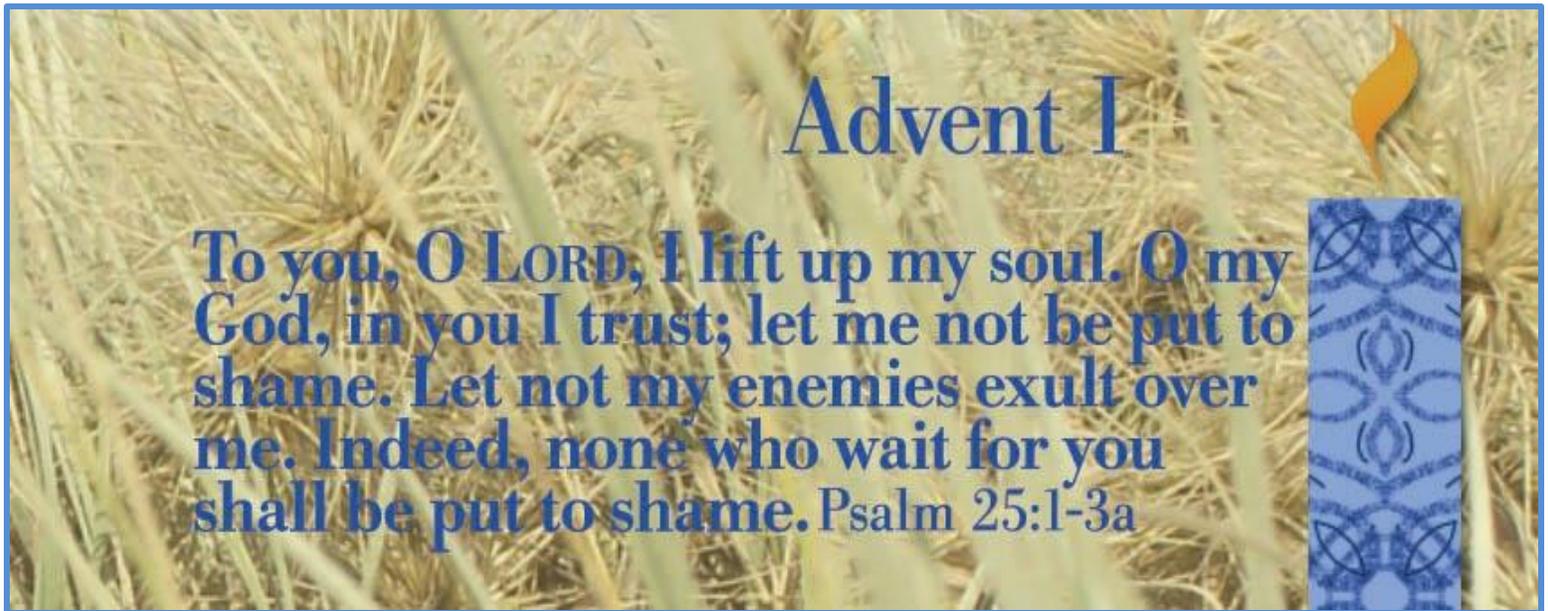


The First Sunday in Advent

December 2, 2018



Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Canada

322 East Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 1Z5 (519)742-5812 www.holycrosskitchener.org

The First Sunday in Advent

8:30 am & 11:00 am - Holy Communion Services
 9:45 am - Sunday School and Bible Classes for All Ages
 12:30 pm - Junior Choir
 1:00 pm - Caroling to Shut-ins
 2:00 pm - Nuer Language Service

The four Sunday's of Advent are a time to step aside from the busyness of the Christmas season and to allow God to prepare our hearts to receive Christ as a child in the manger and as our coming Lord and King. This year at Holy Cross our Advent will have an "ancient/future" focus. Long ago the Sundays of the season were given names based on the readings we hear in the service. The theme for Advent 1 is "*Ad Te Levavi*" which *means* "*To You, Oh Lord I lift up my soul*" from Psalm 25. Today listen as the Lord speak words of encouragement to His people in the Old Testament reading to lift their souls from despair to renewed faith and hope. Let Him take your burdens and lift your soul and fill you with His love in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Call to Worship Bells

Words of Welcome

Hymn (8:30)

The Advent of Our King LSB #331

Anthem (11:00- Praise Singers)

"Come, Messiah!" by Lloyd Larson

Invocation and verses from Psalm 25

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

People **Amen.**

Pastor To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

People **O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame.**

Pastor Let not my enemies exult over me.

People **Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame.**

Pastor Make me to know your ways,

People **O LORD; teach me your paths.**

All **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
 As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness of Sins

Pastor In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. We await the celebration of His birth at Christmas. We long for His glorious return. As we wait, we consider how unworthy we are to have Jesus in our presence.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor Heavenly Father,
People **we confess that our faith has been lacking. We have not abounded in love for one another or for You. Our hearts are filled with blame and shame, with corruption and conceit. Forgive us, strengthen our faith, and purify our hearts.**

Pastor Jesus not only comes as an infant at Christmas and in glory at His return, but He also comes to you in words of forgiveness and life. Hear these words of forgiveness, for they are from Christ Himself: 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.

People **Amen. “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Pastor Let us pray. 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.

People **Amen.**

Anthem (11:00- Praise Singers)

“Bring Us Hope” by Ruth Elaine Schram

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

“Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ but ‘As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.’ Then they shall dwell in their own land.”

Pastor This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

For 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.

Pastor This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem (11:00- Praise Singers)

“The Coming of the Lord” by Pepper Choplin

Holy Gospel: St. Luke 21:25-36

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

People **Glory to You, O Lord.**

“And 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.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

All I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day**Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending***LSB #336*

**Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for ev'ry sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.**

**Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him
Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall their true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of His passion
Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, amen, let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom as Thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!**

Sermon

Jeremiah 33:14-16

"LIFT UP MY SOUL"

Anthem (11:00- Praise Singers)

"The Christmas Lamb" by Patricia Mock

Prayer of the Church

Parish Announcements and Gathering of Offering

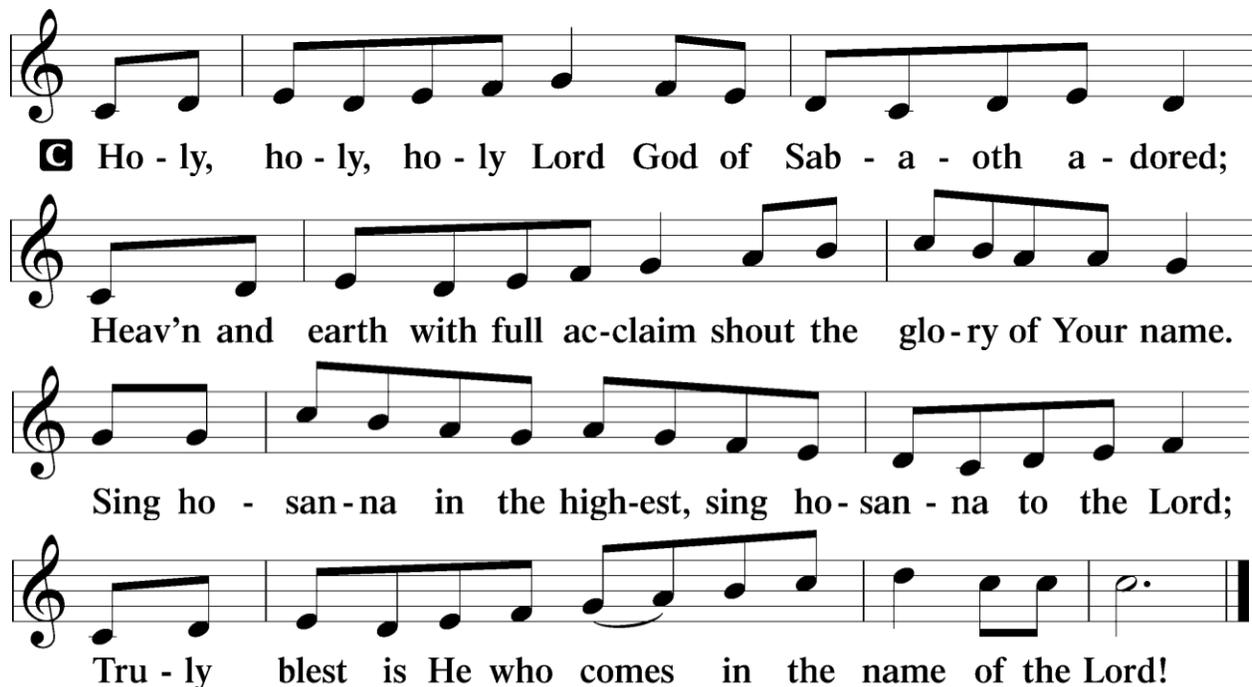
Service of Holy Communion

Pastor The Lord be with you.*People* **And also with you.***Pastor* Lift up your hearts.*People* **We lift them to the Lord.***Pastor* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*People* **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

Pastor It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has deigned to visit us with His merciful presence so that we would be united to Him and reconciled to You. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;

Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.

Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;

Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Words of Our Lord

Pastor Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Lord's Prayer

All **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.**

Pax Domini

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution Hymns

Hark the Glad Sound LSB #349
Come Thou Precious Ransom Come LSB #350

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

Benediction

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People **Amen.**

Hymn

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

LSB #348

**The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.**

**Not as of old a little child,
To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.**

**Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death
Despite the rage of foes.**

**Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see His face.**

**The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!**

Serving in God's House Today

Officiant.....	Pastor Roland Syens
Preacher.....	Pastor Nolan Astley
Communion Assistants	Pastor Robert Morley (8:30), Pastors William Chuol & Joe Das (11:00)
Organist.....	Jennifer Massicotte (8:30)
Praise Singers	Brian Hallman (Director)
Pianist.....	Heather Schein (11:00)
Special Music.....	Kaitlyn Neustaedter (piano at offering 11:00), Madison Neustaedter (piano during communion 11:00)
Acolytes	Amy Khazaei & Molly Rogers (8:30), Kate Sommer & Serena Schmidt (11:00)

Prayer Concerns: In our prayers today we ask God to bless our **Advent preparations** for the celebration of the Saviour's birth and also to make our hearts ready for the day He comes again in glory. We remember particularly our **shut-ins** and others for whom this season is difficult. We also remember **Linda Lantz** as she continues her rehab following surgery in St. Catharines.

Christmas Ornaments – Thank you to everyone who supported the Youth in their Christmas ornament fundraiser. Please pick up your ornaments **today**, in the Parlour.

Christmas Caroling: Today is the day that we are caroling to our shut-ins. Please meet in the basement at **1:00 p.m.** to get our instructions, organize into teams, and set out to do our visits. If you brought your lunch, we will eat together in the basement after the service.

Today's Education Hour...

Sunday School- As we begin this season of Advent, the Sunday School will spend time during the opening practicing for the upcoming Children's Service, December 23, and will spend class time learning about the coming of Christ as a baby.

YABS This Sunday, we will finish our video series "Who Am I? What Am I Doing Here?" Join us at 10am in the conference room.

Youth Bible Class – will gather in the Youth Centre for today's lesson.

Adult Bible Class will continue its discussion of the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah as we focus on the "Servant Songs" in the prophecy of Isaiah. Grab a coffee and join the discussion in the sanctuary beginning at 10 am.

Coming Events...

Decorating the Christmas Trees! This **Wednesday, December 5**, we will be decorating the Christmas trees in the sanctuary and having a carol sing. Join us at 5:30 for our LAST LINC supper of the term which is open to everyone. PLEASE RSVP to the office by Monday, December 3. Decorating will begin at 7:15.

Circuit Youth – Grades 6-12. Join us **Friday, December 14** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Elmira from **7:00-9:30 pm**. Wear your Tacky Christmas sweater and bring a \$5 wrapped present for the gift exchange.

Sunday School – Christmas play rehearsals will start on **Saturday, December 15 at 9:30 am**. If you will be here for the Christmas program on December 23, please let Lenora know by emailing her at Lenora@holycrosskitchener.org.

Calling all Bakers It's that time of year again where we ask if you can share some of your treats for the luncheon after the Children's Christmas Service on **Sunday, December 23**. The fellowship committee would appreciate **nut-free** cookies, squares, or Christmas cake to serve with the sandwiches, veggies & dip, cheese, tea & coffee. We hope to see everyone in the gym for some fellowship and a bite to eat.

Youth Lock-In – Not tired out from the holidays? **Friday, December 28 – Saturday, December 29** will be the Youth Lock-In for Grades 8-12. Keep your eyes on your email for more details.

Please Note...

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

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.

Bulletin Reminder: The deadline for submitting items to the bulletin is **Wednesdays at 12:00 pm**. If items come into the office after the deadline, there is no guarantee the item will appear in the bulletin for that week.

Photo Directories have arrived. If you had your picture taken you can pick up your directory during regular office hours (9am 5pm).

Prime Time Bible Study! Join us Thursdays from 1:30-2:30 to delve into God’s word and what it means for our lives today.

Last Week at Holy Cross...

Sunday Attendance:	79 & 154				
Nuer Attendance:	19			Total 252	('17 – 329)
Sunday School:	Pupils: 32	Staff: 11		Total 43	('17 – 50)
Adult Bible Class:	Pupils: 45	Staff: 1		Total 46	('17 – 55)
YABS:	Pupils: 4	Staff: 0		Total 4	('17 – 7)
Youth Bible Class:	Pupils: 4	Staff: 0		Total 4	('17 – n/a)

Thankoffering: In honour of **RON JOHNSTON's** birthday to the Unified Church Budget from Anne Forler.

Memorial: In memory of **CAROL PRINGLE** to the Unified Church Budget from Christopher Pringle. In memory of **ARTHUR SCHIEMANN** to the Unified Church Budget from Carole Johnson.

Weekly Calendar

Monday December 3 to Sunday December 9, 2018

Monday	ESL, <i>Historic St.Paul's</i>	10:30 a.m.
	Griefshare Seminar, <i>Panel Room</i>	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	ESL, <i>Historic St.Paul's</i>	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Knotty Ladies, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>	9:00 a.m.
	LINC, <i>Everywhere</i>	5:30 p.m.
	Junior Confirmation, <i>Panel Room</i>	6:15 p.m.
	Senior Confirmation, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>	6:15 p.m.
	Tree Decorating and Carol Sing, <i>Church</i>	7:15 p.m.
	Board of Missions, <i>Church Library</i>	7:30 p.m.

Thursday	Beginnings, <i>Downstairs</i>	9:30 a.m.
	Prayer Group, <i>Church Library</i>	9:30 a.m.
	Prime Time Bible Study, <i>Church Library</i>	1:30 p.m.
	Stephen Ministry Training, <i>Panel Room</i>	3:00 p.m.
	Cantata Choir Dress Rehearsal, <i>Church</i>	7:30 p.m.

Sunday The Second Sunday in Advent

Divine Service , <i>Church</i>	8:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Class, <i>Church</i>	9:45 a.m.
Sunday School, <i>Basement</i>	9:45 a.m.
YABS, <i>Conference Room</i>	9:45 a.m.
Youth Bible Class, <i>Youth Centre</i>	9:45 a.m.
Cantata Service , <i>Church</i>	11:00 a.m.
Slovak Service , <i>Church</i>	3:30 p.m.
Cantata Service , <i>Church</i>	6:30 p.m.

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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*