HOLY COMMUNION First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 2020

8:00 am and 10:30 am

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

SILENT PRAYER

PRELUDE: *Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

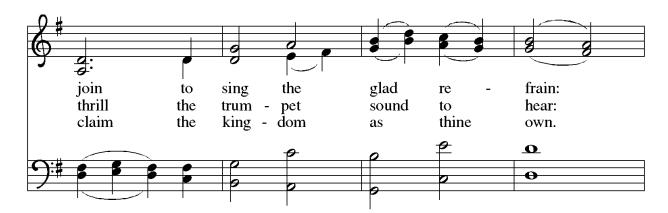
GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)

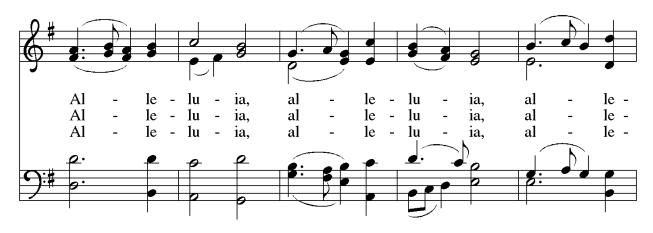
Stand

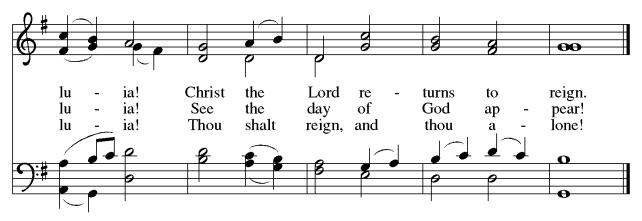
HYMN: *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending* Printed on the next page. Bach



Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending







CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ABSOLUTION) *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

- In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.

P

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel/Stand

P Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

- In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.

Stand

GREETING

- P 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.

KYRIE

- **A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- **C** Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

 Let us pray.
 Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

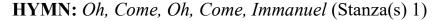
C Amen.

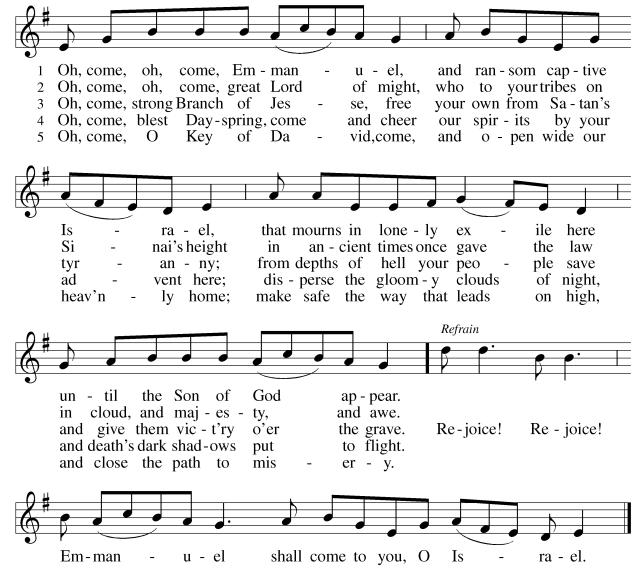
Sit

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

 Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C Amen.





LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Sit

Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

A reading from Isaiah. A ¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boilto make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Later service only:

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 (*The congregation reads the verses in bold face type.*) ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim. ²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and | come to help us. ³Restore us, O | God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved. ⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers | of your people? ⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. ⁶You have made us the derision | of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh | us to scorn. ⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved. ¹⁶Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong | for yourself. ¹⁷And so will we never turn a- | way from you; give us life, that we may call up- | on your name. ¹⁸Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved. SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

A reading from First Corinthians.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- A The word of the Lord.
- **G** Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

P The holy gospel according to Mark.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴"In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

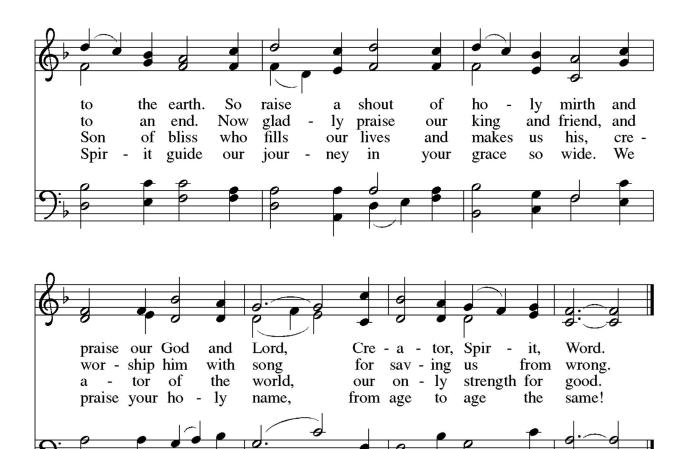
Sit

SERMON

Stand Later service only: **HYMN OF THE DAY:** Fling Wide the Door

Fling Wide the Door





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Stand

The Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed may be spoken. The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles' Creed during Lent and at other times.

NICENE CREED

- **P** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
- **C** We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
- A We pray for the church, for its pastors and other ministers, for the newly baptized, for all the faithful, for this congregation here gathered, and for our growth in grace. Lord, in your mercy,

- С hear our prayer.
- A We pray for all nations, for all rulers, legislators, and judges, for an increase of justice in our lands, and for all who work for peace among nations and among peoples.

Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- A We pray for all in any need, for the hungry and the homeless, for victims of war and injustice, for prisoners, for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, for the sick and infirm, for all with incurable illness, and for all who this day will die. We pray especially for those we name in the silence of our hearts... Lord, in your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- A We pray for the members of our armed forces wherever they serve, and especially when they serve in harm's way, that they might speedily complete their mission and be safely reunited with their loved ones. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

The Offering will be collected in the Narthex as you leave the church. The service continues with the Great Thanksgiving.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks:

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **G** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **G** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **G** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister continues with the PROPER PREFACE:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding: ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The assembly continues with the SANCTUS:

 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The minister continues with the WORDS OF INSTITUTION.

 IN THE NIGHT IN WHICH HE WAS BETRAYED, OUR LORD JESUS TOOK BREAD, AND GAVE THANKS; BROKE IT, AND GAVE IT TO HIS DISCIPLES, SAYING: TAKE AND EAT; THIS IS MY + BODY, GIVEN FOR YOU.
 DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

AGAIN, AFTER SUPPER, HE TOOK THE CUP, GAVE THANKS, AND GAVE IT FOR ALL TO DRINK, SAYING: THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY + BLOOD, SHED FOR YOU AND FOR ALL PEOPLE FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN. DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

LORD'S PRAYER

- **P** 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

- Behold the Lamb of God,
 behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
 Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
- Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)

- Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 - Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 - Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

COMMUNION

When giving the bread, the communion ministers say The body of Christ, given for you. and each person may respond

Amen.

We Lutherans believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are "truly and substantially" present "in, with, and under" the forms of bread and wine. We invite to the communion all who are baptized and communing in this or another Christian denomination. We welcome children and others who are not communing to come forward for a blessing. At the direction of the ushers, approach the communion station, receive the host in your palm, move to the side and place the host in your mouth, and return to your seat.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

- The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- **C** Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

 Let us pray.
 We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING (BENEDICTION)

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.

G Amen.

DISMISSAL

- **A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

HYMN: *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

Printed on the next page.

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory



OFFERING

The offering will be collected as you leave the Church.

POSTLUDE: *Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying*

Kropff

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The Christmas Cycle celebrates the events surrounding Christ's coming — the prophecies, his birth, his manifestation (epiphany) to the Gentiles, and his baptism — through the Advent season, the Christmas season, and the Epiphany season.

A Hymn of Praise is not appropriate during Advent because of the season's preparatory nature.

The liturgical color blue, symbolic of hope, is used for the Advent season.

+ + +

Vestry Members	Special Area	E-mail Address or
		Phone
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Gary Wessner	Vice President	gtwessw@comcast.net
Sherry Jessee	Secretary / Old Church	dsajessee@hotmail.com
Janice Reiff	Treasurer / Finance	janicetreiff@gmail.com
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Karl Stefan	Cemetery / Mutual Ministry	kssurf@verizon.net
Janet Stokes	Parish Life / Stewardship	sjastokes@aol.com

Worship Assistants

Vestry Greeters: Gary Wessner and Lois Robinson

Ushers: Dick Allebach, Pat O'Hara, and Mike Taylor

Lectors: 8:00 am: Laurie Mueller 10:30 am: Sonya Sowards

Altar Guild: Jim Lien, Linda Romano, and Deb Scholl

Offering Tabulation: Gary Wessner, Lois Robinson, and Frank DePaul

Video Production: Jim Lien

<u>The Flowers that Adorn the Altar</u> are given to the glory of God by the Holcombe family in loving memory of father and grandfather, Linus Adams.

<u>The Sanctuary Candle</u> is given to the glory of God by Gene Frank in loving memory of wife, Ernie Frank.

<u>The Worship Bulletins</u> are given to the glory of God by Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Millheim and son Hogan in memory of Father and Grandfather Ralph Millheim.

<u>The Wreaths on the doors of the church buildings</u> are given to the glory of God by the Holcombe family in memory of loved ones.

We're so glad to see you today!

We hope you are as glad to be back at worship as we are! Please keep in mind that the church, like everywhere else during these careful times, has had to make changes in order to adhere to CDC guidelines. Some of these changes are inconvenient, but we must all do our part to protect ourselves and our church family. Your patience and cooperation are very much appreciated. If you have questions about new policies, please feel free to speak with one of the Vestry ushers.

Please see a list of changes/requirements for worship on the following page.

<u>We will continue to post videos of our services on our web site</u> along with the complete bulletin for those who are unable to join us during this strange time in which we live.

<u>The Church office and all church buildings will remain closed.</u> Please check our web site for opening updates. The Parish Administrator will be available during normal office hours via telephone or e-mail.

We are never alone during this stressful time. Jesus walks alongside us every step of the way.

Augustus Re-Opening Information for Parishioners: Green Phase

- Please stay home if you are sick, feel ill, have a fever, or have been exposed to an individual diagnosed with Covid-19 (Coronavirus) within the last 14 days.
- Please stay home if you are at higher risk of severe illness with COVID19. If you are uncertain about your risk status, please consult your doctor.
- Worship will be held at the usual times: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM.
- Before entering the Church, please put on your own facemask or cloth covering. (Facemasks will not be provided by Augustus.) Exceptions to wearing a facemask or other covering are "children younger than 2 years old, anyone who has trouble breathing ... and anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance" (CDC Guidelines).
- Please maintain social distancing guidelines with those people who are not members of your household.
- Due to current restrictions, you will probably not sit in your usual place at worship. Ushers will direct you to your seat, filling the church from the front to back to minimize contact. The only appropriate response to this temporary but necessary change is a patient and loving spirit.
- A complete large print worship bulletin will be given to you by an usher. No hymnals will be used. When leaving the church, please take the bulletin with you or place it in the recycle bin. It cannot be re-used.
- We will sing less than customary during the Green Phase. This is an added disappointment for Lutherans, but it is only a temporary restriction.
- Communion will be distributed to you as you come forward at the direction of the ushers. Only the host will be distributed. It will be placed in the palm of your hand. Please keep your mask on and move away from the Pastor. Then remove your mask, place the host in your mouth, and put your mask back on and return to your seat.
- The ushers will dismiss the congregation by rows starting in the back of the church. Please proceed immediately and directly to the exit of the church building.
- The offering will be received as you leave. Please place your offering in one of the receptacles at the door.

2020 Christmas Poinsettias

POINSETTIAS CAN NOW BE ORDERED FOR CHRISTMAS!
Please include payment with your order. Make checks payable to: AUGUSTUS
FLOWER FUND
Mail to: Karen Lachenmayer
412 Dartmoor Road
Schwenksville, Pa. 19473
Phone: 619-715-4850
E-mail: karenlachenmayer@gmail
ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, December 13, 2020
POINSETTIA ORDER FORM
NAME
CONTACT INFO:
COLOR QUANTITY TOTAL \$
RED @ \$10.00 ea
WHITE @ \$10.00 ea
Check One:
I will take my plants after the 9:00 P.M. Service 12/24.
Please distribute my plants to others.
I would like the bulletin acknowledgement to read:

Christmas Gifts for Silver Springs: The Women of ELCA at Augustus Lutheran Church are again participating in the Christmas toy drive for Silver Springs Martin Luther School. We will be putting a collection box out starting November 8th in Muhlenberg hall. Please feel free to drop anything on Gemma Service's request flyer in to the box till December 6th. Due to many changes from the pandemic, a lot of their students are learning virtually. They wish to include these children and their families in the Christmas Celebration. So they are also placing a bigger demand on \$25 dollar gift cards to the following stores. Target, Walmart, Amazon, Visa cards, Shoprite, Acme, Giant, Marshall's/TJ Max, Burlington Coat Factory, Five Below, Aldi's, Footlocker and Best Buy. If you wish to donate gift cards they can be placed in a special box next to the offering plate each Sunday and will be held in the office. Or they can be mailed "in care of WELCA" to the church office. They will also be delivered to Gemma Services after December 6th. All will be appreciated by the School. Please see the next page for Silver Springs gift donation suggestions.

Toys

- · Large and medium-sized stuffed animals
- · Games Checkers, Chess, Mancala, Jenga, Connect 4, UNO, Monopoly, Scrabble, Trouble, and Apples to Apples are favorites
- K'Nex building sets
- LEGO sets
- · Pokémon cards and toys
- Minecraft toys
- Superhero action figures
- · Remote controlled vehicles and robots
- · Squishies toys
- Tech Deck miniature skateboard toys
- Beyblades and Beyblades arenas
- Playing cards and card games
- Light-up bouncy balls
- Rubik's cubes
- Fidget toys spinners, tangles, cubes
- Dream Lites or other soft night lights
- Books for children and teens

Clothing & Personal Care

- Pajama sets for boys and girls youth sizes M-XL and adult sizes S-XL
- · Hooded sweatshirts for girls and boys youth sizes 12-18 and adult sizes S-XXL. Nike, Adidas, and Champion are favorite brands
- · Adidas or Nike slide style sandals youth and adult sizes
- Adjustable baseball hats Nike and Philly sports teams are favorites
- Socks for boys and girls adult sizes 6-11
- Crossbody bags, wallets, wristlets, and fanny packs
- · Hairbrushes and combs
- Nail polish, press on nails, lip gloss, lip balm, and makeup
- Toiletry gift sets with body wash, shampoo, conditioner, & deodorant. Dove, Axe, and Bath and Body Works are favorites. Plastic bottles only, please!
- Water bottles Contigo and Camelback brands are favorites
- Winter coats youth & adult sizes



Arts & Crafts

- Craft kits
- Crayola art kits
- · Gel pen sets
 - Crayons, markers, and colored pencils
 - Crayola Model Magic modeling clay
 - Fuzzy posters to color
 - · Coloring books and large coloring pages
 - bound, please!
 - · Journals- no locks, non-spiral bound, please!

Sports

- · Footballs, basketballs, soccer balls, and kickballs/playground balls
- Football gloves youth and adult sizes
- · Basketball shooting sleeves youth and adult sizes
- Over-the-door basketball hoops
- Football, basketball, and baseball cards and binders/books for collecting cards

For more information about Gemma Services and the children, youth, and families we serve, or to make a gift online, please visit www.gemmaservices.org.

- · Sketch books and drawing paper non-spiral

