

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor

Mrs. Sheila Stuenkel, Organist

E-mail: pastor.hayes@outlook.com

Website: www.stjohnpalmer.net

Pastor Hayes - Home/Office: (785) 692-4228; Cell: (720) 897-6829 (call or text)

Member - Linn Lutheran School Association

Email: linnluth@bluevalley.net

Phone: (785) 348-5792

Principal & Teacher: Mr. David Beikmann; Teachers: Mrs. Laura Stunkel,

Mrs. Kelsey Hatesohl, Mrs. Emily Harding, & Mrs. Renae Bott

December 15, 2024

Third 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 (pg. 184)

Opening Hymn: 594 "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say it"

Hymn of the Day: 345 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

Offertory: 956 "Create in Me"

Distribution Hymn: 344 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

Distribution Hymn: 347 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Distribution Hymn: 349 "Hark the Glad Sound"

Distribution Hymn: 343 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

Closing Hymn: 348 "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

Prayer Requests

Please email 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, Marilyn Ohlde, Loraine Oldehoeft, Lorna Heitman, Loren Bott,

JoAnn Ohlde, & Marilynne Ohlde (nursing home), Judy Woerman (surgery)

Acolyte today - Cade Hiltgen

Acolyte Sun., Dec. 22nd - Nolan Meier

Ushers today - *Daniel Nabors, Zac Hiltgen, Greyson Ohlde, & Deavon Ohlde

Ushers Dec. 22nd - *Aaron Stuenkel, Dylan Ohlde, Emitt Tiemeyer, & Conner Ohlde

LYF Fellowship Service today & Dec. 22nd - Ethan & Gretchen Bott

LYF Fellowship Service Dec. 29th & Jan. 5th - Aiden Sweet & Liam Voelker

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 15** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Kids' Christmas Program Practice
5:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling at the Linn Nursing Home
- Dec. 16** 7:00 p.m. LLS School Board Meeting
- Dec. 18** 5:30 p.m. Midweek/Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent 3
- Dec. 21** 8:45-10:15 a.m. Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
9:00-9:45 a.m. Preschool attends
- Dec. 22** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Kids' Christmas Program Practice
- Dec. 24** 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Children's Program
- Dec. 25** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Announcements

- LCMS memory verse challenge: **Philippians 4:6-7** - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
- **Linn Lutheran School News:**
 - **Wed., Dec. 18th**, will be our Christmas Chapel at 8:30 a.m. at Zion. JDMA Orchestra, under the direction of Diane Hayes, will lead the chapel with some special Christmas carols and hymns. Please join us!
 - Dismissal for Christmas Break is **Fri., Dec. 20**, at **11:30 a.m.** No lunch will be served, and buses will run accordingly. School resumes **Mon., Jan. 6, 2025**.
- LWML will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Washington County Food Pantry until **TODAY**. The collection box is in the back of the church.
- See our bulletin board for a flyer regarding an opportunity at Zion to attend financial planning classes starting on **Jan. 19th**.

The Meaning of Gaudete

The third Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as *Gaudete*, which is the first Latin word of the Historic Introit assigned to this Sunday. *Gaudete* means "rejoice" (*Gaudete in Domino semper = Rejoice in the Lord always*).

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 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 85:1-2, 6, 8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4-5)*

Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will | say, Rejoice.
Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.*
The Lord | is at hand.

**Lord, you were favorable | to your land;*
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your | people;*
you covered | all their sin.
Will you not revive | us again,*
that your people may re- | joice in you?
Let me hear what God the | Lord will speak,*
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them
not turn back to | folly.
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.**

Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will | say, Rejoice.
Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.*
The Lord | is at hand.

Collect for the Third Sunday in Advent

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 40:1-8*

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
² 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.
³ A voice cries:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴ 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.
⁵ And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
⁶ 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.
⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the Lord blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Gradual (*Psalms 80:1-2*)

**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
Stir up your might and come to save us!
Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!**

Epistle Reading: *1 Corinthians 4:1-5*

¹ This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will

disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

Alleluia Verse (*Psalms 80:2b*)

Alleluia. Stir up your might and come to save us. **Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 11:2-11*

² When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

As We Gather... John the Baptizer Prepares the Way for the Lord

The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord . . ." (*Isaiah 40:1*). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah's coming through repentance, for "all flesh is grass" (*Isaiah 40:6*). Now He asks from prison, "Are you the one who is to come . . .?" (*Matthew 11:2*). Jesus' works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord's hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The "stewards of the mysteries of God" (*1 Corinthians 4:1*) still deliver Christ's overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God's people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.

Catechetical Review
An Explanation of the Small Catechism
The Apostles' Creed – The Second Article (Cont.)

Gaudete

The Two Natures of Jesus Christ

119. How do you know that Jesus Christ is true God? (Cont.)

Because the Scriptures clearly call Him God, teaching the following:

C. Jesus does divine works (which only God can do).

1. He forgives.

395 **Matthew 9:6** - The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.

2. He created.

396 **John 1:3** - Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.

3. He will judge.

397 **John 5:27** - [The Father] has given Him authority to judge.

4. He preserves.

398 **Hebrews 1:3** - [He sustains] all things by His powerful word.

Bible narratives: At the wedding feast in Cana, Jesus revealed His glory by turning water into wine (**John 2:1-11**). He rebuked the storm (**Luke 8:22-25**). He headed the paralytic (**Matthew 9:1-8**). He called Lazarus back to life (**John 11:38-44**). He rose from the dead (**Matthew 28:6-7**).

D. Jesus receives divine honor and glory.

399 **John 5:22-23** - The Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent Him.

400 **Hebrews 1:6** - Let all God's angels worship Him.

Note: See **Philippians 2:10**; **Revelation 5:12-13**.

120. How do you know that Jesus Christ is also true man?

Because the Scriptures

A. clearly call Him man;

401 **1 Timothy 2:5** - There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

B. say that He has a human body and soul;

402 **Luke 24:39** - Look at My hands and My feet. It is I Myself! Touch Me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.

403 **Matthew 26:38** - My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.

C. speak of His human, but sinless, feelings, and actions.

404 **Matthew 4:2** - He was hungry.

405 **John 11:35** - Jesus wept.

406 **John 19:28** - Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

407 **Hebrews 4:14-16** - Since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Bible narratives: Jesus suffered and died (**Matthew 26-27**). Jesus slept (**Mark 4:38**). Jesus was born (**Luke 2**).



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