

## Scripture Readings

Dec 21	Fourth Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 7:10-17	Psalms 24	Rom. 1:1-7	Matt. 1:18-25
Dec 28	First Sunday after Christmas	Isaiah 63:7-14	Psalms 111	Gal. 4:4-7	Matt. 2:13-23
Jan 4	The Epiphany of Our Lord (observed)	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalms 72:1-11 (12-15)	Eph. 3:1-12	Matt. 2:1-12

### PIE IN THE FACE

Everyone is invited to stop by the Narthex and donate in the container for whom they want to win (or have a pie in the face, depending on how you look at it). Candidates are: Pastor Paul, Pastor Matthew, Ethan Schuette, Maria Pfizenmaier, Kristi Davis, & Kristi Hager. Donations will be accepted now through Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

The member with the most donations will be announced just before the Christmas Program at 6:00 PM on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> and yes, they'll seal the deal with a pie in the face! All funds raised will support the New Building Fund! Come, join the fun, and support a great cause!

We have been invited to join St Luke's of Manhattan youth group for a fun and festive Christmas Party on **December 14th from 6-8 PM** for all **7th-12th grade students!** We're inviting youth from area churches to come together for a night of connection and Christmas fun. We'll start with ice skating at City Park and then warm up with AJ's Pizza afterward. Students need to bring money for their skates & pizza. Please let one of the youth leaders know if you plan to attend. We will leave Clay Center at 5:15 PM

<b>This Week's Schedule - December 13 through December 21</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	Worship Service with Holy Communion - 6:30 PM
<b>Sunday</b>	Worship Service with Holy Communion - 9:00 AM Family Education - 10:30 AM Christmas Program - 6:00 PM
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Newsletter Deadline - 4:00 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Bulletin Deadline - Noon</b> Advent Services - 12:05 PM & 7:00 PM Midweek - 5:30 PM
<b>Next Saturday</b>	Worship Service with Holy Communion - 6:30 PM
<b>Next Sunday</b>	Worship Service with Holy Communion - 9:00 AM Family Education - 10:30 AM

## Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

816 9th Street  
Clay Center, KS 67432

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REV. PAUL TESSARO,  
SENIOR PASTOR 785-630-0751

REV. MATTHEW VATTHAUER,  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR 817-917-6288

“A Place of Grace, A Source of Hope, A Mission of Mercy!”  
For 137 years!!!  
OUR MISSION  
“Existing in God’s love and forgiveness, St. Paul proclaims the Gospel of Christ, helps people grow in faith, and nurtures lives of worship and service.”

December 13 & 14, 2025

### ***The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ Brings True Rejoicing, Even Under the Cross***

Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ, and hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see *“the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful”* (James 5:11). In the promise of the Gospel, therefore, *“be patient”* and *“establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand”* (James 5:7, 8). Like St. John the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as *“the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up,”* so is the Good News of Jesus preached to you also (Matt. 11:5). He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His Holy Church, so that *“sorrow and sighing shall flee away”* (Is. 35:10).

**RADIO BROADCAST** this week is sponsored by Troy & DeeDee Anderson -  
In Celebration of Our Wedding Anniversary

**WELCOME** to our guests and congregation! We are glad you are here! Thank you for joining us for worship and please feel free to join us again!

**Third Sunday in Advent**  
**Hymn #s - 333, 345, 617, 398, 334, 618, 919**  
**SERVING THIS WEEKEND**

**Organist** Sat. Connie Paronto/Sun. Gary Fredrickson  
**Ushers** Mark Pfizenmaier, Walt Lenhart, Kenyon Badsky  
**Greeters** Gene Ferguson  
**Live Stream** Jarrett Wachsnicht  
**Acolyte** Briscoe Lehman, McKennon Lehman  
**Communion Assistant** Todd Pfizenmaier  
**Altar Guild** Kristin Wright, Jess Wohler, Heather Schmale, Maria Pfizenmaier, Kristi Hager  
**Fellowship Host** Kristi Davis

**FAMILY EDUCATION - 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

**Preschool - Kindergarten** - meet in Preschool Room (Basement)  
**1st Grade - 3rd Grade** - meet in Library Room (West Wing)  
**4th Grade - 6th Grade** - meet in Room 11 (West Wing)  
**7th Grade - 8th Grade** - meet in Conference Room (West Wing)  
**9th Grade - 12th Grade** - meet in High School Room (Basement)  
**Adult** - meet in Fellowship Hall (Basement)

Weekly Attendance	Sat	Sun	Total
<b>November 29 &amp; 30</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>December 3 - Advent</b>			<b>78</b>
<b>December 6 &amp; 7</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>December 10 - Advent</b>			<b>97</b>

2025 Poinsettia Order  
 There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex if you would like to provide a Poinsettia in memory or honor of someone you love or a special occasion.  
 The cost of the plant is \$12.00.

Thank you  
 to all who wished me a Happy 90th Birthday!  
 I feel blessed by your friendship.  
 Dorothy Debenham

Family Education Attendance	Total
<b>November 30</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>December 7</b>	<b>46</b>

Looking for volunteers to sign-up to do Fellowship Host on Sunday Mornings. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who would like to volunteer. Any questions talk to Gene Ferguson or Pastor Tessaro. Thank you!

We are looking for sponsors for the Radio Broadcast for the year 2026. Please see the sign-up book located in the Narthex to choose your week to sponsor for the cost of \$40. You can sponsor in celebration of, in memory of, or in honor of someone or something special in your life to give thanks to God!

**IN OUR PRAYERS**  
**Congregational Members**

**Remembering our shut-ins:** Bonnie VonLehe-Wakefield Care/Rehab, Georgie Dierking, Larry Rakowsky -Presbyterian Manor; Julie Hillman-Linn Nursing Home; Cedric Pfaff-Well Springs of Westmoreland; Mary Ann Mall, Lola Lehman-Liberty Place; Pauline Burger-Legend; Larry Ernsting - Topeka VA.

**Health concerns:** Michelle Tessaro, Cody Hunter, Ron Schmale, Rita Siebold, Dalton Lehman, Kayla Wang, Raef Schuette, Larry Ernsting, Lyle Underwood, Nancy Kemp, Dwight Koch, Stan Ohlde, and Larry Rakowsky.

**Our outreach programs:** Prayer Shawl Ministry, Small Group Ministry, Christian Preschool at St. Paul, Radio Ministry, LWML Friendship Circle, and our Youth groups.

**Larger Community Members**

**Healing:** Jackie Hall, Sarah Tessaro, Ron Baehr, Ryan Withee, Bobbie Holz, Emmitt Budy, Dee Hilton, Malissa Milum, Rev. David Grouner, Scott Trautwein, Gary Hilton, Donna Watson, Ron McDaniels, Micah Helms, Addie Voelker, Ann Huninghake, Arnold Pittenger, Mike Dunn, Sandy Larkey, Irene Bane, John Zeller, Rev. Greg DuBois, Melissa Martin, Benjamin Willroth, Jennifer Zimmerman, Gail Thomas, Lois Nash, Melissa Dunn, Darlene Miller, Darla Wilder, Rachelle Smith, Joe Parlli, Sheila McGrew, Grant & Grace Goodin, Connie Winter, and Kerri Brown

**Military:** Kyle, Enrique, and Cooper.

Join us for a beloved Christmas tradition!  
 Beginning with the procession and followed by the party with food, drink, music, and piñatas!  
 Where: Zion Lutheran Church, 210 Church Street, Linn KS 66953  
 When: Sunday, December 21 starting at 6:00pm  
 Email: zionoffice@bluevalley.net  
 Phone: 785-348-5332

**Mission Efforts beyond St. Paul**

Hope House; LeadaChild; For the Sake of the Church; Lutheran Bible Translators; Lutheran Heritage Foundation; KansaSEED Deaf Ministry; Lutheran Hour Ministries; North Central Kansas LCMS Outreach

**Please remember to inform the church office when the person for whom you requested prayer should be removed from the prayer**

MATCHING FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR BUILDING PROJECT  
 Matching funds up to \$500,000 are available for all contributions made through January 19, 2026, towards the building project approved by the congregation on October 19, 2025. These funds are being generously contributed by one of our church families with confidence that St. Paul's will continue to proclaim the Gospel of Christ with faithfulness for future generations.  
 If you have any questions or would like to visit with a committee member, please contact the office or you may contact any of the building committee members: Brett Ohlde, Mike Holte, Donna Jordan, T.R. Reiner, Linda Underwood, Garry Stenzel or John Bosch.  
 All contributions made towards the building project should include a notation for "New Building Fund."

**\*\*Wednesday, December 17th @ the 7:00PM Service\*\*** there will be special music during worship as the Children's Hand-Chime Choir will be performing.  
 We are excited to have this addition to our worship.\*\*