

*Saturday, December 13th*

3rd Weekend of Advent



**Worship Services:** Saturdays at 5:00pm • Sundays at 9:45am

**Parish Education:** Sunday School - Grades Pre-K to 6th - 8:30am • Adult Forum - 8:30am  
Confirmation - Grades 7 & 8 - Wednesdays 6:30pm

**Church Office Hours:** Tues-Thurs 9am-2pm • Fri 9am-12pm

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

for the week of  
December 14-21

Sunday	8:30am Sunday School & Adult Forum 9:45am Worship (Children's Christmas Program Pastor Elizabeth Mascal
Tuesday	10:00am Reading Buddies
Wednesday	6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's
Saturday	5:00pm Worship
Sunday	8:30am Adult Forum (no Sunday School) 9:45am Worship



## READING BUDDIES

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH**

Sign up in the Welcome Center to read  
with Wendy Merkel's kindergarten class.

December  
16th

Advent Morning Prayer services  
will be held on Tuesdays at 9:00 in  
the Fellowship Hall. It will be a  
time for readings, reflections,  
music and a light snack.

Offering 12/6 and 12/7	Received	Received YTD
General Fund	\$3,062.00	\$212,388.02
Capital Fund	\$207.50	\$16,801.25
Sharing Pantry-Utilities	\$150.00	\$1,950.00
Cusco Lutheran Churches	\$67.60	\$1,223.34
Kitchen	\$150.00	\$2,246.30
Hall Usage	\$100.00	\$300.00
Safe Passage	\$430.93	\$430.93

Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service

SILENT NIGHT!  
HOLY NIGHT!

SON OF GOD,  
LOVE'S PURE LIGHT...

**4:00 PM**  
**December 24th**

## Prayer Requests

Mary Bark  
Mary Carlson  
Lance Davenport  
Lee Gehrke  
The Family of Christy  
Gibson  
Marlyn Glover  
Sharon Goode

Mike Hamer  
Mary Ann Hulon  
Linda Johnson  
Rhea Lumsden  
Linda Martin  
Doris Miller  
James Moris

Lonnie Murray  
Kay Nelson  
Roger & Helen  
Larry Rogers  
Shelly  
Lynn Skryzpiec  
Rosemary Underwood  
Jackie Wendland  
Cindy Westbrook  
Susan White

Dates to Remember		
Month	Date	Occasion
DECEMBER	14	CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
DECEMBER	16	READING BUDDIES

## Prelude

### Welcome & Announcements

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Assisting Minister 1:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

**C:** Amen.

**Assisting Minister 1:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Assisting Minister 1:** Long-expected God,

**C:** we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

**Assisting Minister 1:** God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✙ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

**C:** Amen.

**Gathering Hymn** ELW 242 Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn

### Greeting

**Assisting Minister 1:** 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.

### Prayer of the Day

**Assisting Minister 1:** O God,

**C:** Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

### The Third candle of the Advent Wreath.

**Assisting Minister 1:** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near.

**Assisting Minister 2:** Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**C:** Amen.

### Advent song ELW 240 "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

3 Verses *(Assisting Minister lights 3 Advent candles)*

**Assisting Minister 2:** The First Reading comes from the Book of Isaiah Chapter 35 vs 1-10

**Assisting Minister 2:** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**Assisting Minister 2:** Our Psalm today is Psalm 146, verses 5-10

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**



<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Assisting Minister 2: The Second Reading comes from James Chapter 5 verses 7-10

Assisting Minister 2: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.*

Assisting Minister 2: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 11th Chapter

**C: Glory to you O Lord. Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11**

Assisting Minister 2: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

## Hymn Sing

### ELW 715 Christ Be Our Light vs. 1&2

Assisting Minister 1: "Christ, Be Our Light" is a popular modern hymn by British Catholic composer Bernadette Farrell. First published in 1993, the hymn is known for its call to be Christ's light in the world, drawing inspiration from Scripture (Isaiah 60:1-3) and focusing on themes of social justice, hope, and unity, quickly becoming a favorite across denominations for its prayerful melody and meaningful lyrics about serving others. Bernadette Farrell was born 1957, and is a prolific English Catholic musician known for her social justice advocacy. Farrell was educated at King's College of London and then entered the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, UK, for further study. A prolific composer of worship music since the 1980s, she has published more than 75 songs and one Catholic Mass. She has worked as a diocesan music advisor for Southwark and Westminster and as a workshop presenter both in the UK and the USA. Christ Be Our Light is one of the most downloaded contemporary hymns, even topping lists during the pandemic when churches streamed services.

### ELW 248 People Look East vs. 1&2

Assisting Minister 2: "People, Look East" is an Advent hymn written by Eleanor Farjeon in 1928, using the traditional French folk melody *Besançon*. The hymn's text, first published as "Carol of Advent" in *The Oxford Book of Carols*, uses rich natural imagery of preparation for Christ's arrival. It symbolizes "Love" as an anticipated guest, using themes of nature and light to prepare the heart and home for the coming of the Savior. Eleanor Farjeon born in 1881 was an English writer of children's stories and poems, who also wrote "Morning Has Broken". "Nellie," as she was affectionately called by her parents, was a small, shy young girl. She later cared for her dying mother for the twelve years of a long and difficult illness. One brother, Harry, was a composer; and her other brothers, Joseph and Herbert, were writers. Farjeon had a vivid imagination. Her father encouraged her to write from the age of five. At age eighteen, she penned the libretto for an operetta composed by her brother Harry. In spite of her shyness, she participated in a circle of talented artists, writers, and musicians. This joyful Advent hymn has the spirit of a Christmas carol, but with an imaginative Advent text. Singing this carol is indeed one way to prepare both our homes and hearts for the coming of the Savior.

### ELW 257 O Come, O Come Emmanuel vs. 1&2

Assisting Minister 1: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is a beloved Advent hymn with medieval origins, stemming from ancient Latin chants called "O Antiphons," used in monasteries from around the 9th century, which were later combined into a single hymn in the 1100s

(Veni Veni Emmanuel) and translated into English by John Mason Neale in 1851, preserving the longing for the Messiah. Its lyrics draw on Old Testament prophecies to describe Christ with titles like "Root of Jesse," "Dayspring," and "Key of David," anticipating His coming.

The tune is a 15th-century French melody, originally used for a funeral procession, but its haunting minor key perfectly suited the Advent theme. The hymn expresses Israel's deep longing for the Messiah, referencing Old Testament prophecies about His coming to rescue them from sin and exile, culminating in the promise of God becoming "Emmanuel" (God with us). While sung in liturgical traditions for centuries, Neale's translation made it accessible, and it's now a staple of Christmas music.

## Apostle's Creed

**Assisting Minister 2:** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

**Assisting Minister 2:** In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

**Assisting Minister 2:** ....God of grace,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**Assisting Minister 2:** Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**C:** **Amen.**

## The Peace

**Assisting Minister 2:** The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**Assisting Minister 1:** Let us pray together the words our Savior gave us:

**C:** **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## Blessing

**Assisting Minister 1:** May God who comes among us, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

**C:** **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn** ELW 279 O Little Town of Bethlehem

**Dismissal**

**Assisting Minister 1:** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

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