

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 20, 2015



FOURTH SUNDAY OF

ADVENT



Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Canada

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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

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

8:30 am - Holy Communion Service

10:00 am - Children's Christmas Service

11:15 am - Congregational Fellowship

Order of Service: (8:30) Divine Service Setting Three, LSB page 184
(10:00) See Printed Order of Service

Hymns: (8:30) 357, 934 [Tune 344], (361,621) 373

Readings: Micah 5:2-5a (Pew Bible, Page 902)
Hebrews 10:5-10 (Pew Bible, Page 1167)
St. Luke 1:39-56 (Pew Bible, Page 991)

Sermon: St. Luke 1:39-56

“THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CAROL”

Serving in God's House Today: Pastor Roland Syens (*Officiant*), Pastor Nolan Astley (*Preacher*),
Pastor Lloyd Wentzlaff (*Communion Assistant*), Anne Forler (*8:30 Organist*),
Jerry Golschesky (*8:30 Sound Operator*).

Prayer Concerns: In our prayers today we remember those of our congregational family who are **sick or in hospital**. We also remember those who are **shut-in** and **all who will travel** over the Christmas holiday. May God bless our celebration of the Saviour's birth and lead us to renewed faith and trust as the Christ-child is born again into our hearts and lives!

Sunday School and Bible classes are in recess today as we gather in the sanctuary for our **annual Children's Christmas Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.** Sunday School children should meet in the basement at 9:45 a.m. to line up for our processional. Join us in the gym following the service for a time of fellowship.

Advent Food Hamper Collection ends today! All donations received this year will support the Community Cupboard at Historic St. Paul's Church. Your generous support of this food collection is very much appreciated.

Coming Events...

Nursery on Christmas Eve.. There will be nursery care available at the 4:30 pm service for families with young children.

Our Clothing & Mitten Tree: December 28 is our final Sunday to collect! 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.

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.

Those Who Make Offerings to the Lord's work: Just a reminder that contributions included for 2015 are those received by **Thursday, December 31**. All contributions received after this date will be credited to 2016.

LINC returns on January 20: Come to these friendly evenings with **Dinner, Bible Learning** for all ages (including Confirmation classes) and **Response Activities** from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Even our Lenten worship services are included in the mix! We'll meet for 11 Wednesdays, January 20 to April 13, with no LINC in March Break or Holy Week. **Register** for LINC in the parlour **on January 3 and 10**.

Please Note...

2016 Contribution Envelopes are in your pigeonholes or beside the Welcome Centre. 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.

Count Team members needed to assist with counting our offerings on Monday mornings. If you can spend a couple hours to support our financial volunteers please contact Anna Schmidt (519-893-1840).

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.

Clean Out Your Junk Drawer! Beginnings is looking for the following items for 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.

Last Week at Holy Cross...

Sunday Attendance:	64 & 335 & 207	Total 606	('14 – 320)
Monday Attendance:	42	Total 42	('14 – 57)
YABS:	Pupils: 2 Staff: 2	Total 4	('14 – n/a)
Sunday School:	Pupils: 38 Staff: 14	Total 52	('14 – 64)

Memorial: In memory of **EWAN GALLACHER** to the Sunday School from Dave & Judy Lloyd. In memory of **ELSE SCHLAUCH** to the Board of Missions from Arnold & Cheri Drung and Family. To Canadian Lutheran World Relief – Global Encounters: Ethiopia from Brian & Leslie Ann Webb. In memory of **WOODY CRESS** to the Unified Church Budget from Anna Kremer. In memory of **LINDA ELGIE** to Canadian Lutheran World Relief – Global Encounters: Ethiopia from Pastor Lloyd & Shirley Wentzlaff. In memory of **DEPARTED LOVED ONES** to the Christmas Plants from Jack & Elaine Kahl.

Weekly Calendar

Monday December 21 to Sunday December 27, 2015

Wednesday	Church Band, <i>Church Balcony</i>	8:30 p.m.
Thursday	Christmas Eve Service , <i>Church</i>	4:30 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Service , <i>Church</i>	7:00 p.m.
Friday	Christmas Day Holy Communion Service , <i>Church</i>	10:00 a.m.
Saturday	Slovak Congregation Service, <i>Church</i>	3:30 p.m.
Sunday	The First Sunday after Christmas	
	Divine Service , <i>Church</i>	8:30 a.m.
	Sunday School, <i>Downstairs</i>	9:45 a.m.
	Adult Bible Class, <i>Church</i>	9:45 a.m.
	YABS, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i>	9:45 a.m.
	Youth Bible Class, <i>Youth room</i>	9:45 a.m.
	Divine Service , <i>Church</i>	11:00 a.m.