

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2017



JOY

AND THE ANGEL SAID UNTO THEM,
FEAR NOT: FOR, BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS
OF GREAT JOY, WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE.

LUKE 2:10

The Third Sunday in Advent

8:30 am - Holy Communion Service

10:00 am - Sunday School Christmas Service

11:15 am - Congregational Fellowship

2:00 pm - Nuer Language Service

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Four, LSB page 203

Hymns: 334, 336, (359, 621) 350

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (Pew Bible, Page 724)
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (Pew Bible, Page 1148)
 St. John 1:6-8, 19-28 (Pew Bible, Page 1027)

Sermon St. John 1:26-27

“ONE YOU DO NOT KNOW”

Serving in God’s House Today: Pastor Nolan Astley (*Preacher*), Pastor Roland Syens (*Officiant*), Pastor Robert Morley (*Communion Assistant*), Jennifer Massicotte (*Organist*), Cole Tiegs (*8:30 Acolyte*).

Prayer Concerns: In our prayers today, we ask God’s blessings on the **families of our Sunday School** and give thanks for their joyful presentation of the Gospel this morning! We also ask God’s peace upon **those for whom this season is difficult** especially those from our community who will attend tomorrow’s Longest Night service. We give thanks to God for **Richard Roth** as he enters his final days as Sexton here at Holy Cross and pray God grant him a joyful retirement. We also give thanks for **Jennifer Massicotte** who has served as our Music Director for 25 years. May God bless Jennifer and her family as she continues to serve in this calling. We continue to remember those who are in hospital including **Kurt Boese and Earl Millen**. May God continue to grant us a blessed advent time!

Adult Bible study is in recess the today and next week. On **Sunday, December 31** there will be a mission presentation focussing upon our assistance to Good Shepherd Lutheran in Moncton NB.

Sunday School and Bible classes are in recess today as we gather in the sanctuary for our **annual Sunday School Christmas Service at 10:00 a.m.** Sunday School children should meet in the basement at 9:40 a.m. to line up for our processional. Join us in the gym following the service for a time of fellowship.

Job Opening Holy Cross is inviting applications for a full time custodian that includes a complete employee benefit package. The Custodian Job description can be picked up at the Welcome Centre in the parlour at Holy Cross. Interested applicants are to submit their letter of intent and resume to the church office -*Attention : John Neustaedter* no later than **today!** The starting date for the custodial job of 30 hours per week is Jan 1, 2018.

Coming Events...

Longest Night Service ...Christmas can be a difficult time for those who are experiencing loss in their lives, especially the loss of a loved one. Come join us at Holy Cross Lutheran Church for a special service of God's hope and comfort, **tomorrow Monday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m.** Refreshments to follow.

St. John's Kitchen...We have the privilege of serving a hot lunch at St. John's Kitchen this year on **Thursday, December 28.** We need volunteers to help us on this day. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parlour. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Anita Syens 519-896-7574.

Youth Lock In Starting at **7:00 p.m. Friday, December 29** and going all night long! Pick up will be at 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Young Adults are invited to join the youth for fun and games from 8:00-10:00 p.m. Friday night. Confirmands are invited to join the youth for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Contact Lenora (lenora@holycrosskitchener.org).

Those Who Make Offerings to the Lord's work: Just a reminder that contributions included for 2017 are those received by **Sunday, December 31.** All contributions received after this date will be credited to 2018.

Please Note...

2018 Contribution Envelopes are in your pigeonholes today! Pick them up and use them in the New Year. For those who did not receive an envelope packet and wish to have one, contact the church office (742-5812), or email to: debbie@holycrosskitchener.org.

Advent Devotional Booklets are available at the Welcome Centre. Why not sit around the supper table, read a bit and meditate on God's Word, of the Advent and coming Christmas season? These can be rich moments for all families.

Christmas Invitations are available at the Welcome Centre. Invite a friend, family member or church member you haven't seen in a while to come join us during this joyous season.

Fill the Clothing Tree in the Parlour! We distribute gifts of toques, mittens, scarves, socks & children's items right after Christmas.

Last Week at Holy Cross...

Sunday Attendance:	117 & 151	Total 268	('16 – 271)
Sunday School:	Pupils: 34 Staff: 15	Total 49	('16 – 64)
Adult Bible Class:	Pupils: 50 Staff: 1	Total 51	('16 – 35)
YABS:	Pupils: 3 Staff: 1	Total 4	('16 – 9)
Youth Bible Class:	Pupils: 8 Staff: 2	Total 10	('16 – 13)

Thankoffering: For **BLESSINGS RECEIVED** to the Unified Church Budget from Stephen & Kathy Wilson. In honour of and with thanks for the **ORGAN** to the Organ Fund from Tom & Barb Schaefer.

Weekly Calendar

Monday December 18 to Sunday December 24, 2017

Monday	Longest Night Service, Church		7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Board of Stewardship, Church Library.....		7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Staff Christmas Lunch,.....		11:30 a.m.
	Church Band, Church Balcony.....		8:30 p.m.
Thursday	Beginnings, Downstairs.....		9:30 a.m.
	Church Choir Rehearsal & Dinner, Church, Concordia Club.....		6:30 p.m.
Sunday	Fourth Sunday in Advent		
	Divine Service, Church		10:00 a.m.
	Christmas Eve		
	Christmas Eve Service, Church		4:30 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Service, Church		7:00 p.m.

“By God’s grace, the members of Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church will be a caring, vibrant diverse community of blessed believers, lovingly reaching out with the message of Jesus Christ.” - *Vision Statement 2010*