

The First Sunday in Advent

November 27, 2016



BE STRONG! LET YOUR HEART TAKE COURAGE!
HOPE IN THE LORD!

HOPE

- PSALM 27:14

HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

322 East Avenue, Kitchener, ON N2H 1Z5

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The First Sunday in Advent

8:30 & 11:00 am - Divine Services

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

6:30 pm - Surviving the Holidays Seminar

Order of Service: (8:30) Service of Prayer and Preaching, page 260
(11:00) See Printed Order of Service

Hymns: (8:30) 357, 334, 349 (11:00) 605, 357, 349

Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5 (Pew Bible, Page 664)
Romans 13:8-14 (Pew Bible, Page 1101)
St. Matthew 21:1-11 (Pew Bible, Page 955)

Anthem: (11:00) Praise Singers

Special Music: Anne Forler & Jennifer Massicotte (*piano duet*)

Sermon: "IT'S A DONE DEAL!" St. Matthew 21:1-11

Serving in God's House Today: Pastor Astley (*officiant*), Pastor Syens (*preacher*)
Jennifer Massicotte (*8:30 organist*), Heather Schein (*11:00 pianist*), Emily Steinman (*8:30 Acolyte*), Emma Sommer (*11:00 Acolyte*), Jerry Golschesky (*8:30 Sound Operator*), Mike Koch (*11:00 Sound Operator*).

Prayer Concerns: In our prayers today we ask God to ***grant us a blessed Advent time*** as we prepare our hearts not only for Christmas, but also for the return of our Lord and Saviour on the Last Day. We continue to uphold those struggling with illness, ***Paul VanderGriendt*** as he continues his rehabilitation in Toronto, ***Bob Peters*** at Innisfree House and others who battle cancer and other illnesses. We ask God to be with all who mourn, particularly ***Dave and Donna Kurt*** as they mourn the passing of Dave's mother Culleen Kurt whose funeral was held Friday at Hope Lutheran Church.

Altar Flowers are placed to the glory of God and in memory of Nancy Koch by Dave Koch.

Pastor Astley will be out of the office from Tuesday afternoon until Saturday afternoon to attend LCC meetings in Winnipeg.

Surviving the Holidays is tonight from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Those who are grieving can find the holidays even more difficult. This will be an evening of learning how to survive the holiday season. Even if you are not part of Griefshare, but have lost someone close to you in death, please come.

Children's 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 Opening in GYM today for JK – Grade 7. If you did not receive Advent devotional materials last week, please take one today to use as a family!

Time Together Families meet today at 10:00 a.m. in the Basement with Beth Gibney.

YABS - Will be discussing the book of Job led by Oleg Chernukhin.

Adult Bible Class - Pastor Syens continues his 5 week study on the book of 1 Peter.

Coming Events...

Small Group Bible Study meets **Fridays at 7:00 pm** here at Holy Cross. This group is studying the book of John with Rev. Gary Weber. All are welcome! Any questions contact Gary at (519-747-1741).

Caroling to Shut-ins: Join us as we sing carols to our shut-ins on **Sunday, December 4**. You are invited to bring a bag lunch to eat together after the late service as we meet at **1:00 p.m.** in the basement to organize and set out at 1:30 for our visits. We will return to church at 4:45 p.m. Sign-up sheets are in the church parlour. For more information contact Marjorie Snyder at 519-745-4698 or e-mail: marjoriesnyder@rogers.com



Reflections of Christmas: Concert & Carol Sing! Join us for a free afternoon of music, carols, readings, and stories to celebrate this wonderful time of year on **Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 p.m.** Hear some of your Christmas favourites presented for brass quintet and organ and some arrangements made famous by the Canadian Brass. Some familiar faces in the presenters are: Jonathan Astley, Mitch Kehn and Jennifer Massicotte from our church family! Join us afterwards for hot chocolate, hot apple cider, and Christmas baking! The concert is informal and feel free to bring children. A freewill offering will go **to support the church organ fund** as well as the musicians.

Save the date for our Children's Christmas Worship Service: Sunday School children will once again have the opportunity to lead a special worship service on **Sunday, December 18, 10 a.m.** We'll prepare for this well-loved tradition with two Saturday practices: **December 10** and **December 17, 9:30-11:30 a.m.** Mark these dates on the calendar now.



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 19 at 7:00 p.m.** Refreshments to follow.

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.

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 set up in the narthex and is in need of **new socks & underwear** as well as the **new mittens, gloves, hats and scarves**. Your gifts are then forwarded to grateful folks who need them both locally and in communities far away. Clothing / Decoration will be accepted until December 21.

Christmas Poinsettias: Just a reminder that last year our members helped to purchase artificial poinsettias to decorate the church at Christmas. So there will be no need for us to have a sign up for them this year. We encourage our members who did sign up in past years to donate to your favourite mission this Christmas instead.

Last Week at Holy Cross...

Sunday Attendance:	87 & 191	Total 278	('15 – 287)
Sunday Communion Attd.:	82 & 165	Total 247	('15 – 300)
Sunday School:	Pupils: 28 Staff: 13	Total 41	('15 – 48)
Adult Bible Class:	Pupils: 55 Staff: 2	Total 57	('15 – 43)
Youth Bible Class:	Pupils: 10 Staff: 2	Total 12	('15 – 8)
YABS:	Pupils: 3 Staff: 1	Total 4	('15 – 7)

Memorial: In memory of **CAROL PRINGLE** to the Unified Church Budget from Christopher Pringle. In memory of **LYDIA & STEWART McELHINNEY** to the Welfare Fund from Marcus Baker. In memory of **PAT & HOWARD BAKER** to Missions from Marcus Baker. In memory of **VALERIE BAKER** to the Organ Fund from Marcus Baker.

Weekly Calendar

Monday, November 28 to Sunday, December 4, 2016

Monday	ESL English Conversation, <i>Historic St. Paul's</i> 10:30 a.m. Griefshare, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i> 6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday	ESL, <i>Historic St. Pauls</i> 6:30 p.m.	
Wednesday	Knotty Ladies, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i> 9:00 a.m. LINC, <i>Everywhere</i> 5:30 p.m. Senior Confirmation, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i> 6:15 p.m. Board of Church Properties, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i> 7:00 p.m.	
Thursday	Beginnings, <i>Downstairs</i> 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i> 9:30 a.m. Stephen Ministry Luncheon, <i>Panel Room</i> 11:30 a.m. Praise Singers, <i>Church</i> 7:00 p.m. Church Choir, <i>Church</i> 8:00 p.m.	
Friday	Small Group Bible Study, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</i> 7:00 p.m. Youth Event, <i>Guelph</i> 7:00 p.m.	
Saturday	Beginnings Cookie Bake, <i>Kitchen</i> 12 noon Brass Quintet Rehearsal, <i>Mezzanine</i> 2:00 p.m.	
Sunday	The Second Sunday in Advent Holy Communion Service, <i>Church</i> 8:30 a.m. Sunday School, <i>Basement</i> 9:45 a.m. YABS, <i>Triple Bible Classroom</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 Caroling, <i>Basement</i> 1:00 p.m.	