

**St. John 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. Shawna Spiehs – Teachers

December 9, 2018

Second 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 One (Page 151)

Opening Hymn: 343 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

Sermon Hymn: 344 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

Communion Hymn: 334 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

Communion Hymn: 622 "Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"

Closing Hymn: 515 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

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 Treatments**

Acolytes this Sunday - Ryan Stuenkel & Camryn Beikmann

Acolytes next Sunday - Ella Thalman & Ethan Bott

Ushers today - *Nathan Ohlde, Eli Ohlde, Alec Tiemeyer, Andrew Tiemeyer

Ushers next Sunday - *Aaron Stuenkel, Brady Kollé, Lance Gerleve, Eli Thalman

Upcoming Events

- December 9** 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. NO Mixed Choir practice
- December 11** 6:00 p.m. Congregational meeting with District
President Peter Lange
- December 12** 7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service@Zion, Linn
Theme: "Jesus: Descended from Kings"
- December 15** 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Christmas Program practice
10:30 a.m. - Cookie Swap in Parish Hall
- December 16** 8:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:45 a.m. Voter's Assembly
9:45 a.m. Christmas Eve program practice &
Preschool Sunday school
10:30 a.m. Mixed Choir practice
- December 19** 7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service@Zion, Linn
- December 22** 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Christmas Program practice
- 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 practice

Christmas Eve Program & Sunday School Notes:

* All Saturday Christmas Eve program practice will be from 9 a.m.- 10:30 a.m. Preschool will practice from 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. On Sundays, the kids will practice from 9:30-10:30 instead of Sunday school, with the Preschoolers going to Sunday school from 9:30-10:00 and then joining the practice from 10:00-10:30 a.m.

* Practices will be held Sun., Dec. 9th; Sat., Dec. 15th; Sun., Dec. 16th; Sat., Dec. 22nd; Sun., and Dec. 23rd

Old Testament Reading:**Malachi 3:1–7b**

“Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.”

Epistle Reading:**Philippians 1:2–11**

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

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Reading:**Luke 3:1–20**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall become straight,

and the rough places shall become level ways,

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

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



Introit

The voice of one crying in the | wilderness:*

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight.”

Hear, O my people, while I ad- | monish you!*

O Israel, if you would but lis- | ten to me!

**I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land
of | Egypt.***

Open your mouth wide, and I will | fill it.

But my people did not listen | to my voice;*

Israel would not sub- | mit to me.

Oh, that my people would lis- | ten to me,*

that Israel would walk | in my ways!

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.

The voice of one crying in the | wilderness:*

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight.”

Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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.**

Announcements

- * President Lange will be here a congregational meeting on Tuesday the 11th at 6:00. All members are strongly encouraged to attend!
- * 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.
- * The LWML is in the process of updating the Prayer Chain and also the list of those willing to participate in the Meals for Moms activity. Meals for Moms provide several meals to families in the congregation who have newborns. If you would like to be included on the prayer chain, please let Deb Ohlde know at 446-3378 or dcohlde@nckcn.com. You can choose to be notified by text, call, email and/or via a closed Facebook group. If you would like to become involved in the Meals for Moms activity, please talk with Annette Bott. You can also get in touch with Deb or Annette if you presently participate and don't wish to continue. We would like to thank everyone who helped with the "Meals for Mom's" project this past year.

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



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