

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. John Werner, Pastor

Mrs. Sheila Stuenkel, Organist

E-mail: revjohnwerner@gmail.com

Website: www.stjohnpalmer.net

Pastor Werner - Cellphone: (612) 716-4753

Member - Linn Lutheran School Association

Email: linnluth@bluevalley.net

Phone: (785) 348-5792

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

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

December 7, 2025

Second 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: 333 "Once He Came in Blessing"

Hymn of the Day: 514 "The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us"

Distribution Hymn: 627 "Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"

Distribution Hymn: 508 "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"

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

Distribution Hymn: 336 "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"

Closing Hymn: 692 "Praise to You and Adoration"

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 - James Werner **Acolyte Dec. 14** - Hendrix Stunkel

Ushers today - *Ryan Stuenkel, Conner Ohlde, Noah Thalmann, & Kingston Voelker

Ushers Dec. 14 - *Elijah Meier, Ethan Bott, Deavon Ohlde, & Liam Voelker

Fellowship Hour LYF serving today - Liam Voelker & Cade Hiltgen

Fellowship Hour LYF serving Dec. 14 & 21 - Gretchen & Samuel Bott

Upcoming Events

Dec. 7 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. 9 6:00 p.m. Linn Lutheran School Board Meeting

Dec. 10 5:30 p.m. Midweek/Confirmation
6:00 p.m. Advent Supper
7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent 2

Dec. 14 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 & Children's Program Practice

Announcements

- Linn Lutheran School Chapel will be on **Thurs., Dec. 11**, at 8:30am, instead of our usual Wednesday. We have a guest that is going to lead Chapel, Michael Hageman, missionary in Tanzania. Everyone is welcome to join us and listen to Michael's message. Next week, the 3rd/4th grade classroom will lead Chapel on **Wed., Dec. 17**, at 8:30am at Zion. Mrs. Wurtz has 20 students in her classroom this year. They would love for you to join them on Dec. 17!
- Linn Lutheran School Christmas Parties are Friday, Dec. 19 (full day of school) & Thursday, Dec. 18 for TU/TH preschool. Christmas Break for Linn Lutheran School is Monday, Dec. 22-Monday, Jan. 5. Classes will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026.
- All of St. John's matching for Linn Lutheran School has been used for 2025. 2026 Matching will begin at the end of January, 2026. Thank you for the continued support for the Linn Lutheran Endowment Matching program.
- LCMS memory verse challenge: **Genesis 3:15** - "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

The Meaning of Populus Zion

The second Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as Populus Zion, which are the first Latin words of the Historic Introit assigned to this Sunday. Populus Zion means "People of Zion" (Populus Zion, ecce Dominus veniet ad salvandas gentes = People of Zion, behold the Lord shall come to save the nations).

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 80:1, 3, 14, 17; antiphon: Isaiah 62:11b, 30:30, 29)*

Say to the daughter of | Zion,*

“Behold, your sal- | vation comes.”

The Lord will cause his majestic voice | to be heard,*

and you shall have glad- | ness of heart.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph | like a flock!*

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.

Restore us, | O God;*

let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Turn again, O | God of hosts!*

Look down from heaven, | and see.

But let your hand be on the man of your | right hand,*

the son of man whom you have made strong | for yourself!

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.

Say to the daughter of | Zion,*

“Behold, your sal- | vation comes.”

The Lord will cause his majestic voice | to be heard,*

and you shall have glad- | ness of heart.

Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading: *Malachi 4:1-6*

¹ “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

⁴ “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Gradual (*Psalm 50:2-3a, 5*)

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Our God comes; he does not keep silence;

“Gather to me my faithful ones,

who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

Epistle Reading: *Romans 15:4-13*

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name.”

¹⁰ And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹ And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him.”

¹² And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Alleluia Verse (*Luke 21:26b-27*)

Alleluia. The powers of the heavens will be shaken, and then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. **Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading: *Luke 21:25-36*

²⁵ [Jesus said:] “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

As We Gather...

The Lord Jesus Comes on the Last Day

The day on which our Lord returns will be a “great and awesome day” (Malachi 4:5). For He will come in a cloud with great power and glory. To the wicked and the proud, it will be a Day of judgment that will “set them ablaze” (Malachi 4:1). The signs preceding this Day will bring them fear and fainting. But to those who believe, who fear the name of the Lord, this Day is one to look forward to and rejoice in: “. . . straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” (Luke 21:28). Christ our Redeemer is coming; the Sun of Righteousness will bring healing in His wings. Let us, then, give attention to the words of the Lord, which do not pass away. Let us “through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures” (Rom. 15:4) be strengthened in our hope by the Holy Spirit and watch diligently for Jesus’ coming. Then, by God’s grace, we shall escape all these things that will come to pass and stand before the Son of Man.

Catechetical Review

How the head of the family should teach his household to pray morning and evening.

Daily Prayers

Evening Prayer

In the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the cross and say:

In the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may also say this little prayer:

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. 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.

Then go to sleep at once and in good cheer.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

BEGINS FOUR SUNDAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

ADVENT comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming." *Adventus* signifies the approach of someone of dignity, power, and glory, someone who has the power to bestow favor or exact penalties. For Christians, the season of Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas, a time of patient waiting for the reappearing of Christ, and a time to cultivate the gift of patience for daily life.

Calendar: Advent begins the last Sunday of November or the first Sunday in December. It is always four Sundays before Christmas.

Customs: Colors for the season are purple or blue. At church and at home, light Advent candles (four natural beeswax candles or red candles). Beginning on December 17th, sing the "O Antiphons," which express Israel's yearning for the Messiah. During Advent, set up a *creche* or nativity scene at church or at home. The figures of Mary and Joseph should be placed in the nativity scene a day or two before Christmas. After the final Advent service, a Christmas tree may also be set up at church or in the home. From Advent through the season of Easter, the Gospel readings at church focus on the life of Jesus. Read Bible stories to children each day.

Populus Zion



December 7, 2025
Second Sunday in Advent

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
304 National Road
Palmer, KS 66962
Rev. John Werner, Pastor