

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 13, 2015



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church Canada

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

“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*

Volume 68 No. 50

December 13, 2015

The Third Sunday in Advent

8:30 am - Divine Service

9:45 am - Sunday School, Youth and YABS Bible Classes

11:00 am - Cantata Service

3:00 pm - Cantata Service

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

Hymns: (8:30) 341, 347, 350

Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (Pew Bible, Page 914)
Philippians 4:4-7 (Pew Bible, Page 1140)
St. Luke 7:18-28 (Pew Bible, Page 1000)

Serving in God’s House Today: Pastor Nolan Astley (*Officiant*), Anne Forler (*8:30 Organist*),
Regan Elgie & Madison Neustaedter (*8:30 Acolyte*), Marty Stanfel (*8:30 Sound Operator*).

Prayer Concerns: We pray for all those in hospital including **Gerry Lantz** who had emergency Gall Bladder surgery on Wednesday and is now recuperating at Grand River; for the **Elgie family** as they mourn the loss of Linda Elgie who died on Wednesday evening at Freeport and for the **Keczem family** as they mourn the loss of Delila’s mom, Else Schlauch, who died Wednesday; for all **students** writing exams and papers that God would grant them wisdom; for the **Syrian refugees** and other refugees who are coming to Canada that they may find a home and renewed hope here; for all **our services** as we celebrate the gift of Jesus and thanking God for all the **blessings** He gives to us of house and home, family, friends, freedom to worship and faith in Christ as we await the final return of Christ.

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, **Monday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m.** Refreshments to follow.

Children’s Christmas Service Practice is this Saturday, December 19! We will meet in the basement from **9:30 to 11:30 a.m.** Please review lines at home and come ready to “put the pieces together”. See Henri or your child’s Sunday School teacher if you are unsure about the details. Our service takes place **Sunday, December 20 at 10:00 a.m.**

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 20**. 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.

Advent Food Hamper Collection will run for the four weeks in Advent, **Sunday, November 29 thru Sunday, December 20**. Collection boxes have been placed at the parking lot entrance and the Stirling Avenue entrance. All donations received this year will support the Community Cupboard at Historic St. Paul's Church. **Cereal and peanut butter are especially needed as those items are handed out each week**. Your generous support of this food collection is very much appreciated.

St. John's Kitchen What a wonderful opportunity to serve a meal to the homeless and working poor in our community. This year, on **Tuesday, December 29**, we have the privilege of providing a meal to those who may not have a meal. Won't you join us this year, and bless others through this ministry. There is a sign-up sheet at the Parlour. Please only sign in the spaces that are allotted. If you have any questions, please contact Anita Syens at 519-896-7574.

Please Note...

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) provides support and relief for many projects around the world. One of the areas that they focus on is Ethiopia where they assist with numerous projects ranging from irrigation for farming, building the skills of local people, and fighting hunger. Emily Pritchard has been selected by Lutheran Church Canada to be their representative to visit some of these project sites in Ethiopia and experience firsthand the positive impacts of these projects on the local people. The Board of Missions and Board of Young Peoples of Holy Cross support this nomination of Emily by LCC and \$1,000 is required to be raised to cover the outstanding costs for the trip. If you would like to support this endeavour please mark on your envelopes an amount identified with "CLWR Global Encounters – Ethiopia". Any funds raised beyond the \$1000 will be sent to CLWR for projects in Ethiopia.

Pick up a Christmas Invitation and Invite a Friend! Share the joy of Christmas with a friend at one of our Christmas services! Pick up invitations from our Welcome Centre.

Our Clothing & Mitten Tree is in need of additional items this year. Please help us provide **new socks & underwear** as well as the **new mittens, gloves, hats and scarves** we usually collect. Your gifts are then forwarded to grateful folks who need them both locally and in communities far away.

Clean Out Your Junk Drawer! Beginnings is looking for the following items to make crafts:

Buttons, any shape, size or colour	Ribbon (fabric or gift)
Cookie Cutters, any shape, can be rusty	Fabric scraps, any size!
Old Candles (can be without a wick)	Old door/lock keys, any size!
Any other craft type item you want to share! Drop off box by the back door.	

Collecting Children's clothing and Items... We're accepting children's sizes *Newborn to Adult Small*, as well as any toys or baby items. ***We especially need socks and underwear*** Place your donations in the box at the back door. Items collected to be used for a Children's Clothing swap in March. Socks and Underwear will be shipped to an Orphanage in the Philippines. Contact Krysti for more information.

Today's Education Hour...

Sunday School Opening is in the basement **today**.

Youth & YABS meet in your usual spaces today.

Adult Bible class is in recess as we prepare the sanctuary for the Cantata services.

Last Week at Holy Cross...

Sunday Attendance:	139 & 178	Total 317	('14 – 309)
Communion Attendance:	114 & 144	Total 258	('14 – 281)
Adult Bible Class:	Pupils: 38 Staff: 1	Total 39	('14 – 58)
YABS:	Pupils: 4 Staff: 2	Total 6	('14 – 5)
Youth Bible Class:	Pupils: 7 Staff: 1	Total 8	('14 – 10)
Sunday School:	Pupils: 40 Staff: 13	Total 53	('14 – 50)

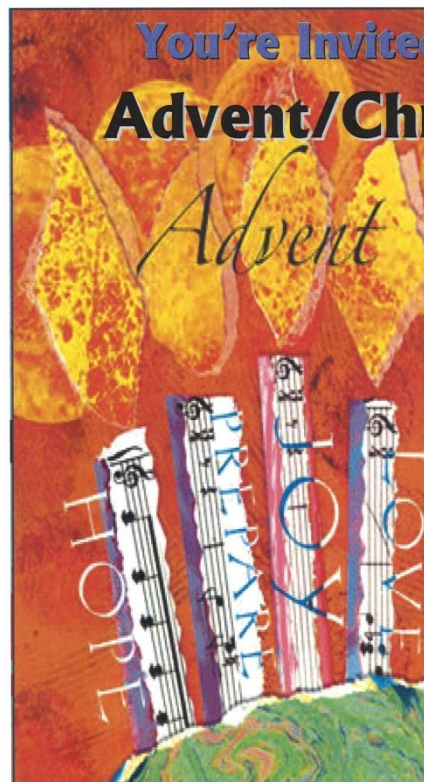
Thankoffering: To the Beginnings Program from Anthony & Brittany Petricca.

Memorial: In memory of **ROY & ESTHER FLEISCHAUER** to the Unified Church Budget from Bruce & Norene Brubacher. In memory of **WOODY CRESS** to the Unified Church Budget from Barry & Lorraine Cress. In memory of **ROSS MARTIN** to the Unified Church Budget from Shirley Martin.

Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 14 to Sunday, December 20, 2015

Monday	ESL, <i>Historic St. Paul's</i>	10:30 a.m.
	Longest Night Service , <i>Church</i>	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	ESL, <i>Historic St. Paul's</i>	6:30 p.m.
	Board of Stewardship, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i>	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Knotty Ladies, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>	9:00 a.m.
	Church Band, <i>Church Balcony</i>	8:30 p.m.
Thursday	Beginnings, <i>Downstairs</i>	9:30 a.m.
	Prayer Group, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i>	9:30 a.m.
	Church Choir Rehearsal & Dinner, <i>Church</i>	6:30 p.m.
Friday	Youth Christmas Party, <i>Youth room, Downstairs</i>	7:00 p.m.
Saturday	Sunday School Service practice, <i>Downstairs</i>	9:30 a.m.
	YABS Christmas Party, <i>Schafer home</i>	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	The Fourth Sunday in Advent	
	Holy Communion Service , <i>Church</i>	8:30 a.m.
	Children's Christmas Worship Service , <i>Church</i>	10:00 a.m.
	Congregational Fellowship, <i>Gym</i>	11:15 p.m.



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*The true light, which enlightens
everyone, was coming into the
world. John 1:9*

You're Invited To The Following Advent/Christmas Services

"Noel" Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 13, 2015
11:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Longest Night Service

Monday, December 14, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Sunday School Children's Worship Service

Sunday, December 20, 2015
10:00 a.m.

(congregation fellowship to follow ~ all are welcome)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Thursday, December 24, 2015
4:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Holy Communion Service

Friday, December 25, 2015
10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Holy Communion Service

Thursday, December 31, 2015
7:00 p.m.