

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011**

***PLEASE OBSERVE SILENCE AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**

Pre-Service Voluntary: “*IV^{me} Dimanche de L’Avent*” - A. Chauvet
“*Fourth Sunday in Advent*”

Welcome / Announcements

† WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP †

Prelude: Variation on “*Veni Emmanuel*” - R. Haan
“*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*”

(A brief silence is observed.)

† GATHERING †

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***THE GATHERING SONG:**

Hymn #257: “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*”
Stanzas 1, 2, 3 and 8

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

P: In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***Please stand if you are able.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (a brief silence is observed)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

so that we may delight in your will

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God,

Jesus Christ was given to die for us,

and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,

and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you

the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the name of the Father,

and of the † Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

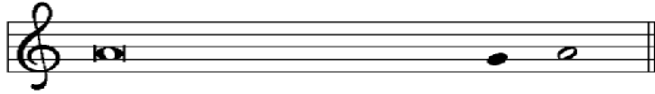
C: Amen.

GREETING

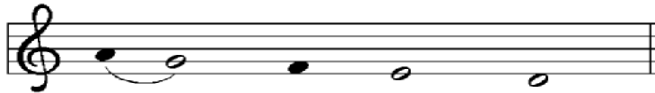
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

THE KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



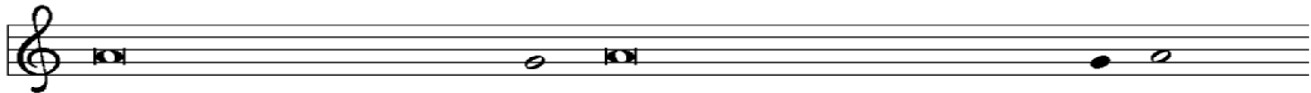
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



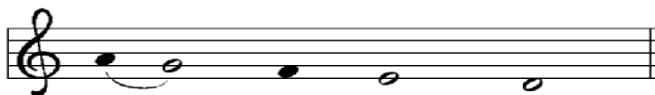
Lord, have mer - cy.



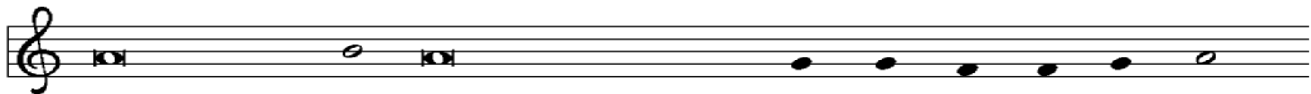
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

ADVENT READING:

- Cindy Harting

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send Divine love and light into our dark world in the Person of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Today we light the fourth candle of Joy.

The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

- Jessica Harting

"Light One Candle for Joy"

- N. Sleeth

Shirl Tobias

ADVENT READING CONTINUES:

- Cindy Harting

Now at the end of Advent, all four candles burn brightly with the light of Christ as we joyfully anticipate the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child.

Our time of waiting is almost over. Blessed are all who, with Joseph of Nazareth, have faith that Jesus will bring God's love to us. May we pray for the Light of Christ to shine brightness over and into our darkness. May the Word become flesh and dwell among us.

Let us pray: O God Almighty, purify us by Your daily visitation. We thank You that our time of waiting for Jesus is almost over. May we await the Light of the world with joyful anticipation, through Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.

THE FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

L: A reading from 2 Samuel the 7th chapter.

Instead of David building a house (temple) for the Lord, the Lord promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, the Lord's anointed.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

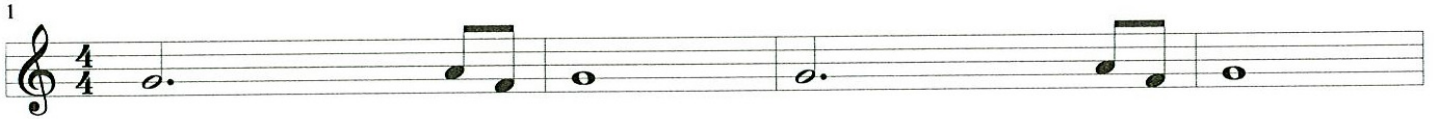
⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALMODY

Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19



¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.

³Restore | us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

⁴O LORD | God of hosts,

**how long will your anger fume when your | people
pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

**¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 16:25–27

L: A reading from Romans the 16th chapter.

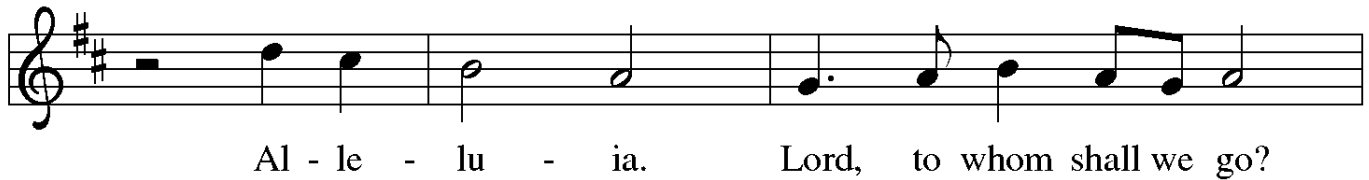
Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

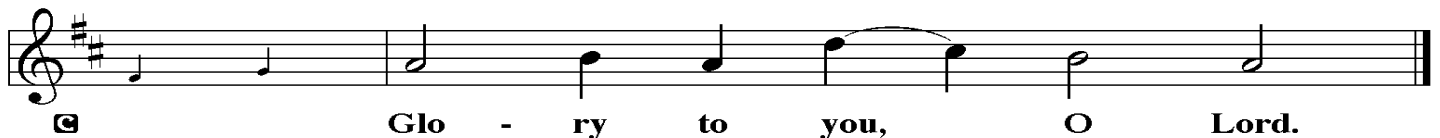
*THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26–38

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 1st chapter.

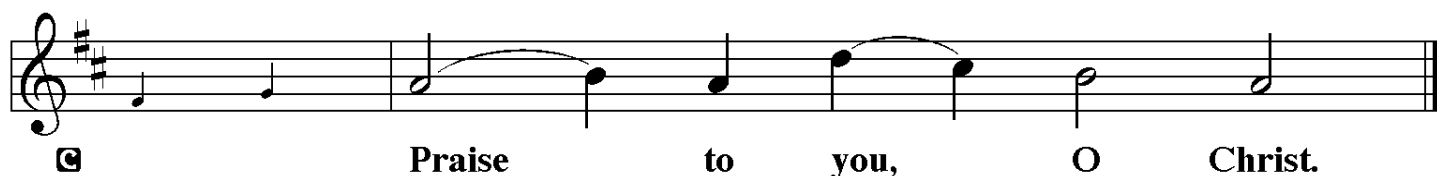


In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from littleknown places (Nazareth). This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in his gospel.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his

words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



GOSPEL RESPONSORY: *"Gabriel's Message"* - arr. C. Schalk
Chancel Choir

THE HYMN OF THE DAY:

HYMN # 263: "Savior of the Nations, Come"

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

***THE NICENE CREED**

C: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

† WE OFFER TO GOD †

*P: Walking in the light of the coming Savior, let us pray for the
church, the world, and all who await God's justice.

A brief silence.

P: Pour out your Spirit on the church, that its leaders and all the baptized may answer your call to be bearers of the revelation of your love for the world. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Restore wetlands and forests, waterways and the vast sky, mountains and canyons, and enable us to live in harmony with the natural world. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Unseat from their thrones those who use their power to exploit others, and raise up leaders in our nation and throughout the world who will work for justice and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Look with favor on the sick (*especially*), the lonely, victims of war and of domestic violence, the homeless, and those living in poverty. Fill them all with good things. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Remember with mercy the children of our congregation, that their excitement and anticipation during this season matures into joy and lasting peace in the revelation of the gift of your Son. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: With thanksgiving for the faithful witness of Mary and all the saints who have responded to your steadfast love, inspire us also to be servants of your will. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love and faithfulness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

*THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY:

– D. Buxtehude

Paraphrase on “*Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland*”

Tune of Hymn of the Day

*OFFERING HYMN: “*Let the Vineyards...*”

Hymn 181

*OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

C: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

† WE CELEBRATE THE LORD’S SUPPER †

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

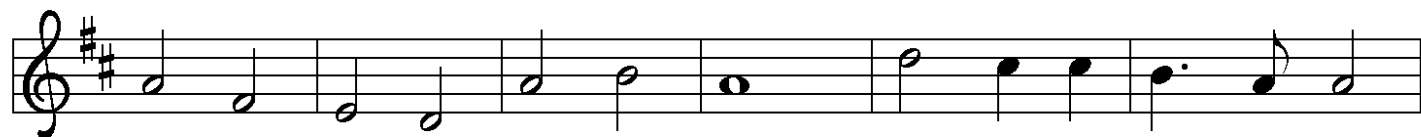
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***THE PREFACE:**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....
We praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

***THE SANCTUS**



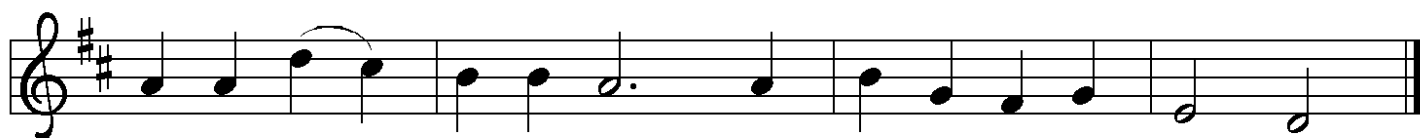
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THE PREFACE CONTINUES**

You are indeed Holy

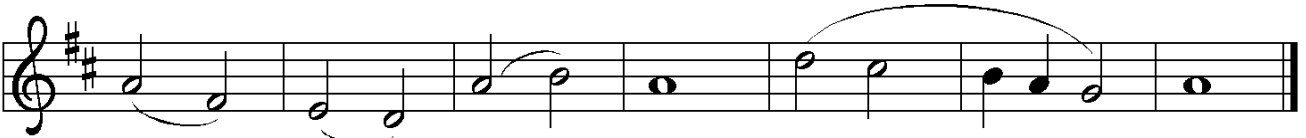
***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed,.....
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we
proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
 To You, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and
 glory in Your holy church, now and forever.

*C: 
 A - men, a - men, a - men.

***TRADITIONAL LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

***DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

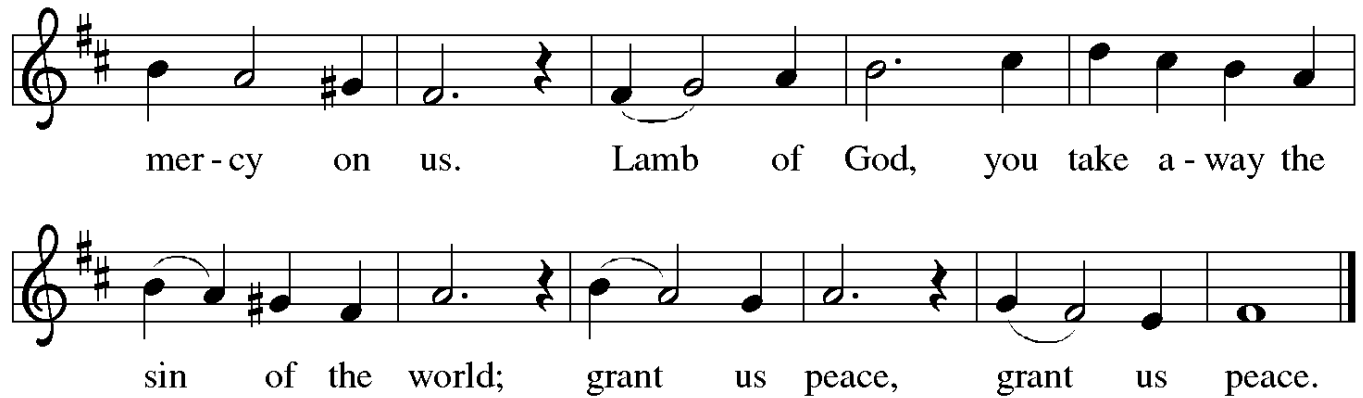
***THE AGNUS DEI**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

All Baptized Christians Are Invited To Receive Holy Communion. We Ask Parents to Bring Their Non-communing Children with Them to the Communion Rail.

Please Approach The Rail Using the Chancel. We now distribute communion by pouring. Please pick up an empty cup in the chancel. After Receiving Communion, Exit By Way Of The Side Door.

During Communion

Hymn 243: “Lost in the Night” (Choir only)

Hymn 295: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Hymn 490: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Hymn 262: “Wait for the Lord” (sing 3 times)

*Post Communion Blessing

***Post Communion Canticle: “Thankful Hearts...” Hymn #207**

*Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

† WE LEAVE TO SERVE †

***BENEDICTION AND BLESSING WITH SUNG "AMENS"**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen. Amen. Amen. (sung responsively)

***SENDING SONG:**

Hymn #510: *"Word of God, Come Down to Earth"*

***CLOSING PRAYER**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *"Be Thou Welcome, Jesus"*

– J.S. Bach

Acolyte: Gus Barr

Communion Assistants: Bob Getz and Shirley Sweigart

Scripture Reader: Amanda Drexel

Nursery: Troy and Diane Adair

Greeters: Children of the Sunday School

Ushers: Kristi Leonhard (Head), Tess Freeman, Shari Weaver, Gail Harker, David Haldeman (alt.)



The Altar Flowers Are Dedicated to the Glory of God by Elva Leisey in Memory of Carrie Getz.

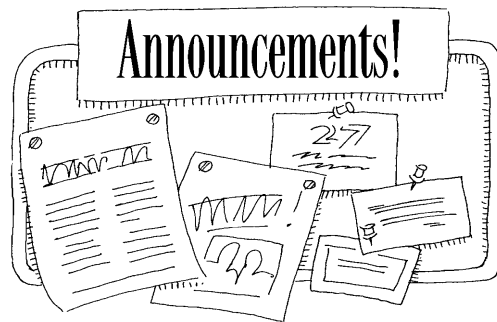
***Welcome to all!** If you have come as a visitor, we hope that you'll leave as a friend who's been blessed by worshiping in this house of God. We encourage you to join us again.

***Hearing Assistance Units Are Available** for anyone who has difficulty hearing. Prior to worship, please contact an usher if you wish to use one of the units during worship.

Please visit Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church on Facebook or visit us on the web at www.mellingers.org!

***Worship Bags For Children** are available on the first pew in the back of the church. Please take one during worship. Just return the bag, crayons, and storybook – the rest can be kept. Thank you!

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Pastor's Contact Information

Home: (717)738-3838

Mobile: (717)468-9049

Work: (717)336-8800

* Call anytime on cell phone

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH SECRETARY FOR AVAILABILITY BEFORE SCHEDULING EVENTS AT THE CHURCH!



***In the event of wintry snow and/ or ice** please call the church at 336-8800 after 7:00 am on Sunday morning to verify whether or not church will be canceled.

† **ACTIVITIES** †

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES: 9:00 am Holy Communion/ Sunday School Christmas Program; Coffee Social Time Following Service, 10:30 am Sunday School; 2:00 – 5:00 pm Christmas Caroling/Youth Group.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES: **Monday:** 9:30 am Women in Prayer; 7:00 pm Boy Scouts; **Tuesday:** 7:00 pm Cub Scouts; **Thursday:** 6:00 pm Free Community Meal at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ephrata; 6:45 pm Chancel Choir; **Saturday:** 10:00 am Pastor Tim Worship at Denver Nursing Home; 5:00 - 5:30 pm Evening Prayer (Vespers); 7:00 pm Pre-Service Christmas Music; 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion.

ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER 25, 2011–Christmas Day Readings and Carols with Holy Communion: 9:00 am Holy Communion Coffee Social Time Following Service.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR DECEMBER 25, 2011–Christmas Day Lessons and Carols: Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, Psalm 96, Luke 2:1-12, 15-20.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- **Reflective Service of Evening Prayer (Vespers):** Saturdays 5:00 to 5:30.
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Communion on December 24, 2011:** 7:00 pm Pre-Service Music; 7:30 pm Holy Communion
- **Needed:** Lay Worship Leader, Acolyte, Candlebearer or Crucifier. Anyone interested in participating in worship as a leader in this way should contact Pastor Tim or the Church office.

HOLIDAY CANDLE SALE:

Candles are available for pickup.

ALTAR FLOWER/BULLETIN DEDICATION CHARTS

The 2012 altar flower and bulletin dedication charts are posted for you to start your dedications.

COMMUNION CARDS

If you have communed and not completed a communion card, please do so now in order to update our records. Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation with this matter.

MISSION SUPPORT

On Tuesday, November 8th, 2011 the church council voted unanimously to use funds from the money market to pay 3 months of Mission Support and 3 months of Hunger Appeal in which we are behind due to a shortfall in budgeted giving receipts.

POINSETTIAS

It's the time of year for ordering poinsettias for the Christmas season. The price for one 6.5" potted, red poinsettia with 5+ blooms will be \$6.00. Order forms are available on the table in the Narthex. Please complete the order form to include your name, telephone number, number of poinsettia plants, and the total amount due. Please list to whom you would like the poinsettias made in memory of or in honor of. Include your cash or check inside the envelope and place the envelope in the SPECIAL FLOWERS mailbox or give to Melanie Brubaker at church. Please make checks payable to Mellingers Lutheran Church.

DUE DATE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS IS TODAY!

Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Service, Saturday, December 24 or Sunday, December 25.

LUTHER ACRES

Please check the vestibule for the list of gifts we will be providing for four residents who have no family and very few visitors.

PRAYER CORNER

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (717) 336-8800 OR SEND AN EMAIL TO mellingerslutheran@gmail.com IF YOU HAVE AN UPDATE FOR PRAYER CORNER. Thank you!

PRAYER CORNER:

Please keep the following people in your prayers this week:



EPHRATA HOSPITAL: Jay Weaver

JOHN HOPKINS HOSPITAL: Lyman Hainley

PLEASANT VIEW (Manheim): Verna Snyder

REHAB IN INDIANA: Kathleen Jeffers

HERSHEY MEDICAL CENTER: Dave Emberger

HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORM/EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS:

Halligan Family, Ed Leed Jr. Family (Sayre, PA)

CHURCH MEMBERS AT HOME: Mary Burkholder, Kim Craven, Lorriane Eberly, Barbara Fetter, Bessie Fetter, Vivian Gehr, Sue Gray, Georgette Haldeman, Kathryn Hertzog, Ann Jones, Elva Leisey, Piper Leonhard, Lottie Leshner (w/son Ron), Pauline Martin, Judy Meckley, Ruth Messner, Ginger Mohler, Readith Petery, Shirl Tobias, Betty Weik, Deb Zerbe, Clair Adams, Leonard Gehman, Sam Heiser, Richard Keller, Nevin Keiffer, Jeff Moyer, Tim Pannebecker, Luke Showalter, Ernie Shimp, Larry Weaver, Ron Weinhold, David Wilhide, Alvin and Ella Hollinger Michael & Marvin Showalter, Harry & Joan Wentzel Sr.

FAMILY & FRIENDS AT HOME: Norma DeLong, June Eberly, Susan Farr, Ruth Gregg, Katie Hartlove, Susan Hartman, Shirley High, Kathleen Kearney, Libby Kern, Caryll Lausch (staying w/daughter Lori Moyer), Bobbie Loose, Kelly Means, Amanda Meek, Art Mellinger, Rebecca Miller, Jean Newell, Fawn Sensenig, Becca Sprinkle, Lela Trout, Clyde Brown, Corey Ehret, Mark Larocca, Richard Lefevere, Pastor Greg Lindsay, Marvin McGallagher, Eugene Moyer, Ray Starks

We pray for friends and family at home. If you have family or friends in need of prayer, please contact the office. Then contact the office WEEKLY regarding the status of those we are praying for.

GRIEVING FAMILIES OF: Julie Hoyer, John Smith, Alice Hehnly, Dwayne Wentz, Paul Leisey Jr., Mark Ulrich, Pastor Paul Blank, Robin Plank, Dave Nolt, Verna Buchter, Dale Weik, Jr., Howard E. Allen, Jr, Evelyn Hauck, Elva Meckley, Pauline Wealand, Amanda Baum

ARMED FORCES: Jeff Barnett, Eric Clavier, Steven Fassnacht, Jason Freeze, Shane Horning, Adam Lausch, Patrick Thompson, Chris Weidman,
Troops in Afghanistan –Michael Guigley

PRAYER MENTOR PROGRAM: Emily Fassnacht, Zachary Freeze, Douglas Leed, Jameson Walters, Owen Weaver

	12/11/2011 9:00 am Service
Attendance	157
General Receipts	\$4,064
Capital Fund	\$0
Capital /Building Fund Repay	\$20
Bldg./Repair Fund	\$0

Receipts Compared to Budget As of 12/11/2011

General Funds

Adopted Yearly Budget \$233,345

	Receipts	Budget	Over/(Under)
MTD	\$9,671	\$10,582	(\$911)
YTD	\$200,987	\$222,763	(\$21,776)

Other Funds

	Month To Date	Year To Date
Building & Repair	\$510	\$4,545
Capital / Building Fund	\$120	\$2,430
Repay Capital Loan	\$20	\$1,262
Organ Pipes	\$250	\$5,870
Sanctuary Improvements	\$0	\$2,275
Computer/Office Equipment	\$0	\$2,900



DAILY BIBLE READINGS: 

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold
Monday	Luke 1:46-55	Mary's song
Tuesday	Luke 1:57-66	The birth of John the Baptist
Wednesday	Luke 1:67-80	Zechariah's song
Thursday	Isaiah 9:2-7	To us a child is born
Friday	Titus 2:11-14	God's grace has appeared
Saturday	Luke 2:1-7	The birth of Jesus
Sunday	Luke 2:8-20	Angels appear to shepherds

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said." **Luke 1:38 (CEV)**

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, we are your servants. Make us ready to accept your plans for us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come to our table.
Come into our hearts. Fill us with your love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be with you. May God's favor rest on you and the Holy Spirit come to you. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- How do you think Mary felt when the angel Gabriel appeared to her?
- Mary was given some amazing news that would change her life forever. How do you think you would have responded?
- Have you ever felt challenged by God to do something difficult?
- Read Luke 1:38. What can we learn from Mary's response?

DEVOTIONS:

In your home devotion times in the days remaining before Christmas, light all four blue or purple candles on your household Advent wreath and use the following liturgy:

Leader: "In the fourth week of Advent we light four candles – the candles of hope, peace, joy and love. We are getting ready to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, who is love."

On each day before Christmas Day, have a different household member read a bible passage about love: Psalm 36:5, 1 John 4:7, 1 John 4:9, John 3:16. Talk about the passage. Then, form a circle by joining hands around the candles and conclude with these words:

Leader: "Our household is a circle that is held together by God's love."
Response: "Come, Lord Jesus, and fill us with your love. Amen."

On Christmas Day, light the white center candle. Read Luke 2:1-7 and say together with joy the words of the angels from Luke 2:14: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

SERVICE:

Plan to visit a person who is homebound or in a nursing home on Christmas Day. Prepare a gift to bring them and sing a Christmas carol to them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Place figures from a Christmas nativity set (e.g. wise men, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, animals) throughout your home. During this week, move them closer to the manger. Have Mary and Joseph arrive first, followed by the shepherds and wise men. Last of all, place Jesus in the manger (on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day).

**Results of the Election Held At the Congregation Meeting
on 12/5/2011
80 Ballots Cast**

2012 Budget – 70 Yes, 1 No, 8 Abstain

2012 Council Elected

Tess Freeman – 77 Votes

David Haldeman – 77 Votes

Gail Harker – 77 Votes

Randy Brubaker – 75 Votes

Sam Heiser – 67 Votes

Ron Gehr – 63 votes

Also receiving votes

Skip Hutchinson – 4, Nancy Eberly – 2

1 vote each: Scott Brubaker, Dave Barr, Dave Weidman
and Troy Adair

Sunday School Christmas Program Participants

Abigail
Amanda
Brooklyn
Dillon
Doug
Elle
Elizabeth
Gus
Hayden
Isabella
Jameson

Jordan
Kelly
Lindsay
Meg
Nate
Olivia
Owen
Piper
Shannon
Victoria

Special THANK YOU to all parents and grandparents who brought the children to the practice on Friday night.

Thank you to Carl, Kelly, Lindsay, Martha, Nancy, Troy and Shannon for their behind the scenes help

The Sunday School Children would like to thank you for your support today and throughout the whole year. Merry Christmas!!!