Holy Cross
LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

December 10, 2023 - 9:30 am

2nd Sunday of Advent

GATHERING: The Spirit Calls Us Together

Welcome and Announcements
Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Advent Song *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"* Jen Fitzpatrick

Refrain—Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Call to Worship
Gathering Song *"Prepare the Royal Highway"* ELW 264
Greeting
Kyrie ELW Page 98
Hymn of Praise *"Come to Set Us Free"*
Prayer
Special Music *"He Is Born"* MS/HS Bells

WORD: We Hear God in Scripture & Preaching

Children's Message

Isaiah 40:1-11…Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. [2]Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. [3]A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. [4]Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. [5]Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." [6]A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. [7]The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. [8]The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. [9]Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" [10]See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. [11]He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13…LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. [2]You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. [8]Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. [9]Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. [10]Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. [11]Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. [12]The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. [13]Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps. our people; you pardoned all their sin.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation ELW Page 102

Mark 1:1-8…The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. [2]As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; [3]the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' " [4]John the baptizer appeared in the

wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. [5]And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. [6]Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. [7]He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. [8]I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Message Pastor Heather Grell

Hymn of the Day	*"All Earth is Hopeful"*	ELW 266
Baptism	Margo Sjolie, Rose Sjolie, & Alden Sjolie	
Song	*"Borning Cry"*	ELW 732
Prayers		
Sharing God's Peace		

MEAL: God Feeds us with the Presence of Jesus

Offering		
Special Music	*"Comfort Ye My People"*	Andrew Janzen
Offertory	*"Emmanuel"*	
Great Thanksgiving		ELW Page 107
Words of Institution		
Lord's Prayer		
Communion		
Communion Songs	*"Lamb of God"*	ELW Page 112
	"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"	ELW 254
Communion Blessing		
Post-Communion Prayer		

SENDING: Being Loved, God Sends Us to Love

Blessing		
Sending Song	*"People, Look East"*	ELW 248 Vs. 1, 2, 4
Dismissal		
Postlude		

Announcements

⇒ **Baptized Today** Margo, Rose, and Alden Sjolie, children of Shannon and Sarah Sjolie..

⇒ **Christmas Caroling** Join your Holy Cross Family today at 1:45 p.m. (event: 2-4:00 p.m.) as we go Christmas Caroling to some of our members who are not out-and-about. Meet at the church at 1:45 p.m. to form groups of carolers. Music is provided, and all ages welcomed!

⇒ **Youth Envelope Fundraiser** There is a wall of envelopes on the back bulletin board, labeled with different dollar amounts. As you are able, please consider taking an envelope (or 2!) and filling it with the coordinating dollar amount. The high school youth are raising funds for 11 youth and 3 adults to attend the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans! We are so grateful for your help! Filled envelopes can be placed in the offering plate or given to Kelsey.

⇒ **Food Pantry** Our third Thursday of the month food pantry is Thursday, December 21st from 5 to 6:30 pm. CLICK HERE to help.

⇒ **Centering Prayer Group** meets Monday's at 1:00 pm in the Youth Room here at Holy Cross. Questions, contact Paula McDonald at 402-210-6040.

⇒ **Tai Chi** A beginning Tai Chi Class is offered weekly on Wednesday's from 12:30—1:30 pm in the HCLC Narthex. A free-will donation will be accepted for our instructor, Cynthia Simon. Bring a friend and discover that you really do have balance!

⇒ **Recycle your Christmas Lights!** Joe Evans is taking old strings of lights to Scrap Central which provides recycling at no cost. There is a bin in the Narthex marked Christmas Lights Only.

⇒ **Cookie Walk + Hot Cocoa Bar** Save the date! Next Sunday. December 17th, following worship, you're invited into a winter wonderland in the Fellowship Hall where the High School youth will have a long table FULL of holiday treats, ready to go home with you for a suggested donation of $10! There will be a free will offering Hot Cocoa Bar to enjoy as well. All proceeds benefit the high school trip to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. If you'd like to donate a dozen holiday treats, contact Kelsey.

⇒ **Forum Today** Sarah Phelps with OutNebraska will join us today following worship in the fellowship hall. OutNebraska's mission is to empower, celebrate and grow LGBTQ+ communities in Nebraska. Sarah will share more about OutNebraska and how we can be a more welcoming community to our LGBTQ+ friends. We hope you can join us.

Calendar for Upcoming Week

Sunday, December 10
9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Sunday School/Adult Forum
10:50 am MS/HS Ensemble
11:00 am Middle School/High School Bells
2:00 pm Caroling

Monday, December 11
1:00 pm Centering Prayer
6:30 pm Boy Scouts
7:00 pm Rachel Circle
9:00 pm CMA Meeting

Tuesday, December 12
3:00 pm Finance Committee
7:30 pm A.A. Meeting

Wednesday, December 13
12:30 pm Tai Chi
6:00 pm Confirmation/Uke Choir
6:30 pm Youth Worship
7:00 pm Radical Ringers/Youth Group

Thursday, December 14
6:30 pm Carolon Bell Choir
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, December 15
7:00 pm Belles N Beaus

Saturday, December 16
12:00 pm Kern Family Cookie Making

Sunday, December 17
9:30 am Music Extravaganza Worship
10:40 am Cookie Walk + Hot Cocoa Bar
11:00 am Endowment Board Meeting
3:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 48012 Meeting

Prayer Requests from our Church Community

Member Concerns: **Ashley Roberts; Norm Firkins** as he deals with health concerns; **Phyllis Beam; Donna McCoy** as she recovers from a fall**; Jan Swanson** as she recovers from a fall. **Connie Mertz** as she deals with medical concerns.
On-Going Member Concerns: **Edie Nabity** at Hillcrest Papillion
Friends and Relatives: **Joe Swanson**, son of Jan Swanson; **Linda Rauch,** mother of Wendy Erickson; **Tom Victor**, father of Jen Gitt; **Robert Downing**, father of Rinda Howard; **Anas Yasin & Family**, friends of Trisha Ryan; **Kristin LaMontia**, Cecily Glesne's teacher; **Kenneth Lathrop**, father of Alisa Krueger; **Ann Johansson,** cousin of Sarah Duncan; **Amanda Grier**, friend of Sue Spengler; **Frank Harwart,** neighbor of Lydia Krueger**; Alex Miller**, friend of the Buckley/Duncan family; **Timothy Poole,** cousin of Ben Poole; **Walt Weaver & Carson Rich**, family of Carol Rich; **Ronda Bayer,** friend of Debbie Risinger; **Debbie Haacke**, coworker of Debbie Risinger; **Tatyana Povazhnaya**, friend of Sue Spengler; **Gaylen Grunke**, Wes Grunke's Brother; **Andie Hunter**, Elizabeth Yearwood's sister; **Linda Anderson**, Barb Kay's sister; **Amy Churchill,** friend of Barb Kay; **Ronald Gulbranson,** Julie Noteman's brother; **Aaron McDonald and Family and Caregivers,** McDonald's grandson.
Grieving
Alicia Glesne and her family as they mourn the death of Alicia's grandmother.
Paula McDonald and her family as they mourn the death of Paula's great-nephew.