

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School**  
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101  
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325  
[www.siouxcitystpauls.org](http://www.siouxcitystpauls.org)



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:45 a.m. Sun., Dec. 21, 2025  
Sermon: —Pastor Ezra Grabau



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- a Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

(10:45 a.m. Sun., Dec. 21, 2025)

**Servants of God's House Today:**

**Vacancy Pastor:** Rev. James Travis **Guest Pastor:** Pastor Ezra Grabau

**Praise Team Leader:** Doris Hill **Usher:** Dallas Schulz

**Missionaries:** Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf and the Siouxland Hispanic Ministry

**Elder:** Frank Tenuta **Reader:** Frank Tenuta

**WELCOME!** We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

**AS WE GATHER** Though Matthew is already telling of the birth of Jesus Christ, it is not yet the account we look forward to hearing on Christmas Eve. But this one, lighter on details, is heavy with the promise Jesus' birth fulfills. This Sunday, we hear of Joseph's own angel visit, of the name that shall be given to this child, and of His birth to save His people from their sins. All of this is prefigured in the voice of the Advent prophet Isaiah and framed in the essential message of the church by the words of Paul. Each of the readings appointed for today remind us that God has it all figured out, and even though it all unfolded in time before us, it was appointed by God from the beginning of time. As we remember again all that happened, we also happily remember that God still has it all in hand and that Christ is not only the fulfiller of the past but also the author of the future.

**HOLY COMMUNION** The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod believes the Biblical teaching that in communion we receive not the symbolic but the true body and blood of Jesus Christ with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the same Biblical teaching, and if you agree with the announcement on our communion card and the confession of our faith, please join us to receive the gifts that Jesus Christ has prepared for us in communion. If you have any questions or uncertainties, please feel free to make an appointment to talk with the pastor during the week before communing with us.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP** Almighty God, all our plans come to nothing, but we daily live with fear and disappointment. Grant to us hopeful hearts, that knowing You have kept Your Word and delivered up Your only Son to be our Savior, we may live in peace and confidence, assured that You will bring all things to their perfect end in Christ; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and to the end of the ages. Amen.

## Worship Service

(The congregation is invited to respond with the words written in **bold**.)

- The Ringing of the Bells
- The Hand of Fellowship
- The Invocation

- Lighting of the Advent Wreath (*Four Advent candles are lit.*)
- Opening Song “Mary, Did You Know?”
- Confession and Absolution
- The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 7:10–17  
 (“The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”)
- The Epistle Lesson Romans 1:1–7  
 (Long promised by God, the Savior, Jesus Christ, has come.)  
 (Please stand for the Gospel)
- The Holy Gospel Matthew 1:18–25 (“The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.”)
- Children’s Message
- Hymn of the Day “Thy Word”
- Sermon Pastor Ezra Grabau Isaiah 7:10-17 “Signs”
- The Nicene Creed
- The Prayer of the Church
- Offering of God’s People to their Beloved Savior

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

**St. Paul’s members** have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings.

Please place your offerings in the basket as it passes by.

**To our guest:** Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please pass your **Welcome Card** to an usher or acolyte.

- Offertory Chaney Teut Flute Solo
- Service of the Sacrament—Holiday Holy Communion
- The Preface: (*Sung to O Come All Ye Faithful, LSB 379*)
- Proper Preface
- Sanctus: (*Sung to Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, LSB 380*)
- The Word’s of Institution
- The Lord’s Prayer (*Sung to Away in a Manger, LSB 364*)
- Reading of the Communion Announcement Card
- The Distribution Hymns “The Potter’s Hand” and “Jesus Messiah”
- Post—Communion: (*Sung to From Heaven Above, LSB 358*)
- Closing Prayer
- Benediction: *Ephesians 1:17–21, adapt.; Revelation 1:5–6*
- The Closing Song “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”
- Silent Prayer
- Postlude

# *St. Paul's Lutheran Church Weekly Announcements*

**Week of Dec. 21, 2025– Jan. 1, 2026**

**Today:** Worship/Communion 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.  
Disciple Training Hour 9:30 a.m.

**Wednesday: Christmas Eve**  
Family Candlelight Service 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday:** Christmas Day –Offices Closed  
Christmas Day Service 9:00 a.m.

**Friday:** Offices Closed

**Saturday:** Worship 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday:** Worship 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.  
Disciple Training Hour— 9:30 a.m.

**Monday:** Offices Closed—Network Update

**Tuesday:** Offices Closed—Network Update

**Wednesday:** Offices Open

New Year's Eve Service 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday:** New Year's Day—Offices Closed

| Reader Schedule | Sat. 6:00 p.m. | Sun. 8:00 a.m. | Sun. 10:45 a.m. | Holiday Services     |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Dec. 20—21      | Connie Brown   | Bob Greene     | Frank Tenuta    | Dec. 25 Coleen Reich |
| Dec. 28         |                | Coleen Reich   | Chaney Teut     | Dec. 31 Doug Lehr    |

| Acolyte Schedule | Sat. 6:00 p.m. | Sun. 8:00 a.m.   | Sun. 10:45 a.m. |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Dec. 20-21       |                | Emilee DeVries   | Mason Granstrom |
| Dec. 28          |                | Harrison Knowles | Lincoln Beller  |

## **Financial Report 2025**

### **Love Offering/We Care Ministry Report**

| Last Week | Received To Date | Amount Distributed | Balance     |
|-----------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| \$0       | \$18,699.43      | \$5,896.68         | \$12,803.75 |

| Church Weekly Offerings Report |               |      | Church Yearly Budget \$382,329.00 |                   |     |
|--------------------------------|---------------|------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----|
| Received (12/14/25)            | Weekly Budget | %    | Up-To-Date Received               | Up-To-Date Budget | %   |
| <b>\$8,564.32</b>              | \$7,352.48    | 116% | <b>\$341,349.85</b>               | \$367,624.00      | 93% |

### **Regular Scheduled Meetings**

**Sunday Disciple Training Hour**-Sunday Bible Study will be at 9:30 a.m. in the church basement taught by Frank Tenuta.

**Sunday School**: will be at 9:30 a.m. in the basement classrooms.

**Anna Circle/Sewing Group** will not be meeting on **Dec. 22**. Enjoy time with your family and friends. We will see you back in January on the second and fourth Mondays, **Jan. 12 & 26**

**Elders Meeting**: will be **Tuesday, Jan. 6** at 7:00 p.m. in the church office conference room.

**Board of Education**: will be **Tuesday, Jan. 13** at 7:00 p.m. in the Teacher's workroom.

**Lamplighters**: Meets the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. on **Jan. 7** at Hope Lutheran Church.

**Evangelism Committee Meeting**: Will meet at 4:30 p.m. on the **second and fourth Tuesdays on Jan. 13 & 27** in Church office.

**Youth Board meeting** on **Wednesday, Jan. 14** at 5:30 p.m. in the church conference room.

**Mary Martha Circle**: will meet **Monday, Jan. 19** at 6:00 p.m. Perkins Eastside.

**St. Paul's Women's League Meeting**: There will not a be a meeting in January.

### **FAMILY MATTERS**

**Last Week's Attendance**: Dec: 14: 75

**Pray for Each Other** We ask your prayers on behalf of our friends in Christ who have been hospitalized and sick: Alan Seymour, Leroy Zeising, Connie Spahn, Janice Hinrichsen, Carolyn Stuhr, Ron & Karen Sherrill, Bernie Attema, Pat Berger-Conlon, Deb and Julian Wolfe, Judy Seaman, Vickie Johnson, and Kim and Sharon Sparr.

**Welcome Cards/Attendance Cards**: Please pick up a welcome card on the back table when you come in and then fill them out and place in the offering baskets.

**Office Hours During Break**: The church and school offices will be Closed **December 25-30**.

- Thursday, Dec. 25 and Friday, Dec. 26 for Christmas
- Monday, Dec. 29 and Tuesday, Dec 30 for internet and network updating. It will be open Wednesday, Jan. 31
- Jan. 1 for New Year's Day

**Confirmation Classes**: are on Christmas break and will resume Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 5:15 p.m. in the church basement. Please ensure that your child arrives on time and is prepared for each session. If they are not able to come please contact the church office at 712 -252-0338 or siouxcitystpauls@gmail.com..

**Giving Trees**: The one at the church is to help the elderly at Holy Spirit Retirement Home. There are tags on the tree with wish lists for the residents. Please pick one off the tree and do what you can. Maybe two people can go in together to fulfill the wishes.

**Year End Annual Church and School Fund Drive** Time is running out to meet our goal of \$50,000 by the end of the year. So far we have raise \$18,606.13 . You may mail your gift to the church office or place it in the offering labeling it as Annual Fund Drive. We thank you for your prayers, support, and generous monetary gifts knowing God will bless our efforts to lead His children to know and love Jesus.

**Giving Envelopes**: have finally arrived! Please pick up your giving envelopes in the Narthex of the church.

### **Christmas & New Year's Eve Services:**

- 6:30 p.m. **Wednesday, December 24**  
Christmas Eve Services (Additional services on Christmas Eve will be held at Calvary Lutheran at 5 & 11:00 p.m. )
- 9:00 a.m. **Thursday, December 25**  
Christmas Day Service
- 6:00 p.m. **Wednesday, Dec. 31** New Year's Eve

### Winter Church Schedule:

- **Traditional Services:**

1st & 3rd Saturdays: at 6:00 p.m. with communion

Every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. with communion on the 1st & 3rd Sundays

- **Contemporary Service** at 10:45 a.m. on Every Sunday with communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays

- **Sunday Bible Study and Sunday School** will be at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday in the church basement.

**Vote for Best Child Care in Siouxland:** A huge thank you to everyone who nominated our preschool program! Voting is now OPEN! Follow the link, select Services, find the Child Care category, and vote for St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool! You can cast your vote daily until December 28, 2025!

<https://siouxcityjournal.com/.../readerschoice/ballot-2026/>

**Facebook Live Streaming:** We will be live streaming on our **MAIN Facebook page** for our services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

**St. Paul's App:**

Go to the App Store or Google Play and look

for **St. Paul's Lutheran, Sioux City** to download our App.

- The App has previous sermons and church services, calendar, newsletters, groups and school info.
- You can also give your tithes and offerings directly on the App or on the church website **[www.siouxcitystpauls.org](http://www.siouxcitystpauls.org)**.
- December Newsletter is available in the back of the church, or online, or on the church app. The website has a link to the newsletter on the Home page at [www.siouxcitystpauls.org](http://www.siouxcitystpauls.org).

**Pastor Travis Office Hours:** Pastor James Travis office hours Wednesday mornings (8:00 a.m.—noon). If you have a spiritual need or questions, he will be available on Wednesdays to assist you. For an emergency he can be reached at 712-202-8516.

**Main Street Living:** "This is the Life," followed by Lutheran Worship Service, led by local LCMS pastors airs at 10 a.m. every Sunday morning on KCAU Channel 9. You can also watch these programs on demand at [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com).

**The Good Shepherd Hour** airs every Sunday morning on the following radio stations. Past Broadcasts of the Good Shepherd Hour are now available online and can be found at the bottom of our home page at [www.siouxcitystpauls.org](http://www.siouxcitystpauls.org).

- KSCJ — 1360 AM & 94.9 FM — Sioux City at 8 a.m. (\$100)
- KLEM — 1410 AM & 96.9 FM — Le Mars at 8 a.m. (\$50)
- KAYL — 101.7 FM — Storm Lake at 8:30 a.m. (\$35)
- KVFD — 1400 AM — Fort Dodge at 8 a.m. (\$55)

Please keep the ministry in your prayers. If you would like to support the Good Shepherd Hour ministry or want more information, please contact us at the address below. You can sponsor a broadcast for a station or for all the stations, or any donation will be a help to the ministry.

Good Shepherd Hour, PO Box 5044, Sioux City, IA 51102- 5044. Email: goodshepherdhour2@gmail.com

**2026 National March for Life in Washington, D.C. - January 23, 2026** The 2026 National March for Life is in Washington, D.C. on **Friday, January 23, 2026**. Plan now to join other Lutherans in marching and standing boldly together in the public square to confess our beliefs about the sanctity of life. More information is to come.

- Pastors Day On The Hill - Iowa State Capitol, **January 27th, 2026**
- Prayer For Life Rally - Iowa State Capitol, **February 5th, 2026**

### **School Fundraisers**

**Hy-Vee Receipts Program:** Please save all receipts dated between **September 1, 2025 and April 1, 2026 from any Sioux City or South Sioux City Hy-Vee locations**. Drop-offs are located in the church office, Narthex or can be sent with St. Paul's students.

**Scan your BOX TOPS:** after shopping, just scan your receipts on the Box Tops App and earn more money for the school. It is easy to participate. Download the Box Tops app, shop as you normally would, then use the app to scan your store receipt **within 14 days** of purchase. The app will identify Box Tops products on your receipt and automatically credit your school's earnings online.

**Casey's App:** Pick up a gift card in the office for Casey's, go purchase gas or other items, enter your Casey's rewards number and earn points. Cash in your rewards on their app for St. Paul's. Help St. Paul's make the most of this program at [www.caseys.com](http://www.caseys.com).

**RaiseRight Gift Cards:** Stop in the office and pick up gift cards or place an order on [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com) by just scanning this code. With the app, you can download and pay directly at the stores. To set up your account contact the school.



**Thrivent Members: New Choice Dollars** are available. Please direct them as soon as possible by calling 1-800-847-4836 or online at [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com).

**ILSTO** Time is short – December 31 is just around the corner! The Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization (ILSTO) will gladly accept your gift that will provide financial assistance to our students. Your donation needs to be postmarked no later than **December 31**. Tax credits are available on a first come first served basis so the closer you donate to the deadline please call to make sure credits are available. If you would like to donate online, please go our website. You will receive a 75% tax credit on your Iowa taxes and charitable contribution itemized deduction on your federal form. To get more information for donating to the ILSTO go online to [www.iowalutheransto.com](http://www.iowalutheransto.com) or call Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991.

## **St. Paul's Lutheran Church Christmas Services**

| Date                            | Symbols of Christmas             | Services at St. Paul's             | Services at Calvary                        |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Christmas Eve</b><br>Dec. 24 | Family Candle Light Service      | 6:30 p.m. with Pastor Travis       | 11:00 p.m. Pastor Alex (Communion) Calvary |
| <b>Christmas Day</b> Dec. 25    | The Gifts                        | 9:00 a.m. St. Paul's Pastor Travis |  |
| <b>New Year's Eve</b> Dec. 31   | Nothing Can Separate Us from God | 6:00 p.m. St. Paul's Pastor Alex   |  |

