



Messiah
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
Church of the Lutheran Confession
12145 W. Edgerton Avenue
Hales Corners, Wisconsin 53130
414-427-9337
<http://www.messiahhalescorners.com>

Michael Eichstadt, Pastor	Phone: 414-427-9303
Ted Quade, Principal	Phone: 262-522-9824
Michaela Winters, Teacher	Phone: 715-864-2069

December 20, 2020

Advent 4

Good morning and welcome to our visitors! We appreciate your joining our worship family this morning, and we invite you to sign our guest book. If you would like more information about our church, please contact the pastor at 414-427-9337.

Sunday family worship...8:00 and 10:45 a.m.
Bible class: 9:30 a.m.

Today's Worship

"When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman" (Gal. 4:4).

Greeting and prayer:

Hymn: *Now Are the Days Fulfilled*

Invocation:

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.**
- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Short days and dark nights...not necessarily something to look forward to. But then there are the lights! What would the Christmas season be without lights? They transform ordinary neighborhoods into magical wonderlands. The dark living room comes alive when the Christmas tree lights are plugged in. Lights are amazing. They shine brightest and look their best in darkness, while at the same time displacing darkness.

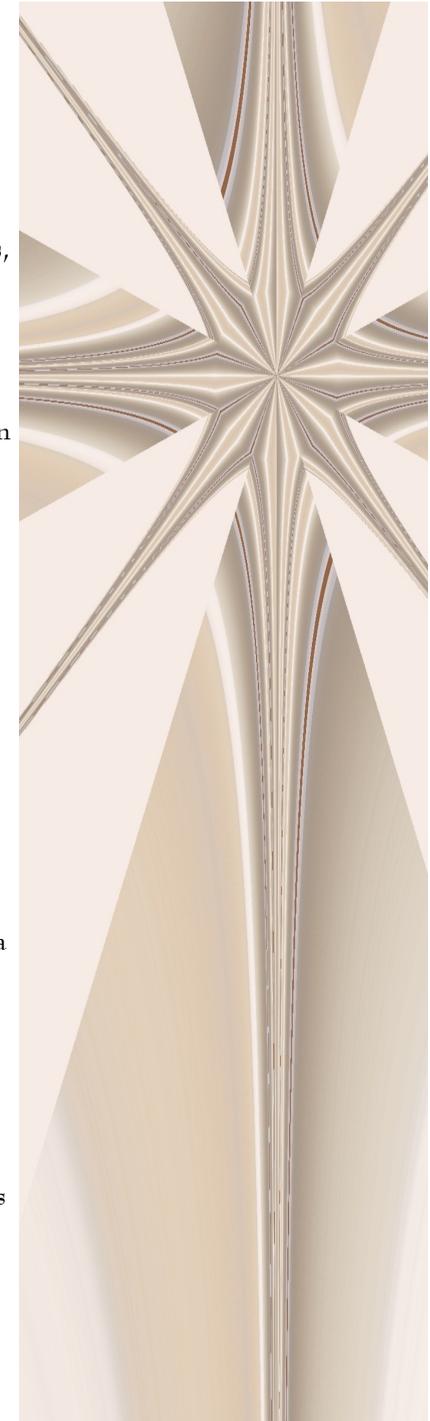
The lights of Christmas, of course, remind us of the **Light** of Christmas, our Savior Jesus. "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light," Isaiah prophesied. The darkness of sin is evident everywhere. COVID, violent protests, and lack of concern for anyone but self overshadow the world. Sin brings pain, suffering, and death. The darkness has infiltrated our hearts with its burdens of guilt and fear.

But the light of the Christ Child shines brightest against that blackest of backdrops. Jesus was born to displace the darkness of sin with His holiness. He came to clothe us with the white, dazzling robe of His righteousness. He came to endure pain, suffering, and even death, that we might have eternal life.

May that saving light of Jesus shine into every dark corner of our hearts. May it transform every ordinary day into a day filled with Christmas hope and joy. Jesus promises, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (Jn. 8:12).

We thank the Lord, as well, for the light of our fellowship as a family of believers. It has been a difficult year in many respects, but it has also been filled with blessings. We have come to appreciate the comfort of the Word all the more. We have had new opportunities via Zoom and online streaming to stay in touch and encourage one another. Sue and I thank you for your concern, prayers, and support, which you have shown in so many ways. Serving the Messiah family is a wonderful blessing of God's grace! May the ever-present light of Jesus bless and guide us all throughout the new year.

In Christ's love,
Pastor and Sue



December Ushers		Cleaning Teams 12/26-1/1	
1st service:	T. Koch B. Lillo	Church:	A. Mueller, Weaver
2nd service:	A. Mueller M. Gescheidle	School:	Winters, Busse, B. Naumann
Christmas Eve:	J. Gerbitz K. Winters C. Starr H. Davis		
Christmas Day:	J. Mueller, M. Plockelman		

Bible Readings:	
12/20	Est 1,2 Matt 1 Luke 3
12/21	Est 3,4,5 Rev 12
12/22	Est 6,7,8 Rev 13
12/23	Est 9,10 Rev 14
12/24	Ezra 8,9,10 Rev 15
12/25	Neh 1,2,3 Rev 16
12/26	Neh 4,5,6 Rev 17

Fruits of Faith	Last Week:	To Date:
Budgetary Offerings:	\$5,020.00	\$209,346.00
Budgetary Needs:	\$6,502.00	\$156,048.00
Over (Under) Budget:	(\$1,482.00)	\$53,298.00
Missions:	\$200.00	\$3,170.00
MDF:	\$55.00	\$2,225.00
Kinship:	\$25.00	\$2,720.00
ILCSAF:	\$100.00	\$875.00
MSAF:	\$60.00	
Benevolence Fund:	\$160.00	
60th Anniversary Fund:	\$50.00	
Attendance Last Sunday: 64,45 Advent: 38		

*The virgin
shall conceive
and bear a Son,*

**And shall
call His name
Immanuel** (Is. 7:14)



Announcements

Today

The children will meet at 9:30 for Christmas Eve rehearsal. Adult Bible class will be held in the multi-purpose room. The public school confirmation class meets at 12 p.m.

Special services...

The Christmas Eve service will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday. Due to capacity restrictions, only parents, siblings, and grandparents of children in the program are invited to attend in person. The service will be streamed online.

Christmas Day song services will be at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Friday. Everyone is welcome!

A New Year's Eve communion service will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 31.

Call received

Pastor Eichstadt has received a call from Living Savior congregation, Eden Prairie, MN to serve as their first onsite fulltime pastor. Your prayers are appreciated and your comments are always welcome.

Just in time for Christmas

A new ILC Tour Choir CD *Worthy is the Lamb* has just been released. It is a compilation of pieces sung by the 2016-2019 choirs. A limited number of copies are available from Pastor. They can also be ordered directly from ILC. The cost is \$12 or two for \$20.

Appointment

The Bd. of Elders has appointed Stephanie Goodrie as church music coordinator. This is a three-year term during which Mrs. Goodrie will direct the adult choir and work with the pastor, teachers, and musicians in the congregation to provide special music to praise the Lord and enhance our appreciation of His blessings.

Last chance!

One way by which we praise God and express our thanks for the gift of His Son is through our gifts of love to others. With that in mind, we would like to gather a gift for the 12 professors who serve our church body at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary in Eau Claire. Monetary gifts may be placed in the designated box on the hall counter. Make checks out to "Messiah." **The deadline is today.**

CLC news

Calls: *Teacher Josh Ohlmann*, Sleepy Eye, MN has received a call to Holy Trinity, West Columbia, SC.

Pastor David Ude, Appleton, WI has received a call to Redeemer, Cheyenne, WY.

Pastor Emeritus John Klatt has accepted a call to serve as vacancy pastor for Redeemer, Bowdle and Zion, Ipswich, SD.

Finances: November offerings of \$119,293 vs disbursements of \$96,054, resulted in a net gain, reducing our operating deficit by \$23,233. Compared to last November CBP offerings are \$20,000 higher, disbursements are \$2,000 less, and the current deficit is \$23,000 less.

Holy Communion opportunities

We continue to celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month. You may also contact Pastor and schedule private Communion. If you would like to receive the Sacrament at home in connection with our online services, contact Pastor for the elements of bread and wine.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Gloria



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

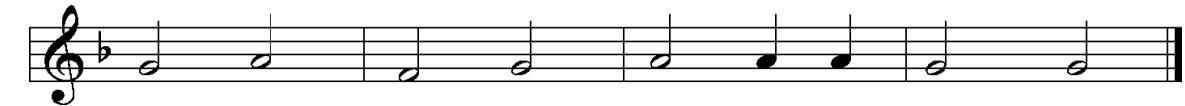


as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward

Lessons for Today



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

2 Samuel 7:8-16

"Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies.

"Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

Romans 16:25-27

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Luke 1:26-38

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible."

Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

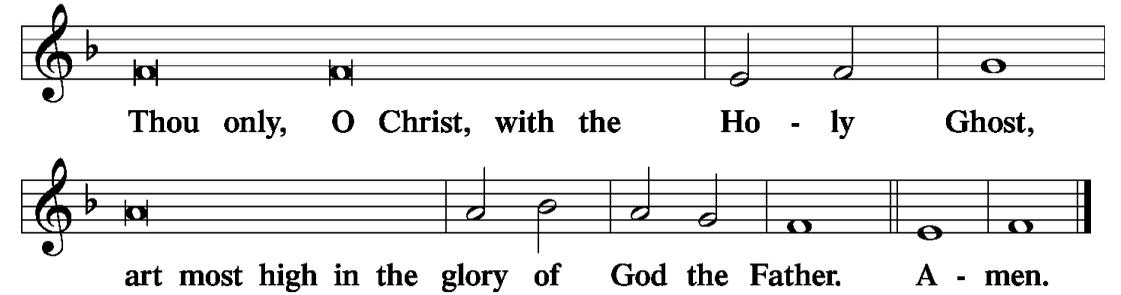
Hymn: *A Great and Mighty Wonder*

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

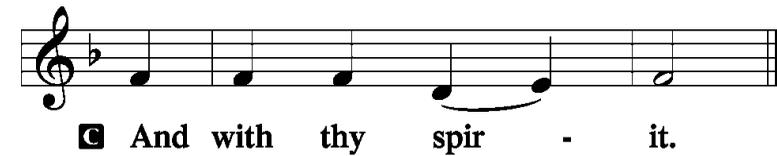


Closing hymn: *What Child Is This*



Salutation and Collect of the Day

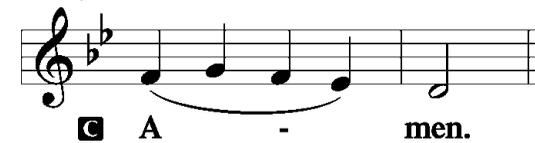
P The Lord be with you.



The Collect prayer:

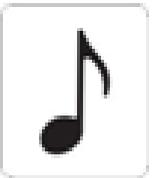
P: Let us pray:

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Advent candle verse:

*We light the Advent candle And share the wondrous Word.
With love, we tell of Jesus Till all around have heard.
God's love is for each nation Throughout His whole creation.
We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!*



Old Testament lesson: 2 Samuel 7:8-16

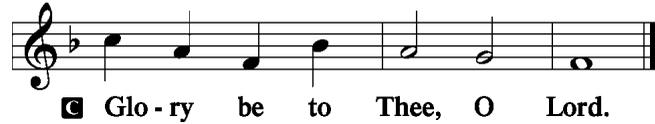
Far more important and lasting than any house which David might build for God is the kingdom God would build for David through Jesus.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it. Hallelujah!



Epistle Reading:

P The Epistle lesson is recorded in Romans 16:25-27.



In the gospel message God reveals the greatest mystery of all time, the news of salvation for all in Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.



Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: Of the Father's Love Begotten

Sermon: Luke 1:26-38

Not a Problem!

- I. God becomes man.
- II. The Savior-King rules.
- III. The Word works faith.



Offertory

