

First Lutheran Church – ELCA

Worship Bulletin – 3rd Sunday in Advent

December 12, 2021

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

DANCE – “What Child Is This”

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed are you, God of all creation, and blessed is the communion into which you gather us. Your Word is conceived within us, and we grow heavy with hope, eagerly awaiting the day when all creation will be delivered into your glorious freedom.

Send your Holy Spirit to call us by name and lead us home.

The prophets crying in the wilderness awaken us with their holy anger and passionate hope.

Come, Lord Jesus, bring the day of justice to birth.

Send your Holy Spirit to call us by name and lead us home.

As the shadows shrink and the sun begins to bite, we anticipate your coming with joy and fear. Come, Lord Jesus, give us the courage to yield to the purifying fire of your love, raging towards us.

Send your Holy Spirit to call us by name and lead us home.

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"A Candle is Burning"

A candle is burning, a candle of JOY,
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

During the third week in Advent, we spend time thinking about joy. From Psalm 5:11, we hear these words, “But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, so that those who love your name may exult in you.”

Two purple candles and one pink candle are lit.

Too often, we think joy is something big, O God. A brass band or a parade can certainly bring us joy. Just as easily and far more often, we can feel joy in a hug or the squeeze of hand, we can see joy in a smile or hear it in laughter. Help us to not overlook the simple joys that peak into our lives daily. This week in our Advent journey, open our eyes to the joy that surrounds us. Amen.

PAGEANT

Away in a Manger (vs. 1-2)

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Silent Night (vs. 1-2)

1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Go Tell It on the Mountain (vs. 1-2)

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled When lo!
Above the Earth Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth *Refrain*

The First Noel (vs. 1)

The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Born is the King of Israel!

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG – “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (vs. 1)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God’s presence.

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church’s gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, we thank you for how our youth shared the Good News with us today. Bless our children and youth programs here. Help all of us to share the Good News with others. Help us all to believe and know that You came to this earth for all of us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need (*especially*) **Members:** Don Grant, Todd Poppema, Dave Livingston, Linda Towne, Al Luing, Janice Berger, Sandy Rogers, Todd Hallstrom, Charlene Wachter, Marilyn Frisch, Julie & Denny Christensen, Dianne Sanderson, Betty Nelson; **Members in Nursing Homes:** Lois Graf, Gunnie Mahlberg, Albert Mattisen, Bobbie Elvin, Sandra Marsh; **Members in Care Facilities:** Fred Wietzema, Joan Doeden, Jean Bender; **Family Members & Friends:** Joe Christensen (son of Nora Leinen & Gene Christensen), Arlene (Fern Burmeister’s sister), Butch Zeiner (Valerie Veen’s brother), Maverick Thalberg (Fern Burmeister’s great-grandson), Josh Hansen (Mary Ingenthron’s son), Tom Morgan (Sandy Randall’s dad), Brad Martens (Valerie Veen’s son); **Our service men and women and Love INC.** Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Be with our Sharing Seeds deliveries as they head out this week. Be with those who receive winter clothing and fill their lives with your joy. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord be with anyone for whom this season is challenging. Those who are grieving loved ones. Those who are struggling financially. Those who are going through divorce. Use all of us to lend your strength and care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

A CHRISTMAS CREED FROM LATIN AMERICA

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Gospel which began in Bethlehem. I believe in the One whose spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming the Shepherds saw the sign, and for whom there was no room in the inn. I believe in the One whose life changed the course of history, for whom the kings of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the proud. I believe in the One to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind and the leprous gave welcome and accepted as Savior. I believe in the One who, with love, changed the hearts of the proud, and with his life, showed that it is more important to serve than to be served, and that the greatest joy is in giving your life for others. I believe in peace, which means justice among all peoples and nations and love among all. I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness and the transforming power of the gospel. I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change if, with humility and faith, we kneel before the manger. I believe that I must be the first one to do so. Amen.

BLESSING

Be people of joy. Let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet. Share joy by seeing the good in each other. Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come. Share joy by praying for our world. In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share joy. As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share joy, peace, and hope with those you meet. Amen.

SENDING SONG – "Joy to the World" Bells first then (ELW 267)

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship & Music Team is looking for new members for our team. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 pm. If you are interested, please contact Diana White.

“Encounter” the ecumenical youth group for grades 7 and up is on Sunday nights. We meet at Hy-Vee where attendees are able to snack on food and have a soda or Starbuck beverage. Friends are invited to come to this gathering of fun. Activities begin at 6:30 pm and end around 8:00 pm.

2021 Offering – The last day to get your offering in for 2021 will be Tuesday, December 28. Please drop it off during office hours. All offering received through the mail will need to be in before Christmas. This allows us to get it deposited for this year. Thank you!

There will be no Wednesday night services on December 22 and 29.



Annual Reports are due in to the church office by Thursday, December 30.



Christmas Services

Friday, December 24

4:00 PM—Traditional candlelight communion service Christmas hymns.

8:00 PM—Traditional candlelight communion service with Christmas hymns.

Saturday, December 25

9:00 AM—Intimate traditional communion service with Christmas hymns.

FELC SCHEDULE FOR December 13 – 19, 2021

Monday - 13	9:00AM	BULLETIN DEADLINE
	6:00PM	Worship & Music Team
Tuesday - 14	7:00AM	Early Risers Bible Study
	7:00PM	Day Care Association Meeting
Wednesday - 15	3:30PM	KFC
	5:15PM	Meal
	6:00PM	Worship – Holden Evening Prayer for Advent
	6:30PM	Confirmation
	6:30PM	Sanctuary Choir
	7:30PM	Youth Group
Thursday – 16	9:30AM	Hannah Circle
Friday - 17		Pastor’s Sabbath Day
Saturday – 18		
Sunday - 19	9:00AM	Worship/Communion – 4 th Sunday in Advent
	4:00PM	Posada
	6:30-8:00PM	Encounter @ Hy-Vee

