



December 21, 2025 - 9:30 am

4th Sunday of Advent



GATHERING: The Spirit Calls Us Together

Prelude

Carolyn Bell Choir

Welcome and Announcements

Temple Talk

Stewardship Team

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent Song

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

ELW 257

Call to Worship

Gathering Song

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

ELW 265

Greeting

Kyrie

Hymn of Praise

"Hark the Glad Sound!"

ELW 239

Prayer

WORD: We Hear God in Scripture & Preaching

Children's Message

Isaiah 7:10-16...The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

Romans 1:1-7...Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:18-25...Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public

disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly.²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“Journey of Promises”

Joseph M Martin

Presented by

Chancel Choir, MS/HS Ensemble, and Children

Prayers

Sharing God’s Peace

MEAL: God Feeds us with the Presence of Jesus

Offering

Special Music

Offertory

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

ELW 247

Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

Communion

Communion Songs

“Lamb of God”

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

ELW 240

Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING: Being Loved, God Sends Us to Love

Blessing

Sending Song

“Christ Be Our Light”

ELW 715

Dismissal

Postlude

Announcements

- ⇒ **Food Pantry** Our next food pantry is our Saturday, January 3rd from 8 to 10am. [CLICK HERE](#) to help. Donations are needed! Our most pressing needs right now are cereal, soup, bar soap and toilet paper. To help with our inventory control please only put your donations in the blue bin. Thank you for your continued support of this vital community ministry.
- ⇒ **Cookie Walk & Hot Cocoa Bar!** Following worship today you are invited to a winter wonderland in the Fellowship Hall. The High School Youth Group will have homemade holiday cookies ready to go home with you. For a suggested donation of \$10, you can fill a to-go box to the brim! There will also be a free hot cocoa bar and a small silent auction with themed gift baskets to bid on. We hope you can join us and support the Youth Fund!
- ⇒ **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.
- ⇒ **Altar Flowers** for 2026 are now available for purchase for \$47. Please [click here](#) to sign up or contact the church office.
- ⇒ **Christmas Eve Services** Join us for Christmas Eve Worship Services December 24th at 4:00 pm for Carols, a children's sermon, and Candlelight and at 7:00 pm for Carols, candlelight, and sermon.
- ⇒ **Giving through Venmo** You can now support the ministries of Holy Cross via Venmo. Find us on Venmo @HolyCrossLutheran.

Calendar for Upcoming Week

Sunday, December 21

9:30 am Worship/Cantata
10:40 am Cookie Walk
12:00 pm Kern Family Cookie Party

Monday, December 22

6:30 pm Boy Scouts
9:00 pm CMA Meeting

Tuesday, December 23

7:30 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, December 24

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Thursday, December 25

Office Closed
Newsletter Articles Due

Friday, December 26

Office Closed

Sunday, December 28

9:30 am Worship
3:00 pm Girl Scout Troup 48012 Mtg

Prayer Requests from our Church Community

Member Concerns: Norm Firkins; Phyllis Beam; Donna McCoy; Connie Mertz.

Friends and Relatives: Jane Marsh, aunt of Jen Gitt; Jim O'Grady, uncle of Pastor Heather Grell; Pat & Barry Butterfield, mother and father of Amy Odson; Deniel Algarin, nephew of Alicia Glesne; Scott Matheson, brother in law of Julie Noteman; Joshua Perilo, son of Sharon Perilo; Crosby Vargas, friend of Julie Noteman; Savannah Barb, cousin of Emma & Geno Roberts; Sonrisa Lewis, friend of the Harvey family; Avery W.; Ken Gross, cousin of Julie Noteman; Josh Moreau, friend of Wendy Brenner's family; Nancy Bartell, sister-in-law of Peg Schneider; Michael Schadendorf, grandfather of Edith and Tanya Valandra; Erin Peters, daughter of Gail Ginger; Anna Victor, aunt of Jen Gitt; Dave Huggins, friend of Jim & Peg Schneider; Mya Calendar, daughter of Trisha Ryan; Carol Deditz, sister of Julie Noteman; Opal Calendar, foster granddaughter of Trisha Ryan; Kelsey Schneider, daughter of Jim & Peg Schneider; Theresa Ramelb, friend of Jacque Petersen; Shari Jensen, friend of Ed Krueger; Ronda Bayer, friend of Debbie Risinger; Debbie Haacke, coworker of Debbie Risinger; Linda Anderson, Barb Kay's sister; Aaron McDonald and Family and Caregivers, McDonald's grandson.

Grieving: Bill Turley and his family as they mourn the death of Dorothy.

Irene and Troy Schnack and their families as they mourn the death of Gordon.

Charlene Pilger and her family as they mourn the death of Virgil.