

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 7, 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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*If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated. The congregation responds where it is bold print.*



## **THE POWER OF YES - JOHN SAID YES**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

### Opening Dialog

John was a wild man. The locusts-and-wild-honey kind of wild. But he didn't come out of nowhere. Isaiah said there would be one who would prepare the way. Could it be THIS John? Did you hear what he just called the religious leaders? And yet, God still needed John's voice, John's truth-telling, insults and all. He could've said no.

**John said YES**

Maybe he should've said no.

**John said YES**

There were reasons he might've said no.

**John said YES**

John took a risk. He took a chance on God.

**John said YES**

Opening Hymn

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

#264

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 72:1-7, 18-19

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>18</sup> **Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

We light two candles for two people: you and me.

**The way of Jesus is not often the easy one,**

and so we walk it together.

**We light two candles to say YES to the invitation to walk the way of Jesus together.**

Hymn of Praise      “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”      #240 vs. 1-2

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.....**Lord God, prepare the way in us this Advent, that we might make space in our hearts for the arrival of your son, our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Children’s Sermon

Pastor Kim Knowle-Zeller

Gospel Acclamation      “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”      #257 vs. 3

Gospel

Matthew 3:1 - 12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one

crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' "4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, 9 and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

*please stand in body or spirit*

Hymn of the Day

"There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

#255

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



*please stand in body or spirit*

Offertory

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#257 vs. 4

## 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

At the Altar

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

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"	#256
"The King Shall Come"	#260
"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"	#282

*please stand in body or spirit*

## 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

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#279

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep saying "yes"!

**Thanks be to God.**

# "THE POWER OF YES"



**Welcome:** On this second 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", Robert Tatum, Jerome Goosen, Susan Kyle, 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), Donna Braniff (niece of Paul Fuelling), Kathy Harms, Deanna Browning, Debra Eichler, Bredlee & Jessica Stillfield (friends of Melisa Balke), 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, 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.



## YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

**Offering:** Thank you, St. Paul's, for your ongoing generosity in sharing your time, talents, and treasures. The staff and leaders of the church work hard to be good stewards of your gifts and offerings. At the end of October our budgeted expenses are on track, however our budgeted offering income is behind nearly \$19,600. The major expenses and projects that we've undertaken this year have been entirely covered by insurance money we received due to our claim, so this budget shortfall is truly our everyday operating expenses. We wanted to make you aware of this as we have some year-end expenses to cover and hope that you might consider helping us get closer to our budget with an additional gift before year-end. Thanks again for your ongoing support!

**Giving Thanks!** Thank Offering envelopes were distributed to all women of the congregation earlier this month. Just as a reminder, you place your envelope of **thanksgiving** in the offering plate throughout November and December. Your offering will be donated to the Women of the ELCA Churchwide for our ministries and publications. Thank Offering envelopes can be found at the ushers' stands, if you did not receive one or have misplaced it. Last year our ladies donated **\$741.55!!** **Our lives are certainly filled with blessings! Give God our thanks!**



**Christmas Program Practice:** The children of St. Paul's (PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade) will present the Story of Christmas during the evening worship service on Christmas Eve. Program practice is at 9:00 am (during the Sunday School hour) in the Fellowship Hall and will run each Sunday until Christmas.

**Advent Dinner:** Our annual Advent Dinner will be held **today** after worship. This is a time for us as a congregation to celebrate the start of the Advent season and share in a festive program. Everyone is welcome!







**Let's Sing Again:** If anyone interested in singing in the choir on Christmas Eve the next practice will be Wednesday, **December 10th** at 6:30pm. You can contact Joyce Schlesselmann if you have any questions .

**Meeting:** Council will meet on Wednesday, **December 10th** at 6:00pm.



**BCHD Health Care:** The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **December 11th** from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.

**Annual Meeting:** Our Annual Meeting will be Sunday, **January 18th**, starting at 12:15 pm. At this year's meeting we will be using electronic voting devices instead of paper ballots. This will eliminate the time it takes to hand-count the paper ballots, allowing for a quicker meeting. If you would like to see and practice with the electronic voting devices, join us immediately after worship on either Saturday, **December 13**, or Sunday, **December 14**, for a quick test run. If you have any questions, please contact a member of Council.



**Winterfest:** Bundle up (depending on the weather) and celebrate with us the joy of the season! Winterfest will be held on Friday evening, **December 19th**, at our Grove Street property behind the church. Join us at any point in the evening starting at 5:30 pm. We will have a bonfire (guaranteed to keep you warm!) with hot chocolate, hot dogs, and other snacks. Bring a chair, a blanket, a friend, and we'll see you at Winterfest!

**Angel Tree:** Thank you to everyone who contributed gifts to the Christmas for Kids program through our Angel Tree!! There are a lot of families in our community who will receive that extra help during the holidays, and it is truly appreciated! Our Angel Tree will remain up during December. There are new angels on the tree with ideas for a gift collection that can be given to a senior in our area or at one of our local care facilities. Those gifts should be wrapped and need to be returned to St. Paul's by **December 21st**. Again, thank you for your care and generosity this Christmas season!





**Advent Materials:** As we continue our Advent theme, "The Power of Yes," you are invited to take some of the additional materials home to use for your personal devotion and prayer time. At church there is a scratch-off Kindness Calendar, a Prayer Chain activity, and a theme devotion booklet. There is also a full-color devotion booklet based on this theme that can be downloaded from the church's website. We hope this materials help you experience the Advent season more deeply!

**An Invitation to ALL women of St. Paul's:** Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering will be held in Des Moines, Iowa - **July 16-19, 2026**. There is information regarding the Triennial in the Link. Please note that the registration for the three days is presently \$475, however, the registration will increase on January 1, 2026 to \$525. There is a scholarship application for *first time* Gathering attendees in the Link, which would cover your registration. This application is due to Rita Nelson by November 30. Questions?? See Janice...



**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.

**Worship and Music Meeting:** There will be a Worship and Music Meeting on Wednesday, **December 10th** at 3:30pm in the meeting room.



**Secret Sisters**

**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 sign ups are located at each usher's stand. Sign up and enjoy a year of cards, small gifts, and prayers!

~ \* ~ IN OUR COMMUNITY ~ \* ~



**German Christmas Concert:** The Cole Camp Low German Club will be hosting traditional German Christmas Songs and Carols preformed by the German Singers. It will be **today** at St. Paul's. Pre-music will begin at 6:45pm and the concert at 7:00pm. There will be refreshments and fellowship following the concert in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited!

**Live Nativity:** Mt. Hulda Lutheran Church will have its Live Nativity Display on Sunday, **December 14th**. Viewing starts at 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Please enter from Highway 'B' onto Mt. Hulda Avenue. Stop by the church for refreshments and caroling.



**Attention Hunters!** The Cole Camp Food Pantry benefits each year from Missouri's Share the Harvest program. Hunters who harvest deer but don't need it processed for themselves can donate the deer to Kempf's Custom Butchering, 21612 Glenn Rd, Sedalia. Kempf's will process the deer for free and donate the ground meat to our Food Pantry. When taking the deer to Kempf's please designate the donation for the Cole Camp Food Pantry. Thank you for your support!

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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~ \* ~ Coming Events ~ \* ~

December 19.....	Winterfest
December 24.....	Christmas Eve Worship Service
December 25.....	Christmas Day Worship Service
December 27.....	No Casual Worship Service
January 18.....	Annual Meeting

# Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

<b>Ministers</b>	.....The Whole Congregation
<b>Presiding Minister</b>	.....Pastor Stephen Zeller
<b>Organist</b>	.....Lois Viebrock
<b>Pianist</b>	.....Jeannette VonHolten
<b>AV Technicians</b>	.....Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk
<b>Altar Guild</b>	.....Kathy Oelrichs & Sharel Wienberg
<b>Ushers</b>	.....Victoria Fox, Assistant Head Usher
	.....Scott Gerken, Eric Kullman, John Oelrichs & Braden Poe



## Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 7, 2025

<b>Assisting Minister</b>	.....Melinda Strathman
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	.....At the Altar
<b>Reader</b>	.....Jim Gumbel
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	.....Pastor Kim Knowle-Zeller
<b>Acolytes</b>	.....Logan Jackson & Kale Kruep
<b>Flowers</b>	.....Advent Wreath



## Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 14, 2025

<b>Assisting Minister</b>	.....Tom Oelrichs
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	.....Debbie Eckhoff & Trisha Goosen
<b>Reader</b>	.....Krista Poe, Lynn Schear & Lesa Warden
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	.....Pastor Kim Knowle-Zeller
<b>Acolytes</b>	.....Kelsey Viebrock & Charlotte Zeller
<b>Flowers</b>	.....Advent Wreath