

Third Sunday in Advent
December 16, 2018



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Peter Kufahl, Pastor + 507-822-3606

Marlene Rieck, Director of Music and Children's Ministry -715-891-0991

Steve Kolling-Choir Director-715-891-0927

Vicki Holewinski - JuBELLation Director

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

We Welcome All who are worshiping with us today. All guests please fill in your complete address. Peace be with you in Christ.

Attention Visitors: Thank you for joining us in Worship today. We invite you to pick up a gift bag, found by both entrances into our church.

Communion is Served at the 7:30 AM Worship Services on the 1st & 3rd Sundays and at the Sunday 10:00 AM Service on the 2nd & 4th Sundays

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Our Savior in the belief that here God offers His very Body and Blood in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. We are happy to welcome to the Lord's Table those who embrace this understanding of the nature of the sacrament, repent of sins, and seek to forgive and love as Christ forgives and loves us. We believe that such participation is a statement of fellowship and agreement with our church body and its teachings. As the bread and wine are distributed, white grape juice is also available in the individual cup tray for those that prefer an alternative to the red wine. If you have any questions, we ask that you talk with the pastor or one of the elders prior to the service.

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HEARING ASSISTANCE: Our church is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask an elder for a receiver. **Large Print Orders of Service with Hymns** are available.

YOUR CHILDREN MATTER TO GOD AND US! A cry room is available for **infants and toddlers** if needed during worship services. The cry room is located close to the front door of the church next to the sanctuary. **A staffed nursery for ages 6-36 months is available during the education hour in the cry room and during the 10 am worship service in the lower level.** Young children can choose one "Jesus Bag" to take with them into church. Please return the bag to the narthex after worship. Children may take a **children's worship bulletin** as they enter church. The yellow bulletin is for ages 3-6 and blue is for ages 7-12.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – All children ages 2 to grade 6 are invited to join us for Sunday school from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. in our lower level. We look forward to seeing you! For more information call Marlene Rieck at (715) 891-0991.

YOUTH BIBLE CLASS – Youth (7-12th graders) are invited to our youth Bible class in our youth room located in our lower level. For more information call Rick Behrens at (715) 617-0114.

THE RADIO MESSAGE for the week of December 16th is sponsored by Pat & Jan Grosse.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The King Shall Come to Bring Us Joy

December 16, 2018 7:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

“Rejoice in the Lord always!” may seem like quite the daunting task in today’s world. Yes, there are moments of joy, but there are also moments of tragedy and devastation. It is not possible to be always joyful. But rejoicing is not a task that we have to add to our to-do list. And we are not called to rejoice in everything always. We are called to rejoice in the Lord always. The God who rejoices over us with gladness and calms us with His love brings us into a relationship with Him that is filled with rejoicing at His presence and providence.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” LSB 515

MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government shall be on his shoulder and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9:6*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!
People: **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**
Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always!
People: **For He will rejoice over us with gladness.**
Pastor: Again, I say, rejoice!
People: **He will quiet us with His love.**
Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet.
People: **Righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
Pastor: In Christ, the blind receive their sight, the lame walk,
People: **the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear.**
Pastor: In Christ, the dead are raised up,
People: **and the poor have the good news preached to them.**
Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!
People: **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: On the four Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle each week. We mark the four candles with these four words: hope, peace, joy, and love. Jesus Christ is the hope of the nations.
People: **We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we hope.**
Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.
People: **We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rest.**
Pastor: Jesus Christ is the source of all joy.
People: **We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rejoice.**

HYMN “The King Shall Come to Bring Us Joy”

The King shall come to bring us joy,
To silence all our hate.
He comes in power to destroy
Both sin and Satan’s weight.
We light this candle and rejoice
That God has sent His Son!
We pray and praise and raise our voice
With thanks for all He’s done.

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 85:2*

Pastor: In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. While today is a celebration of joy, we know that on our own, we would be entirely devoid of joy. Without Christ’s intervention and incarnation, we would be lost in torment forever. We approach God in reverence, mindful of how unworthy we are to be in God’s presence.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we have doubted Your Son and His power. We have been filled with anxiety and stress. Revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You.

Pastor: The Lord God is in Your midst, the mighty One who will save. In Christ’s death and resurrection, God withdrew His wrath and put away His burning anger. He rejoices over you with singing and quiets your anxious hearts by His love. Hear these words of forgiveness, for they are from Christ Himself: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. “You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin.”

✠ WORD ✠

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

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.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Zephaniah 3:14–20*

(The Lord will rejoice over you with gladness.)

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.” ¹⁷ The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer

reproach. ¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 85*

Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. ² You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin. ³ You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger. ⁴ Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us! ⁵ Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? ⁶ Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? ⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. ⁸ 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. ⁹ Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. ¹¹ Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. ¹² Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. ¹³ Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

EPISTLE *Philippians 4:4–7* (Rejoice in the Lord always.)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 7:18–35*

(“The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.”)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸ The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹ calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰ And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹ In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²² And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ²⁴ When John’s messengers had gone, 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? ²⁵ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.” ²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” ²⁹ (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰ but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

³¹ “To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, “‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’ ³³ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ³⁴ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ ³⁵ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!” LSB 345

SERMON “Point A to Point B” Zephaniah 3:14-20

CREED *Nicene Creed* (*Creed can be found on the back cover of the hymnal.*)

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Dear heavenly Father, as we wait for the return of Christ, we often grow impatient. We are tempted to disdain our families, dismiss our friends, and deny our neighbors what they need. Our hearts are often far from joy, but we pray that You would teach us to rejoice in the Lord always!

People: **Again I will say, rejoice!**

Pastor: Lord, in the midst of our rejoicing there is also sadness and struggle. Some among us are sick, injured, and recovering. [*Today we pray for . . .*] Provide them with healing and calm their troubled hearts. In the midst of their suffering, teach them to rejoice in the Lord always!

People: **Again I will say, rejoice!**

Pastor: Lord, it is most challenging to rejoice when we are surrounded by death. Comfort those who grieve and mourn the death of loved ones. [*Today we remember the families and friends of . . .*] Place the hope of resurrection before their eyes. Remind them that in paradise we will all rejoice in the Lord always!

People: **Again I will say, rejoice!**

Pastor: Lord, we thank You for the times rejoicing is common in our lives. [*Today we rejoice with . . .*] Grant that their rejoicing lead us all to rejoice in the Lord always!

People: **Again I will say, rejoice!**

Pastor: Lord, many are struggling with loneliness, especially at this time of year. Inspire Your Church to reach out in friendship and love to those who need it, that together we all rejoice in the Lord always!

People: **Again I will say, rejoice!**

Pastor: Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your ever-present mercy.

People: **Amen.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22

People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalms 136*
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS LSB 208

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

LORD’S PRAYER

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI LSB 210

DISTRIBUTION

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” LSB 357 v. 1, 2, 6, 7

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*
People: Amen.

HYMN “Joy to the World” LSB 387

IN HIS SERVICE

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| <u>Elder/Helper</u> | Early – Bill Weber, Don Secord
Late – Tim Kadlec |
| <u>Ushers</u> | Early – Elmer Jensen, Del Keup, Mark Olson, Dave Kopanski
Late – Gary Fawcett, Gerhard Becker, Bill Reckling, Gerald Yetter |
| <u>Greeters</u> | Early –
Late – Hilde Becker |
| <u>Readers</u> | Early – Bonnie Jozwowski
Late – Cantata |
| <u>Acolytes</u> | Early – Jonah Walker
Late – Cantata |
| <u>Media Operators</u> | Early – Dave Parker
Late – Steven Rieck |
| <u>Altar Care</u> | – Lois Parnitzke, Kathy Greif |
| <u>Nursery</u> | - Education Hour -
Late Service - |

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***THE MISSION OF OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH IS TO EQUIP AND ENCOURAGE FOLLOWERS
OF CHRIST TO SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS WITH PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND IN THE
WORLD SO THAT ALL MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.***

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This week at Our Savior:

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| Monday | 17 | |
| Tuesday | 18 | 9:00 am Bible Study
9:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm JuBELLation Choir
7:15 pm Choir |
| Wednesday | 19 | 5:30 pm Confirmation
6:30 pm Advent Service
7:15 pm Parents & 7th – 12th Grade Youth Meeting |
| Thursday | 20 | |
| Friday | 21 | Office Closed |
| Saturday | 22 | 7:00 am Men's Interdenominational Bible Study, ER Firestation |
| Sunday | 23 | 7:30 am Worship
10:00 am Worship celebrating Holy Communion |

ATTENDANCE: Advent Service: 50, Early: 82, Communion: 81, Late: 241, Sunday School: 41, Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study: 5, Tuesday Bible Study: 20

ACTUAL to DATE (as of November 30, 2018)

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| TOTAL GIVING | \$ 348,633.01 |
| OPERATION EXPENSES | \$ 325,429.10 |
| BALANCE | \$ 23,203.91 |



God's richest blessings to you on YOUR special day!

Birthdays:

16 – Carla Klein, Dave Goddard, Eliyanah Welch **17** – Holly Nier, Raymond Hutts, Shirley Merz
19 – Patrick Heck **21** – Mark Rehorst **22** – Denise Riemer, Jay Numrich, Kenneth Alft

Anniversaries:

21 – Jay & Rebecca Shifra **22** - Gerald & Marge Baerenwald



Scrip



SCRIP sold on
Sunday between services

Prayers For Our Families – Without a doubt, one of the most important aspects of our relationship with the Lord our God is our prayer life with Him. We are instructed to pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17), and to pray for one another (James 5:16). For we are under attack from the devil and his minions constantly, and we need the best protection we can get! At Our Savior, we are blessed to be surrounded by families whom our Lord has called to walk together in the light of Jesus. Each one of our families has good days and bad, and each one of our families deserves our prayers. Each Sunday we will be praying for members of Our Savior. Those whom we will be praying for are selected at random from our membership roster, and don't be surprised if you will be receiving a phone call from Pastor Kufahl to let you know that your family will be in our prayers this week. We encourage you to use this list in your personal, daily prayers as well. Each one of us is precious in God's sight. May our Lord open our eyes to see the gift that each family is!

*Kenneth & Lisa Alft, Siera Eggleston, Ken & Joan Holdmann, Gail Lamantia,
Steve & Janet Meyer, Lois Rogers, James & Rosemary Strook*

Our Savior Email List - If you have not yet subscribed to our email list, follow the link on our website to sign up. If you are signed up and did not receive it, please check you spam folder and then make sure oursavioreagleriver@gmail.com is in your address book. Gmail users – these emails will appear in your "promotions" tab.

Nursery Director & Volunteers Needed - We are seeking a director for our nursery for infants & toddlers. This is a paid position. A job description and application are available in the narthex. We are also seeking adult and teen volunteers to serve in our nursery during the education hour and during the 10 am worship service. Please consider serving our youngest baptized members and those who visit as well.

California Wildfires - Once again our nation has been hard hit by a natural disaster. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is on the ground with supplies and care for those in need. If you would like to donate to the efforts, you may call 1-888-930-4438 to make a donation by phone. You can text **LCMSDISASTERS** to 41444 to make a donation by your cell phone. And you can go to the synod's website at www.lcms.org to learn more.

2019 Offering Envelopes are on the table in the narthex. Please be sure to pick yours up today.

Many Hands Lighten the Load - We know the saying well. When we have a big job that needs to be accomplished, we appreciate additional hands. We have some big tasks here at church where we could use your help. The **Altar Guild** and **Trustees** are in need of members to maintain our facilities in order that the Word of God may be proclaimed among us and to our community. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Pastor Kufahl or the church office. Thank you!

Our **“Words to Live By”** radio broadcast is one of our greatest tools for Evangelism. This certainly is in keeping with God’s command to “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.” (Mark 16:15) This program has touched many people. We have received many good comments and responses to these, a lot from people of other denominations and churches as well as from guests and visitors. We need your help to keep this program operating. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway (between the narthex and fellowship hall) for anyone who wishes to sponsor one broadcast - or a week - or a Saturday. What a perfect way to honor someone’s birthday, anniversary or any special occasion. It could be a memorial or “Thanks to God for His blessings.”

Parents of 7th – 12th Grade Youth - We will have a meeting DECEMBER 19TH after the Advent service to discuss youth ministry opportunities in the coming year: small events, trips, and fundraisers. Please plan to attend with your youth.

Youth in Grades 7-12 - Mark your calendars for the derby fundraiser weekends January 12 and 18 and Quake March 15 (sign up in January). Watch for more details.

A Generous Blessing & a Humble Heart - To my Church Family, Pastor Kufahl and my three special Angels I am writing to say "THANK YOU!" for your most generous gift of a much needed new roof! The leaks have stopped, and a great worry has been eliminated. I thank you for all your prayers and concerns, your much appreciated kindness and your Christian Walk. Thank you! GOD is good! Though I struggle each day I rejoice in the SPIRIT and know no wants nor entertain any complaints! I am truly Blessed. I pray to give thanks to our LORD for his continued blessings. I pray for our Church Family, brothers and sisters all, for our Pastor who guides us, for our Elders who offer their support, for each and every one of Our Savior Lutheran family who add to our strength, our purpose as we join together to Worship Our LORD! I pray to give thanks for our young people, our Church Leaders of Tomorrow! We are Blessed! With deep and joyous Agape Love, Thank you! - Jack Baer

The Martha Society members would like to offer our sincere “Thanks” to all who baked, donated, volunteered to help, and those who purchased cookies and other items at our recent Cookie Walk. Our hearts are bursting with joy and appreciation to all who made this event a success. One Hundred percent of the money raised will go to our mission budget. With that being said, you have helped us feed the hungry and warm the children, and the many other missions who will benefit from your contribution!