

The Second Sunday in Advent

December 9, 2018



Advent II

Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes." The LORD will cause his majestic voice to be heard, and you shall have gladness of heart.

Isaiah 62:11b; 30:30, 29



Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Canada

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The Second Sunday in Advent

8:30 am - Divine Service

9:45 am - Sunday School and Bible Classes for All Ages

11:00 am & 6:30 pm - Cantata Services

3:30 pm - Slovak Service

Not so many years ago, the Sunday of Advent was called "**Populus Zion**" Those words come from Isaiah 62 where Isaiah proclaims, "Daughter of Zion, your salvation comes." Today we hear John the Baptist call people of all nations to "see the salvation of God" (Luke 3:6). Our mountains of pride are brought low, but the Lord humbles us in order to exalt us in His mercy. He purifies us to be His priestly people, precious in His sight and abounding in faith and love, so that we offer our very lives in righteousness to the Lord (Malachi 3:3-4).

Order of Service: (8:30) Divine Service Setting Three, LSB page 184
(11:00) See Printed Order of Service

Hymns: 357, 344, 349

Readings: Malachi 3:1-7b (Pew Bible, Page 929)
Philippians 1:2-11 (Pew Bible, Page 1138)
St. Luke 3:1-14 (Pew Bible, Page 994)

Sermon

Malachi 3:1-7

"PEOPLE OF ZION, YOUR SALVATION COMES"

Serving in God's House Today: Pastor Nolan Astley (8:30 Officiant), Anne Forler (8:30 Organist)
Hope Bindseil (8:30 Acolyte).

Prayer Concerns: In our prayers today we ask God to bless the presentation of our **Christmas Cantata**, giving thanks for all the musicians, singers and others who have helped over these past months to prepare for our services today. We also rejoice with **Deb Hutfloetz** as she celebrates the healing God gave to her 11 years ago following a brain aneurism. We also rejoice that **our application to serve as refugee sponsors** has been approved by the Canadian Resettlement Operations Centre. The file for our prospective refugee family now goes to Denmark and they will determine the eligibility of Jafer, Maryam, Benyamin and Danael to come to Canada as refugees.

Christmas Cantata Services are **today at 11:00 am and 6:30 pm**. Join us for a service filled with music and the story of Jesus' birth.

Children's Advent Activity Bulletins... Ask an usher for a special Advent bulletin to help your kids prepare for Christmas in an activity based way.

Today's Education Hour...

Sunday School is meeting for opening in the **basement TODAY!**

YABS we will look at a short animation video about an argument for God's existence and will discuss it afterwards. Join us at 10am in the Conference room.

Youth meet with Kevin in the youth room today.

Adult Bible Class meets today in the parlour!! We will continue to examine Old Testament prophecies about Jesus focusing particularly on the so-called "Servant Songs" in Isaiah 49 and 50. We begin at 10 am in the parlour.

Coming Events...

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

Children's Christmas Service Practices start this **Saturday, December 15!!** If you are in grades 3-7 please come to the church at 9:30 am. If you are in preschool to grade 2, please come at 10:30 am. We look forward to having you join us!

Christmas in Brass Concert here at Holy Cross next **Sunday, December 16 at 1:30 pm**. This neighbourhood Christmas Concert is a Brass Ensemble featuring Holy Cross' own Mitchell Kehn. A freewill offering will be taken.

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, **Monday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m.** Refreshments to follow.

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 **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.

St. John's Kitchen On **Thursday December 27**, we have an opportunity to serve a hot lunch to the homeless and working poor in our community. There are many different opportunities to participate in this day, as it truly takes a team of people for this ministry. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parlour if you would like to take part. Contact Anita Syens if you have any questions 519-896-7574

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

Please Note...

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 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...

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| Sunday Attendance: | 84 & 236 | | | |
| Nuer Attendance: | 25 | | Total 345 | ('17 – 337) |
| Communion Attendance: | 81 & 171 | | Total 252 | ('17 – 264) |
| Sunday School: | Pupils: 28 | Staff: 16 | Total 44 | ('17 – 50) |
| Adult Bible Class: | Pupils: 47 | Staff: 1 | Total 48 | ('17 – 56) |
| YABS: | Pupils: 4 | Staff: 2 | Total 6 | ('17 – 7) |
| Youth Bible Class: | Pupils: 3 | Staff: 1 | Total 4 | ('17 – 8) |

Thankoffering: In honour of **RAY WEST's** birthday to the Unified Church Budget from Earl & Pat Famme.

Memorial: In memory of **ROY & ESTHER FLEISCHAUER** to the Unified Church Budget from Bruce & Norene Brubacher. In memory of **ROSS MARTIN**, who passed away 25 years ago, to the Unified Church Budget from Shirley Martin. In memory of **KEITH NEWPORT** to the Unified Church Budget Grant & Joanne Schaefer.

Weekly Calendar

Monday December 10 to Sunday December 16, 2018

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| 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. |
| Thursday | Beginnings, <i>Downstairs</i> | 9:30 a.m. |
| | Prime Time Bible Study, <i>Church Library</i> | 1:30 p.m. |
| | Stephen Ministry Training, <i>Panel Room</i> | 4:00 p.m. |
| | Church Choir, <i>Church</i> | 7:30 p.m. |
| Friday | Circuit Youth Christmas Party, <i>St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Elmira</i> | 7:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | Sunday School Rehearsal, <i>Downstairs</i> | 9:30 p.m. |
| Sunday | The Third Sunday in Advent | |
| | Holy Communion 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. |
| | Holy Communion Service , <i>Church</i> | 11:00 a.m. |
| Christmas in Brass Concert, <i>Church</i> | 1:30 p.m. | |