

## Scripture Readings

Dec. 17	Third Sunday in Advent	Is. 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126	1 Th. 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec. 24	Fourth Sunday in Advent	2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16	Psalm 89:1-5 (19-29)	Rom. 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
Dec. 31	First Sunday after Christmas	Is. 61:10-62:3	Psalm 111	Gal. 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40

NEED HELP FOR THE HOLIDAY'S or just in general HIRE A YOUTH.  
The high school youth group is looking to help you out around the house the holiday/winter season.

For a free will donation as a fundraiser for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans the summer of 2025. Whether its wrapping presents, baking cookies, cleaning up for the family or cleaning up after they have been there, putting up or taking down holiday lights they can help.

Call Brett Ohlde @ (785)632-7054 or Addy Pfizenmaier (785)630-1016 for details.

### Men! Food, Faith and Fellowship on January 13!

Calling all men to join us for breakfast on Saturday January 13th. at 7:30 am.  
We look forward to a time of fellowship and breakfast, with a short devotion. Please RSVP to the church office if you are planning to join us!  
We hope you will be there!

**This Week's Schedule - December 16 through December 24**

**Saturday**      Worship Service with Holy Communion - 6:30 PM

**Sunday**        Worship Service with Holy Communion - 9:00 AM  
Family Education - 10:30 AM  
Christmas Program - 6:00 PM

**Monday**        Newsletter Deadline - 4:00 PM

**Wednesday**   **Bulletin Deadline - Noon**  
Advent Service - 12:05 PM & 7:30 PM

**Next Saturday**   NO SERVICE

**Next Sunday**    Worship Service with Holy Communion - 9:00 AM  
Christmas Eve Service - 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM

# 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

“A Place of Grace, A Source of Hope, A Mission of Mercy!”  
For 135 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 16 & 17, 2023

### ***The Coming of the Christ Brings True Rejoicing in His Forgiveness***

When he preaches repentance, John the Baptist points us to Christ Jesus. John was sent by God *“as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him”* (John 1:7). He baptizes with water in order to *“make straight the way of the Lord,”* who shall redeem His people from their sins (John 1:23). That Lord Jesus *“who comes after”* John now stands among us and makes Himself known to us (John 1:26–27). He has been anointed by the Holy Spirit *“to bring good news to the poor”* and *“to bind up the brokenhearted”* (Is. 61:1). By the washing of the water with His Word and Spirit, He clothes His Church with *“the garments of salvation”* and adorns her with His own righteousness *“as a bride adorns herself with her jewels”* (Is. 61:10). Therefore, we *“rejoice always”* in the Lord, *“pray without ceasing”* and *“give thanks in all circumstances”* (1 Thess. 5:16–18). For *“the God of peace,”* who has called you by the Gospel, will surely *“sanctify you completely,”* so that *“your whole spirit and soul and body”* will *“be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Thess. 5:23–24).

**RADIO BROADCAST** this week is sponsored by Troy & DeeDee Anderson -  
In Celebration of our Wedding Anniversary.  
The cost to sponsor a broadcast is \$40.00.

**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 - 350, 346, 606, 347, 525, 543, 917**

**SERVING THIS WEEKEND**

<b>Organist</b>	Sat. Connie Paronto / Sun. Gary Fredrickson
<b>Ushers</b>	Mark Pfizenmaier, Walt Lenhart
<b>Greeters</b>	Garry & Marty Stenzel
<b>Live Stream</b>	Jarrett Wachsnicht
<b>Acolyte</b>	Janae Wohler, Briscoe Lehman
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Craig Parry, Clyde Wollenberg
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Kelly Holte, Maria Pfizenmaier, Heather Schmale, Jess Wohler, Kristin Wright
<b>Fellowship</b>	Rita & Clyde Wollenberg

**FAMILY EDUCATION - 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM**

**Preschool - Kindergarten** - meet in Preschool Room (Basement)  
**1st Grade - 3rd Grade** - meet in Tree Room (West Wing)  
**4th Grade - 6th Grade** - meet in Puzzle Room (West Wing)  
**7th Grade - 12th Grade** - meet in Conference Room (West Wing)  
**Adult** - meet in Fellowship Hall (Basement)

Weekly Attendance	Sat	Sun	Total
<b>Dec 2 &amp; 3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>Dec 6 - Advent</b>			<b>49</b>
<b>Dec 9 &amp; 10</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>167</b>

Family Education Attendance	Total
<b>Dec 3</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Dec 10</b>	<b>34</b>

On Monday December 18<sup>th</sup>, the LYF is planning to attend the Cloverton Concert @ the Rex Theater. We plan to meet at Brett & Heather's @ 6:30p.m. so we can go as a group, the concert is free and starts at 7:00p.m.

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to all who helped and supported Friendship Circle's annual Soup Supper and Food Sale! We very much appreciated all those who donated baked goods and food for the sale and pies for the Soup Supper. Thank you to all those who helped with noodle making, preparing meat and vegetables, cooking, serving and general kitchen help and clean-up, prior to the event and during the supper. We enjoyed having the elementary kids helping as waitresses/waiters too! Thank you to those who set-up and worked with the food sale. There were approximately 40 or more who participated in some way to make this event happen! Thanks to all who attended and helped make this event successful. God bless you all!

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

**Remembering our shut-ins:** Bonnie VonLehe, Irma Burger, Georgie Dierking, Ann Worley-Presbyterian Manor; Betty Sump-Leonardville Nursing Home; Julie Hillman-Linn Nursing Home; Cedric Pfaff-Well Springs of Westmoreland; Bob Bauer, Lola Lehman-Liberty Place.

**Health concerns:** Roger Hageman, Kinsey Hillman, Loyde Hager, Janet Thurlow, Kay Osthoff, Larry Rakowsky, Dee Noffsinger, and Ann Worley.

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

**Larger Community Members**

**Healing:** Gail Thomas, Sharon Wachsnicht, Ken Henry, Dwight Ferguson, Melody Maki, Anna Lippe, Eunice Meyer, Jody Cott, Sarah Tessaro, Jackie Monroe, Jimmy Carlson, Sharon Schweitzer, Lois Nash, Lee, Melissa Dunn, Darlene Miller, Darla Wilder, Lon Gallup, Megan Loberg, Brody Reed, Rachelle Smith, Joe Parrlli, Taylor James, Sheila McGrew, Donald, Sandy Wohler, Marla Forsyth, Grant & Grace Goodin, Connie Winter, Kerri Brown, Ethan, Luke, and Ella Turner

**Military:** Kyle, David, Enrique, Liam, Cooper, Michael, and Evan.

**Mission Efforts beyond St. Paul**

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 list.**

**REMINDER!!!!**

Offerings for 2023 must be received on or before the last service of the year, (December 31) for 2023. A contribution received after that date is counted as a contribution for 2024 for income tax purposes, even if the check was written in 2023.

Please do not prop doors open!  
 We have some mice running around and are trying to take care of the situation. Propping the door will increase our mouse population, especially with the colder weather.  
 Thank you!

**Leadership Retreat--January 6, beginning at 9:00 am.** Please plan to join us for this event. Board members and officers are expected to attend this event. This event is also being opened to others in the congregation. Heather Ruesch, national speaker on the You Matter Tour, Life Coach and Leadership Consultant will lead the workshop that day. You won't want to miss this outstanding event! Please RSVP by December 28 so we can plan for materials and meals. We plan to meet at the 4H building at the Clay County fairgrounds.