

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor

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Mrs. Kelsey Hatesohl, Mrs. Kim Burke, & Mrs. Renae Bott

December 18, 2022

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: 392 "God Loves Me Dearly"

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

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

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

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, Lula Stuenkel, Marilyn Ohlde, Loraine Oldehoeft, Lorna Heitman, & Bill Burger (in the nursing home); **Edith Lange** (recovery)

Acolyte this Sunday - Kingston Voelker

Acolyte next Sunday - Liam Voelker

Ushers today - *Tyler Ohlde, Lance Gerleve, Dylan Ohlde, Ryan Stuenkel

Ushers Dec. 25th - *Aaron Stuenkel, Ryan Stuenkel, Daniel Nabors, & Noah Thalmann

LYF Fellowship Hour today - Aiden Sweet & Ryan Stuenkel

LYF Fellowship Hour Dec. 25th & Jan. 1st - Ella & Noah Thalmann

Upcoming Events

- December 18** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Kids' Christmas Program Practice
- December 21** 5:30 p.m. **NO** Midweek/Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent 4
- December 22** 6:30-8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Dress Rehearsal
- December 24** 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program

Announcements

- * Mark your calendars:
 - * Church Council Meeting **Wednesday, January 4th**, at 7 p.m.
 - * Quarterly Voters Meeting on **January 8th** after New Member Potluck.
- * Christmas Break for Linn Lutheran School runs from Wed., Dec. 21, at 12:30 p.m. (school will dismiss from Linn Lutheran after lunch) and run until Wed., Jan. 4, when classes resume. The last Chapel for the year will be on Wed., Dec. 21, at 8:25 a.m. at Zion, and all are welcome to join us! Merry Christmas & God's Blessings from all of us at Linn Lutheran School as we begin a new year!
- * Christmas Eve Dress Rehearsal is Thursday, Dec. 22, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Attendance is very important! We will practice with costumes. Preschool will be dismissed with parents after their part. Participating high school students are requested to attend for their part.
- * There will be no children's Sunday School classes on Christmas Day or New Years Day. Sunday School will resume on January 8. Teacher sign-up sheets are now hanging on the Sunday School bulletin board. Parents of Sunday School children, please check your calendars and sign up by December 25th. Thank you!
- * Zion Lutheran Church in Linn is hosting a circuit-wide Epiphany service and soup-supper on Friday, January 6th. The soup supper begins at 6 p.m. Worship begins at 7 p.m. There is no cost for the meal. All offerings will go to support the church-plant in Concordia, KS.
- * From Carolyn Dusin (volunteer at Edith's House) - "Edith's House" food pantry wants to thank you for helping stock our shelves with food items. Many families will be taking advantage of the pantry to put food on their table. Your work is truly appreciated.
- * The family of Lorna Heitman requests a card shower for her 95th birthday on Jan. 5th, 2023. Her address is: Lorna Heitman, c/o LCNH, 612 3rd St., Linn, KS 66953.

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.

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.

Alleluia Verse (*Psalms 40:17b*)

Alleluia. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!
Alleluia.

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.

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

THE CREED

*as the Head of the Family Should Teach
Them in a Simple Way to His Household.*

The Second Article:

Redemption

And 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 thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

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!

Rorate Caeli



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