



December 18, 2022 - 9:30 am

4th Sunday in Advent



GATHERING: The Spirit Calls Us Together

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent Song "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" ELW 257

Call to Worship

Gathering Hymn "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" ELW 244

Greeting

Kyrie

Hymn of Praise "All Earth is Hopeful" ELW 266

Prayer

WORD: We Hear God in Scripture & Preaching

Isaiah 7:10-16...The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 1:18-25...Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

“Stories of Hope”

Chancel Choir, Carolon Bell Choir, Middle/High School Bell Choirs

Radical Ringers, Sunday School Kids, & Friends

Directors: Theresa Howatt and Jen Fitzpatrick

Radical Ringers Assistants: Chris Roberts, Kelley Kennedy, and Elizabeth Yearwood

Keyboard: Bob Krueger; Bass: Geoffrey Jones; Percussion: Brad Yearwood

Reflection: Pastor Heather Grell

Chancel Choir & Congregation

“Light One Candle”

ELW 240

Reflection: Chris & Walter Roberts

Radical Ringers K-2nd Grade

“Good King Wenceslas”

Reflection: Sarah Duncan

Chancel Choir

“Breath of Heaven”

Reflection: Paula & Mike McDonald

Middle/High School Bell Choir & Friends

“God Rest Ye Merry”

Reflection: The Wellsandt Family

Sunday School Kids & Carolon Bell Choir

“Some Children See Him”

Reflection: Rohn Collins & Dave Magnuson

Radical Ringers 3-5th

“Bring A Torch Jeanette Isabella”

Reflection: Valerie Birch

Chancel Choir

“Gloria”

Middle/High School Ensemble

Sunday School Kids & Friends

Congregation Hymn

“The King Shall Come”

ELW 260

Prayers

Sharing God’s Peace

MEAL: God Feeds us with the Presence of Jesus

Offering

Special Music

Offertory

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

ELW 247

Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

Communion

Communion Songs

“Lamb of God”

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

ELW 251

Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING: Being Loved, God Sends Us to Love

Blessing

Sending Song

“Prince of Heaven”

Dismissal

Postlude

Announcements

- ⇒ **Call Process Update** Throughout the building, you will see **Call Process** posters. We are currently in the Preparation Phase, steps 2 & 3. In **Step 2** (The Transition Projects) the church council has been looking at community demographics, compiling a digital view book about the ministry of Holy Cross, and ensuring that our governing documents are up to date. In **Step 3** (The Ministry Site Profile) the church council has begun to compile and draft a ministry site profile for the congregation. Due to the starting of a new Bishop in our synod and the transition to a new synodical staff, our Assistant to the Bishop will change starting in January. Pastor Juliet Focken will help facilitate this transition and beginning in January we will be working with Pr. Gregory Berger. Pastor Heather will continue to serve as our full-time interim pastor throughout the call process.
- ⇒ **Centering Prayer Group** will meet Monday's at 1:00 pm in the Youth Room here at Holy Cross. Questions, contact Paula McDonald at 402-210-6040.
- ⇒ **Food Pantry** Our first Saturday of the month Food Pantry is Saturday, January 7th. [CLICK HERE](#) to help. We are in need of canned veggies, canned fruit, pasta sauce, pasta, cereal, juice, bar soap, and paper sacks.
- ⇒ **Recycle your Christmas Lights!** Joe Evans is taking old strings of lights to Scrap Central which provides recycling at no cost. There will be a bin in the Narthex marked Christmas Lights Only.
- ⇒ **Adult Forum** this Sunday continues through the Animate Bible series titled History – Parchment to Pixel.
- ⇒ **Middle School Gathering** 6th-8th graders are taking a trip to Kearney, NE for the NE Synod Middle School Gathering January 14-15, 2023. Cost is \$40 and registration forms have been emailed to parents. Registrations are due December 9th. Hope you can join us!
- ⇒ **Christmas Eve Worship:** 4:00 pm Carols, Children's Message, & Candlelight. 8:00 pm Carols & Candlelight.
- ⇒ **Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day** – Join us at 9:30 am as we Welcome the baby Jesus!
- ⇒ **Omaha Lutheran Campus MinisTREE** Have you noticed the Omaha Campus MinisTREE in the Narthex? On it, you will find various ways to support Omaha's Lutheran Campus Ministries. Please take a look and give as you are able! Contact Kelsey with questions.

Calendar for Upcoming Week

Sunday, December 18

9:30 am Worship - Stories of Hope
10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Forum
10:50 am Youth Ensemble
11:00 am High School/Middle School Bells
3:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 48012 Meeting

Monday, December 19

1:00 pm Centering Prayer Group
6:30 pm Boy Scouts
9:00 pm CMA Meeting

Tuesday, December 20

6:30 pm Council Meeting
7:30 pm A.A. Meeting

Wednesday, December 21

6:00 pm Confirmation/Uke Choir
6:30 pm Youth Worship
7:00 pm Radical Ringers/Youth Group

Saturday, December 24

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
8:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 25

9:30 am Christmas Day Worship

Prayer Requests from our Church Community

Member Concerns: Jan Swanson as she recovers from a fall. Connie Mertz as she deals with medical concerns.

On-Going Member Concerns: Edie Nabity at Hillcrest Papillion

Friends and Relatives: Todd Erickson, brother of Wendy Erickson; Jessica Sampson, Matthew Wrenn & Family, friends of Melissa Regan; Walt Weaver & Carson Rich, family of Carol Rich; Angela Gehring, friend of Brad Yearwood; Ronda Bayer, friend of Debbie Risinger; Debbie Haacke, coworker of Debbie Risinger; Logan Black, son of Joey Black; George Adamson, friend of Sue Spengler; Tatyana Povazhnaya, friend of Sue Spengler; Gaylen Grunke, Wes Grunke's Brother; Jason West, Sue Spengler's boyfriend's cousin; Andie Hunter, Elizabeth Yearwood's sister; Linda Anderson, Barb Kay's sister; Amy Churchill, friend of Barb Kay; Ronald Gulbranson, Julie Noteman's brother; Josh Prochotsky and family, Paula McDonald's nephews son and family; Aaron McDonald and Family and Caregivers, McDonald's grandson.

Grieving

Jim Schneider and family as they mourn the loss of Jim's mother.

Wendy Erickson and family as they mourn the loss of Wendy's sister-in-law.

Chad Duke and family as they mourn the loss of Chad's grandmother.