November 29, 2026	9:30 am	1st Sunday in Advent

Prelude/Announcements

We Gather to Worship (BJ)

L: Let us gather to give thanks for Tamar whose pursuit of justice from the God of Israel brings forth the Christ, the firstborn of God.

C: We lift our prayers on behalf of the outsider Tamar who had been cast off in human disobedience.

L: We give thanks to God who hears the prayers of the voiceless in distant places, and brings the wicked to justice.

C: We give thanks to God for Tamar, a mother of generations that prepared the way for the Messiah.

L: Come, let us gather to celebrate the winding path of righteousness from God who grants justice to the outcast.

C: Let us worship God who chooses foolish things and to shame the wise.

Bob teaches new song

Gathering Song "A Story For All People" v. 1 and chorus W&P 2

1 As people wait in darkness,
in fear of endless night,
send forth your word of comfort,
a message of great light.
The world stands proud before you,
conflicted, hungry, poor.
Come, scatter pride and foolishness,
and mend all souls with Savior love once more.

Refrain

A story for all people, old story new today.
A song of love and healing,
a light to show the way.

Text: Dori Erwin Collins
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Candlelighting Litany (Kenny family)

L: Light has long been a central symbol of the Advent season. As candles are kindled week by week, the growing light reminds us that Christ is coming into a world longing for hope, healing, justice, and peace.

In Preparing the Way: A Herstory of Hope, the Advent wreath also becomes a place of remembrance. Each week's candle lighting liturgy invites us to encounter one of the women named in Jesus' genealogy: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. Through their stories, we glimpse God's faithfulness at work across generations and discover how God prepares the way for Christ through ordinary and extraordinary people alike.

As the light grows brighter each week, may we be reminded that God has always worked through courageous, faithful people to prepare the way for salvation. May the witness of Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary help us recognize Christ's coming among us and inspire us to prepare the way for God's work in our own time and place.

Today, we kindle the first candle of Advent, and remember Jesus' ancestor Tamar.

(Candle is lit)

C: We cry out for justice, especially for the vulnerable and oppressed.

L: We remember Tamar and all the women throughout history and around the world whose voices go unheard.

C: May we, like Tamar, speak the truth with boldness and courage, and may your light illuminate our paths as we seek to do your will in our lives. Amen.

(Please rise as you are able)

Gathering Song **"The King Shall Come"** **ELW #260**

1 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.

2 Not as of old a little child,

to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.

3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn
when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death,
despite the rage of foes.

4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes,
and we shall see his face.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
come quickly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Confession and Absolution (Ashlyn)

L: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him." Let us, therefore confess our sins against God and one another, trusting in God's immeasurable love.

Allow for silence.

L: For when we fall prey to our own desires and fail to put our faith in you, God of mercy.

C: Forgive us, we pray.

L: For when we neglect your call to protect those who are vulnerable, God of mercy.

C: Forgive us, we pray.

L: For the ways we mindlessly and mindfully contribute to systems of oppression, God of mercy.

C: Forgive us, we pray.

L: For the times we encounter the wickedness in the world and do not fight against it, God of mercy.

C: Forgive us, we pray.

L. Hear now this word of grace. Jesus, promised of old, born of Mary, descendant of Tamar, hope-embodied in the mercy of God who has lived among us. Jesus, the Word-made-flesh walked our walk, lived our life, suffered our suffering, died our death, and rose that we too might live anew. It is in the name of this +Jesus that your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day (Emmerson K)

L: Gracious God,

C: We give thanks for Tamar the outsider who through your justice, became a mother of our faith. When justice is denied O God, abide with us as we wait and pray for that day where all the outcast ones are held within your embrace. Abide in us as we prepare for the coming of your kingdom. Abide with us as we await the birth of your Son, Jesus the Messiah, the Prince of peace. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 38:1-30 (Easton K)

R: A reading from the book of Genesis, **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

It happened at that time that Judah went down from his brothers and settled near a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah. There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua; he married her and went in to her. She conceived and bore a son, and he named him Er. Again she conceived and bore a son whom she named Onan. Yet again she bore a son, and she named him Shelah. She was in Chezib when she bore him. Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn; her name was Tamar. But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD put him to death. Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and

perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her; raise up offspring for your brother." But since Onan knew that the offspring would not be his, he spilled his semen on the ground whenever he went in to his brother's wife, so that he would not give offspring to his brother. What he did was displeasing in the sight of the LORD, and he put him to death also. Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Remain a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up," for he feared that he too would die, like his brothers. So Tamar went to live in her father's house.

In course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died; when Judah's time of mourning was over, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. When Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep," she put off her widow's garments, put on a veil, wrapped herself up, and sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. She saw that Shelah was grown up, yet she had not been given to him in marriage. When Judah saw her, he thought her to be a prostitute, for she had covered her face. He went over to her at the roadside and said, "Come, let me come in to you," for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?" He answered, "I will send you a kid from the flock." And she said, "Only if you give me a pledge until you send it." He said, "What pledge shall I give you?" She replied, "Your signet and your cord and the staff that is in your hand." So he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him. Then she got up and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood.

When Judah sent the kid by his friend the Adullamite to recover the pledge from the woman, he could not find her. He asked the townspeople, "Where is the prostitute who was at Enaim by the wayside?" But they said, "No prostitute has been here." So he returned to Judah and said, "I have not found her; moreover, the townspeople said, 'No prostitute has been here.' " Judah replied, "Let her keep the things as her own, otherwise we will be laughed at; you see, I sent this kid, and you could not find her."

About three months later Judah was told, “Your daughter-in-law Tamar has prostituted herself; moreover, she is pregnant as a result of prostitution.” And Judah said, “Bring her out, and let her be burned.” As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, “It was the owner of these who made me pregnant.” And she said, “Take note, please, whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff.” Then Judah acknowledged them and said, “She is more in the right than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not lie with her again.

When the time of her delivery came, there were twins in her womb. While she was in labor, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and bound on his hand a crimson thread, saying, “This one came out first.” But just then he drew back his hand and out came his brother, and she said, “What a breach you have made for yourself!” Therefore he was named Perez. Afterward his brother came out with the crimson thread on his hand, and he was named Zerah.

R: Word of God, word of life, **C: Thanks be to God!**

Character Portrayal (Deb S)

Song of Response “Preparing the Way” vs. 1, 2, 3, 8 Dr. Char Cox

(To the tune of Away in the Manger ELW #277)

1 Preparing the way across time and through space,
The women, the mothers embodied God’s grace.
Each one endured trials along her life’s way;
Teach us now this Advent, through them Lord, we pray.

2 Their names are remembered in the family tree
Of Jesus, our Savior, born for you and me.
Their stories, they show us God’s wide-open love,
Fill us now this Advent, with hope from above.

3 From Tamar we learn about what isn’t fair
She teaches us justice, resilience, and care.

She shows us it matters to do what is right.
Lead us now this Advent, with your holy light.

8 These mothers, their stories, they call to us now
Preparing the way, with new hope they endow.
So listen and learn, from their witness behold –
To you, God is calling, bear witness, be bold.

by Rev. Dr. Charlene M. Rachuy Cox
Sung to the Tune of "Away in a Manger"

We Confess Our Faith – Apostles Creed (BJ)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

We Share God's Peace (BJ)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.
P: Let us share the peace with those around us.

We bring our tithes and offerings

(Please rise as you are able)

Offertory "Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring " vs. 1, 3 ELW #691

1 Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring
to place upon your table.
We do not worship as we ought

but only as we're able.

3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares
we lift in prayer before you.
Lord, by your grace now come to us,
as humbly we adore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress.

Offertory Prayer (Ashlyn)

L: Holy Creator,

C: We are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession (Ashlyn)

L: We continue in prayer, God of justice, **C: Give us hope.**

The Lord's Prayer (Ashlyn)

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction (Deb S)

L: Go now with the seal of God upon you. May the humility and determination of your heart lead you to God's mercy. May the defiance of your spirit lead you to God's justice. Go in the grace and peace of promises kept, go in hope of God's promises to come, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

C: Amen.

Sending Song **"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"** **ELW #244**

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.

2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.

3 The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.

4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,

we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

The Dismissal (Deb S)

P: Go forth into the world to love and serve God with gladness by
C: Knowing Jesus, Telling About Jesus, Loving as Jesus Loves.
P: Go in peace. Love justice.
C: Thanks be to God.

Week of November 29, 2026
1st Sunday in Advent

Welcome Team: Mallory White
Tellers:
Musicians: Ruby
Acolyte: Eli
Flowers: Denise Wilson in memory of Mom- she loved poinsettias
Reader: Easton

Prayer List: Ed Whitehill, Brenda Riley, Don Simms, Gene Young, Robert Meier II, Taiya Vorthmann, Teresa Plumb, Cheryl Bain, Zack and Lexi Meiner, Liv Gordon, Ed Calkins, Nixon Quick, Kristin Richardson, Cyndi Guyer, Marla Bentley, Shawna Hedegaard, Lane Rector, Audrey Gayer, Max Schweer, and Curtis Holste, Ken Andersen, Auston Schmidt, Bruce Bentley, Vicki Goos, Natasha Andersen and new baby girl, Kennedy

Grieving: the family of Lois Chambers

Adventfest Make plans to join us for the Annual Adventfest on Wednesday, December 2 at 6:15 pm. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck. This year, to assist with our theme, we are asking you to bring a traditional food for your family. This can be a heritage item such as kringla for those who are Norwegian or it could be something that a special family member always made. If you have one, bring a picture of that person. As we eat, we will share stories of the dishes and people. Join together to eat, decorate, worship, and prepare for the Advent season.

Advent Pastor is looking for people who would be willing to read a short piece and light candles on the Advent wreath. If you are willing, please let her know.

New Visions: We are again collecting Christmas gifts for teens in Southwest Iowa through New Visions' Give Hope wishlist. Consider picking up an item or two on the list and placing them in the basket designated "Christmas Gifts" outside the church office by Sunday, Nov. 29th. Items requested for teens are: blankets, wireless earbuds/headphones, perfume/cologne sets, make-up sets, kids pajama sets or teen pajama sets, hooded sweatshirts (L/XL), wrapping paper, and gift cards to Amazon, Target or fast food places. See the posters around church for the QR Code to purchase directly.

Bakers Want to help bake cookies for New Visions Christmas giveaway? This year New Visions would like to bless each family that comes to their Christmas event with a dozen homemade cookies/treats. Let Denise Wilson know if you want to help with this project by baking at church on Saturday, Dec. 5th at 9:00 a.m. or making your own at home and getting them to Denise by Dec. 10th.

Poinsettias If you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, there are envelopes in the office and the entry way of the church. These can be placed in the offering plates at worship by December 12th. They are $10.

This Week's Calendar:

Sun. 11/29: 9:30 a.m. Worship
Tues. 12/2: 6:15 p.m. Adventfest
Thurs. 12/3: Denise Day Off
Fri. 12/4: F-hall 10:45- 11:30 a.m. Preschool
F-hall 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts
Sat. 12/5: 9:00 a.m. Bakers F-hall
Sun. 12/6: 8:00 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship/SS/Christmas Eve Helpers Walk Through
10:30 a.m. Worship
1:00 p.m. F-Hall Reservation Miller/Hough

Worship Attendance on 11/22/26: 8:00 a.m. **43,** 10:30 **76;** Online 8:00 a.m. **114,** 10:30 **31**

Stewardship Emphasis: The Mission for November: Okoboji Bible Camp

Current Financial Information: Posted on the bulletin board outside the Church office.

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