

LUKE 21:25

**THERE WILL
BE SIGNS
IN THE SUN,
THE MOON,
AND THE STARS**



First Sunday in Advent November 28, 2021



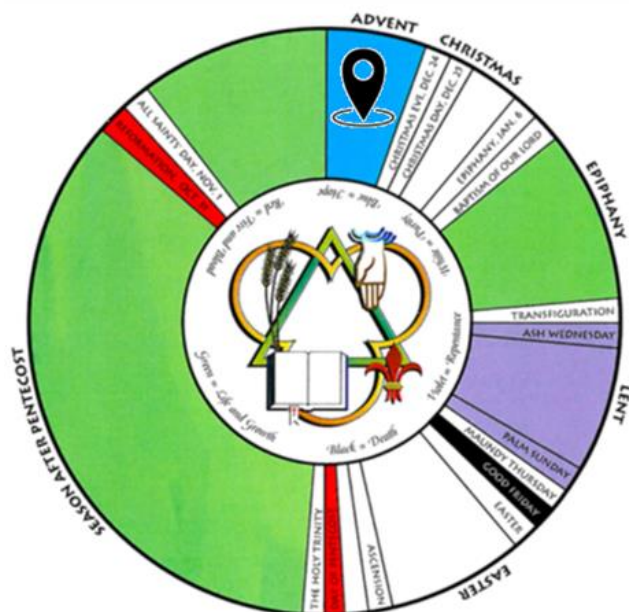
AS WE GATHER

Advent is a season for us to grow in hope. We gather amid a world that in many ways seems hopeless. Extremists on both ends of the political spectrum seem to control almost everything we hear, read, and see. Deep divisions over race, politics, and economics loom over us like a dark storm cloud. How can the Church possibly make a difference in all of this? Today's Readings acknowledge the distress and fear that the world's foundations are being shaken. And right in the middle of it all, there is hope. Jesus says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away" (Luke 21:33). The prophet Jeremiah declares God's promise to restore His people and all creation. If we were left to ourselves, there would be little room for such hope. But God does not leave us alone. By His Word and Sacraments, God establishes our hearts and prepares us for Jesus' coming final restoration. Until that day, we wait, we pray, we hope.

The pottery vessels on the altar remind us that although Holy Communion is not celebrated today, our Lord's sacred gifts are still central to our life of faith. Holy Communion is celebrated every 1st, 3rd, and 5th weekend (and major festivals).

Liturgical Color:

Blue is the color of water and sky, thus hope, for the baptized who know Christ came down from heaven to earth and is coming again.



Prelude Lorraine Miller, Rich Vanderburgh

Welcome

Stand

Gathering Hymn *"Come, Thou, Precious Ransom, Come" #350*



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of this candle signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

A Time of silence is observed.

P We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have neither loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.

C Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

P Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

C according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!

Kyrie for the Four Sundays in Advent



1 For-give us, Lord, for times when hope was lost, And
mo - ments when we nev - er thought to trust, For
times when we de - spair and for - get That
You are where all joy and truth have met.
For - give, for - give, for - give us all our



sins And help us hope and trust You with - out end.

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P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Morning Prayer

Opening Verses..... *page 235*



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



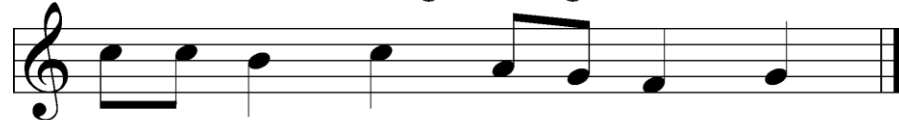
C and my mouth shall de - clare Your praise.



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



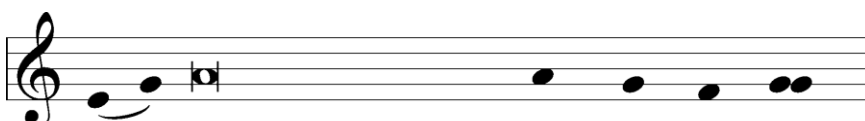
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Psalmody

Antiphon..... *page 235*



L Give glory to God, our light and our life.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite..... *page 236*



C O come, let us sing to the Lord;



let us make a joy - ful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.



I Let us come in - to His pres - ence with thanks - giv - ing;



let us make a joy - ful noise to Him with songs of praise.



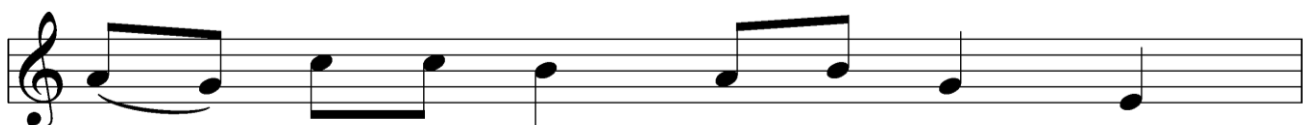
II For the Lord is a great God and a great king a - bove all gods.



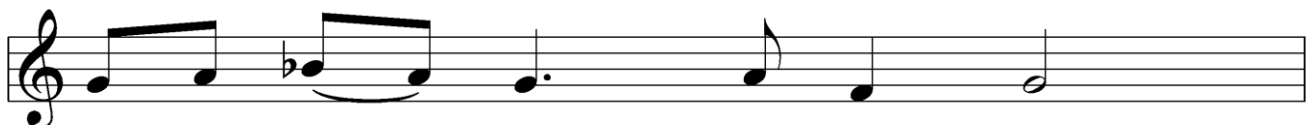
I In His hand are the depths of the earth;



the heights of the moun - tains are His al - so.



II The sea is His, for He made it;



and His hand formed the dry land.



I O come, let us wor - ship and bow down;



let us kneel be - fore the Lord, our mak - er.



II For He is our God, and we are the peo - ple



of His pas - ture and the sheep of His hand.

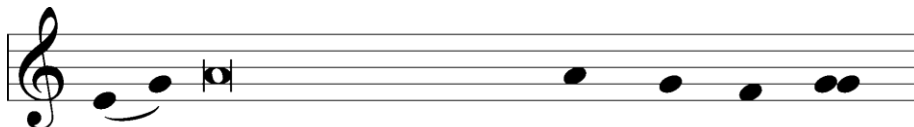


C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Antiphonpage 237



L Give glory to God, our light and our life.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Psalm 25:1-10 (spoken in unison)

To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.

Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

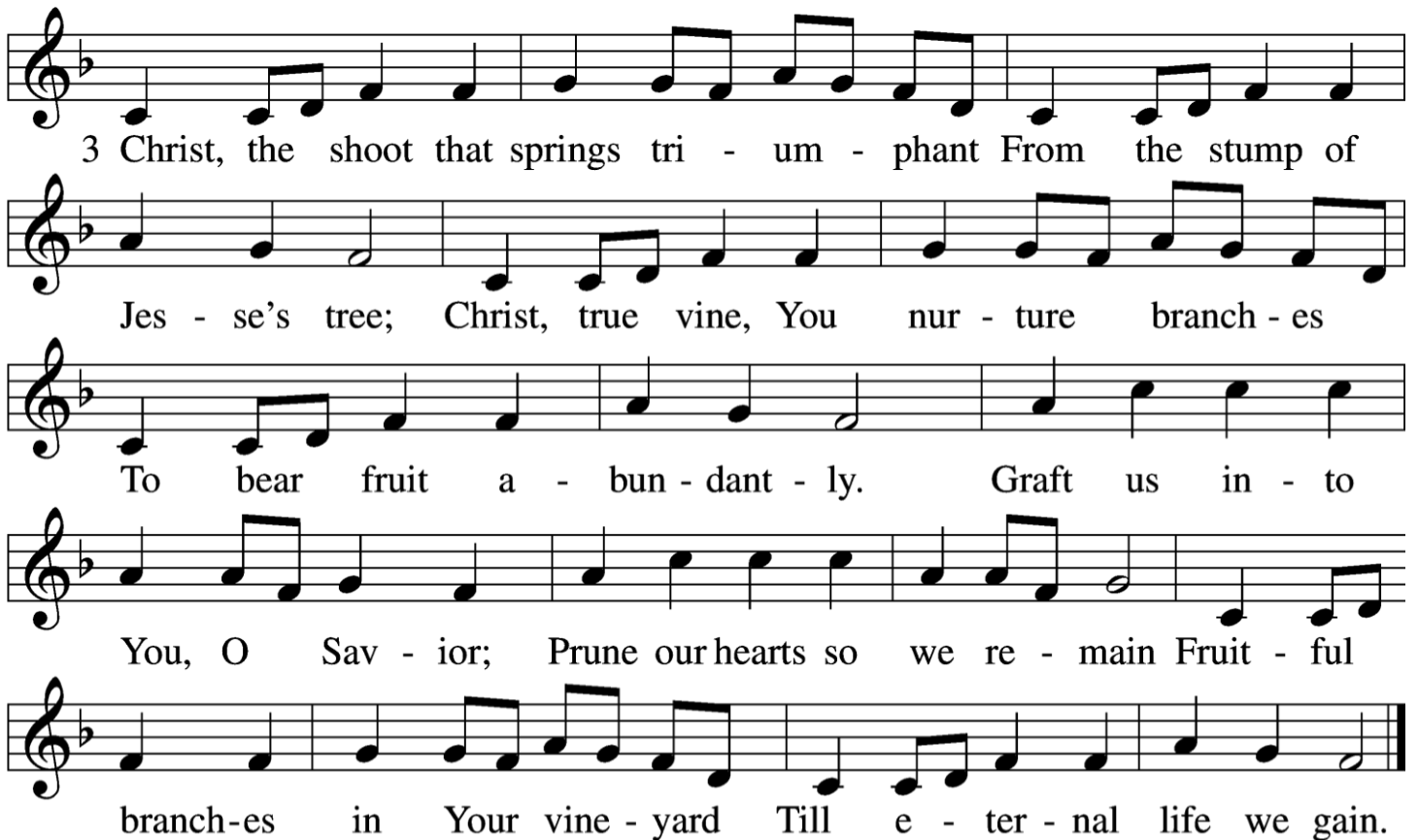
He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Sit

The Jesse Tree Symbol

Office Hymn..... *"Christ the Word of God Incarnate" 540 (v. 3)*



3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant From the stump of
Jes - se's tree; Christ, true vine, You nur - ture branch - es
To bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly. Graft us in - to
You, O Sav - ior; Prune our hearts so we re - main Fruit - ful
branch-es in Your vine - yard Till e - ter - nal life we gain.

Readings

Old Testament Reading.....Jeremiah 33:14-16

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Solo “There will be Peace in the Valley” (Holli Burge, accompanied by Gary Moege)

Epistle Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Apostles’ Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

Sit

Children’s Message

Sermon..... “The Sign for All Time”

Stand

Canticle Hymn.....“My Soul Rejoices” #933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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Offering

Offering plates are not being passed during the service; worshipers may place their offerings into the plate located at the west entrance.

“Through him (Jesus) then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:15-16)

Prayer

Collects.....page 241

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect of the Day (*spoken in unison*)

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer.....page 241

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **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.**

Benedicamus.....page 241

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction..... page 242

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn..... "Hark the Glad Sound", #349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Tune and text: Public domain

Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

P Grow in Christ,

C Live in Love and Share the Faith!

Postlude Lorraine Miller, Rich Vanderburgh

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Next week's readings:

OT: Malachi 3:1-7b; Epistle: Philippians 1:2-11; Gospel: Luke 3:1-14

Attendance Last Saturday: 27

Total Offering: \$36,919.37

Home Use: \$3,794.57

Attendance Last Sunday: 84

Missions: \$50.00

Benevolences: \$33,074.80

Serving us today:

Elders/Ushers..... Caleb Thomas
Musicians Lorraine Miller, Rich Vanderburgh
Altar Committee..... Teresa Hillsman (Chair), Lisa Gulick,
Beryl Lindley, Susie Mills, Sheree Moody
Flower CommitteeEunice Cobb (Chair), Lori Sloan

This Week's Schedule

Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	5:00 p.m.	Hanging of the Greens/Potluck
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Faith Night
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Midweek Service
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Advent Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
	6:45 p.m.	Bible Study
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
	9:00 a.m.	Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at www.blchurch.com , under the Sermons tab)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School, Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion/Singing Saints Group

Prayers

For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, undergoing and recovering from surgery, as well as going through hospitalization and rehabilitation: Pr. Ricky Bertels, Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Sue Cottrill, Marion & Leona Droege, Paula Easterwood, Renae Ernesti (Charlene McCarter's niece), Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Maxine Jaeger, Mary Johnson, Marty Lehn, Lynn Lowe, Ron McComas, Johnny Nichol, Ron Niemeyer, Jim Rudy, and Joe Zeman.

For Those to be Baptized—Especially Riley Rae Kelley on (daughter of Rebekah and Chris Kelley) on December 4 and Lillian Isela Lute (daughter of Matthew and Catherine Lute) on December 11, as they will receive the washing of the water,

Spirit, and Word.

For Military Members—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families: Andy Burden, Ty Carter, Gabe Crespo, Chance Hillsman.

Prayer Requests & Spiritual Care—If you would like to make a prayer request, contact Pr. Joel or email the church office. Also, if you're feeling the strain and needing to talk and be encouraged in the living of life from day to day, don't hesitate to call or text Pr. Joel or contact your elder or the church office. We rely upon the Holy Spirit and his gifts in Christ during every time of uncertainty, and can never be thankful enough for the gift of each other!

[Thank You](#)

Wilma Gertz would like to thank her Bethlehem Church family for thinking of her during the Merry Widows luncheon and hopes everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving.

Merry Widows and Friends met on November 18th to celebrate Thanksgiving. A big thank you to Cindy Smith and Rebecca Stewart for providing the delicious meal and to Pastor Joel for giving the devotion. We also thank them for their continued support. Merry Widows and Friends will not meet in December but look forward to meeting in January.

Joe Ryan, president of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch sent a thank you card for our gifts that support the healing of children at the Ranch. The kids have endured so much and it is only through the kindness of friends that we can wrap each precious child in the services they need to find and become their best selves.

[Worship Services](#)

Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at blchurch.com.

The Singing Saints (the choir of St. Paul Lutheran High School) will be singing during the morning service on the Second Sunday of Advent, **December 5**. Plan to be here and spread the word about the special gift of having them here that day!

Midweek Advent Services will be held on the four Wednesdays leading up to Christmas Eve—the **1st, 8th, & 15th and 22nd**—at **7:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary. As in past years, we'll be using the beautiful and renewing Holden Evening Prayer. Our theme this year—***When Heaven Meets Earth, with Questions and Answers***. Each week has a different theme: *"The Birth of God: How and Why?"; "The Obedient Child: Did He Know?"; "The Man's Man: Why Would Jesus Even Cry?"; and "The Hidden King: Why Would He Go Unrecognized?"* Plan on setting aside this time for a quiet and

contemplative keeping of the short and often crowded-out season of Advent!

Advent Offerings, not designated elsewhere, will go to St. Louis and Forth Wayne Seminaries Food Bank.

Sunday School and Christian Education

Children's Christmas Program—Practice for the Children's Christmas program will be during Sunday School opening and closing to prepare for our program on **Sunday, December 19th**. Contact Ellen Pederson or Penny Humphrey if you have questions.

Sunday School for PreK-12th grade begins at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great opportunity for children and youth to grow in knowledge of Scripture and in love toward the Lord and our neighbors, as Jesus said matters most!

Faith Discussion and Bible Study

Saturday Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew follows the evening service (from **6:45 to 7:30 p.m.** in the conference room) if enough people are present to have a class. Consider joining us as we explore the life and ministry of Jesus.

A New Sunday Bible Study has started which is perfect for this ending time of the Church Year & start of the new one when we reflect on "last things." *Death, Heaven, Resurrection, and the New Creation* will clear up popular misconceptions and root you more firmly in believing and living through Christ's own life, death, and resurrection. Plan on joining us on that Sunday, and beyond, **in the conference room from 9:15 to 10:10 a.m.**

Reforesting Faith: What Trees Teach Us About the Nature of God and His Love for Us—a recent book by medical doctor and conservationist Matthew Sleeth—is the topic of our **Faith Night sessions on the first Wednesday of each month** through December; which makes the last session ("The Fruit of the Tree & The Trees of Our Lives") on **December 1st from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall**—before the first Advent midweek service. Bring your own dinner and join the discussion. Everyone is welcome!

Thursday Advent Zoom Bible Study. We will be discussing God's forgiving love for us in Christ Jesus. This class will be held on **Thursday, December 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 7:00 pm**. If you would like to join, please contact Cindy or Rebecca and we will provide you the materials for the zoom class. See you in December.

Fellowship

The Hanging of the Greens will take place on **Monday, November 29 (5-6pm meal, 6pm decorating starts)**. Bring a dish to share for a potluck meal. Everyone from the

congregation is invited and encouraged to come help adorn the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas!

MMG will be preparing Christmas centerpieces on Friday, December 3, at 1:00 p.m. They will be available for purchase before and after services next weekend, **December 4-5.**

Exercise Class is held at **9:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** in the Fellowship Hall. This class is low impact exercise open to anyone, men or women. For more information, contact Judy Smith.

The Games and Card Group meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone, men and women, are welcome to come and play board games or cards. Bring a game and a friend. If you have any questions, please contact Melvin Theroff.

The Quilting Group meets on the **second and fourth Tuesday** of the month from **9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.** (September through May). Anyone is welcome to help with this project. No special sewing skills needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

Special Events & Opportunities

2021 Christmas Store. In December, our community will come together to host Christmas Store 2021. This will be the 48th year we have worked to give those who struggle with food insecurity a meal for the Christmas season. As the pandemic continues, we will again rely on financial contributions rather than food donations. This year we anticipate feeding over 300 families. To meet this need, we expect to spend approximately \$20,000. **Donations can be made by three ways:** (1) Make a check out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and in the memo section write "Christmas Store". (2) Mail your donation to Christmas Store, 212 N. Main Street, Warrensburg or (3) Donate online at: www.mannaharvestinc.org.

The Warrensburg Salvation Army is in need of men's coats (which will be given for free to those who need them). If you are able to donate some, please bring them to Pr. Joel, or take them directly to the Salvation Army Family Services office.

Holiday Parade—Bethlehem will be participating in the Holiday Parade on **December 3rd at 6:00 p.m.** We will be working on the float this coming **Sunday at 1:00 p.m.** Anyone is welcome to work on it. Please let the office know if you will be participating in the parade on the 3rd so we can give you details. This is a LIGHTED parade, so all float items and walkers have to be illuminated.

Heit's Point's Christmas Celebration will be held on **Sunday, December 5 at 1:00 p.m.** The Celebration starts with a meal, followed by music and a reading from The Christmas Story. The day will finish off with desserts! For more information or to register, go to www.heitspoint.com. Heit's Point is located in Lincoln and is the recreational and retreat center of the Missouri District.

Sedalia Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Jerrode Marsh, will present their Christmas Pops Concert on **Monday, December 6th at 7:30 p.m.** at the Heckart Performing Arts Center in Sedalia. Our own Gary Moege will be part of the Orchestra as well as the Singing Saints. Tickets are \$10 at the door or you can purchase them online at Sedalia.Symphony.Orchestra.com.

Ladies of Immanuel Lutheran Church at 110 Main in Sweet Springs, MO invite you to their **21st Annual Cookie Festival on Saturday, Dec. 6. It begins at 8:30 am and goes until sold out.** Social Distancing and Masks Requested. There are 16 varieties of homemade cookies, candies & decorated cookies. Cookies are \$10.00 per box and the candy is \$7.00 per pound. Limit of 3 boxes per entry. Gloves are provided.

Christkindlesmarkt—You are invited to Concordia's second annual German Christmas market—the *Saint Paul Christkindlesmarkt*, held on the 40-acre campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School. **The market will be outdoors, and open from 4pm to 9pm on Friday, December 10th and on Saturday, December 11th from 11am to 9pm.** The market will include vendors, traditional German Christmas food, crafts for children, live stage entertainment and more. Please see our Facebook page "Saint Paul Christkindlesmarkt" for more details or visit the website at www.splhs.org/events.

St. Paul Lutheran High School's 2021 Christmas Concert—The Singing Saints Choir and Saint Paul Orchestra will be holding their December concert on **December 12 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Concordia.** There will be a free-will offering to support the SPLHS Music Department. Can't attend? Watch via live-stream at stpaulsconcordia.org.

Country Kitchen Cards are available! You can get 10 buy-one, get-one meal **FREE** coupons for just **\$10.00**. All proceeds go towards helping the youth group. See a youth member, or you can stop by the office and purchase one.

Offerings

You can mail your offerings to Bethlehem and have pastor put it in the offering plate with a prayer of trust for you, or you may also place your offering in the plate in the Narthex.

Simply Giving is the online program for donations and offerings. The website has changed a bit recently. If you need assistance, please let the office know and we will provide you with the steps to start it or help you change where you place your funds.

Elders

Willie Crespo (last name begins A-H) 660-679-8121, willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com

Jack Easterwood (last name begins I-Ma) 660-678-2045, easter.egg2380@gmail.com

Caleb Thomas (last name begins Mc-R) 660-441-2010, calebthomas50@gmail.com

Jeremy VanWey (last name begins S-Z) 606-909-4765, jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com

A graphic with a blue background featuring a bright sunburst and a lightning bolt. At the bottom, a portion of the Earth is visible. The text is centered and reads: "Advent Services at 7:00 p.m. December 1, 8, 15 and 22".

**Advent Services at 7:00 p.m.
December 1, 8, 15 and 22**

**“When Heaven Meets Earth, with
Questions & Answers”**

Monday, November 29, 2021
Potluck 5-6, Decorating at 6



**St. Paul Singing Saints will be joining us on
Sunday, December 5**





A Brief Advent Devotion for the Family Table

For use during Advent 2021

An Advent wreath may be lighted, adding the lighting of one candle for each week in Advent. If a rose candle is used, it is lit at the beginning of the third week.

Hymn

Week 1

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
Shall come to thee,
O Israel!

Week 2

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

Week 3

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Week 4 (Sunday only)

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

Week 4

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*
LSB 357:3, 2, 1, 4, 6

Behold!

These passages follow the broad story of the Old Testament — mankind's sin, God's long suffering and the prophecies of Christ — through the use of the interjection "behold!" Family members can take turns reading the Scripture for each day.

First Week in Advent

Nov. 28 — "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day" (Gen. 1:31).

Nov. 29 — "And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth" (Gen. 6:12).

Nov. 30 — "Behold, my covenant is with you, [Abraham,] and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations" (Gen. 17:4).

Dec. 1 — "And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son" (Gen. 22:13).

Dec. 2 — "And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them" (Ex. 3:9).

Dec. 3 — "Behold, the LORD our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man, and man still live" (Deut. 5:24).

Dec. 4 — "And the LORD said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people'" (Ex. 32:9).

Second Week in Advent

Dec. 5 — "And I looked, and behold, you had sinned against the LORD your God. You had made yourselves a golden calf. You had turned aside quickly from the way that the LORD had commanded you" (Deut. 9:16).

Dec. 6 — “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel” (Num. 24:17).

Dec. 7 — “Behold, a son shall be born to you who shall be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his surrounding enemies. For his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days” (1 Chron. 22:9).

Dec. 8 — “But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built!” (2 Chron. 6:18).

Dec. 9 — “Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the surface of the ground, except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob,” declares the LORD” (Amos 9:8).

Dec. 10 — “Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left,” says the LORD” (Isaiah 39:6).

Dec. 11 — “Thus says the LORD: ‘Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob and have compassion on his dwellings’” (Jer. 30:18).

Third Week in Advent

Dec. 12 — “O LORD, the God of Israel, you are just, for we are left a remnant that has escaped, as it is today. Behold, we are before you in our guilt, for none can stand before you because of this” (Ezra 9:15).

Dec. 13 — “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jer. 31:31).

Dec. 14 — “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch. . . . And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness’” (Jer. 23:5–6).

Dec. 15 — “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

Dec. 16 — “For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out” (Ezek. 34:11).

The O Antiphons of Advent begin (See LSB 357)

Dec. 17 — “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts” (Mal. 3:1).

Dec. 18 — “Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace!” (Nah. 1:15).

Fourth Week in Advent

Dec. 19 — “Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him’” (Isaiah 62:11).

Dec. 20 — “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zech. 9:9).

Dec. 21 — “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste’” (Isaiah 28:16).

Dec. 22 — “Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations” (Isaiah 42:1).

Dec. 23 — “Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us” (Psalm 123:2).

Dec. 24 — “And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord’” (Luke 2:10–11).

Grace

All pray together:

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

or

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest
And let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen.**

The Advent candles may be extinguished after these prayers or after the meal.

At the conclusion of the meal, the family may return thanks:

We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all Your benefits; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

or

**O give thanks to the Lord for He is good
And His mercy endures forever.**

More Advent resources for congregations and families can be found at lcms.org/advent.

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Our Mission

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

Our Vision

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



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Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for live streaming on the web, viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.