First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2023



WELCOME VISITORS

We invite you to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave the service today. Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.

Children are always welcome in church, If desired, there is an unstaffed nursery for those age 4 and younger located downstairs past the elevator, across the hall from the bulletin board.

Large print bulletins for today's worship are available, please feel free to ask an usher if interested.

	THIS WEEK AT FIRST December 3 – December 10				
Sunday	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Sunday School Worship w/Holy Communion 1st Sunday of Advent Speaker -Jacqui Wolfe with Homeless Matters			
Monday	1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Advent Study & Prayer Scouts			
Tuesday	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Property Scouts			
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting FNF Deadline			
Thursday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Rose Ringers Choir			
Sunday	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Sunday School Worship ChamberBellfest – St. John			

Gathering

And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you. Psalm 39:7

PRELUDE & WELCOME

HOMELESS MATTERS

Jacqui Wolfe

Hark, the Glad Sound!



GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(One blue candle is lit on the Advent wreath.)

- Reader 1: Today we light the first of our Advent candles, the candle of hope. "O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you." (Psalm 39:7)
- Reader 2: Across the centuries, the people of God waited in hope for the promised Messiah, the Savior. As the time came near for the promise to be fulfilled, the Lord sent an angel to tell the priest Zechariah that Zechariah and his wife would have a son. That son, to be named John, would announce the coming of the Messiah and prepare Israel to welcome the Savior.

"O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you."

Reader 3 John would proclaim the dawn of hope for Israel. He would baptize people as a sign of repentance, preparing them for the Savior, the Lamb of God, who was coming to take their sins away. When the right time came, God's promise was fulfilled in the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you."

Reader 4 We have seen the promise fulfilled. The Savior has come! He has died and risen to set us free. Now we wait in hope for his return on the Last Day. Jesus has promised, "Surely I am coming soon!"

"O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you."

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins to God, trusting in his mercy for the sake of Jesus our Lord.

Almighty God, you have called us to a living hope in Jesus. Yet so often we do not reflect that hope in our lives. We turn away from the promises of your Word. We walk in our own selfish ways instead of following in Jesus' footsteps. We do not love others as we should, and we are not always willing to share our hope with the people around us. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

God has had mercy on us.

He sent his Son to be our Savior and for his sake forgives our sins.

I announce to you that your sins are forgiven
in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you."

AMAZING GRACE (verses 1-3)



Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, Advent is a time of hope and waiting. For centuries your people waited in hope for the Messiah to come. Speaking through the prophets, you reminded them of your promise to send the Savior. Finally, when the right time came, Jesus the Messiah was born in Bethlehem. We have seen that hope fulfilled in Jesus' birth, in his saving death and triumphant resurrection. Yet now we too wait in hope. During this Advent season, we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth, but we also look forward to his Second Advent, his return on the Last Day. Lead us to live in hope and to share that hope with others so that they too may come to worship Jesus as Lord. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORD

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus – verse 1



- 1 Come, thou long-ex pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
- 2 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king;





Is -rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art, By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus – verse 2 (see previous page)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 51:1-5

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him. but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the LORD will comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept his word And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired, What they longed for many a year, Stands fulfilled in glory here. GOSPEL Luke 1:67-79

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶⁷Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

71that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and has remembered his holy covenant,

⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness

before him all our days.

⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people

by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord— Him of two-fold race behold— Truly came, as long foretold.

As your coming was in peace, Quiet, full of gentleness, Let the same mind dwell in me Which is yours eternally.

APOSTLE 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Our God and Savior, Fill us with hope and guide us into the way of peace.

MEAL

GATHERING OF GIFTS

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Online giving is available at felcc.org or through this QR code

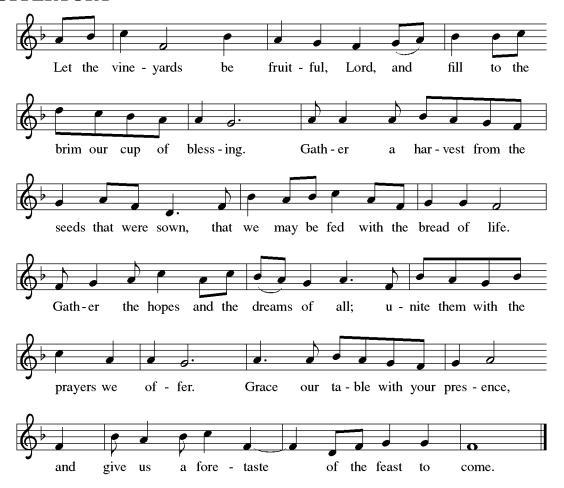


ANTHEM

Advent Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY



OFFERING PRAYER

O God of Amazing Grace, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts we offer. May these gifts help to shine the light of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

DIALOG

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.

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

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

You are invited to the banquest of our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

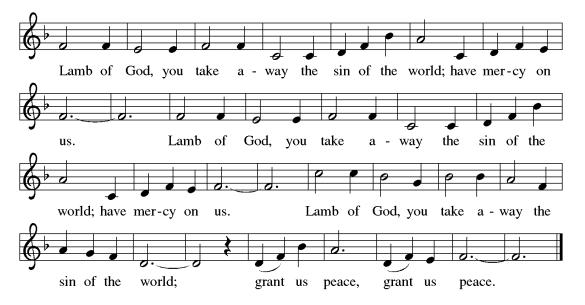
DISTRIBUTION

All Christians who believe that Jesus is truly present in the bread (body of Christ) and in the wine (blood of Christ) are welcome at the Lord's Table.

To receive Holy Communion, please come down the center aisle, take a glass (the prefilled glasses contain grape juice), and gather at the altar.

Non-communing children and adults may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Text: African American Spiritual Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American Spiritual



Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Sending

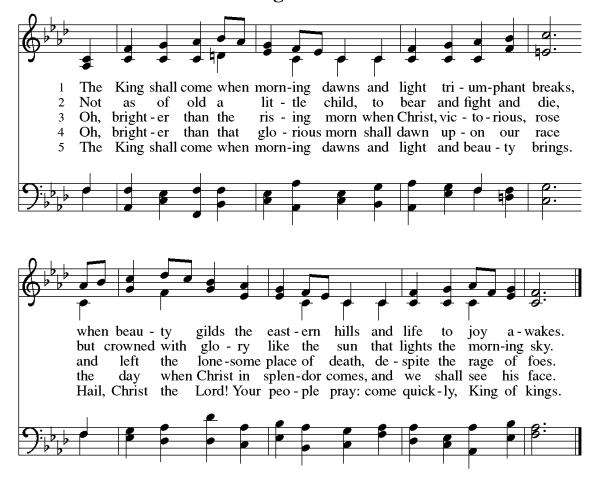
EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Gracious God, in this season of Advent, as we await your coming, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick or homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament. Give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. **Amen.**

The King Shall Come



Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

DISMISSAL

Go in hope, prepare the way of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Please remember in your prayers ...

Healing: Bonnie (12/7),

Joanne Fisher (12/4), Sarah Haschak (12/27)

Denise Heinbaugh (12/28), Charles Kampmeyer (12/3),

Kathy McCrae (12/6), Sam Mull (12/14), Joyce Ray (12/14),

Paul Stockhousen (12/6), Amber Stopyra (12/15).

Long Term Care: Pat Dent, Joe Pine and Garry Shatzer

Greiving: The family of Gertrude Kampmeyer

The family of Kaleigh Warne's Dad

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold, Rubens Paul, and Paul Whelan

ATTENDANCE November 26 55 in person 7 on line



Today we welcome Jacqui Wolfe with Homeless Matters who will share how this organization is making a differnce in our community and how First Lutheran can help. Donation envelopes are provided in your bulletin. Please make checks payable to **Homeless Matters**.

HOLY LAND Lutheran Disaster Response is helping those in the Holy Land. Please designate your gift for "Middle East Crisis." 100% of your gift is used for those affected by the crisis. The money supports: 1) Augusta Victoria Hospital (Lutheran Hospital) who procures medical supplies and provides accommodations for patients and staff unable to return to their homes in Gaza. 2) The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. The church provides emergency education support for families who have lost income due to the war and are unable to pay school fees. 3) ACT Alliance. Through implementing partners Lutheran World Federation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, ACT Alliance responds to immediate needs for psychosocial support, shelter, household items, public health centers and direct cash assistance, focusing on the Palestinian communities in Gaza, East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

CHARACTERS NEEDED FOR CANTATA on December 17. There are several monogogues for the people in the cantata that were part of the Chirstmas story. It would be great to have "our guests" dress in character as you share that part of the story. See Freda for more information and the dialog you may be interest in.



NTT HOMELESS MATTERS Please help our homeless neighbors by donating items on their "Requested Items List": Hygiene productsshampoo, body wash, washcloths, toothpaste, tooth brush, deodorant, razors, tissues, sunscreen, women's hygiene products. Snack foods-small sizes

or individual snacks size crackers, cereal bars, granola bars, cups of fruit and applesauce, dried fruit, nuts, peanut butter, tuna fish, gum, mints and nonperishable items that can be easily opened and eaten without a stove or microwave. Bottled Water 8-16 oz., plastic utensils, napkins, can openers sleeping bags and small blankets; Socks, hats, scarves, mittens, gloves; First Aid Kit items-bandaids in different sizes, antibiotic cream, alcohol swabs. Gas/Grocery cards from Sheetz or Walmart. Donated items can be left in Memorial Hall. You may also make a donation by cash or check using the envelope provided in this bulletin. Envelopes are also provided in Memorial Hall. Checks should be made payable to **Homeless Matters**.

NTT WILL BE COLLECTING hats, scarves and mittens/gloves to be hung on the fence in front of First for our neighbors over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. As you are getting those items out for the season, please donate unwanted items to this outreach. We need items for men, women and children. There is a collection bin in Memorial Hall for your donations. Thank you for your generosity and concern.



THE ADVENT WREATH will be lit at worship each Sunday leading up to Christmas. In our congregation we traditionally use blue candles as that is the color of hope. Our Confirmation Students will be leading this portion of our worship.



WELCA CHRISTMAS TEA will be held December 14 at 1:30 p.m. There will be a gift exchange and singing. All women of the church are invited for an afternoon of socialization.

<u>ADVENT STUDY AND PRAYER TIME</u> This new group is forming for 3 weeks on Monday afternoons at 1:30 during Advent (December 4,11, and 18). We will spend about 30 minutes with an advent devotion and scripture reading and then



spend 30 minutes in prayer with one another. The weight of the world feels heavy right now as the pressures of life in our world, in our society, in our family, in our friendships, grow heavy. We pray for the Lord Jesus to come into our dark world and give us renewed hope. Join us in the parlor.

<u>CANTATA</u> A Noel Celebration created by Lloyd Larson will be presented by the Choir and musicians of First Lutheran as our main message at worship on Sunday, December 17. Our bell choir and children's choir will also be providing music. Please invite your neighbors.

CHAMBERSBELLFEST You are invited to attend the ChambersBellFest at St. John UCC, 1811 East Lincoln Highway. First Lutheran Bells will be ringing in the season for us on Sunday evening, December 10. The concert begins at 7:00pm.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH The Women's Breakfast Fellowship will be having a CHRISTMAS LUNCH on December 20 at the Bob Evans Restaurant -1131 Wayne Ave. at 12:00. We do need a count of those able to attend so please call Janet Friend (717 360 1977) if you are able to attend. All ladies of the church are invited for lunch and fellowship with one another.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP— will be at 7:00 on Sunday,
December 24. We will have Holy Communion and Special Music as
we come together to hear the story of the Birth of our Lord in a stable
and light our candles while singing glorious Christmas Carols of
worship and praise. We hope you will be able to join us.

<u>CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP</u> Join us on Christmas morning to celebrate the birth of our Savior. The time of worship is 9:30 a.m. and Holy Communion will be served. Come and praise the Lord!



48th ANNUAL LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE bring in the Christmas season with beautiful lights and the true story of Christmas! Newburg First Church of God, 260 Newburg Road, Newburg today at 3:30 p.m. Presented by Newburg area community voices. Please call 717-423-6279 with any questions.

<u>COREY ROTZ IN A CHRISTMAS CONCERT</u> will be held at Memorial Lutheran Church in Shippensburg on Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary at 34 E Orange St., Shippensburg. For information please call 717-532-4614.

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS will present a recital of Advent and Christmas music on Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary of St. Paul United Methodist Church, 750 Norland Avenue, Chambersburg, PA. There will be no admission charge, but free will donations to the Organ Guild will be gladly accepted. All are invited to come and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music on St. Paul's spectacular pipe organ!



<u>THE FINANCE COMMITTEE</u> would like to thank the congregation for returning their Anticipated Giving Cards for 2024. This helps in the planning for our 2024 budget. We would also like to thank the members for thier faithful giving in 2023. We appreciate your continued support of the programs at First Lutheran Church.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	December 3	December 10	December 17
Lector:	Jane Love	Nancy Fricke	Doris Burdick
Soundboard:	Bob Lawyer	Mark Nicholson	Scott Carbaugh
Communion Assistants:	Karen Maclay Marlin Maclay Karen Sloan		
Greeters:	Nancy Hamilton Kathy Shoop	Nancy Hamilton Kathy Shoop	Nancy Hamilton Kathy Shoop
Altar Guild:	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods
Ushers:	Gary Fleegal Rick Gates Nicki Johnson Dennis Love Mark Nicholson	Gary Fleegal Rick Gates Nicki Johnson Dennis Love Mark Nicholson	Gary Fleegal Rick Gates Nicki Johnson Dennis Love Mark Nicholson



Pastor

Pastoral Assistant

Director of Church Music

Parish Administrator

Treasurer

Financial Secretary

Custodian

43 West Washington Street Chambersburg Pa 17201 www.felcc.org FELCCoffice@gmail.com 717–264-2015

The Rev. Jane Nicholson
The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer
Freda J. Dorand, Deacon
Cheryl Christman
Sally Herritt
Carol McCoy
Jennifer Flores

Church Office Hours − Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. − 1 p.m.

We welcome visitors this morning.

Please pick up a **visitor's packet**. They are located at the top of the steps. at the rear of the church or on the table at the elevator entrance.

Our Mission

The mission of First Lutheran Church is to be the light of Jesus, burning brightly and vigorously in our community.

Sunday Schedule

Donuts and Coffee at 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages at 9:30 a.m.
Worship at 10:45 a.m.
also on Facebook at First Evangelical Lutheran Church
and on our webpage at www.FELCC.org
ALL are invited to hear and receive God's blessing in Jesus,
and to worship with us.