



Third Sunday of

Advent

DECEMBER 15, 2024

WELCOME

*We welcome you to Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church!
If you are worshipping with us for the first time, WELCOME.*

If you are worshipping again, WELCOME BACK.

Worship is much more joyful when we add our voices to offer praise and thanksgiving. If you need anything, just ask one of the ushers or greeters. If you would like to discuss discipleship at Mt. Hermon, Pastor Gina would love to speak with you!

Again welcome ...

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please see the Community Announcements in the back section of the bulletin.
Please note that all the congregation responses are printed in **and Italics**.*

We prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

People Get Ready, Jesus is Comin'

Ray/CCLI #2036249

THE GATHERING

We stand and face the baptismal font.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

We sit.

CHILDREN'S PRESENT TO MT HERMON:



★ children's ★ Christmas Program

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

joy

SERMON

telling the story

We stand.

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

French Processional/OneLicense #32080



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

We sit.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL

You have been elected by this congregation to positions of leadership. Among the council, you have elected the officers of Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church.

To these positions among you have elected:

2025 Congregational Officers

President	Terry Swygert
Vice-President	Ronnie Fulmer
Secretary	Sheila Eargle
Treasurer	Frank Bouknight
Financial Secretary	Annette Price/Karen Nicholson

We give thanks for your willingness to serve.

In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

- To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, education, evangelism, community, property and stewardship.

- To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
- To maintain supportive relationships with the pastor(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling, appointment, or employment.
- To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
- To promote a climate of peace and goodwill and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
- To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
- To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

2024 Congregational Council

(2025) Sheila Eargle, Mary Koon, Cyndi Leaphart,
Danny Scott

(2026) Sherwood Garrett, Jennifer Miller, Jerry Price,
Terry Swygert

(2027) Fran Bouknight, Wayne Corley, Ronnie Fulmer,
Al Stevens, Mackenzie Burns

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:
Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the
offices to which you have been elected?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Congregation stands. Those being installed face the congregation.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you
share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who
are baptized? *We will, and we ask God to help us.*

I now declare you installed as council members and officers
of Mt Hermon Lutheran Church. Almighty God bless you,
and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may
be faithful servants of Christ. *Amen.*

APOSTLES' CREED

*Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith with the words of the
Apostles' Creed.*

*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.*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace,
and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

We sit.

OFFERING

*We give our monetary offering to support Christ's mission in this place and around the world in gratitude of God's amazing grace. You may contribute any time by visiting www.WeAreMtHermon.org and click on "On-line Giving." Thank you for your gifts and your stewardship. **Friendship pads** have returned to the pews. Please take a moment to sign the forms so that we may get to know our neighbors and we will also have a record of your communing.*

ANTHEM

Lost in the Night

Finnish folk tune/OneLicense #08128

We stand.

OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Hillert/OneLicense #37488



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

bless-ing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

We give thanks for these gifts and we pray together.

Creator God,

you made the whole world,

even the farthest stars,

and you draw near to feed us.

We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food

that we may live in expectation

for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE MEAL

Christ is truly present in the most ordinary and unexpected of places.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed...

We proclaim the mystery of faith. *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. *Come, Lord Jesus.*

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. Make your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

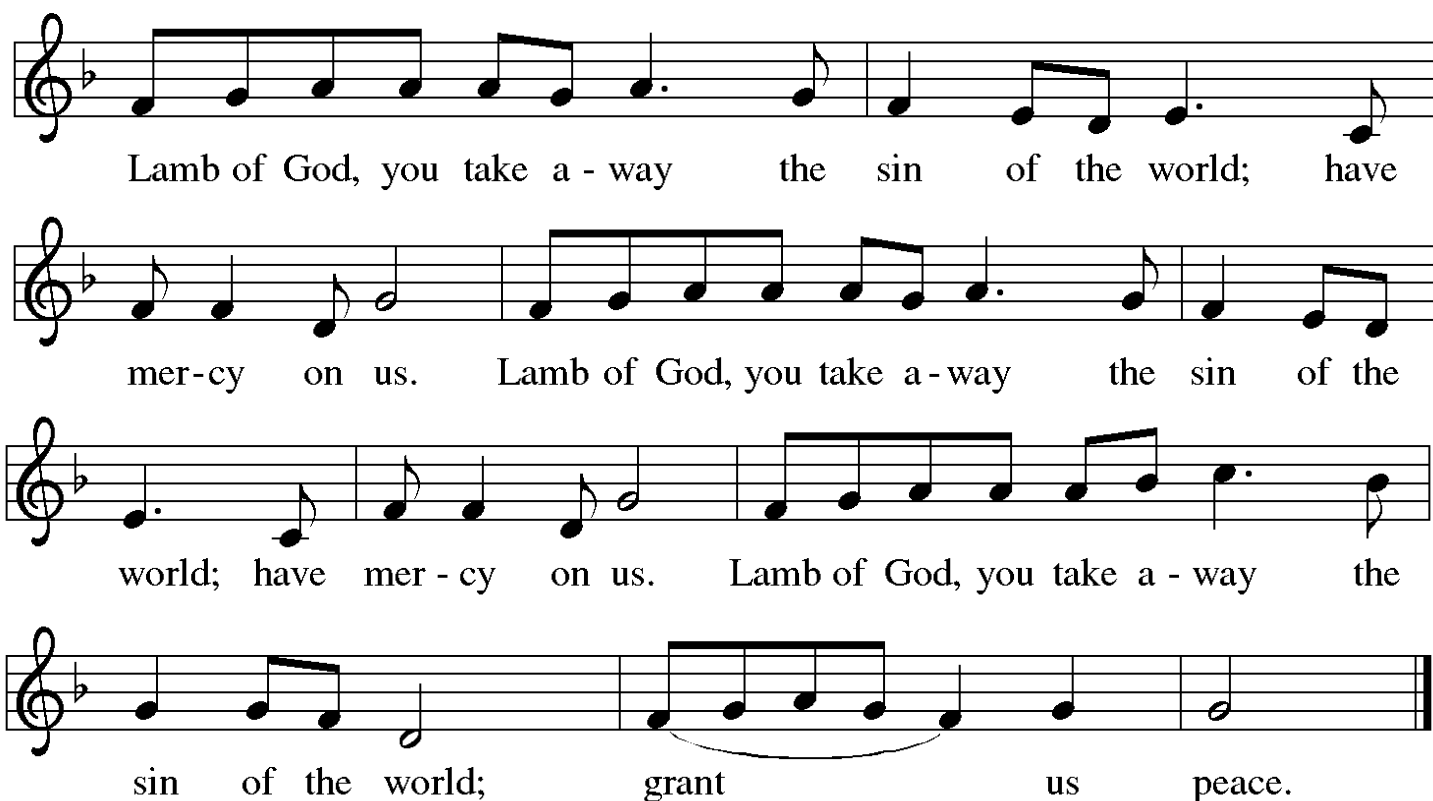
*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

*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.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy.
Come to the table.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

We sit.

COMMUNION

Please come forward using the center aisle to receive communion. You will receive the bread and then you may dip in the first chalice of wine, or in the second chalice of grape juice. You may then return to your pews using the outside aisles. Please return to your pews for a time of quiet prayer and meditation.

MUSIC

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Praetorius/CCLI #2186546

We stand.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace. *Amen.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray together.

Generous God,

*we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.*

*We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.*

*We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.*

Amen.

THE SENDING

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,

✠ bless and keep you now and forever. *Amen.*

HYMN

While I'm Waiting

Walker/CCLI #4926900

I'm waiting, I'm waiting on you Lord
And I am hopeful, I'm waiting on you Lord
Though it is painful, But patiently I will wait

I will move ahead bold and confident
Taking ev'ry step in obedience
While I'm waiting, I will serve you,
While I'm waiting, I will worship,
While I'm waiting, I will not faint
I'll be running the race, even while I wait

I'm waiting, I'm waiting on You Lord, And I am peaceful, I'm
waiting on You Lord, though it's not easy
But faithfully I will wait, Yes I will wait

I will move ahead bold and confident
Taking ev'ry step in obedience, while I'm waiting,
I will serve you, while I'm waiting,
I will worship, while I'm waiting, I will not faint
I'll be running the race, even while I wait

As the cross passes your pew, turn and face the entrance of the sanctuary.

SENDING

The Blessing

Brown, Carnes, Jobe, Furtick/CCLI #7147007

The Lord bless you — and keep you,
make his face shine — up - on — you and be gra - cious — to you.
The Lord turn his — face toward you and give you peace.
— A — men, a —
-men, a — men. A — men, a —
-men, a — men. D.C. || D.S. |
-men, a — men. — men.

SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We follow the light of Christ into the world.

We are God's people on a mission.

We have gathered. We have been fed.

Now, we go out to make a difference in the world. Amen.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory to God and in celebration of our 56th Wedding Anniversary on December 14th by Mary & Wynne Price.



WHILE WE WAIT

6:30 Wednesdays in Advent December 18th will be held in the Fellowship Hall with a meal to follow. The 7:00 meal will be prepared and served by the Youth Ministry. They have many events planned and are using this as a way of serving the community and also raising funds to offset some of the costs for their events.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24

4 pm Family Christmas

7 pm Christmas Eve Service





The Worship and Music Team will be decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias this year. The cost of each poinsettias is \$10.00. If you would like to honor or remember someone with a poinsettia, please include your information in the Christmas Bulletin envelope or drop your check with the information in the offering plate. The information is needed in the church office by 9:00am on **Wednesday, December 18th**
(if possible would you allow the poinsettias to be used in worship through the January 7th worship service.)

Community Epiphany Service
7:00pm
Monday, January 6th

Lessons and Carols
String quartet

He-Brews Supper Clubs

He-Brews Supper Clubs will meet **January 11, 2025**. This will give our members an opportunity to share a meal together, get to know others in our congregation, and encourage one another in our faith journey.

How do I participate? Sign-up on the sign-up sheet located in the breezeway or with the online link. All participants will be divided randomly into small groups. A contact person will coordinate with their group to set a time and destination to meet for dinner. The groups will change for each date so that each time you meet you are with a different group of people.

Deadline to sign-up is **January 5th**.

Work is progressing on **Connor Eargle's Eagle project!** The damaged section of concrete has been replaced and painting will begin soon. We welcome any donations that are made as the pickleball court begins to take shape. It is Connor's hope that the court will be a place where both church members and the community can play a sport that's rapidly increasing in popularity. Thank you for your support of this project



TITHES AND OFFERINGS

12/1/2024

In Person 106 + Live Stream Worship 137 = 243

Current & Benevolent	Received	\$5,091.96
Building Fund	Received	\$1,277.00
Building Improvement	Received	\$425.00

Honorariums and Memorials:

In memory of Edwin Shealy by Linda Waters-Hamilton

In memory of Delores Long by Linda Waters-Hamilton

Year to Date Finances 11/30/2024

	Actual Income	Actual Expense	(Shortage) Overage
Current & Benevolent	\$204,440.37	\$2,867.18	(19,375.06)
Building Fund	\$55,594.43	\$51,887.14	\$3,707.29
Building Improvement	\$20,527.34	\$12,685.67	\$7,841.67

The Council brings to the congregation's attention the current financial reports for year-to-date 2024. The offerings for November were less than expenses by \$6,900. This amount, added to the 12,500 shortfall through October, creates the current expenses-to-income to be a negative \$19,375.06.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	Today	Next Sunday
Ushers:	Teddy Koon	Tom Stahl
	Joshua Koon	Jamie Addison
Crucifer:	Sam Koon	Spencer Price
Acolyte:	Dylan Whitaker	Brayden Johnson
Lector:	Sam Koon	Kirby Johnson
Communion Assts:	Sam Koon	Spencer Price
	Dylan Whitaker	Kirby Johnson
	Emily Morris	David Marsh
	Brayden Morris	Scottie Marsh
	Connor Eargle	Daryl Leigh Anthony
Nursery:	Melanie Jackson	Cassie Swygert
	Katie Donaldson	Laura Carroll
Flowers:	Wynne & Mary Price	Earl and Mary Frances

SERVING IN DECEMBER

COUNCIL REP: Terry Swygert

ALTAR GUILD: Mary Frances Sease, Diane Boulware

TABULATORS: Ann Bouknight, Diane Boulware

USHERS: Marion Leaphart, Susan Busby, Dennis Thurman

AUDIO/VIDEO TEAM: Breanna Metze, Blake Allen

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MT HERMON PRAYS

Continual Prayer

Patricia Bachman, *Asbury Arms*

Lauvenia Butts, *Lakeside Place*

Bobby & Doris Carver, *Presby Home*

Georgianna Gray, *home*

James Hallman, *Lakeside Place*

Marie Kleckley, *Lex Ext Care*

Gloria Mathias, *home*

Jane Sexton, *Phoenix Asst Living*

Jean Shealy, *Lakeside Place*

Cyndi Thurman, *Sedgewood*

Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Bonnie Bouknight

Chris Carroll

Randy Clark

Debbie Duval

Mary Frances Sease

Jim Whitaker

Joye Haygood

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Prayers

Billy Huckabee, *friend of Danny Scott*

Stetson Cooper, *grandson of Dan Cooper.*

Paula Miller, *friend of Brittany Allen*

Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*

John Catoe, *family of the Ellisors*

Mrs. William L. Coleman Jr (Carolyn),

friends of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart

Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*

Mrs. Cruz, *teacher of Abbey Carroll*

Katy Madigan, *friend of Marie Carroll*

Phil Dennis, *brother of Lavonne Roof*

Nancy Lail-Hulon & Family,

friends of Debra & Dave Butts

Sandra Watson, *aunt of Courtney Bucknam*

Sarah Harmon, *friend of Courtney Bucknam*

Quentin Oswalt, *Angie Hydrick's nephew (Iraq)*

Jaimie Womack, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*

Cynthia Rabon, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*

Blase Rhine,

grandson of Frank & Bonnie Bouknight

Cynthia Mallard,

friend of Sheila Starkey & Beth Jordan

Jeslyn, *friend of Scarlett Bryant*

Tom Shaul, *friend of the Kinard Family*

Debbe Dearman, *neighbor of Kathy Cooper*

Jillian Stover, *friend of Erin Rose*

Bryce McKelvey, *friend of Regan Gross*

Max Schronce,

friend of the David & Scottie Marsh

Faye McCartha, *mother of Debra Butts*

Hayes Wingard,

grandson of Sam and Kathy Cooper

Robbie Rector, *friend Jennifer Miller*

Bill Geddings, *father of Allison Swygert*

Jane Baxley, *cousin of Michelle Gantt*

Mark King, *coworker of Michelle Gantt*

Joyce Davis, *grandmother of Jaquelyn Hawlik*

Will & Summer Satcher,

friend of Courtney Bucknam

Dorothy Collins, *friend of Ryan Price*

Lauren Addy, *friend of Kathy Cooper and Metz*

Jodi Harper, *friend of Erin Rose*

Sam Lockridge, *friend of Scottie Marsh*

Lutheran Disaster Recovery workers

Hurricane Helene survivors and families

Mary Duffie, *mother of Alyson Price*

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, December 22nd

9:00 am Worship

10:30 am Sunday School

Tuesday, December 24th Christmas Eve

Advent Baskets Due

4:00 pm Family Christmas Eve

7:00 pm Candlelight Worship

Wednesday, December 25th

Happy Birthday Jesus!

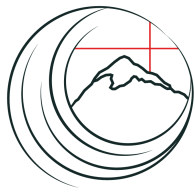
Merry Christmas



Saturday, December 28th

9:00 am Food Pantry

(DJ Plummer & Youth)



WeAreMtHermon

www.WeAreMtHermon.com

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Svetlana Royal, *Director of Music*

Music@WeAreMtHermon.com

Roberta Smith, *Administrative Asst*

803.240.3143 cell

Office@WeAreMtHermon.com

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Frankie Jackson, *President*

Terry Swygert, *Vice President*

Sheila Eargle, *Secretary*

Frank Bouknight, *Treasurer*

Annette Price/Karen Nicholson, *Financial Secretary*

Ricky Bouknight & Terry Swygert, *Sextons*

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, December 15th

9:00 am Worship (Children's Program)

10:15 am Children's Choir

10:30 am Sunday School

11:30 am CR: Teach Team

4:00 pm FH: Jazzy Christmas Dinner

5:00 pm Youth Christmas Party / Bonfire

Monday, December 16th

6:00 pm CR: Outreach Team

Tuesday, December 17th

6:00 pm GR: Grief Group

Wednesday, December 18th

Meals on Wheels: Jamie & Nancy Addison

9:00 am Food Pantry

(Diane Boulware, Mary Frances Sease, Mary Price)

11:00 am Staff Luncheon

6:30 pm Advent Worship

7:00 pm FH: Advent Meal

7:00 pm Handbells / 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 21st

9:00 am Food Pantry (Wayne & Charlene Corley)