

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

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December 17th, 2023

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: 347 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

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

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

Distribution Hymn: 340 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

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 (nursing home); **Joanne Dague** (knee surgery)

Acolyte today -Cade Hiltgen

Acolyte Dec. 24th - Piper Hiltgen

Ushers today - *Elijah Meier, Greyson Ohlde, Ethan Bott, & Aiden Sweet

Ushers Dec. 24th - *Eli Thalmann, Zac Hiltgen, Noah Thalmann, & Liam Voelker

LYF Serving for Bible Class today & Dec. 24th - Daniel Nabors & Liam Voelker

LYF Serving for Bible Class Dec. 31st & Jan. 7th - Zac Hiltgen & Noah Thalmann

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 17** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Children's Program Practice
- Dec. 20** 5:30 p.m. Midweek/Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent 3
- Dec. 23** 8:45-10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Program Dress Rehearsal
*Preschool practices only from 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- Dec. 24** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Children's Program Practice
6:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Program
- Dec. 25** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
- Dec. 27** 5:30 p.m. Midweek/Confirmation

Announcements

- LCMS memory verse challenge this week: Revelation 22:20 - **"He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"**
- Thank you to everyone who helped with the Men's Club soup supper before the first Advent service and also to those who came, ate, and donated money. We raised \$200, which was sent to the Washington County Angel Tree.
- On **Monday, December 18th**, the LYF is planning to attend the Cloverton Concert at the Rex in Clay Center. We will leave from the church at 6:30 p.m., and the concert starts at 7:00. More info to come on our Facebook page.
- Friends and family of Lowell and Dorothy Mueller are invited to recognize and celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on **December 22nd** by sending them well wishes via a card, note, or email. Please address written materials to 1601 N 10th Street, Garden City, KS 67846. Electronic communication can be sent to mueller@ionet.net.
- **CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFuo.org:** Look ahead to the Fourth Sunday in Advent on The Coffee Hour (12/20 at 9 a.m.), dive into Advent hymnody on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m.), and study 1 Corinthians 15-16 on Sharper Iron's "Nothing but Christ Crucified" (weekdays at 8 a.m.). The 12 Days of Christmas begins December 24 with music and messages for the Christmas Season! Find your favorite programs at kfuo.org or the KFuo Radio app!

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 (*Psalm 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 (*Psalm 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.

Gaudete

Catechetical Review

An Explanation of the Small Catechism The Ten Commandments

The Fifth Commandment

[God's Gift of Life]

You shall not murder.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in despise every physical need.

52. What does God forbid in the Fifth Commandment?

A. God forbidden us to take the life of another person (murder, abortion, euthanasia) or our own life (suicide).

150 **Genesis 9:6** - Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.

151 **Matthew 26:52** - All who draw the sword will die by the sword.

Bible narratives: Cain murdered his brother Abel (**Genesis 4:8**). David murdered Uriah through others (**2 Samuel 11:15**). Killing through carelessness (**Exodus 21:29 and Deuteronomy 22:8**). Judas killed himself (**Matthew 27:5**).

ABORTION

The living but unborn are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception. Since abortion takes a human life, it is not a moral option except to prevent the death of another person, the mother.

152 **Jeremiah 1:5** - Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.

153 **Psalms 139:16** - Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.

Bible narrative: John the Baptist leaped for joy while still in his mother's womb. In doing so, John the Baptist and Elizabeth, by the Holy Spirit, acknowledged the unborn Jesus as Lord (**Luke 1:41-44**).

EUTHANASIA

The severely handicapped, infirm, helpless, and aged are persons in the sight of God with life given by Him and to be ended only by Him.

154 **Proverbs 6:16-17** - There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood.

155 **Proverbs 31:8** - Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.

156 **Acts 17:25** - He Himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.



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