:00am 10:00am 11:00am



Poinsettias—If you would like to help beautify our church with poinsettias during the Christmas season, there is a sign-up sheet on the table near the mailboxes in the front entrance. The cost is \$16.00 per plant and today is the last day to sign up.

Bible Class—We are now studying the book of Philippians in Bible Class. Bring your Bible and join us as we open the Scriptures and consider God's words of encouragement to His Church here on earth.



St. Paul's is sponsoring a Christmas Decorating Contest for all houses in the Plymouth

village limits. Judging will take place on the evening of Friday, December 11th and winners will be announced on Facebook. Prizes include a \$200 gift card to the Plymouth Country Store and a \$100 gift card to P-Town's Daily Grind. Have fun decorating and join us at 7PM on either December 23rd or 24th (in-person & online) as the children remind us:

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!



Church Christmas Decorating—On December 1st from 2-7pm we will be decorating St. Paul's for the Christmas season. Anyone interested in assisting with any part of the decorating is encouraged to contact Donna Jung (402-520-0212); she is coordinating the decorating. We would love to have "many hands" sharing their time and helping out, even for an hour or two! Janice Pieper will be coordinating the Christ Lutheran decorating after church on December 6th.



Broadcast Sponsors—Anyone interested in sponsoring a broadcast of our worship service is asked to note that many of the Sundays in 2021 are still available. If you would like to reserve a date, please contact the church office or talk with Craig Scheele. Thank you!

Housing for Pastor Dauck & Family—The Freese family has graciously allowed the Dauck family to rent Leon and Alida's house until a house becomes available for purchase in the Village of Plymouth. With homes in Plymouth selling so quickly (without even going on the market), please contact Pastor Berger if you know of any housing possibilities that will be available soon.



St. Paul's School Gift Giving Tree—Every year our school has a gift giving tree...this year it's up a little early and we are calling it a thankful tree 😊. We are thankful for our clothes, food, toys, etc. and would like to generously give to families in our area that need some of these items. If you would like to help by purchasing items, just take an ornament or two or three and purchase the gift listed on the ornament and put it under the tree (unwrapped). Items are needed by Dec. 4th. Thank you!



Panther Basketball—According to the state of Nebraska, our school sports teams are actually congregational teams. Therefore, any of our church member children are eligible to participate on our teams. Our basketball season runs from December through the end of February. If you are interested in finding out more information about our St. Paul's Panther basketball, please speak with either Mr. Danner or Mrs. Hueske.

Jesus is the LIGHT of the world
Christmas Decoration Contest

Sponsored by St. Paul's Plymouth



**All houses in Plymouth Village Limits
are automatically registered**

Judging will take place on the evening of Friday, December 11th
Winners will be announced on Facebook

Prizes Include:

Grand Prize—\$200 to Plymouth Country Store
Runner-up Prize—\$100 to P-town Daily Grind

Have fun decorating and join us at 7PM on
December 23rd and 24th (in-person & online)
as the children remind us:

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

If you would like more information about St. Paul's Lutheran Church, feel free to speak with Pastor Fred Berger after the service or anytime during the week! (call/text 402-239-4509; email pastorberger@gmail.com) If you think you might be interested in joining the St. Paul's church family, Pastor would be more than happy to take you through some Bible studies at whatever time or location is most convenient for you to learn more about what we teach.

If you would like more information about St. Paul's Lutheran School, feel free to speak with Mr. Andrew Danner! (call/text 402-433-5349; email danner@stpaulsplymouth.org) He would love to give you a tour of the school and answer any questions you might have about the excellent Christ-centered education we offer students of our church and community.

Please contact us! We would love to serve you!

Church Office 402-656-3003

School Office 402-656-4465

Pastor Fred Berger 402-239-4509

Church Secretary Mrs. Deb Wells 402-853-2035

Mrs. Tracie Hueske (Preschool) 402-230-0607

Mrs. Becky Briney (K-1) 269-358-2998

Mrs. Rachel Schroeder (2-3) 402-239-1206

Mrs. Beckie Bekemeyer (4-5) 402-239-7667

Mrs. Heather Malchow (Principal Release) 402-613-3241

Principal Andrew Danner (6-8) 402-433-5349

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School

In an ever-changing world, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to build Christ's kingdom in people's hearts with the un-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

106 East Highway 4

Plymouth, NE 68424

402-656-3003

www.stpaulsplymouth.org