

A photograph of two women embracing warmly. The woman on the left is seen from the back, wearing a light green blazer and a colorful headband. The woman on the right is smiling, also in a light green blazer, with a gold watch on her left wrist. They are standing outdoors at night, with a blurred background of warm string lights and a brick building.

Our comfort
abounds through
Christ (2 Cor. 1:5)



December 10, 2023

Advent 2

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.

**Choir...8:00 a.m. Sunday family worship...9:00 a.m.
Sunday school and Bible class following the service**

Today's Worship

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you" (Jn. 14:27).

Greeting and prayer:

Invocation:

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

C: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!



P: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
C: and in His word I hope.

Hymn 343: *Prepare the Royal Highway*

Confession and Absolution:

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C: We confess that we have wandered away as erring sheep, preferring the pleasures of this world rather than the rich pastures You have provided. Forgive us, O Lord.

We confess that we have not always been loyal subjects of our Lord, but have made decisions based on our own thoughts and desires. Forgive us, O Lord.

We confess that we have not always sought to share Your love and meet the needs of the people around us. We cannot change without Your grace, mercy, and strength. Forgive us, O Lord.

P: Rejoice! The One who comes to judge is the same Jesus who gave His body and shed His blood for you on the cross. He is the first to rise from death, and by His grace we shall follow Him to His eternal kingdom. As a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,
Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:
We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,
Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Prayer:

P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may rejoice in our eternal home; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lighting of Advent candle: 357:4

*O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*



Epistle lesson:

2 Peter 3:8-14...The Lord's patience is not an excuse for complacency.

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.



THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S

Antiphon



Let the Lord en-ter; He is King of glo-ry.

Psalm Tone



The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness.*

The world and those who dwell therein.

For He has founded it upon the seas,*

And established it upon the waters.

Antiphon

Lift up your heads, O you gates!

And be lifted up, you everlasting doors!*

And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?*

The LORD strong and mighty,

The LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates!

And lift them up, you everlasting doors!*

And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?*

The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.

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.

Antiphon

Gospel lesson:

Mark 1:1-8...Through the message of repentance, John prepared hearts for Jesus.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Choir: *The Yearning*

*There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.
There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide,
a yearning for tomorrow.*

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the Firstborn of creation.

*There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned,
to bring to us salvation.*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing.

*There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who
placed within our hearts the yearning.*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel within our hearts, the yearning.

Apostles’ Creed

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 344: *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

Sermon: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Go on up a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

CHRISTMAS COMFORT

- I. In forgiveness
 - II. In repentance
 - III. In faithful care
-



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me

not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly

Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of

Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

P: As we wait in love for the coming of our Lord, let us together, as His advent people, bring our prayers before Him.

(Minute of silence)

P: Father in heaven, You prepare a heavenly home for all who trust in You and come into Your presence through faith in Your Son. By His coming into this world to save us from the devastation of our sins, we have been reconciled to You. We praise You, Father, for this amazing gift of love. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

C: To You alone our prayers we bring!

P: Knowing that You have come once into this world, Lord Jesus, we are confident that You will come again. On that glorious day when all are gathered before You, when every knee will bow to You and every tongue confess Your holy name, we will receive

the restoration of all things in heaven and on earth that Your Word has promised. Until Your final coming, O Lord, keep us secure in our salvation. Stir up the hearts of all who hear Your Word this day, that many will come to saving faith and experience the comfort of Your presence in their lives. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

C: To You alone our prayers we bring!

P: As wanderers in this land, O Lord, we experience various types of brokenness and pain, suffering and grief. We lift before You in prayer those we love, who are also loved by You. For our brothers and sisters in India and Tanzania, we ask Your care and provision in the aftermath of a devastating typhoon and flooding. For our fellow believers in Myanmar, we pray for the protection of Your holy angels in a dangerous, unstable country. For our loved one, Jan Wilson, we ask for Your comfort and healing for a broken wrist. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

C: To You alone our prayers we bring!

P: Comforting Spirit, fill our land, our homes, our workplaces, our schools, and all our interactions with others with Your blessings. Cause this season of waiting and preparation to refocus our hearts and minds upon Your mission for our congregation and for us as individual members of this household of faith. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

C: To You alone our prayers we bring!

P: Confident in our coming King and Savior, we entrust our prayers into the good and gracious hands of our sovereign God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who lives and reigns, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn 347: *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

Closing prayer:

P: Holy Spirit, thank You for enlightening our hearts and increasing our joy this morning with Your Word of truth. Help us going forward to put our full trust in Christ Jesus for forgiveness, salvation, and daily direction for our lives. In His name.

C: Amen.

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.

C: Amen.

Closing hymn 345: *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*

Announcements

Thank you!

A large group of carolers and a wide variety of chili and treats made for an uplifting and enjoyable evening last Sunday!

Letter received...

Dear members of Messiah Lutheran Church in Hales Corners, WI: After much prayer and deliberation, I have decided to resign my call as lower grade teacher at the end of the school year, effective July 2024. I believe the Lord is calling me to serve Him by focusing on my role as mother and wife in my household. I am so thankful for the years He has given me with His little lambs here at Messiah. I rejoice at the memories of kindness and support shown to me by members of this congregation! Though I will miss the time spent with His little lambs in the classroom, I feel it is my duty to focus on the lamb He has entrusted to my care at home. I look forward to volunteering and continuing to support our school as much as possible, as well as continuing to support and assist the congregation our family loves and belongs to! Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Lord with you! *He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:10-11.*
In Christ, Michaela Winters

Looking Ahead...

♣Tuesday:

11:00 A.M: Service at New Perspective, Franklin.

1:00 P.M: Adult information.

6:00 P.M: Bd. of Elders.

♣Wednesday:

10:00 A.M: Service at Villa of Greenfield.

6:30 P.M: Advent service.

♣Thursday:

7:00 A.M: Adult class.

♣December 19th:

6:30 P.M: Ladies meeting.

♣December 21st:

6:00 P.M: Council.

Wednesday
Advent Service:
Behold, Your King Comes!
"In Love"
1 Jn. 4:7-12

ILC concert

Immanuel Lutheran College will present its Christmas Choral Service, "The King in the Cradle," on Friday, December 15, 2023 at 7:30 pm CST at Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. The service will be live-streamed and recorded. The stream will be accessible via youtube.com/ilcvideos and ilc.edu/tv.

Remember in prayer

Tanzania (East Africa) – Severe flooding has hit the northern part of Tanzania, affecting the TZ-CLC congregation in Mbulu. Although no deaths have been reported,

Pastor Jeremiah states that twenty members are in need of food, blankets, and tents for temporary shelter. Pastor Jeremiah has visited the area to evaluate the needs and provide emergency supplies. Thank the Lord for keeping Pastor Solomon, his family, and the Mbulu congregation safe from death and serious injury. Pray for the Lord's blessings on the recovery efforts, and the Lord will continue to provide for and protect the members of His Mbulu flock.

India (Southeast Asia) – Cyclone Michaung recently hit South India, bringing with it severe flooding that has caused extensive damage to several BELC church buildings, member houses, and the homes of our BELC leaders. The BELC headquarters and Bible School buildings are being used for temporary shelter for a pastor/district leader forced to evacuate their homes. Thankfully, there have been no injuries reported to BELC members. Thank the Lord for his protection of His children. Pray for the Lord's ongoing protection and provision as our brothers and sisters in Christ begin the clean-up and recovery from this disaster. Ask our Heavenly Father to send His Holy Spirit to give comfort, courage, strength, and hope in His love and plans as they struggle during these trying times.

Walk with Paul

A group trip to Greece and Turkey is planned for May 27-June 5, 2024 with a possible three day extension to Rome for those who are interested. The trip will include visits to Athens, Corinth, Berea, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Ephesus and much more. It will include visits to the traditional sites of many of the cities and churches the Apostle Paul visited as recorded in the Book of Acts. We will be reminded of the zeal and spread of the early Christian church. The extension to Rome will include visits to the Sistine Chapel, Basilica of St. Peter, Catacombs, Colosseum, St. Paul's Church, and more. A video of a similar trip can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ul-o6E47MMw>. If you would like more information about this trip, please contact Nathanael Mayhew (nnmayhew@sleepyeyelutheran.com). Brochures with additional trip details are available upon request.

<i>Bible Readings:</i>	
12/10	Acts 20-21
12/11	Acts 22-24
12/12	Acts 25-27
12/13	Acts 28; Col 1
12/14	Col 2-4; Phlm; Eph 1
12/15	Eph 2-5
12/16	Eph 6; Phil 1-3

<i>December Ushers</i>	<i>Cleaning Teams 12/15-12/22</i>
Kenny Winters Ian Stewart Jared Mueller <i>Advent: J & E Bailey</i>	Church: Mackensen
<i>December Slideshow</i> David Albrecht <i>Advent: Eric Williams</i>	School: P/E Tiefel E. Gurgel

<i>Fruits of Faith</i>	<i>Last Week:</i>	<i>To Date:</i>
Budgetary Offerings*:	\$8,095.45	\$172,599.90
Budgetary Needs:	\$8,380.21	\$190,235.38
Over (Under) Budget:	(\$284.76)	(\$17,635.48)
MSAF:	\$50.00	\$704.75
Kinship:	\$70.00	\$822.56
MDF:	\$120.00	\$750.00

**includes November e-giving 11/25-30: \$349.50
Attendance Last Sunday: 114*

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