

11/29/2020



## ***St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church***

***Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod***

***401 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.***

***Bangor, WI 54614***

***[www.stpaulsbangor.com](http://www.stpaulsbangor.com)***

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***Luther High School – 783-5435***

### **The Season of Advent**

In Advent the Word of God bids us prepare for the coming of Christ. The readings for Advent have this urgency to them: Since he is surely coming again in judgment, we desperately need for him to come to us first in grace. For without that coming in grace we will perish at his coming in judgment. Since the word “advent” means “coming,” it is good for us to be familiar with his coming as a Babe in Bethlehem, his coming into our hearts by faith, and his coming again on the last day!

### **Our Worship Service**

Our preparations for celebrating Christmas ought to turn our eyes to the future to watch for Christ to come again when he returns in glory on the Last Day. If we only celebrate the traditions of the past at Christmas, we miss out on all the joy that still awaits us! Christmas is celebrated best when we look forward to what Christmas means for us at the end of time. We are saved for all eternity and long to see Jesus with our own eyes!

# The Order of Service

M: We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C: Amen.

Opening Hymn: #9 (please join to sing verses 1, 4 and 5)  
ADVENT

## 9 Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes



1 Je - sus, your Church with long - ing eyes For your ex-  
2 E'en now, when tem - pests round us fall And win - try  
3 Come, gra - cious Lord, our hearts re - new, Our sins for-  
4 Oh, come and reign o'er ev - 'ry land; Let Sa - tan  
5 Teach us in watch - ful - ness and prayer To wait for

pect - ed com - ing waits. When will the prom - ised  
clouds o'er - cast the sky, Your words with plea - sure  
give, our foes sup - press, Our root - ed en - mi -  
from his throne be hurled. Let na - tions bow to  
your ap - point - ed hour, And fit us by your

light a - rise And glo - ry beam from heav - en's gates?  
we re - call And know that our re - demp - tion's night.  
ty sub - due, And crown your gos - pel with suc - cess.  
your com-mand; Let grace re - vive a dy - ing world.  
grace to share The tri - umphs of your con - qu'ring pow'r.

Text: William H. Bathurst, 1796–1877, abr., alt.  
Tune: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT (LM) *Andächtige Haus-Kirche*, Nürnberg, 1676, alt.

# LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: The Lord Jesus comes to us and offers his grace and love. It is good for us to repent of our sins and to plead for his mercy.  
C: Amen.

M: Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom.  
C: Lord, have mercy.

M: You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness.  
C: Christ, have mercy.

M: You will come in glory with salvation for your people.  
C: Lord, have mercy.

M: May almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.  
C: Amen.

# ABSOLUTION

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, he forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. (spoken)

# PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. (spoken)

## THE WORD OF GOD

### The Old Testament Lesson:

Genesis 6:1-3, 5-14, 17-22

God waited patiently for people to repent in the wicked days of Noah. In the end God’s saved his Church by the water of the flood while the world went away to its own destruction.

This is what happened when mankind began to multiply on the face of the earth.

When daughters were born to people, <sup>2</sup>the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they took as wives for themselves any of them they chose. <sup>3</sup>The Lord said, “My Spirit will not struggle with man forever, because he is only flesh. His days will be 120 years.”

<sup>5</sup>The Lord saw that the wickedness of mankind was great on the earth, and that all the thoughts and plans they formed in their hearts were only evil every day. <sup>6</sup>The Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with sorrow. <sup>7</sup>The Lord said, “I will wipe out mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth, along with the animals, the creeping things, and the birds of the sky, because I regret that I have made them.” <sup>8</sup>But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

<sup>9</sup>This is the account about the development of Noah’s family.

Noah was a righteous man, a man of integrity in that generation. Noah walked with God. <sup>10</sup>Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. <sup>11</sup>In the sight of God the earth was morally corrupt, and the earth was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup>God looked at the earth and saw that it was corrupt, for all flesh was corrupt in all their ways on the earth.

<sup>13</sup>So God said to Noah, “I have decreed the end of all flesh, because the earth is filled with violence because of them. Now I am going to destroy them along with the earth.

<sup>14</sup>“Make an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark. Seal it inside and outside with pitch.

<sup>17</sup>“I myself am about to bring a flood of waters on the earth, in order to destroy all flesh under the sky that has the breath of life. Everything that is on the earth will die, <sup>18</sup>but I will establish my covenant with you. You shall come into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. <sup>19</sup>You shall bring a pair (male and female) of every kind of living flesh into the ark with you to keep them alive. <sup>20</sup>Include the birds according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, every creeping thing on the ground according to their kinds. Two of every sort shall come to you, so you can keep them alive. <sup>21</sup>Take with you

every type of food that is eaten, and store it for yourself, so it can be used as food for you and for them.”

<sup>22</sup>So that is what Noah did. He did everything that God commanded him, just as he had been told.

### The New Testament Lesson

2 Peter 3:18-22

God will still keep his promises in spite of the sinfulness of the world; he will come and save; he will come and destroy. But just as he provided an escape from judgment in the preaching of Noah and then in the water that floated the ark, so he has provided an escape from judgment by coming in grace. He washes us from the corruption that merits his judgment in holy Baptism. God himself gets us ready for his coming on the last day through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>because Christ also suffered once for sins in our place, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in flesh but was made alive in spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he also went and made an announcement to the spirits in prison. <sup>20</sup>These spirits disobeyed long ago, when God’s patience was waiting in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In this ark a few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water. <sup>21</sup>And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>He went to heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

### The Gospel Lesson

Mark 13:32-37

People who are watching only for the cute and entertaining things of life will not only miss the meaning of Christmas, they will also be unprepared to celebrate Christ’s coming in glory.

<sup>32</sup>“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. <sup>36</sup>If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup>What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!”

ADVENT

2 Savior of the Nations, Come

Text: Ambrose, 340–97, abr.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76, alt.  
Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND (77 77) *Geystiliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524.

The Sermon: *selected verses from Revelation 21 & 22*  
**The Best is Yet to Come!**  
*(Pastor R. Pamperin, First Lutheran, LaCrosse, WI)*

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell,  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

The Offering

The Advent Prayer (CW, page 123)

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent’s head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.  
C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.  
C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.  
**C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.  
**C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.  
**C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

**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.**

The Hymn: # 3 (verses 1-4)

ADVENT

“Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates”

3 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be -  
2 The King is born in pov - er - ty, His  
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where  
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make  
5 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide My



hold, the King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is  
char - iot is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is  
Christ the rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and  
it a tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for  
heart to you; here, Lord, a - bide! Oh, en - ter with your



draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.  
ho - li - ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress.  
hap - py homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes!  
heav'n's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
sav - ing grace; Show me your kind and friend - ly face.



Life and sal - va - tion he will bring; There -  
The end of all our woe he brings; There -  
The cloud - less sun of joy is he Who  
So shall your Sov - 'reign en - ter in And  
Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on Un -



fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To God the Fa - ther  
fore the earth is glad and sings. To Christ the Sav - ior  
comes to set his peo - ple free. To God the Spir - it  
new and no - bler life be - gin. To God a - lone be  
til our glo - rious goal is won. E - ter - nal praise and



raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.  
raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.  
praise For word and deed and grace!  
fame We of - fer to your name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR (88 88 88 66) Freylinghausen, *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704.

**The Closing Prayer**

M: O Lord, God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.  
Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow  
on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and  
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. *(spoken)*

**THE BENEDICTION**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and ( ✚ ) give you peace.

C: Amen. *(spoken)*

The Hymn: # 3 (verse 5) *“Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates”*

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# Announcements

## This Week:

**Sunday: 11/29**      **Worship 8 and 10 am**  
Sunday School 9:00-9:40 at School

**Tuesday: 12/1**      No Bible Study this week  
**Wed: 12/2**      No Bible Study or Confirmation classes this week

**Sunday: 12/6**      **Communion Worship 8 and 10 am**  
Bible Study - 9:15-9:40  
Sunday School 9:00-9:40 at School

**Altar Flowers** are placed today by the family of **Shelly Miller**.

**With the Lord - Verna M. Wehrs**, 87, passed away on Wednesday, November 18, 2020. Private family services were Sunday, November 22 at Jandt-Fredrickson Funeral Homes, Bangor Chapel. Pastor Steven Olson officiated.

**Pastor Richard Pamperin** is our guest preacher today. Pastor Pamperin serves at First Lutheran in La Crosse, Wisconsin. We thank him sincerely for sharing the Word of God with us today!

**Finance Committee** will meet on Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00 pm to prepare the 2021 envelopes. Please contact Roger Lund with questions.

**St. Paul's Church Records Update:** Please take a moment to complete the form in the narthex to update our church records with current names, address, emails and cell phone numbers. You may also do this electronically at [www.stpaulsbangor.com](http://www.stpaulsbangor.com) and click on "Sign Up for our Newsletter".

**St. Paul's Scrip Program** - <https://www.stpaulsbangor.com/scrip-program/>

SCRIP refers to gift certificates or gift cards (great for holiday gift giving). St. Paul's is able to purchase gift cards from hundreds of retailers nationwide at a discount, which you can buy at face value. The difference is our school's profit. By purchasing these gift cards before you shop for your everyday items – like groceries, gas, restaurants – we raise money, without

you having to spend a penny extra. Also available on the "Raise Right" mobile app are e-gift cards that can be used instantly via your mobile phone. **Questions:** Contact Janel Lochen at 608-386-4243. **Deadline for December Scrip orders is December 10.**

**Sunday School start time changes.** Sunday School classes will start at **9 am** instead of 9:10 to allow more time for instruction. Thank you to the parents for helping to get the children to the school a bit earlier.

**COVID-19:** With the increased concern about the rapid spread of the virus in our area, please be respectful and cautious around one another. Do what you can to avoid contracting or spreading the virus. May God graciously keep us all safe and healthy!

## **Upcoming Worship Services:**

Christmas Eve services will be at 4:30 and 6:00 m

Christmas Day worship is at 9:00 am

New Year's Eve worship w/communion is at 7:00 pm

## **Virtual Children's Christmas Eve Service**

Due to COVID restrictions and concerns for our children, our Christmas Eve service will look differently than in years past. The day school children will record their Christmas messages to the congregation earlier in the month and these recordings will be shown in the Christmas Eve worship services. The theme for the Christmas Eve worship service will be: "A Changeless Christmas in a Changing World."

## **Offering Summary (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)**

**Weekly Budget: \$9,948.43      Budget to Date: \$457,627.78**

**Received 11/22/20: \$6,882.27      Rec'd to Date: \$393,478.54**

**Received 11/25-26/20: \$880.70**

## **Attendance - 11/22/2020**

**8:00 am: 64      10:00 am: 39      Total: 103**

## **Thanksgiving Service Attendance**

**11/25: 43      11/26: 35      Total: 78**

# ***Synod Announcements***

## **Giving thanks for ministry work in East Asia**

WELS World Missions is thankful for the many blessings God has showered on work in East Asia. Here are some quick facts:

- 209 students are studying at Asia Lutheran Seminary
- About 38 Asia Lutheran Seminary graduates work full-time in public ministry
- In 2019, 109 people were baptized in East Asia
- There are 20 congregations comprised of 55 different groups in East Asia
- Eight WELS missionaries serve on the East Asia missions team

Although Missions has to limit details due to security concerns in this region of the world, information about this mission work is available at [wels.net/eastasia](http://wels.net/eastasia). And, don't forget to follow WELS Missions on Facebook at [fb.com/WELSMissions](https://fb.com/WELSMissions).

## **Sign up today for Marriage Moments**

Every marriage has its “moments.” That’s why marriages need moments of encouragement and refreshment. *Marriage Moments* are short, weekly videos highlighting one biblical marriage thought accompanied by a discussion question. Couples may subscribe to receive the videos in a weekly email. Watch a video introduction and subscribe to receive the videos directly to your email at [welscongregationalservices.net/marriagemoments](http://welscongregationalservices.net/marriagemoments).

## **WELS Family Devotions**

Get your family into God’s Word during the week! WELS has developed short devotions for the entire family to use. Each devotion comes complete with a set of questions for different age groups, a prayer, and hymn verses that can be sung or spoken. Downloadable printable versions are also available. Find the family devotions at [wels.net/family-devotions](http://wels.net/family-devotions).

## **Follow *Forward in Christ* on Facebook**

Get more from *Forward in Christ*, the synod’s official magazine, by following it on Facebook at [facebook.com/ForwardinChristMagazine](https://facebook.com/ForwardinChristMagazine). Join the community and join the conversation.

## **WELS Together e-newsletter**

Stay in the loop! Subscribe to the WELS Together e-newsletter to stay connected with the people of your synod and the ministry they serve. Also, don’t miss the twice-monthly videos that cover important and exciting synod news. Go to [wels.net/together](http://wels.net/together) to read more and subscribe today.

## **Have you visited [wels.net](http://wels.net) lately?**

Do you ever wonder how your Sunday offerings help support the work of WELS? Go to [wels.net](http://wels.net) to discover stories about the many WELS world and home mission fields; explore which ministries can support you and your congregation; enjoy daily devotions and Bible readings; and subscribe to stay up to date on the latest news from your synod. All of this and more is available on [wels.net](http://wels.net). Visit us online today and save us as a Favorite or a Bookmark!

## **Connecting WELS members**

Connection is more important now than ever. The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod offers many ways for members to connect through social media. Join the WELS online community at [facebook.com/welslutherans](https://facebook.com/welslutherans), [twitter.com/welstweets](https://twitter.com/welstweets), [instagram.com/welslutherans](https://instagram.com/welslutherans), and [vimeo.com/wels](https://vimeo.com/wels).