

**St. John Lutheran Church
Palmer, Kansas 66962**

Rev. David Gruoner, Vacancy Pastor **Mrs. Sheila Stuenkel, Organist**
E-mail: zionlinn@bluevalley.net **Office Phone : (785) 348-5332**
Pastor Gruoner - Home: (785) 348-5316;
Cell: (785) 447-9138 (EMERGENCY ONLY)
Website: www.stjohnpalmer.net

Member – Linn Lutheran School Association

Mr. David Beikmann – Principal & Teacher; Email: linnluth@bluevalley.net;
Mrs. Laura Stunkel, Mrs. Kelsey Hatesohl & Mrs. Shawna Spiehs – Teachers

December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are a guest or visitor with us today, we welcome you and invite you to come and worship with us again. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Pastor Gruoner, and we hope to see you again soon.

Remember that the Worship Service begins when you enter. As the Music for Meditation begins, you are invited to join in quiet, preparation time for worship. Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

Liturgy – Divine Service Setting Three (Page 184)

Opening Hymn: 357 vs. 1, 4-7 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Sermon Hymn: 346 “When All the Word Was Cursed”

Communion Hymn: 347 “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

Communion Hymn: 358 “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Closing Hymn: 290 “Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please e-mail prayer requests to Pastor Holtorf at gholtorf@bluevalley.net.

Prayer requests will remain for 2 weeks unless you specify a length of time.

Robbie Oelschlager – chronic pain

Kay Bott – cancer recovery

Henry Maseman - congestive heart failure

Family of Ewald Ohlde

Acolytes today - Ayla Johnson & Aiden Spiehs

Acolytes Christmas Day - Claire Beikmann & Daniel Nabors

Ushers today & Christmas Day - *Jacob Bott, John Bott, Cody Ohlde, & Tyler Ohlde

Ushers next Sunday - *Brett Peters, Aaron Stuenkel, Eli Thalmann, & Nathan Ohlde

Upcoming Events

December 23

8:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:45 a.m. Adult Bible class
9:45 a.m. Christmas Eve program practice & Preschool Sunday school
10:30 a.m. Mixed Choir joins program practice

December 24

6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Program

December 25

9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

December 26

NO St. John Midweek

December 30

8:30 a.m. Service of Prayer and Preaching with Installation of Officers
9:45 a.m. Sunday school Christmas party
9:45 a.m. NO Adult Bible class

January 2

NO St. John Midweek

January 6

8:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:45 a.m. Adult Bible class & Sunday school

Christmas Eve Program & Sunday School Notes:

* FINAL practice today: Sun., and Dec. 23rd! The kids will practice from 9:30-11:30 instead of Sunday school, with the Preschoolers going to Sunday school from 9:30-10:00 and then joining the practice at 10:00. Mixed Choir will join in practicing “Breath of Heaven” for the program at 10:30 a.m.

* During Sunday school on December 30th, the kids will be having a Christmas party instead of Sunday school! Normal Sunday school schedule will resume on January 6th.

Old Testament Reading:

Micah 5:2–5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
 who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
 to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
 in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth.

And he shall be their peace.

Epistle Reading:

Hebrews 10:5–10

When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
 but a body have you prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
 you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
 as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Reading:

Luke 1:39–45

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the

mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His Table those who trust His words, repent all sins, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily, according to Holy Scripture, do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod, are asked to refrain from communing with us until such a time as they are properly instructed.

A short, more detailed explanation of our Confessional practice is available from our Ushers or Elders. If you would like to learn more about the Sacrament of the Altar and our confessional position, I would be happy to visit with you.

-Rev. David Gruoner, Vacancy Pastor, St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

In preparation for Holy Communion, you may use the following statements as part of your self-examination

- I admit that I am a sinner (1 John 1:8-10)
- I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from all sin, from Satan and death (Acts 4:10-12, John 14:6)
- I desire to live as God wants me to. (John 14:15, 1 John 2:6)
- I am sure of my eternal salvation because Jesus died for me and rose again (John 3:16, Romans 8:14 & 1 John 5:11-12)
- I believe the Risen Christ is really present in Holy Communion and that with the bread and wine I receive His Body and Blood (Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 4:22-24, 1 Cor. 10:16, 22:23ff, Luke 22:17-20)
- I forgive those who have wronged me

Announcements

- * The LWML Prayer Partners for 2019 have been assigned and are in your church boxes.
- * On Sunday, December 30th, we will be having installation of officers during the service. There will be no Holy Communion. We will not be having a New Year's Eve or New Year's Day service.
- * From the ladies of the LWML: Thank you for all of the generous food donations during the month of November! The amount collected overflowed 3 shopping carts at the Washington County Food Bank. Your generosity will nourish so many families in their time of need.
- * The Bethlehem Greenleaf LWML will be sponsoring an ingathering during the months of December 2018 and January 2019 for Orphan Grain Train. The following items are needed for various disasters that have occurred in the United States and worldwide: cloth and disposable diapers, layettes, formula, non-perishable food, large trash bags, brooms, 5-gallon buckets, dust mops, safety goggles, tarps, wheel barrows, generators, square shovels, towels & wash cloths, tooth brushes, soap, kids' backpacks, new coloring books, pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, crayons, new socks, shoes, underwear, soccer balls, basketballs, baseball equipment, adult diapers, wheel chairs, walkers, disposable gowns & gloves. Online donations can also be made to OGT via their website. This collection would be a great Christmas present from the Linn Zone churches! Please contact Michele Voelker at (785) 747-2427 with any questions.

Please email any announcements for the bulletin to Theresa at theresa_meier@yahoo.com by noon on Friday.

A



Introit

My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.

My mouth derides my | enemies,*
because I rejoice in your sal- | vation.
There is none holy | like the Lord;*
there is none besides you; there is no rock | like our God.
The barren has borne | seven,*
but she who has many children | is forlorn.
The Lord kills and | brings to life;*
he brings down to Sheol and | raises up.
The Lord makes poor | and makes rich;*
he brings low and | he exalts.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.

Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

* Reminder! We will be in the season of Advent, so we will refrain from singing the “Gloria in Excelsis” (LSB 187-189) during its four weeks.

* The poinsettia is in memory of Herman and Amanda Bott and Kenneth and LaVera Olson.

From Martin Luther's 1528 Confession of Faith

Herewith I reject and condemn, as erroneous throughout, every doctrine which magnifies our free will, as being in direct opposition to such help and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. For since outside of Christ death and sin are our lords, and the devil our god and prince, there can be no power nor might, no wit nor understanding, by which we could fit ourselves for, or strive after, righteousness and life; but, blinded and captive, slaves of sin and Satan, must do and think what pleases them and is contrary to God's will and commands.

I also condemn both the new and the old Pelagians, who will not admit that original sin is sin, but claim that it is a frailty or defect. But since death has passed upon all men, original sin must be not only a frailty but a very great sin, as St. Paul says: "The wages of sin is death," Romans 6:27. And again: "The sting of death is sin," I Corinthians 15:56. So too David says, Psalm 51:5: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." He does not say: My mother conceived me with sin, but I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me; that is, in my mother's womb I was formed of sinful seed, a rendering of which the Hebrew text admits.

Martin Luther's 1528 confession of faith is from *The Distinctive Doctrines of the Different Christian Confessions in the Light of the Word of God* by Karl Graul (1814-1864). The 1897 English translation by D. M. Martens is in the public domain. The full text of Luther's confession may be downloaded at the website below.

... the babe in my womb leaped for joy!



*December 23rd, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Advent*

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

304 National Road

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. David Gruoner, Vacancy Pastor