

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 21, 2025



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 250 * 205 West Jefferson Street
Cole Camp, MO 65325

"Being Transformed By God's Grace To Love And Serve."

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THE POWER OF YES - JOSEPH SAID YES

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Dialog

Joseph found out his future bride was with child, and he was worried about staying with her. An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and asked Joseph to take Mary as his bride anyway, explaining that she carried Jesus, the child of God, who would save everyone from their sins. He could've said no.

Joseph said YES

Maybe he should've said no.

Joseph said YES

There were reasons he might've said no.

Joseph said YES

Joseph took a risk. Joseph took a chance on God.

Joseph said YES

Opening Hymn

"People, Look East"

#248

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Litany

Responsive Reading: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up-on the cherubim.
- ² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- ³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ⁴ **O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- ⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**
- ¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- ¹⁹ **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

We light four candles for the four corners of the earth:

Everything to the north and the south, from the east to the west.

We light four candles to say YES to the invitation:

to care for the earth and for all her good creation.

Hymn of Praise “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” #240 vs. 1-4

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.....**Lord God, give us tender and open hearts, ready to do
your will. Help us to see where our hopes and dreams fit with your
plans for our lives. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

Service Of Holy Baptism Everett Randolph Schweitzer

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors: Jake and Sara Jackson

We present Everett Randolph Schweitzer for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Everett baptized into Christ? *I do.*

As you bring Everett to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten
Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him in faith and prayer,
so that he may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Everett grow in the Christian faith and life? *I do.*

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Everett in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? *I do.*

People of God, do you promise to support Everett and pray for him in his new life in Christ? **We do.**



I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the powers of this world that defy God? *I renounce them.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Everett Randolph Schweitzer, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray.....We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Everett with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Everett, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world. Amen.

Hymn of Praise	"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"	#286
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Children's Sermon	Jennifer Rehmer
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Gospel Acclamation	"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	#257 vs. 7
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¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

please stand in body or spirit
Hymn of the Day

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

#295

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

please be seated
Offering



Give Online

please stand in body or spirit
Offertory

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#257 vs. 8

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray... God of every good gift, we offer what we have back to you, knowing that your son is the greatest gift we will ever receive. Grant us glad and generous hearts, ever and always. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

(Based on "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #283)

(1) O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

(2) Sharing a table, Jesus and disciples,

Blessing and breaking bread, he said to them:

"This is my body, take it and remember."

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

(3) Then, after supper, Jesus blessed the chalice,

"This, a new covenant, for you and for all."

Eat this, and drink this, do this in remembrance.

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

(4) Sing, "Holy Holy," sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:

"Glory to God.., in.. the.. highest!"

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!



The Lord's Prayer

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. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

please be seated
HOLY COMMUNION

By Stations

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine
and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.
Red wine or white grape juice is available.

Communion Hymns

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

#239

“Once in Royal David’s City”

#269

please stand in body or spirit

Post-Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep
you in his grace. **Amen**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.....Christ Jesus, you have fed us with love incarnate, and we
are truly changed. Send us forth from this meal to be forces for change in
this world, as we find the YES within each of us. In Jesus’ name we pray,
Amen.

Blessing

May God bless you with courage, as you seek the YES within you;
May Christ be born again in every risk you take for the sake of the world;
And may the Holy Spirit remind you, again and again, that you are never
alone, and that you are loved beyond measure. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Joy to the World”

#267

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep saying “yes”!

Thanks be to God

"THE POWER OF YES"



Welcome: On this fourth Sunday in Advent, let us rejoice in God's great love revealed to us in Christ. We have received "glad tidings of great joy." Therefore let us show our joy by sharing this glorious news with one another in a spirit of love, peace and friendship. Welcome friends!

We invite everyone to enjoy coffee and fellowship before worship in the Gathering Space. Please join us!

In Our Prayers: "Unspoken prayer concerns", Dennis & Claudia Moellman, Gene Beckman, Shirley Cash, Robert Tatum, Jerome Goosen, Nathan Vanderlinden, Ron Eickhoff, Gordon Ives, Norene Ives, Jon Beckman, Scott Cash, Judie VonHolten, Greg Ives, and Kyle Luetjen.



Mike Wingerter (brother of Susan Goosen), Kathy Harms, Deanna Browning, Debra Eichler, Kylie Simon, Hazel Karstons, Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Larry Haase (brother-in-law of Gene Beckman), David Mobely (brother-in-law of Randy Healan), Joyce Jones (sister of Connie Gerken), Kris Barnes (friend of Julie Cronin), Joe Campbell, Cliff Eckhoff, Carmilla Swaim and husband (friends of Debbie Eckhoff), Joseph Fuelling (nephew of Paul Fuelling), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan), and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).



Nursing Home: Vern Dean Bohling, Shirley Cash and Larry & Judy Schlesselman: *Anew*. Marie Viebrock & Florence VonHolten: *GSCC*.

Military: Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: Lt. Col. Ron Poe, Major Joseph Strathman, Rank E3 Jensen Hamilton (son of Matt & Isabel Hamilton and grandson of Judie VonHolten), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen) and Capt. Ashlie Colston (daughter of Jon Beckman).





Prayers: If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.

AUDIT: WELCA, Cemetery, Luther League and Church: Those with check books, receipts, money market and bank statements must turn these items in to Jerome Goosen as soon as you are able to after the new year no later than the 4th of Jan 2026. The audit committee will meet around the second week in January. Thank you.

Annual Audit



Offering: Thank you, St. Paul's, for your ongoing generosity in sharing your time, talents, and treasures for the ministry of this congregation. The staff and leaders of the church work hard to be good stewards of your gifts and offerings, and so far this year our expenses are well under what we had budgeted. Over the past couple weeks we

have seen an increase in giving, and as of December 14th our projected deficit is about \$5,000 relative to our projected expenses through the end of the year. As we near the end of this year, we hope that you will consider helping us get closer to our budget with an additional gift before year-end. Thank you again for your ongoing support!

Esther Circle: Will meet on **January 9th, 2026** at 7:00 pm at Rhonda Schlesselman's home.

Esther Circle



Angel Tree: Thanks to all who have supported our Angel Tree this year. Any gifts to residents of our local care facilities should be dropped off under the tree by today.

Outdoor Christmas Photo Scene: The Christmas Photo Scene located behind the church will remain available through New Year's Day. Help us to continue to spread the word about this opportunity. It's our gift to this community during this Christmas season!



Christmas Worship: Join us as we gather to worship God and celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas! Christmas Eve worship will begin at 7:00 pm and include the choir singing, the children's Christmas program, and a candle-light service. We will gather for worship again on Christmas Day at 10:00 am with Holy Communion. Please bring your family as we share this wonderful time of the year together.

Out of Office: Pastor Stephen will be out of the office from Friday, December 26th through Thursday, January 1st.



Worship: There will be no Casual Worship Service on Saturday, December 27th.

Lessons & Carols: Worship for the first weekend following Christmas will take the form of A Service of Lessons & Carols on Sunday, December 28th, at 10:00 am. There will be no communion that morning.



Sunday School: There will be no Christian Education classes on Sunday, December 28th. Sunday School for youth and adults and the Confirmation class will resume on Sunday, January 4th.

Envelopes: The 2026 offering envelopes are available in the Link. If there isn't a box for you and you would like a set of envelopes, please contact Russell Oelrichs or the church office to request a box.



Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will return on Thursday, **January 8th, 2026** from 8:00 am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.

Free Yoga Class: Every Monday at 6:30pm at St. Paul's in the Fellowship Hall, a free yoga class will be offered. Thanks to new local doctor and certified Yoga instructor, Stephanie Schirding, for offering her time! This is a beginner's class.



Secret Sisters: It's that time of the year for ***secret sister reveals for 2025 AND to sign up as a secret sister for 2026.*** The Secret Sister signups are located at each usher's stand. Sign up and enjoy a year of cards, small gifts, and prayers!



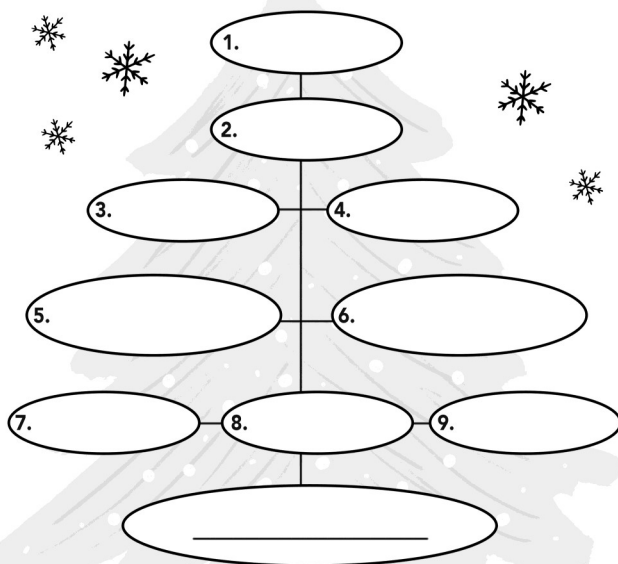
~ * ~ **Coming Events** ~ * ~

December 24.....	Christmas Eve Worship Service
December 25.....	Christmas Day Worship Service
December 27.....	No Casual Worship Service
January 18.....	Annual Meeting

Puzzle!

Write the answer to each clue in the correct circle.

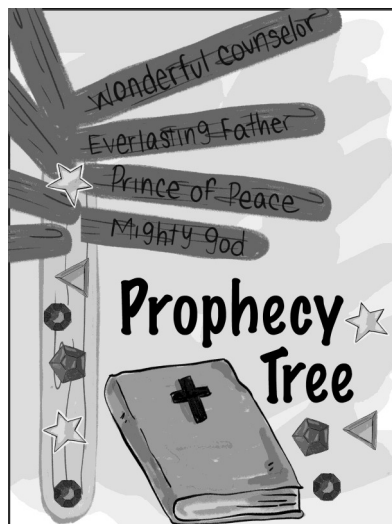
Then jot down the first letter of each answer and unscramble those letters to form a word about this season. Write that answer at the bottom of the tree.



CLUES

1. You trim this at Christmas.
2. One who governs
3. The first word of a popular carol, it means "Listen!"
4. You burn this to make the air sweet.
5. "For unto us is born this day a _____..."
6. She was betrothed to Joseph.
7. Shepherds heard them sing.
8. A Christmas song
9. 'Tis the _____ to be jolly!"

Answers: 1. tree, 2. ruler, 3. hark, 4. incense, 5. Savior, 6. Mary, 7. angels, 8. carol, 9. season; Christmas



Make this Christmas craft to display special names for Jesus.

What you need:

- Large wooden craft stick
- Small green wooden craft sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Bible
- Permanent marker
- Craft glue
- Optional: star stickers or craft jewels

What you do:

1. Place the large stick on a table vertically, like a tree trunk.
2. Cut the green sticks into pieces that measure 4", 3½", 3" and 2½".
3. On each green stick, write a name for Jesus from Isaiah 9:6 — Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Write small or ask an adult for help.)
4. Use a dot of glue to attach each green stick to the large stick, like tree branches.
5. Decorate your Christmas tree with stickers or jewels.

12 Christmas PRAYERS

1.Expectation

Fill us with hope, knowing that God kept his promise to send his Son to earth. (See Isaiah 9:6-7.)

2.Wonder

Just as the angel's message left Mary in awe, remind us of the joyful news of Jesus' coming. (See Luke 1:31-33.)

3.Humility

Like Joseph, make us willing to trust God and humbly care for others. (See Matthew 1:20-21.)

4.Obedience

On our earthly journey, teach us to follow your commands, just as Joseph and Mary obediently traveled to Bethlehem. (See Luke 2:4-5.)

5.Provision

Thank you for meeting all our needs, as you provided a stable and manger bed for Baby Jesus. (See Luke 2:6-7.)

6.Peace

Fill us with your perfect peace, which the angels proclaimed when Jesus was born. (See Luke 2:13-14.)

7.Praising

Remind us to follow the shepherds' example of celebrating and sharing the good news of Jesus' birth. (See Luke 2:16-18.)

8.Grateful

Keep us thankful for God's greatest gift, which Mary treasured on the first Christmas. (See Luke 2:19.)

9.Saved

May Jesus' precious name remind us of his power to save us from our sins. (See Matthew 1:21.)

10.Fulfilled

Give us content hearts, just as Simeon and Anna found fulfillment in the promised Savior. (See Luke 2:28-32.)

11.Worshipful

Like the gift-giving Magi, equip us to give Jesus our very best. (See Matthew 2:10-11.)

12.Wisdom

Help us seek your guidance as we follow and grow with Jesus. (See Luke 2:49-52.)



Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

MinistersThe Whole Congregation
Presiding Minister Pastor Stephen Zeller
Organist Lois Viebrock
PianistJeannette VonHolten
AV Technicians Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk
Altar Guild Kathy Oelrichs & Sharel Wienberg
Ushers..... Victoria Fox, Assistant Head Usher
..... Scott Gerken, Eric Kullman, John Oelrichs & Braden Poe



Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 21, 2025

Assisting Minister..... Anne Goosen
Communion AssistantsLuther League
ReaderLuke Goosen
Children's Sermon Jennifer Rehmer
Acolytes.....Fred Goosen & Evan Randall
Flowers Advent Wreath



Christmas Day Service ~ December 25, 2025

Assisting Minister..... Janice Gerken
Communion Assistants At the Alter
ReaderNorma Schlesselman
Children's Sermon Pastor Stephen Zeller
Flowers Advent Wreath