

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2019



INTROIT

Psalm 71:14-18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

Spoken:

- P** Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.
- C** **I will hope continually
and will praise you yet more and more.**
- P** My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation
all the day,
for their number is past my knowledge.
- C** **With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come;
I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.**
- P** O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.
- C** **So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to
all those to come.**
**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.**
- P** Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-11; Matthew 11:2-15

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM IS TODAY! Fill your hearts with joy as we await our Savior's birth at Behold the Child, the children's Christmas program, which will take place during the education hour.

IN NEED OF GIFT CARDS? The holidays are coming and once again, Concordia requests that you think SCRIP for all your gift card needs. **We will be at our usual location in the hallway outside the Fellowship Hall.** Stop by and see us, get some things checked off you list and support our school in the process!

ANNUAL “THANK YOU” GIFT TO CHURCH STAFF: As we move beyond Thanksgiving and into a new church year, let's take a moment to be thankful for the faithful preaching, teaching and worship that we experience at Messiah. There are a number of workers in our church who make that possible. Messiah traditionally collects a monetary “thank you gift” for our dedicated church staff to present to them at our Christmas Eve service. We ask each of you to prayerfully consider contributing to these gifts. To do so, please place your gift in a designated envelope and put it in the offering bag or deliver it to the church office **by December 22nd.**

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: We will be caroling to some of Messiah's shut-ins today. Meet at church at 2:00 pm to carpool. Questions? Contact Ann Melvin or Stephanie Colbert.

2020 BOX ENVELOPES: Messiah uses a box envelope system to track each member's annual giving for that year's taxes. All 2020 box envelopes are ready for pick up now in the Narthex. Please note that nearly ALL 2020 box numbers have changed from 2019's, so your current number will not be the one you'll use starting in January. For that reason, it is imperative that all members recycle their old 2019 envelopes at that time. Don't see a box with your name on it out there? Contact the office and a number will be assigned to you.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIDWEEK ADVENT SCHEDULE: Join us for our last midweek service on Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00 pm for “For You, To Bear Your Flesh In Weakness.”

THIS MONTH'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE IN THE NARTHEX! Have you grabbed

yours for the holiday this year? Only one dollar, this is a great way to help support Messiah's missions. Grab yours today!

DECORATING MESSIAH WITH POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS:

Members who wish to contribute to the purchase of poinsettias for Christmas will find a sign-up sheet next to the flower chart in the hallway. The cost for each poinsettia is \$12.00. Please use a designated envelope, labeled **Poinsettia**, and place it in the collection with your Sunday offerings. You are welcome to take your flowers home after Christmas Day service.

CHRISTMAS EVE: Christmas Eve's Candlelight Service starts at **7:00 pm** with readings and hymns.

CHRISTMAS DAY: The Divine Service for Christmas starts at **9:30 am**. We look forward to seeing you as we welcome the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

NEW YEAR'S EVE: Please note, this year we will be will not be holding the Evening Prayer service.

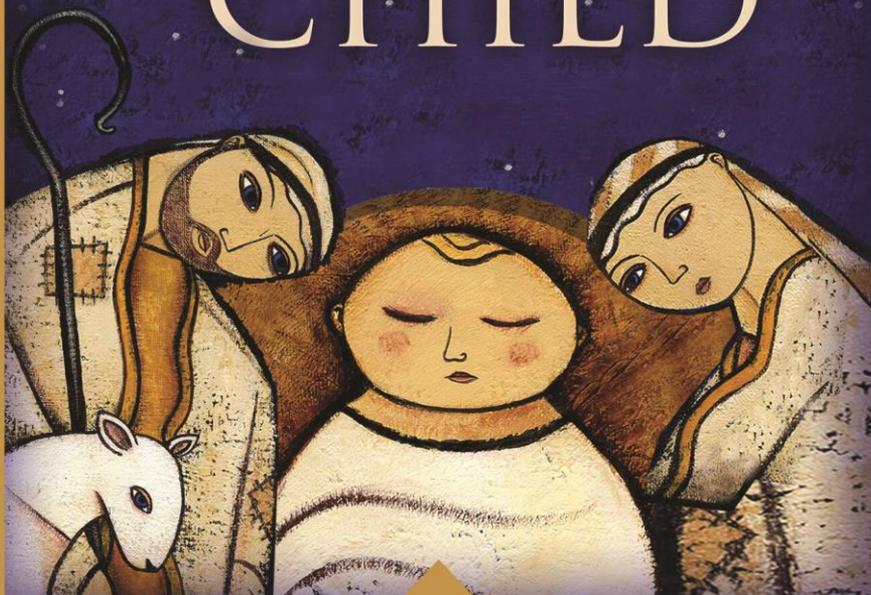
YOU CAN TEACH LAYPEOPLE THEOLOGY...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. t This week's teachings include: Adam & Eve, Katie Luther, An Introduction to the Book of Galatians, Holy Baptism and more. You can listen live or at your convenience at www.issuesetc.org and on the LPR mobile app.

DAILY READINGS

December 15: Is. 30:27–31:9; Rev. 3:1–22; **16:** Is. 32:1–20; Rev. 4:1–11; **17:** Is. 33:1–24; Rev. 5:1–14; **18:** Is. 34:1–2, 8–35:10; Rev. 6:1–17; **19:** Is. 40:1–17; Rev. 7:1–17; **20:** Is. 40:18–41:10; Rev. 8:1–13; **21:** Is. 42:1–25; Rev. 9:1–12

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BEHOLD *The* CHILD



JOIN US FOR THIS ADVENT
MIDWEEK SERIES

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
Advent Dinners at 6:00 pm

December 4: For You And All The World
December 11: To Set You Free From All Your Sorrow
December 18: For You, To Bear Your Flesh In Weakness

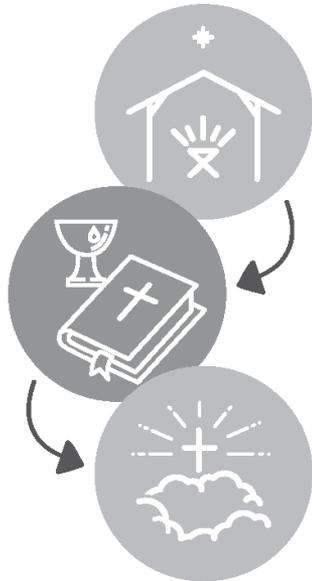
KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

The Advent of Christ

As you may remember, the word Advent means “coming.” During the season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. But that is not the only coming of Jesus that we hear about in the Advent story.

What is the rest of the Advent story?

The Advent of Christ has three parts. God’s Word tells us that Jesus not only came to earth as a man at Christmas, but that He comes to be with His church through His Word and Sacraments. Finally, God’s Word reminds us that He will return in judgement on the Last Day. If you think about it, there sure are a lot of great things to remember and look forward to during the season of Advent!



When Holy Communion is offered, allow your children to attend the altar with you. Remind them that Jesus is truly present here in the Sacrament, and that we will see Him face to face on the Last Day!





Messiah Lutheran Church's annual

*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service*

December 24th, 7:00 pm

Join us.

