

Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 17, 2017

A Wild West Christmas



Christ Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)
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The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to help all people know
Jesus as their Savior and grow in relationship with Him.

Sunday School Christmas Service

Sunday, December 17, 2017

HYMN "The First Noel"

The first noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel

They look-ed up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel

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INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P: But when the fullness of time had come,

C: God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

P: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel (which means, God with us.)

C: God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P: Christ came as baby in Bethlehem to fulfill God's promise to save us from our sin. Because of Him salvation is ours. Yet we continue to sin and fall short of the glory of God. Let us take a moment to think about our sinfulness and to confess our sins to God our Father.

(Time for reflection.)

P: We confess.

C: Heavenly Father, we have failed to live in a manner worthy of being Your forgiven sons and daughters. In our thoughts, words, and actions sin is always present in our lives. Forgive our sinfulness for Jesus' sake. Restore us to a right relationship with You and help us to do better.

P: God in His mercy sent forth His Son to redeem you and to give you everlasting life. Christ was born of woman so that He could perfectly fulfill the Law for you and could suffer and die in your place. Through Him you have forgiveness, life, and salvation. Therefore, as Christ's called and ordained servant and by His command, I forgive you all yours sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

INTROIT

Psalm 85:8-9, 2-13; antiphon: Psalm 85:7

P: Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation.

C: 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.

P: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

C: Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before Him and make His footsteps a way.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

C: Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O Lord, You lead us to see and believe in Jesus, the light of the world,

C: grant that we rejoice always in the new life that is ours;

P: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion – to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified. ⁸ For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 5:12-19

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned — ¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free

gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" *LSB 379*

A Wild West Christmas

HYMN "Joy to the World" *LSB 387*

SERMON

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy and Your promise to hear us for the sake of the One in whose name we come, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, the One who has also taught us to pray,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

P: Rejoice always,

C: pray without ceasing,

P: give thanks in all circumstances;

C: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" LSB 368

**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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THIS WEEK AT CLC — (December 17-25, 2017)

Sunday: Worship/HC, 9:00am; Education Hour, 10:30am; Choir practice, 11:30am

Wednesday: Bible Class, 8:30am; Quilters, 9:30am; Little Lambs Christmas Program, 5:30pm; 1st year Confirmation, 5:00pm; 2nd year Confirmation, 6:00pm

Thursday: Bethesda Work Day, 1:00pm; Advent Worship/HC, 6:30pm

Sunday: **NO 9:00am WORSHIP**; Christmas Eve Worship, 4:00pm

Monday: Christmas Day Worship, 9:00am

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE (Week ending December 10, 2017)

General & Building Funds: \$5718.99; Blessings: \$17.08; Road Sign: \$65.00; BibleStick, \$50.00; Lutheran Witness, \$22.01; Memorial Fund, \$20.00; Giving Tree, \$2040.00

Attendance: Thursday: 53; Sunday: 118

CLC ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUESTS AND VISITORS: We are glad you are here! We invite you to join us for fellowship and Bible class following the service.

Bathrooms are located upstairs on each end of the fellowship/Bible study area.

NO WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS December 27.

NO CONFIRMATION CLASSES December 27. Classes will resume on January 3.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE LUTHERAN WITNESS need to be turned in to the church office today. The annual fee is \$22.01.

THE GIVING TREE: Cards and gifts need to be turned in today so that they can be delivered to the families in time for Christmas. Thank you for your care and generosity as we reach out to these people.

JANUARY PORTALS OF PRAYER are in and are ready to be picked up! You can find them on the little table next to the Giving Tree.

KIDS KOUNT PROGRAM GROWS TO IMPACT MORE THAN 70 CHILDREN: The Kids Kount program administered by Greater Wausau Christian Services (GWCS) will present gifts to children in the Wausau area next month. The Kids Kount program provides Christmas gifts to children with a parent held at the Marathon County Jail. Last year, 71 children received gifts or gift cards, up from 52 in 2015. If you would like to help with the 2017 Kids Kount program, please contact Marlene Schalow at [715-842-5635](tel:715-842-5635).

QUILTERS: We will meet from 9:30am to 1:00pm on December 20th. No pot luck this day.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP will be at 4:00pm. (There will be no 9:00am service that day.) Christmas Day worship will be at 9:00am.

DECEMBER HUMAN CARE DONATIONS are going to Hope Life Center. Items needed are Copy paper, Postage Stamps, and K-cups for Keurig (coffee, hot chocolate, apple cider).

“LIFE QUOTES” from Lutherans For Life

“As we bask in the glow of God Himself choosing, from His freedom
“The hinge of history can be found on a Bethlehem door.” *Evangelist J. John* – (www.lutheransforlife.org)