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December 8, 2024

Advent 2



We Welcome Our Visitors who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.
We invite you to join us every Sunday. Please sign our guestbook in the entry.
If you would like more information about our church, please contact the pastor.

✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 24 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

Greeting and prayer: (Pastor)

Advent Candle Lighting - #2 PEACE

We light the second Advent candle, the candle of PEACE. Our HOPE is in God, and in His son Jesus Christ. Our PEACE is found only in Him. We light this candle to remind us that He brings the PEACE of forgiveness to all who trust in Him.



Opening Hymn: 349 *Hark the Glad Sound!*

LSB 349

SERVICE OF THE WORD

(Worship Supplement, p. 12)

Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful by nature. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy upon me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. Through faith in Him, which was created in you by the Holy Spirit, you are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C Amen.

Kyrie *Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.* W.S. p. 13

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

Gloria in Excelsis *Latin for "Glory to God in the highest."* W.S. p. 13

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 of the Day

P We pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, so govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit so that we are always mindful of Your glorious return. Keep us watchful while we wait and by Your Spirit cause us to persevere in both faith and godly living. We pray this in Your name, dear Jesus, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14 (EHV)

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: For the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some consider slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved as they burn with great heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be, living in holiness and godliness, ¹² as you look forward to and hasten the coming of the day of God? That day will cause the heavens to be set on fire and destroyed, and the elements to melt as they burn with great heat. ¹³ But according to his promise we look forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to these things, make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless in his sight.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 96:2, 3, 9; 11-13 (Worship Supplement – p. 26)

SING TO THE LORD

Antiphon



Psalm Tone



Sing to the LORD, ^ˆ bless His name;*
Proclaim the good news of His salvation
from ^ˆ day to day.

Declare His glory among the ^ˆ nations,*
His wonders among all ^ˆ peoples.

Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of ^ˆ holiness!*
Tremble before Him, ^ˆ all the earth.

Antiphon

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the ^ˆ earth be glad;*
Let the sea roar, and all its ^ˆ fullness;

Let the field be joyful, and all that ^ˆ is in it.*
Then all the trees of the woods will
rejoice ^ˆ before the LORD.

For He is coming, for He is coming to ^ˆ judge the earth
He shall judge the world with righteousness,
And the peoples ^ˆ with His truth.

Glory be to the Father and ^ˆ to the Son*
and to the Holy ^ˆ Spirit,
as it was in the ^ˆ beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. ^ˆ Amen.

Antiphon

Second Reading

Luke 3:1-6 (EHV)

P The second reading is from Luke 3:1-6

G **Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene—² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.³ He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.⁴ Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth.

⁶ And everyone will see the salvation of God.”

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

Alleluia and Verse

When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing “Alleluia!”—meaning, “Praise the Lord!”



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**☩ 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 sits 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 Day: 375 *Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising*

LSB 375

Sermon Text: John 1:1-9 (EHV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

⁹The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world.

Sermon Theme: "Christmas Traditions" - Decorations

What are some of the symbols and meanings behind some of these familiar Christmas decorations?

† Advent Wreath -

† Christmas Tree -

† Lights -

Offertory

W.S. p. 16



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.

1. As angels joyed with one accord Upon the advent of our Lord,
So laud we all and bless the name Of Him who from the Father came.
2. He came, not clothed in majesty Nor pow'r that suits His deity.
In lowly state He walked till He In dying set us captives free.
3. This done, He soared to God's right hand, Yet orphaned not His chosen band,
For He, not bound in grace and pow'r, Attends His own each day and hour.
4. In ev'ry age--let praise abound--He comes; we hear His voice resound.
His glorious gospel does not cease To bring us comfort, joy, and peace.
5. He comes in water to the child And cleanses it, from birth defiled
This washing seals His pard'ning grace And shows the Father's kindly face.
6. He comes to us in bread and wine To give Himself -- and gifts divine.
Oh, praise Him for this sacrament, Redeeming love's great testament!
7. Lift up your heads! All grief and pain Shall vanish when He comes again.
Where we shall see Him face to face, There joy alone shall have a place.

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, b. 1905, abr., alt.

Tune: Latin melody, 15th cent., adapt.

Text from the Worship Supplement 2000.

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Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

Prayer of the Church *We bring our prayers to God.*

Lord's Prayer

**☩ 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.**

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

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



Closing Hymn: 386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice *(please stand for last verse)* LSB 386

Announcements



Welcome! We welcome all our visitors this morning.
Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again soon.

Today: **Choir Practice – 8am**
12/8/24 **Worship – 9am**
Children’s Christmas Eve Practice (sanctuary) & **Bible Class – 10:15am**

This Week: **Tuesday – Board of Elders – 6pm**
Wednesday – Wed. Advent Worship #2 – 6:30pm
Church Cleaning: Team #5 (12/7-12/13); Team #6 (12/14-12/20)

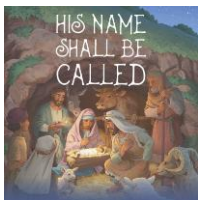
Next Sunday: **Choir Practice – 8am**
12/15/24 **Worship – 9am**
Church Photo Updates – 10am (see announcement below)
Children’s Christmas Eve Practice (sanctuary) & **Bible Class – 10:15am**

Church Photo Board Updates – Sun. Dec. 15th –

We are updating the photo board in the entryway and will be taking photos after the service on Sunday, December 15th. Hannah Barthels will be taking the photos and she and Lisa Lisak have a list of people who either aren’t on the board yet or need their photo updated because of new family members, etc., but anyone is welcome to come get a new photo taken if you’d like one. Families with children who will be practicing for the Christmas Eve service should be ready to go first. Photos will be taken in pastor’s office. New photos will be added to the board, Lord willing, after the New Year. If you have questions please contact Hannah Barthels.



Wed. Advent Worship - 12/11, & 12/18 @ 6:30pm - Make plans to join us as we continue our



Wed. Advent Worship Services in December **at 6:30pm each Wednesday.** Our series this year will be entitled: "His Name Shall Be Called." In this year's Advent series, we are going to examine four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. Those titles are "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Everlasting Father," and "Prince of Peace." We will learn how each of these titles describes something about *who* Jesus is and *what* He did for our salvation.

Door Locks / Key Fob Issues – This past week the electronic church door locks went through a software update which inadvertently caused a malfunction and the loss of our key fob information. Most of the key fob numbers have been re-entered into the system and should be working now. If you are having trouble getting your key fob to work on the church entry doors please email your name and the first 5 digits of your key fob number (located on the back of the fob) to the Board of Property at property@messiahhc.org.



(Note: You can test your fob at either door. If the panel flashed red & green that indicates that your fob needs to be reset.)

Slide Show Operator Volunteers Needed - The Board of Elders is looking for additional volunteers willing to serve as Slide Show Operators for church services. We're looking for at least 2 more individuals—men or women—who are willing to serve as volunteers for this role. If you are interested, please contact Eric Williams via email (eandhwilliams@hotmail.com) or text (**414-587-5062**). Thank you!



Pastoral "Get to Know Each Other" Visits / Pastor Luke's Contact Info – I would like to have a "face to face" visit, which would include a short devotion, with each family and/or individual in the congregation over the next few months. Wherever is most convenient and comfortable for you will work just fine for me (my office, your home, a coffee shop, etc.). Feel free to contact me via email, text, or phone call if you know of a day and time that will work for you. If I don't hear from you, rest assured, I will be contacting you! I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know each other better soon! In Christ, Pastor Luke

Pastor's Contact Info

Email: LBernthal@messiahhc.org † Cell: **402-389-2147** † Church Office: **414-427-9337**

CLC Call News - Pastor Caleb Schaller of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI has **returned** the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Pastor Drew Naumann of Trinity Ev. Lutheran, Spokane, WA has **received** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

Bible Readings:

12/8	Hosea 1-4; Jude
12/9	Hosea 5-8; Revelation 1
12/10	Hosea 9-11; Revelation 2
12/11	Hosea 12-14; Revelation 3
12/12	Joel; Revelation 4
12/13	Amos 1-3; Revelation 5
12/14	Amos 4-6; Revelation 6



SCAN FOR
ONLINE
OFFERING

December Ushers

Andrew Albrecht
Mike Plockelman
Alex Saunders

December Slideshow

Eric Williams

Cleaning Team 12/14-12/20

Gescheidle
M/J Plockelman
R/A Davis

Fruits of Faith	Last Week:	To Date:
Budgetary Offerings:	\$7,832.30	\$167,387.28
Budgetary Needs:	\$8,571.29	\$188,568.38
Over (Under) Budget:	(\$738.99)	(\$21,181.10)
Kinship:	\$30.00	\$1,971.96
ILC Building Fund:	\$50.00	\$850.00
ILCSAF:	\$30.00	\$730.00

Attendance Last Sunday: 117 (Thanksgiving), **118** (12/1)

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