

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. David Gruoner, **Vacancy Pastor** Mrs. Sheila Stuenkel, **Organist**

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Member – Linn Lutheran School Association

Mr. David Beikmann – Principal & Teacher; Email: linnluth@bluevalley.net;

Mrs. Laura Stunkel, Mrs. Kelsey Hatesohl, & Mrs. Jessie Uffman – Teachers

December 1, 2019

First Sunday in 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: 343 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

Sermon Hymn: 357 (vs 1-2, 4-6) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Distribution Hymn: 333 "Once He Came in Blessing"

Distribution Hymn: 353 "Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring"

Distribution Hymn: 632 "O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee"

Closing Hymn: 918 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"

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

Kelly & Quinn Rhoades

Acolyte this Sunday - Noah Thalmann

Acolyte next Sunday - Mason Tiemeyer

Ushers this Sunday - *Brett Peters, Jacob Bott, Evan Bott, & Andrew Tiemeyer

Ushers next Sunday - *John Bott, Ryan Stuenkel, Tyler Ohlde, & Lance Gerleve

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

Upcoming Events

December 1

8:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class
9:45-10:05 a.m. Pre-K Sunday School
9:45-10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Program Practice

December 4

5:30 p.m. Midweek
7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent 1 Service at Zion, Linn

December 8

8:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class
9:45-10:05 a.m. Pre-K Sunday School
9:45-10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Program Practice

December 11

5:30 p.m. Midweek
7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent 2 Service at Zion, Linn

December 14

9:00-10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Program Practice

December 15

8:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class
9:45-10:05 a.m. Pre-K Sunday School
9:45-10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Program Practice

Announcements

- * Mixed Choir will sing during the service next Sunday, December 8th. Please meet before the service at 8:00 a.m. to practice. Also, Mixed Choir will NOT meet on Wednesday evenings in December since it would conflict with attending midweek Advent services.
- * Starting today, the Sunday school kids will start having Christmas Eve Program practice in place of Sunday school. Preschool and Kindergarten will still meet for Sunday school from 9:45-10:05 a.m. and then join the program practice until 10:30 p.m. There will be Saturday practices on December 14th & 21st from 9:00-10:30 a.m. with Preschool & Kindergarten kids attending from 10-10:30.
- * All midweek Advent services (December 4th, 11th, and 18th) will be held at Zion Lutheran Church in Linn at 7:00 p.m.
- * The Christmas Eve Program will be at 6:30 p.m., and the collection will be for the Orphan Grain Train.
- * The Christmas Day service will be at 9:30 a.m., and the collection will be for the Joint Seminary Fund.
- * Looking ahead, mark your calendars for these meetings/events in 2020:
 - * Thursday, January 2nd at 7:00 p.m. - Church Council Meeting
 - * Sunday, January 12th at 10:30 a.m. - Quarterly Voters Meeting
 - * Sunday, January 12th at 11:45 a.m. - New Member Potluck

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.

This week on KFUE.org, we wish you a blessed Advent! Hear the Coffee Hour Choir demonstrate how to simply go Christmas Caroling this season (12/4 at 9:00 a.m. CT), begin the book of 1 Thessalonians on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and worship with us in chapel service from the LCMS International Center (weekdays at 10:00 a.m. CT). Find programs on demand at kfuo.org or wherever you get your podcasts!



Introit

Behold, your king is coming | to you; *
righteous and having sal- | vation.

Save us, we pray, | O Lord!*

O Lord, we pray, give | us success!

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord!*

We bless you from the house | of the Lord.

The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine up- | on us.*

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the | altar!

You are my God, and I will give | thanks to you;*

you are my God; I will ex- | tol you.

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.

Behold, your king is coming | to you; *
righteous and having sal- | vation.

Collect for the First Sunday in Advent

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

As We Gather...

The beginning of a new church year today reminds us that we stand that much closer to the day when Christ will come again. Today's readings remind us to remember that as we prepare our homes and families for yet another celebration of the first coming of our Lord in the flesh at Bethlehem, we also remember the second coming of our Lord, when He will return to be our Judge. And remembering, that we ask ourselves: will we be ready for His coming?

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the Lord
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,

3 and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go the law,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4 He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

5 O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord.

Epistle Reading: Romans 13:11-14

11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will

send them at once.” 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

5 “Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. 8 Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” 10 And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” 11 And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

From Martin Luther's 1528 Confession of Faith

Since I see that schism and error are growing worse and worse, and that there is no end to the raving and storming of Satan - in order that no one may hereafter, either during my life or after my death, appeal to me and distort my writings to confirm his error (as the Sacramentarians and Anabaptists began to do) - I will here in detail and in writing confess before God and all the world the faith which I propose to hold until death, and in which (so help me God) I propose to depart from this world and to appear before the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And if any one, after my death, should say: If Luther were living yet he would hold and teach this or that article otherwise, for he did not weigh it sufficiently, etc.; against such I say now as then, and then as now, that by the grace of God I have most diligently considered these articles, have compared them with the Scriptures again and again, and would as surely defend them as I have already defended the Sacrament of the Altar. I am now neither drunken nor inconsiderate, I know what I am saying and also well realize my accountability at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to judgment.

Therefore let no one esteem this as a jest or mere idle talk, for to me it is a very serious matter indeed. For by God's grace I know Satan thoroughly. If he can pervert and misconstrue the Word of God, what may he not do with my words or those of another?

* 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. For information on Elements of Religion and other books available from Repristination Press, visit www.scholia.net.

CATECHETICAL REVIEW

An Explanation of the Small Catechism The Ten Commandments

The Fourth Commandment

[God's Representatives]

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

48. Who are parents and other authorities?

Parents are fathers, mothers, and guardians; other authorities are all those whom God has placed over us at home, in government, at school, at the place where we work, and in the church.

Note: Regarding spiritual authority, see the Tale of Duties, "What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors" and also "The Office of the Keys" under Confession.

49. What does God forbid in the Fourth Commandment?

God forbids us to despise our parents and other authorities by not respecting them or angering them by our disobedience or by any other kind of sin.

140 **Proverbs 23:22** - Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

141 **Romans 13:2** - He who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

Note: See "To Workers of All Kinds" under the Table of Duties.

Bible narratives: The sons of Eli grieved their father by their wickedness (1 Samuel 2:12, 23, 25). Absalom rebelled against his father and king (2 Samuel 15).

50. What does God require of us in the Fourth Commandment?

God requires us

A. to honor our parents and other authorities by regarding them as God's representatives;

142 **Ephesians 6:2-3** - "Honor your father and mother" - which is the first commandment with a promise - "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Note: See "To Parents" and "To Children" under the Table of Duties.

Bible narratives: Joseph honored his father (**Genesis 46:29**). King Solomon honored his mother (1 Kings 2:19). Elisha honored his teacher (2 Kings 2:12).

"Behold, your king is coming to you..."



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