

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

November 27, 2022 –1st Sunday of Advent

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”



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Welcome to Worship this morning. We will be sharing Holy Communion. Communion will be given two ways, you can either come up front and receive from Pastor, or Pastor can commune you, or you can pick up the convenient cup/wafer before the service and receive at your seat.

Reminder: We are videoing “live”.



The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today’s readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord’s coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

Prelude

Connie Odendahl

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bell and Lighting of Candles

Advent Reading

One: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light a candle to help us see. To help us see the signs of Christ’s coming and Christ’s presence. Though the sea waves roar and the stars shine but dimly in distress, Christ’s light pierces through the clouds of our fear and foreboding, casting gleams of peace and glimmers of hope. Though the heavens shake, we pray, standing tall with heads raised, watching for signs of God’s love. And so, we eagerly wait for the sign, in a manger, of God’s grace.

ALL: Blessed are those who believe that the kingdom of God is near.

Lighting of Advent Candle

Ian Blesner

Hymn “He Came Down” (vs. 1 sung twice)

Red Worship Book 253

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

C: Blessed be God’s name forever. Amen.

L: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: God of new beginnings,

C: we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

L: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ✝ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn "Fling Wide the Door"

Red Worship Book 259

- 1 Fling wide the door, unbar the gate; the King of glory comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the Savior of the world who brings his great salvation to the earth. So raise a shout of holy mirth and praise our God and Lord, Creator, Spirit, Word.
- 2 He is the rock of our belief, the heart of mercy's gentle self. His kingly crown is holiness; his scepter is his loveliness; he brings our sorrows to an end. Now gladly praise our king and friend, and worship him with song for saving us from wrong.
- 3 Oh, happy towns and blessed lands that live by their true king's commands. And blessed be the hearts he rules, the humble places where he dwells. He is the rightful Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, creator of the world, our only strength for good.
- 4 Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ; our hearts are open wide in trust. Oh, show us now your lovely grace, upon our sorrows shine your face, and let your Holy Spirit guide our journey in your grace so wide. We praise your holy name, from age to age the same!

Kyrie

Refrain

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of Day

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Psalm 122

L: I was glad when they said to me,

C: "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

L: Now our feet are standing

C: within your gates, O Jerusalem.

L: Jerusalem is built as a city

C: that is at unity with itself;

L: to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,

C: the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD. R

L: For there are the thrones of judgment,

C: the thrones of the house of David.

L: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

C: "May they prosper who love you.

L: Peace be with-in your walls

C: and quietness with-in your towers.

L: For the sake of my kindred and companions,

C: I pray for your prosperity.

L: Because of the house of the LORD our God,

C: I will seek to do you good." R

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

Second Reading: 2 Romans 13:11-14

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord (Spoken)

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

Red Worship Book pg. 205

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of Our Lord

Red Worship Book pg. 206

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Children’s Sermon “Walking in the Light of the Lord”

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

Sermon “Attentiveness”

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

Hymn “My Lord, What a Morning”

Red Worship Book 438

Refrain: My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning; oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

- 1** You will hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*
- 2** You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*
- 3** You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

Apostle’s Creed

Red Worship Book pg. 105

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering/Hymn “When We Are Living”

Red Worship Book 639

- 1** When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus, and when we’re dying, it is in the Lord. Both in our living and in our dying, we belong to God, we belong to God.
- 2** ’Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain, when sensing beauty or in love’s embrace, whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing, we belong to God, we belong to God.
- 3** Across this wide world, we shall always find those who are crying with no peace of mind; and when we help them, or when we feed them, we belong to God, we belong to God.

Offering Prayer

L: Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **C: Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

L: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

L: God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Red Worship Book pg. 208

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.

Communion Hymn "For the Bread Which You Have Broken"

Red Worship Book 494

- 1 For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured, for the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
- 2 By this promise that you love us, by your gift of peace restored, by your call to heav'n above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.
- 3 With the saints who now adore you, seated at the heav'nly board, may the church still waiting for you keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.
- 4 In your service, Lord, defend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward; in the world to which you send us let your kingdom come, O Lord.

Communion Hymn "Come, We That Love the Lord"

Red Worship Book 625

- 1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known; join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

Refrain: We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion: we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

- 2 Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God; but children of the heav'nly king, but children of the heav'nly king may tell their joys abroad, may tell their joys abroad. ***Refrain***
- 3 The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets before we reach the heav'nly fields, before we reach the heav'nly fields, or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets. ***Refrain***

4 Then let our songs abound, and ev'ry tear be dry; we're marching through Immanuel's ground, we're marching through Immanuel's ground, to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high. **Refrain**

Communion Prayer

Blessing

L: God the eternal Word who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, + bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Hymn "The King Shall Come" (Vs. 1, 2, 4)

Red Worship Book 260

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks, when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.
- 2 Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die, but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.
- 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn shall dawn upon our race the day when Christ in splendor comes, and we shall see his face.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

the worship is ended ... let the service begin....

****The Noisy Offering" for November is for ELCA World Hunger, there will be a bowl as you exit the church.**



Next Week's Readings and Psalm

First Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm

Psalm 46

Second Reading

Colossians 1:11-20

Gospel

Luke 23:33-43



Prayer Concerns and Sympathy ~Judy Oredson, Colleen Volden, Wayne Golly, Jerry Shober, Bradley Fairbanks, Leigha Ness, Kathy Thompson, Lana Jensen, Wally Guptill, Marie Sigler (niece of Virgil and Joyce Seegebarth), Yvonne Guptill, Drew (Mindy's brother), and Marsha Skoog (friend of Patty Sweeny).

Care facility member ~Dorothy Svendsen.

For Health Care Workers, Firefighters, EMT's, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.

For world peace. For our companion synods.

For our missionaries: Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke

Announcements/Calendar

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship/HC

Mon. 6:30 pm All Boards

Tues. 9:30 am Women's Bible Study.

Wed. 5-7 pm Confirmation; 5-6:30 pm FiA; 6:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer Advent Worship; 7-8 pm Youth Group.

Thurs. 8 am Men's Text Study.

Fri. 9 am Decorate Church for Christmas.

Sat. 8 pm AA mtg.

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Hanging of Greens Worship/HC; 4:30 Hinckley Seventh Day Adventist Christmas Program.



*Please help us decorate the church for ADVENT-9 am on
Friday December 2nd.*



**Please pick up your 2023 Commitment Card today
from the table in Narthex.**

All are invited to place your commitment card in the offering plate or put it on Kathy's desk. You can also, send it to the church- attention Kathy Thompson.

Please return by no later than December 4th. Thank You.



*Save the Date it's Christmas Program Time!
Everyone is Welcome!*

*Sunday, December 4th at 4:30 pm
Hinckley Seventh Day Adventist Church*

*If you would like to participate, please call: Lori 320-384-7046 OR Jodie 320-279-3000
Refreshment following program.*

Live Nativity

Saturday, December 10th from 4:30-6:30 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 16726 Grindstone Lake Rd.

320-245-2449

-Live animals and petting zoo. - Warm fires, chili, smores, and refreshment.

-Nativity craft for all children. - All are welcome!



First Lutheran will be collecting

Toys for Tots through Sunday, December 11th

Help make Christmas a happy one for some child by your donation!

Out to Lunch Bunch- Potluck at Noon on
Thursday, December 15th at Church.

Sign-up on table in Narthex or let Lois Kunze know if you are
coming.



**Farewell
Potluck**



*After Worship on Sunday, December 18th there
will be a farewell Potluck for Pastor Brenda,*

Donate to provide warmth to those in need locally by
placing hats, mittens, and scarves in the Giving Basket
in the Narthex.

Also, Check out the ELCA Good Gifts Basket!



CHRISTMAS GIFTS



**ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS**



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

You are invited to make contributions toward the Christmas poinsettias to grace our sanctuary during the Christmas season.

We must have all donations by Sunday, December 5th. Each plant is \$10.00

You are also invited to share your Christmas poinsettia from home if you wish. Please have your plant at the church by 9 am Thursday, December 22nd. It's a good idea to mark your plant with your name so you are sure to get your same plant home with you.

Information for the Christmas bulletin will be taken from this form. Please complete and be sure to list the exact information you wish to have appear in the bulletin. Thank you.

****Please return this to the office or offering plate by Sunday, December 4th****

_____ I will bring a Christmas plant for the Sanctuary

_____ I wish to purchase a plant

_____ In loving memory of _____

_____ In loving honor of _____

From: _____

Drop your check to First Lutheran Church into the offering plate and be sure to mark it "POINSETTIAS- Altar Guild" on the memo line. Thank you!!