

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 652-6700

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MINISTERS: Every Member

PASTOR: The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

MISSION STATEMENT: Nourished by Word and Sacrament, the mission of the members of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to spread God's Word in Jesus Christ through our thoughts, words, and actions, proclaiming God's good news for all to hear and live.

Please silence all electronic devices.

WELCOME! Please observe Silent Meditation during the Prelude.

PERSONAL HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE. Please see an usher if you have trouble hearing the service.

INTRODUCTION

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE—*Mary, Did you Know?* ~ M. Lowry and B. Green,
arr. F. Bock

Hymn #257 *O Come, O Come, Immanuel*

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH—*Christ, Be Our Light*
Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Sung by Congregation with Mask On!

Stand **Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God for whom we wait,
in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.

C Amen.

P God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
+ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

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**

Spoken **Kyrie** -

Have mercy on us, Lord and hear our solemn prayer.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.

Renew us with your saving power; create in us new hearts.

PRAYER OF THE DAY—Let us pray. . .

A Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C **Amen.**

WORD

Sit **First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a**

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of
the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

READ RESPONSIVELY BY WHOLE VERS

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly
servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,**
to remember the promise of mercy,
⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will,
O God'

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Stand/Spoken ***Alleluia.*** Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word. ***Alleluia.***

The Holy Gospel according to St Luke the 1st Chapter
C Glory to you O Lord

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

Stand **Hymn #250** *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

C **Blessed be the God of Israel**

who comes to set us free

and raises up new hope for us:

a Branch from David’s tree.

So have the prophets long declared

that with a mighty arm

God would turn back our enemies

and all who wish us harm.

My child, as prophet of the Lord

you will prepare the way,

to tell God’s people they are saved

from sin’s eternal sway.

Then shall God’s mercy from on high

shine forth and never cease

to drive away the gloom of death

and lead us into peace.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

The Prayers

A Hear us O God

C **Your mercy is great**

A God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C **Amen**

PEACE

The Peace is the link between the proclamation of the Word and the sharing of the Eucharistic meal. Our unity and mutual forgiveness come from Christ whose Word has just been proclaimed and whose meal we now prepare to share.

We pray for the peace of the Lord for each other. **“Due to the heightened risk of flu or other illness, please practice a “non-contact” sharing of the Peace until further notice.**

P Blessed be the Peacemakers for they will be called the children of God—Matthew 5:9

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you**

MEAL

Stand **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A God of our waiting and watching,

C **we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people.**

Prepare the way before us

as we meet you in this simple meal,

through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

C **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts

C **We lift them to the Lord**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

PREFACE

P It is indeed right. .

Spoken **HOLY HOLY HOLY**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow’r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.

C We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

C We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

C We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through
Christ Jesus,

by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Spoken **LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

P Come to Christ's banquet.

Feast on God's gift of grace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Stand **COMMUNION BLESSING**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER—Let us pray.

A Most High God,

you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,

through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C Amen.

Hymn #279 *O Little Town of Bethlehem Sing 2 vs*

C O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

C O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Sung by Congregation with Mask On!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is near.

C We will. Thanks be to God.

Please Remain Seated Till Dismissed

Please do not leave your bulletin in the pews, dispose of them in the Narthex in recycling can.

POSTLUDE *Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men*

~ J. G. Walther

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

NOON – Family Service

6:00PM Christmas Eve Service

Stewardship Snippet

December 19, 2021 (4th Sunday of Advent, Year C)

Micah 5:4 –And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Peace is the theme for the fourth Sunday of Advent. We remember that Jesus is, as Micah says, “the one of peace,” the shepherd who cares for us, his flock. Steward/disciples draw near to Jesus and find peace in him.

READINGS LESSONS for December 26, 2021:

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm: Psalm 148

Second Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Operating Receipts thru November 30: \$233,476

Expenditures thru November 30: \$266,129

Attendance: 12/12/2021 114 3 services

We look forward to continued support of our mission through your generous response to God's gifts given to us.

Altar Flowers are in Celebration of Christmas birthday of Christ, given by Emmor & Joe Boslet.

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary

Birthdays for December

12/01 – Taylor Trout

12/16 – Brandon Dinger

12/02 – Jonnie Deibler

12/18 – Emma Betz

12/04 - Suzan Seitz

Sue Senft

12/06 – Dolores Magaro

12/19 – Clint Harr

Caroline Gill

Linda Gingell

12/07 – Michael Nusz

James Miller

12/09 – Ryan Shadle

12/20 – Mike Betz

12/10 – Doreen Steinmacher

Colin McClenahen

Mary Ann Kane

12/22 – Austin Fleegal

12/11 - Adam Appleby

Bruce Senft

Jacob McClenahen

12/24 – Sarah Neidig

12/12 - Alexis Ulrich

12/25 – Christine Kroah

12/13 - Vaughn Heym Sr.

12/27 – Liz Harris

12/14 - Pat Ashbrook

12/30 – Frank Dillahey

12/15 – Mercedes Bretz

Madison Spencer

Ryan Shadle
PSC 559 Box 5043
FPO AP 96377-0051

He is stationed in Okinawa, Japan, if anyone wishes to send him a birthday card (12/09) or Christmas card it takes two weeks for him to receive mail.

REMINDER: 2022 Church Envelopes are in the hall by the water cooler. Check for friends or shut-ins near you if you don't mind taking them to them.

DEADLINE: for turning in your order papers for Poinsettias for Christmas Eve is Sunday, December 19th, this will give me time to do the list for bulletin insert.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

MINISTER OF MUSIC - Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk

MINISTER OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

- Bennett Williams

YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER - Kellen Michalowski

ALTAR CARE - Barb Heym; Sandy Dinger

**USHERS - Don Young, Doug Womer, Ed Shadle,
Chris Bair, Dennis Dinger, Dave Featherman**

GREETERS -

COMMUNION ASST -

WORSHIP ASST -

LECTOR - Mary Edna Leedy; Barb Dudek

FLOWER DELIVERY - Sandy Dinger

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Sandy Sherwood

NURSERY SCHL DIR. - 717-652-6700 ext 3

SEXTON - Don Young



Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

Books for 2021:

- *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* – J. D. Vance
- *Appalachian Reckoning: A Region Responds to Hillbilly Elegy* – Anthony Harkins
- *At Home in the Heart of Appalachia* – John O'Brien
- *What You Are Getting Wrong about Appalachia* – Elizabeth Catte

[Winter Youth Retreat](#) at Kirchenwald - January 7 - 9, 2022

Enjoy Kirchenwald in the Winter! Play broom hockey and other games on the frozen pond. Have fun sledding, playing snow soccer and other winter games. Creative Bible studies and worship experiences led by our summer camp counselors are an important part of this retreat. Meet new friends and catch up with your summer camp friends. Other indoor and outdoor activities may be included, as the weather dictates.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO WORK AT CAMP?

Kirchenwald / The Wittel Farm Maintenance Manager

The Lutheran Camping Corporation is hiring a motivated, faithful, independent worker to join our community as the Maintenance Manager for Kirchenwald and The Wittel Farm.



ST. MARK'S MEDITATION GARDEN BRICKS - Cost \$35.00 per brick (no limit). Order forms are available at both entrances to the sanctuary. Bricks can be purchased anytime throughout the year.

ATTENTION: So we can keep our Data Base up-to-date, if you have changes to your name, address phone number and your email address changed, or if your birthday don't show up on the list, you can call or send your updated information to church office.