

# **CALAMUS LUTHERAN PARISH**

**Faith Lutheran Church**

**8:00 am**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

**10:30 am**

**First Sunday in Advent**

**December 1, 2019**

---

Welcome in Jesus' name. Please consider using the prelude as a time for meditation and silent prayer. This is the ideal time for quiet preparation, as we come to worship God.

Prelude

Ring of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

**Hanging of the Christmas Greens**

**OPENING PRAYER**

*Please stand.*

P: Our Father, we long for the simple beauty of Christmas – for all the old familiar melodies, words, and symbols that remind us of that great miracle when God who had made all things came one night as a babe, to lie in the crook of a woman's arm. But in that longing, let us even more yearn for your renewed presence among us even as we celebrate and expect the Coming of your Son.

Before such mystery we kneel, as we follow the shepherds and Wise Men to bring You the gift of our love – a love we confess that has not always been as warm or sincere or real as it should have been. Now, as we enter into this Advent Season, we pray that love would find its

Beloved, and from You receive the grace to make it pure again, warm and real.

We bring You our gratitude for every token of Your love, for all the ways You have heaped blessings upon us during the years that have gone. And we do pray, Lord Jesus, that as we begin this four-week journey of expectation and hope, we may do it in a manner well pleasing to You. May all we do and say, every tribute of our hearts, bring honor to Your name, that we, Your people, may remember Your birth and feel Your presence among us even yet.

May the loving kindness of this Advent Season and the true Spirit of Christmas not only creep into our hearts this season, but there abide, so that not even the return to earthly cares and responsibilities, not all the festivities of our own devising may cause it to creep away weeping. May the joy and spirit of Christmas remain with us now and forever. In the name of Jesus, who came to save His people from their sins, even in that lovely name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### **THE MEANING OF THE SERVICE**

P: As we begin the Christian Year, we also celebrate the Holy Season known as Advent. It is a time when we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Messiah. Advent means "Coming." We celebrate these days of Advent in expectation and preparation for Christ's arrival.

Through the centuries, Christians have observed a time of waiting and expectation before celebrating the birth of the Savior at Christmas. The Advent season is a time for reflection and preparation, but its mood is joyful. Advent has been enriched by Christian tradition to reflect its

distinctive Christian meaning. It proclaims the revelation of God's love as expressed in Christ's birth in a humble stable, His sacrificial death on the cross, and His victorious resurrection! It points to the hope of Christ's coming again as the King of kings and Lord of lords. Advent makes innkeepers out of all of us, asking each of us to make room for the arrival of Christ The King. Let us, today, prepare Him room in our hearts, our lives, and our homes!

**Congregational Song: "Canticle of the Turning" – ELW 723**

### **LESSONS OF ADVENT**

Over these next weeks of Advent, let us listen to the lessons of the years and the centuries, not just to impressions of the moment. The images in the biblical story are often discouraging - war, hate, famine, epidemics, a Caesar on his throne, a Paul in prison, Christians being persecuted. But now, after the centuries, the Caesar is gone; Paul is a symbol of Faith; and Jesus, the Truth and the Light, is reaching out to every nation!

Let us, through the great traditions of our Faith, join with the shepherds of Bethlehem, the wise men from the east, and the seekers throughout the ages, to welcome the One who came at Christmas. Let us at Christmastide bring our gifts to Him, and may the message of our songs be "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, Peace and goodwill to peoples everywhere."

**Congregational Song: "All Earth Is Hopeful" – ELW 266**

**Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

L: A reading from Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say,  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 122** (*read responsively*)

I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

**<sup>2</sup> Our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem—built as a city  
that is bound firmly together.

**<sup>4</sup> To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,  
as was decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup> For there the thrones for judgment were set up,  
the thrones of the house of David.

**<sup>6</sup> Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
“May they prosper who love you.**

**<sup>7</sup> Peace be within your walls,  
and security within your towers.”**

**<sup>8</sup> For the sake of my relatives and friends  
I will say, “Peace be within you.”**

<sup>9</sup> For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,  
I will seek your good.

**New Testament Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

L: A reading from Romans.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter twenty-four.

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

**\* Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44**

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

<sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

## **THE SANCTUARY EVERGREENS**

The most striking and the most universal feature of Christmas is the use of evergreens in churches and homes. Among ancient Romans evergreens were an emblem of peace, joy, and victory. The early Christians placed them in their windows to indicate that Christ had entered the home. Holly and ivy, along with pine, and fir are called evergreens because they never change color. They are ever-green, ever-alive, even in the midst of winter. They symbolize the unchanging nature of our God, and they remind us of the everlasting life that is ours through Christ Jesus.

Under Christian thought and sentiment, holly became widely used in church celebrations. Holly was considered as the burning bush, or a symbol of Mary whose being glows with the Holy Spirit. The red berries represented the blood drops from the cruel thorns in the crown of Jesus.

In Isaiah 60:13 we find these words: "The Glory of Lebanon shall come unto you, the fir tree, the pine tree and the box together, to beautify the place of your sanctuary." Our forefathers called the procuring of these evergreens, "Bringing home Christmas!"

## **Congregational Song: "Blessed Be the God of Israel" – ELW 250**

*As the song is sung, the evergreens on the side walls and front are hung,  
and any other evergreens are put in place.*

### **THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

Today, the Christmas tree is the center of our festivities. Glittering with lights and ornaments, it is a part of the beauty and meaning of Christmas. There are several legends and stories about the Christmas tree.

The first use of the Christmas tree was in the medieval German Paradise Plays, held outdoors and portraying the creation of humankind. The Tree of Life was a fir tree decorated with apples. Later other ornaments were hung upon them, such as paper flowers and gilded nuts. In England branches or whole trees were forced into bloom indoors for Christmas. From these beginnings the use of a tree at Christmas was established.

Martin Luther was perhaps the first to use a lighted tree. The story is told that on one Christmas Eve Martin Luther wandered outdoors and became enraptured with the beauty of the starry sky. Its brilliance and loveliness led him to reflect on the glory of the first Christmas Eve as seen in Bethlehem's radiant skies. Wishing to share with his wife and children the enchantment he had felt, he cut from the forest an evergreen, glistening with snow, and took it home. He placed upon it candles to represent the glorious heavens he had seen. The use of a candle-lighted tree spread to all Europe, then America came to regard it as the central ornament of Christmas.

## **Congregational Song: "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve"**

(tune ELW 271)

♪ **When mother trims the Christmas tree  
Which fills the room with light,**

**She tells me of the wondrous Star  
That made the dark world bright.**

**She says the Star is shining still,  
And never will grow dim;  
And if it shines upon my way,  
It leads me up to him.**

*After the song is sung, the tree is decorated. After the decorations  
have been placed on the tree, the lights are turned on.*

### **THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA**

Most Christmas greenery reflects European traditions. But one colorful plant, which looks like a flaming star, the poinsettia, is a native to the American continent. It was named after Dr. Joel Robert Poinset, an ambassador to Mexico who first introduced it to the United States in 1828. The people of Mexico and Central America call the brilliant tropical plant the "Flower of the Holy Night." The Poinsettia is a many-pointed star that has become a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem.

**Congregational Song: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**

Hymn 272 (verse 1)

*As the song is sung, the flowers are put into place  
around the front of the church.*

### **THE PARAMENTS AND ADVENT COLORS**

Both visual and performing arts have always been important ways to communicate the Christian faith. The use of music has helped believers understand their Godly hope. Other forms of visual art have been used from the beginning to help express various aspects of Christian doctrine and life.

Colors, altar paraments or coverings, and banners are some of the most important visual ways Christians have used to express their faith in worship. The objective in covering the Communion Table with cloths of



various colors was to help focus the attention of worshippers on the special nature of Christ as the Perfect Sacrifice. In the early days of Christian worship, Advent and Christmas were seen as a somber time, much like Lent is today. Purple table coverings were used to speak of Christ's Kingship, but the mood was somber.

As Christians began to share their celebration of Christmas with their non-Christian neighbors they began to focus on the joy of the Christmas event. As the emphasis of Christmas began to change to one of joyful celebration the color used also changed to express Christ the King in that more happy way. While purple is still used in some churches and at certain times, many Christian churches now use blue to speak of the Kingship of Christ when the occasion is joyful. At Advent we wait with anticipation and celebration for our coming Christ.

**Congregational Song: "People, Look East" – ELW 248**

*As the song is sung, the paraments are changed to blue,  
the color for Advent.*

### **THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Advent is a time of expectation, and this is symbolized, not only by the four-week period of preparation, but also by the lighting of an Advent Candle on each Sunday of the season. The flame of each new candle reminds us, the worshipers, that something is happening, and something more is still to come.

The candles are arranged in a circle to remind us of the continuous power of God, which knows neither beginning nor ending. There is also symbolism in the colors of the candles. The blue candles symbolize the coming of Christ from the royal line of David. He is coming as the King of Kings as well as the Prince of Peace. The large white candle in the center is known as the Christ candle, and points to Jesus as the Christ, the Light of the world.

A progression is noted in the lighting of the candles of the Advent wreath each Sunday. Each candle symbolizes various aspects of our waiting experience. The culmination of the season comes as we light the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve. We join in rejoicing that the promise of long ago has been fulfilled.

**Congregational Song: "Christ, Be Our Light" (see insert)**

*After the song is sung, one of the blue candles is lit.*

## **THE NATIVITY**

One of the most heart-warming expressions of Christmas is the Nativity. The Nativity speaks of the mystery of God's wisdom. Why God chose to send his Son into our world as a baby of humble birth, born in common surroundings, we do not know. What we do know is that God reached out to all people including the poor and wealthy, the simple and the wise, the powerless and the powerful. All who found him knelt in humility before him. Knowing God is possible because he came to us, at our level. Whenever we see a Nativity, we find ourselves with Mary and Joseph; with the Shepherds, and with the Wise Men; bowing before the manger, overwhelmed by God's expression of love in coming to us.

**Congregational Song: "Away in a Manger" – ELW 277 (verse 1)**

*After the song is sung, the nativity is put in place.*

## **GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS**

From the beginning of Christmas celebrations, gift giving has been a part of the season. The Wise Men gave out of their treasures, and the Shepherds gave of themselves. Both express the Gift of God in giving Christ as the Savior of the World.

Unique in our history of generous givers is the story of Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra in Lycia in the fourth century A.D. He is reputed to have been wealthy, his emblem being three purses and three golden balls.

This was the symbol of rich Italian families of his time. It survives today in the signs of some of our pawnshops. The good Bishop gave his money away secretly to those whom he found in need. He was deeply interested in young people, giving his wealth especially to maidens whose lack of a dowry was affecting their matrimonial future, and to needy boys. Gifts coming from unknown sources were commonly attributed to him and parents customarily gave him credit for their gifts to their children.

The discovery of his generosity is said to have been made by the father of three dowry-less daughters. The eldest two each received from the chimney on successive nights a substantial gift of gold with her name on it. The father resolved to watch and see who their generous benefactor could be. His vigil revealed the good Saint Nicholas as the donor of the gifts. His name survives today as the human embodiment of unselfish giving.

Hanging up our stockings in pleasant anticipation of Santa's gifts may have originated from the fact that the maidens of this Bishopric of Myra, needing and expecting a dowry from the good Saint Nicholas, suspended a stocking to catch the money purse the generous Bishop was sure to drop down the chimney.

**Congregational Song: "What Child Is This" – ELW 296**

*As the hymn is sung, the offering is collected.*

### **THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS**

The greatest Gift of Christmas is the Gift of God in Christ Jesus. All that we do at this Holy Season points to that expression of Holy Love. Christ came as a babe in Bethlehem, God's gift at Christmas. As Christians we seek to pass on our heritage to our children and to those who, by faith in Christ, become part of the Family of God. It is through the work of the Holy Spirit in your life and mine that the Gift goes on.

## Congregational Song: "That Boy-Child of Mary" – ELW 293

### **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

*Please stand.*

P: O God, you have caused this world to shine with the illumination of the true Light. You have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him to reveal to us your glory and grace. As you have given this gift in love, may we receive it with joy. Grant that we, being regenerate and made your children by adoption and grace may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit. Grant us, we pray, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also reflect that light to a darkened world; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE BLESSING**

P: May God direct your ways in peace,  
make you abound in love for one another and for all,  
and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus.  
Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## Ring of the Bell

### Postlude

Alternate Worship Texts: *Sundays & Seasons*, copyright ©2018 Augsburg Fortress

**Pastor:** Rev. William Runaas, Jr.

**Pianist:** Faith: Rachel Bousselot

**Organist:** Our Savior's: Jason Bousselot or Linda Whitman

**Altar Ministry:** Faith: Larry and Sharyl Banowetz

**Greeter:** Faith: Marilyn Steward

**Acolytes:** Faith: Isabella Gentile

Our Savior's: Nora Glover

**Lectors:** Faith: Mark Witte

Our Savior's: Jason Bousselot

**Ushers:** Faith: Mark Witte, Dirk Braet Brian Tulley, Ruth Braet

Our Savior's: Dan Burke

**Cleaners:** Our Savior's: Dan and Cindy Burke

**Welcome to our guests and visitors.** We are happy to have you worship with us this morning. We invite you to return and worship with us again.

There is a **Sunday School** class for all those three years of age and above.

Please join us at 9:25 a.m. at Our Savior's Church.

**Those to keep in prayer this week:** Rebecca Hurt, Jim Goddard,

Coral Hesse, Velda Holloman, Nan Waldorf, Ray Johnson, Ruth Braet, Dale Jacobs, Ellen Bauer, Glenda Oldaker, Michele Scheper, Chance Dexter, Darcy Aune, Bruce Aune, Kelly Meyer, Donna Ploog, Joyce McCutcheon, Colleen Clausen Olson, Christian Bousselot, Barb Johnson, June Reimers, George Tulley, Ethan Friedrich, and Vicki Sharp; the homebound: Bus Seastrand, Rusty Porth, Ed Meadows, Oscar Shelton, Norman Bousselot, Hazel Richards, Ron Gasper, Geri Schutt, and Myrna Kay Petersen.

### **This Week At A Glance**

**Week starting December 1**

Today                    8:00 am – Worship Service at Faith Church  
                               9:25 am – Sunday School/Adult Class at Our Savior’s  
                               10:30 am – Worship Service at Our Savior’s Church

Tuesday                9:00 am – “Coffee & a Little Jesus” at Heather Grau’s

Wednesday            5:30 pm – Children’s Program Practice at Our Savior's  
                               6:00 pm – Meal at Our Savior's  
                               7:00 pm – Advent Worship at Our Savior's  
                               7:45 pm – Choir Practice

Sunday                  8:00 am – Worship Service at Faith Church  
                               9:25 am – Sunday School/Adult Class at Our Savior’s  
                               10:30 am – Worship Service at Our Savior’s Church

**Faith** Worship Attendance, November 24, 2019.....42  
**Faith** Offering, November 24, 2019.....\$  
 1,848.00  
 Needed weekly to meet budget.....  
 \$2,182.00

Sunday School Attendance, November 24, 2019.....25  
 Confirmation Class Attendance, November 24, 2019.....6  
 Adult Class Attendance, November 24, 2019.....9

**Our Savior’s** Worship Attendance, November 10, 2019.....27

Calamus Lutheran Parish Church Office.....246-2622  
 Church Email Address.....clparish@fbcom.net  
 Church Web Site.....www.clparish.org

Pastor's Office.....246-2558  
 Pastor Bill's Cell Phone.....319-231-5262  
 Pastor Bill’s Email Address..... clparishpastor@fbcom.net

**Committee and organization reports for the congregations’ annual reports are due in the church office by Monday, December 16, 2019.**  
 These reports include: Pastor, Council Presidents, all Committees (Education, Stewardship, Christian Outreach, Memorial and Gifts, Property and Management), Our Savior’s Cemetery, and God Squad.  
**Financial reports, budgets, and audit reports are due in the church office by Monday, January 20, 2020. Thank You!**

### **Mid-week Advent Schedule**

To help us prepare for the birth of Christ, in addition to Sunday worship, there will be mid-week Advent services on Wednesday evenings.



#### **December 4 – Our Savior's**

5:30 p.m. Children's Program Practice

*6:00 p.m. Meal*

*7:00 p.m. Worship*

*7:45 p.m. Choir Practice*



#### **December 11 – Our Savior's**

5:30 p.m. Children's Program Practice

*6:00 p.m. Meal*

*7:00 p.m. Worship*

*7:45 p.m. Choir Practice*



#### **December 18 – Faith**

*6:00 p.m. Meal*

*7:00 p.m. Worship*

*7:45 p.m. Choir Practice*

**Christmas Toy Drive** – Items needed for 10-12 year-old children are sports accessories, head phones, ear buds, board games, table games, Lego's, art kits, art supplies, books, jewelry, and music. Please have new unwrapped gifts to the church by December 8.

**T-Shirt Sale** – God Squad Committee is selling t-shirts for \$15 each. Order forms are available at both churches. Proceeds raised will help send youth to the 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.

**Feed One Child at a Time** – There is a need for single-serve food items: pop-open cans of chicken, tuna, pasta, soup, and snacks to put in the bags that go home with five Cal/Wheat elementary students every Friday.