

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
229 South Broad Street  
Jersey Shore, PA 17740  
570-398-1676

Sunday, December 4, 2022  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent



**Children's Church will meet upstairs in the youth Sunday School room at end of the hallway at 9:30 a.m. Please take your child there before worship begins.**

**Introduction to the day** *At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

## **SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

### **Prelude**

### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

**The Advent Wreath.** *One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.*

### **Second Week of Advent PEACE**

*Use this blessing when lighting the first two candles.*

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

O people of hope, come,  
**let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.**

**Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 240**

*Light one candle to watch for Messiah:*

*Let the light banish darkness.*

*He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,*

*Gently lead them homeward.*

**Write on your blue slip of paper one way you seek peace in this world using one word.**

**GATHERING SONG: *On Jordon's Bank the Baptist's Cry* 249**

**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.**

**KYRIE P. 139**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

L: A reading from Isaiah

**First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10**

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L: Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse.

**PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>18</sup>**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;  
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup>And blessed be your glorious name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

L: A reading from Romans.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup>and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup>and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

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

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142**

*Alleluia Lord to whom shall we go?*

*You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12**

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People 256*

## **THE NICENE CREED**

**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.

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

*A brief silence.*

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians (*especially John of Damascus, whom we commemorate today*). Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation (*local examples may be named*). We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: You are the God of the harvest, our growing seasons are over, but we know that for others around the world the season is just beginning. Bless the work of Lutheran World Relief as they support and educate farmers around the globe and work to reduce global poverty. Lead us to a world where all are fed. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: 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.

**Amen.**

**Responding in Love**

**Our Offerings** *This is our response to God's grace.*

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *The Promise Coming*

*The assembly stands.*

**OFFERTORY**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me.*

*Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

A: 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. **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING P.144** *(in the beginning of the hymnal)*

**Dialogue**

**Preface by the Pastor**

**Holy Holy Holy**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**Words of Institution**

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,  
our Salvation and our Hope,  
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,  
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.  
At this end of the ages  
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love  
and to heal all the suffering world.  
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, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
in righteousness and peace.  
Send your Spirit on us  
and on this bread and wine we share:  
strengthen our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever. **Amen**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER P 145** *(in the beginning of the hymnal)*

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God, who has come to save you.

**COMMUNION**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond* **Amen.**

**Communion Song** *Lamb of God You Take Away p.146*

**SONG AFTER COMMUNION** *Jesus, Remember Me*

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*  
*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Faithful God,  
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,  
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.  
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,  
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.  
Guide us toward your promised future,  
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## **BLESSING**

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. **Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG: *All Earth Is Hopeful* 266**

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Announcements**

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate during Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshipers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving “The Body of Christ.”

**Remember in prayer:** Rowan Aldridge, Dave Barner, Agnes Cryder, Sarah Davidson, Don & Helen Delaney, Joanne Fisher, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, the Snyder family, Charles and Candace Welshans, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton – ELCA; Bishop Craig A. Miller - USS; for our Companion Synods in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and we pray for peace in Ukraine and an end to war.

We pray for the safety of our military troops around the world including Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Trevor and Nehemiah Eberhart, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, and Jenna White. We also lift up in prayer their families who strive to keep a normalcy in the family and continue on often with added stress.

Special thanks to this week's helpers: Lector –Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers –Ron Brundick, Deb Heydrich; Head Usher –Lon Myers; Teller –Bob Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor— Betty Allen; Children's Church – Pam Wehler.

Next week's helper: Lector –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers—Bill Ely, Jr, Ken Dougherty; Head Usher –Lon Myers; Teller –Bob Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor –Betty Allen; Children's Church –Molly Hollick; Flowers – Carsons.

The altar flowers are to the glory of God.

The Sanctuary Candle is given to the glory of God by Cozette Stoltzfus.

The Lutheran Church Women's Prayer Chain is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran. Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597      Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659      Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

Advent 4. December 18:

9:30 am Children's Christmas Pageant

10:30 am Congregation Christmas Dinner.

Bring a covered dish, your own dishes and silverware. Meat and drinks will be provided.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Invite your family, neighbors, and friends to join us!

Join us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

4:00 p.m. Christmas Service at St. John Lutheran

7:00 p.m. at St. James Lutheran

10:00 p.m. Special Christmas Music at St. John Lutheran

10:30 p.m. Christmas Service at St. John Lutheran

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, Christmas Worship at St. John Lutheran 9:30 a.m.

**Christian Education** is seeking volunteers to lead Children's Church once a month. If interested please see Cathy Eisner. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays are open.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO RESUME NURSERY.** We are in need of adult and teen volunteers to supervise toddlers/babies in the nursery during church. Please contact Molly Hollick, or Ken Dougherty if you would be willing to help out or have any questions. Our hope is to get enough volunteers to have a monthly rotation cycle.

**ANGEL TREE GIFTS**, unwrapped with the angel tag are due back TODAY! Thank you for your participation and donations.

**GINGERBREAD HOUSES !!!** The Youth will be constructing their Gingerbread Houses after church TODAY!

Mark your calendar! The **Annual Christmas Bazaar** will be December 10, 2022 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. And as we start to prepare ....

Start saving your items for the **Cherish Moments Table**. You can bring them in and store them in the old kitchen.

It's time to plan your **Baked Goods** for the table at the Bazaar. There will be a **Cookie Sign Up Sheet** on the bulletin board. Baked goods cannot come in early as we are working around the food pantry. Baked goods can be delivered starting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 9 as we set up.

**Your 2023 Offering Envelopes** are available in the Tower of the Church. Please pick up yours and any of your relatives. Only a small number of people use envelopes but it is an important stewardship tool. If there are no envelopes with your name on, please contact Laurel Gottschall for envelopes. It costs us \$3.60 to mail one box of \$1.30 envelopes. Please save us money and pick up your envelopes or give electronically. Forms are available from the office or you can give on-line via the Vanco app.

There are Advent/Christmas Envelopes in each pew. Of this year's Advent/Christmas offerings, half will go to Mission Support of the ELCA and half will go to United Churches of Lycoming County. Only a small number of people use offering envelopes so these envelopes are available for those who wish to

#### THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, December 4, 2023

*Advent 2*

- 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Church
- 9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service.
- 9:30 a.m. Christmas Angel Gifts Due
- 10:30 a.m. Youth Gingerbread Houses Construction!

Monday, December 5, 2022

- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 5:30 p.m. JOY Class Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

- 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

- 10:00 a.m. Trinity Episcopal Worship. You are invited to attend.
- 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 8, 2022

- Noon – JS Ministerium
- 4:00 p.m. Pack Boxes

Friday, December 9, 2022

- 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Food Distribution
- 5:00 p.m. Set up for Bazaar

Saturday, December 10, 2022

- 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Women of St John Holiday Bazaar

Sunday, December 11, 2022

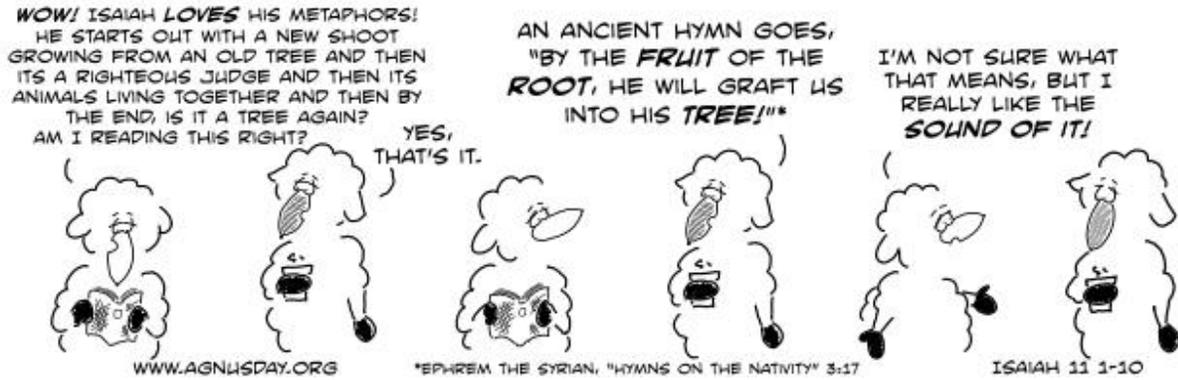
Advent 3

8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class

9:30 a.m. Children's Church

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service.

First Communion Kyla Chrisenberry & Jack Heydrich



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