

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor
E-mail: pastor.hayes@outlook.com
Pastor Hayes - Home: (785) 692-4228; Cell: (720) 897-6829 (call or text)
Website: www.stjohnpalmer.net

Member – Linn Lutheran School Association

Email: linnluth@bluevalley.net Principal & Teacher: Mr. David Beikmann;
Teachers: Mrs. Laura Stunkel, Mrs. Kelsey Hatesohl, Mrs. Ramona Tiemeyer,
& Ms. Robyn Meyer

December 19, 2021

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 Hayes, 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 Three (Page 184)

Opening Hymn: 354 "Arise, O Christian People"
Hymn of the Day: 357 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Distribution Hymn: 355 "O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"
Distribution Hymn: 332 "Savior of the Nations, Come"
Distribution Hymn: 356 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"
Closing Hymn: 392 "God Loves Me Dearly"

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please e-mail prayer requests to Pastor Hayes at pastor.hayes@outlook.com. Prayer requests will remain for 2 weeks unless you specify a length of time.
Angie Reinert, LaVon Hornbostel, Lula Stuenkel, Marilyn Ohlde, Loraine Oldehoeft, & Lorna Heitman (in the nursing home)
Don Dodd & Rev. Peter Lange (both hospitalized)
Ladonna Hornkohl (cancer treatment)

Acolyte this Sunday - Liam Voelker

Acolyte next Sunday - Gretchen Bott

Ushers this Sunday - *John Bott, Aaron Stuenkel, Cody Ohlde, & Tyler Ohlde

Ushers next Sunday - *Jacob Bott, Lance Gerleve, Brady Kolle, & John Bott

LYF Fellowship Hour today - Claire & Camryn Beikmann

LYF Fellowship Hour Dec. 26th & Jan. 2nd - Ella Thalman & Ryan Stuenkel

Upcoming Events

- December 19** 8:45 a.m. Mixed Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Christmas Eve Program Practice
(Mixed Choir rehearses with kids for 1st part)
- December 22** 5:30 p.m. Midweek/Confirmation
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Program Practice
- December 24** 6:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Program
- December 25** 9:00 a.m. Mixed Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion
- December 26** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. **NO** Adult Bible Class or Children's Sunday School
- December 29** 5:30 p.m. Midweek/Confirmation
- December 31** 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve/Eve of the Name of Jesus
(Installation of Officers)

Announcements

- * The poinsettia at the front of the church is in memory of Elmer & Lorene Peters.
- * Regular Sunday School will resume after Christmas on Sunday, January 2. Sign-up sheets are posted on the Sunday School bulletin board, so please check your calendar and sign up for teaching. Sign-up sheets will stay up until **today**.
- * Upcoming church events:
 - * **Monday, January 3** - Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.
 - * **Sunday, January 9** - New Member Potluck at 11:45 a.m., followed by Quarterly Voters meeting
- * **CHRIST FOR YOU:** Hear "Advent with the Apostles" on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m.), study Matthew 5-7 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m.), and hear the final midweek Advent service from Village Lutheran Ladue at noon on 12/22. Special "Twelve Days of Christmas" programming begins December 24 with sacred music, scripture, and prayer for the Christmas season! Tune in at kfuo.org or on the KFUO Radio app.

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).

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. Joshua Hayes, 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 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.

Please email any announcements for the bulletin to Theresa at
theresa_meier@yahoo.com by noon on Friday.

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.’”

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.

From a Sermon by Martin Luther on The Fourth Sunday in Advent

(John 1:19-28)

Now, if you are able to believe that this voice of John speaks the truth, and if you are able to follow his finger and recognize the Lamb of God carrying your sin, then you have gained the victory, then you are a Christian, a master of sin, death, hell, and all things. Then your conscience will rejoice and become heartily fond of this gentle Lamb of God. Then will you love, praise, and give thanks to our heavenly Father for this infinite wealth of his mercy, preached by John and given in Christ. And finally you will become cheerful and willing to do his divine will, as best you can, with all your strength. For what lovelier and more comforting message can be heard than that our sins are not ours anymore, that they no more lie on us, but on the Lamb of God. How can sin condemn such an innocent Lamb? Lying on him, it must be vanquished and made to nothing, and likewise death and hell, being the reward of sin, must be vanquished also. Be- hold what God our Father has given us in Christ!

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 (**Deuteronomy 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 (**Philippians 4:4–7**).

CATECHETICAL REVIEW

An Explanation of the Small Catechism The Lord's Prayer

The Fifth Petition: *(Continued)* And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

225. Why do we include a prayer for forgiveness of sins in these petitions to our heavenly?

We are not worthy of the things for which we pray and have not deserved them. We therefore need God's forgiveness so that we may pray to Him confidently and in good conscience.

"Where the heart is not right with God ... it will never dare to pray ... A confident and joyful heart can come only from the knowledge that our sins are forgiven" (Large Catechism III 92).

791 **Genesis 32:10** - I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness You have shown Your servant.

792 **Psalms 32:5** - I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord" - and You forgave the guilt of my sin.

226. What does God want us to do for those who sin against us?

Our heavenly Father wants us to forgive and to do good to those who sin against us.

793 **Matthew 6:12** - Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

794 **Matthew 18:21-22** - Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

795 **Ephesians 4:32** - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

227. What does it show when we forgive others?

It shows that we truly believe that God has forgiven us.

"Inasmuch as we sin greatly against God every day and yet He forgives it all through grace, we must always forgive our neighbor who does us harm, violence, and injustice [and] bears malice toward us ... If you do not forgive, do not think that God forgives you" (Large Catechism III 94-95).

796 **Matthew 6:14-15** - If you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Bible narratives: Joseph forgave his brothers (**Genesis 50:15-21**). The parable of the unmerciful servant (**Matthew 18:23-35**).

Rorate Caeli



December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Advent

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

304 National Road

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor