

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. John Werner, Pastor

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Principal & Teacher: Mrs. Kelsey Hatesohl; Teachers: Mrs. Laura Stunkel,

Mrs. Laurel Wurtz, Mrs. Renae Bott, & Mrs. Amy Duever

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Welcome to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are a guest or visitor with us today, we welcome you and invite you to come and worship with us again. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Pastor Werner, and we hope to see you again soon.

Remember that the Worship Service begins when you enter. As the Music for Meditation begins, you are invited to join in quiet, preparation time for worship. Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

Liturgy - Divine Service Setting Four (pg. 203)

Opening Hymn: 355 "O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"

Hymn of the Day: 357 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Distribution Hymn: 354 "Arise, O Christian People"

Distribution Hymn: 392 "God Loves Me Dearly"

Distribution Hymn: 332 "Savior of the Nations, Come"

Distribution Hymn: 333 "Once He Came in Blessing"

Closing Hymn: 359 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Prayer Requests

Please text or call Pastor Werner at (612) 716-4753 to submit prayer requests.

Prayer requests will remain for 2 weeks unless you specify a length of time.

Angie Reinert, Lorna Heitman, Loren Bott, JoAnn Ohlde, & Gladys Stone (nursing home); Micah Helms (cancer)

Acolyte today - Ian Ohlde

Acolyte Dec. 28 - Grace Meier

Ushers today - *Eli Thalmann, Daniel Nabors, Cash Stunkel, & Aiden Sweet

Ushers Dec. 28 - *Conner Ohlde, Mason Tiemeyer, Kingston Voelker, & Cade Hiltgen

Fellowship Hour LYF serving today - Gretchen & Samuel Bott

Fellowship Hour LYF serving Dec. 28 & Jan. 4 - Ben & Sam Werner

- LCMS memory verse challenge: John 1:4 - "In him was life, and the life was the light of men."

Upcoming Events

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| Dec. 21 | 8:30 a.m. Mixed Choir Rehearsal (new members welcome!)
9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Children's Program Practice |
| Dec. 24 | 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Children's Program |
| Dec. 25 | 9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Divine Service w/Holy Communion |
| Dec. 28 | 8:30 a.m. Men's Chorus Rehearsal (new members welcome!)
9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class; NO Children's Sunday School |
| Dec. 31 | 5:30 p.m. NO Midweek/Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Eve of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus
(w/Holy Communion & Installation of Officers) |

Announcements

- Please have your kid(s) in the fellowship hall at 5pm on Christmas Eve to get ready for the Christmas Program at 6pm. Thank you!
- Ladies - (re)develop or strengthen a daily habit of Bible reading the 21 chapters of John! We'll meet one hour every Monday, Jan. 5, 12, 19, and 26, and you pick morning (9:30) or evening (time tbd). Emphasis will be on developing the habit, overcoming common challenges, reading methods and tools, and group encouragement. Text or call Martha Hornbostel to sign up or with questions. (785) 747-7410.
- Linn Lutheran School Christmas Break - Mon., Dec. 22-Mon., Jan. 5. Classes will resume on Tues., Jan. 6.
- St. John will no longer collect Portals of Prayer; there is no outlet for them at this time.
- The Annual Association Meeting will be held on Jan. 11 at 1:00 p.m. at Zion.

As We Gather... John the Baptizer Points Everyone to the Messiah

The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mount Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Deut. 18:15-19). God, therefore, raised up a prophet like Moses—the Messiah, the Christ. God came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from heaven; the earth opened her womb and brought forth Salvation (Introit) through the blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Luke 1:39-56). The fruit of her womb is the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose (John 1:19-28). In Jesus we are delivered from fear

and anxiety. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:4-7).

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His Table those who trust His words, repent all sins, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily, according to Holy Scripture, do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, are asked to refrain from communing with us until such a time as they are properly instructed.

A short, more detailed explanation of our Confessional practice is available from our Ushers or Elders. If you would like to learn more about the Sacrament of the Altar and our confessional position, I would be happy to visit with you.

-Rev. John Werner, Pastor, St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

In preparation for Holy Communion, you may use the following statements as part of your self-examination:

- ☐ I admit that I am a sinner. **(1 John 1:8-10)**
- ☐ I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from all sin, from Satan and death. **(Acts 4:10-12; John 14:6)**
- ☐ I desire to live as God wants me to. **(John 14:15; 1 John 2:6)**
- ☐ I am sure of my eternal salvation because Jesus died for me and rose again. **(John 3:16; Romans 8:14; & 1 John 5:11-12)**
- ☐ I believe the Risen Christ is really present in Holy Communion and that with the bread and wine I receive His Body and Blood. **(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 4:22-24; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; Luke 22:17-20)**
- ☐ I forgive those who have wronged me.

Morning Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I

commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.



Introit (Psalm 19:1, 4-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a)

Shower, O heavens, | from above,*
and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness | may bear fruit;*
let the earth cause them | both to sprout.

**The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,*
and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.
Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the
end | of the world.***

**In them he has set a tent | for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,*
and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them,*
and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Shower, O heavens, | from above,*
and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness | may bear fruit;*
let the earth cause them | both to sprout.

Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

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.

Old Testament Reading: *Deuteronomy 18:15-19*

¹⁵ “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶ just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷ And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

Gradual (*Psalms 145:18, 21*)

**The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.**

Epistle Reading: *Philippians 4:4-7*

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 1:39-56*

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped

in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

The Meaning of *Rorate Caeli*

The fourth Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as *Rorate Caeli*, which are the first Latin words of the Historic Introit assigned to this Sunday. *Rorate Caeli* means “Drop down dew, O heavens” (*Rorate, coli, desuper, et*

nubes pluant iustum = Drop down dew [i.e., Shower], O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness).

Catechetical Review

Table of Duties

CERTAIN PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE FOR VARIOUS
HOLY ORDERS AND POSITIONS, ADMONISHING THEM
ABOUT THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers

1 Timothy 3:2-4

² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive,

1 Timothy 3:6

He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.

Titus 1:9

He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Rorate Caeli



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