

Welcome!

**Third Sunday of Advent
“Christmas A to Z” Program**

December 16, 2018

9:30 a.m.

**Christ Lutheran Family of Faith
Cottonwood, Minnesota**



The presence of the Lord “in your midst” is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news – and cause for exultation – for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

(Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2018)



Our Advent Chancel Display continues to grow in this four week season. Each item relates to the scripture texts for the particular Sunday of Advent as we move ever closer to Christmas.

Week One – A righteous branch

“The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’” (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

Week Two – A path in the wilderness

“The voice of one crying out 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 be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’” (Luke 3:4-6)

Week Three – A winnowing fork

“As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear the threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’” (Luke 3:15-17)



Piano Solo Prelude

Shailey Marczak

Call to Worship

Words of Welcome

P: This is the day that the Lord has made,

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Community Announcements and Opportunities to Offer Ourselves

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: The Spirit and the church cry out:

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: All those who await his appearance pray:

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: The whole creation pleads:

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



P: Let us pray.

C: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears so that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Three candles on our Advent wreath are lit as the hymn is sung.

Hymn of Light – “Christ, Be Our Light” [715] (stanzas 1-3)

Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you continue to do great things for us. Give us your gift of peace as we await your coming.

C: Amen.

Offering

Piano Solo

“Do You Hear What I Hear”

Jovie Benson

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious gifts you have given to us and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Prayers of God’s People

The congregation responds to the prayer petitions with, “hear our prayer.”

Lord’s Prayer

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.

Congregational Hymn – “O Come, All Ye Faithful” ----- [283]

Mission Possible and Sunday School Students process in during the hymn.

With joyful hearts our young children and students present,



Sending Hymn – “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” ----- [290]

*Students only will sing stanza one,
then the congregation will sing stanzas 1-3
as the students leave the chancel area.*

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Children of all ages and those who are young at heart are invited to come forward to choose an instrument to play around the chancel steps during the postlude music.

Blessing for the Journey

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Amen.

— Thank You For Serving This Sunday, December 16 —

Ushers: Dean Berg, Sandy Boehne, Claire Erickson,
Kathie Erickson, Kris Holm, Jon Myrvik

Musician: Gwen Arneson **Acolyte:** Landon Teske **PA:** Jonathan Olson

Lector and Assisting Minister: Linda Magnuson **Video Camera:** Gary Morken

Altar Care: Barb Crouse, Anne Isaackson

– This Week: December 16, 2018 –

Today, Sunday, December 16

9 am Fellowship/Refreshments
9:00 Preschool Sunday School
9:30 “Christmas A to Z” Worship
Congregation Reception Follows
10:45 (approx.) Worship on Cable 180

Monday, December 17

5 pm Worship on Cable 180

Tuesday, December 18

8:30 am Conf. Pastors Meet Here
1:30 pm Communion @ West Prairie
2:30 pm Communion @ Fieldcrest

Wednesday, December 19

NO Mission Possible
6:30 pm Choir
7:00 Confirmation/Mentor Week
7:00 Sr. Hi. Hangout with Vicki

Next Sunday, December 23

9 am Fellowship/Refreshments
NO Sunday School
9:30 Worship
10:45 (approx.) Worship on Cable 180

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 7 pm

Tucked into the midst of your Christmas dinners and gatherings, make plans to attend our very special and memorable Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service with Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m. on December 24th.

At the heart of all that we celebrate and that brings us together, we remember and hold close the story of Jesus’ birth and the joy of those who heard the Good News. This is the message of Christmas! There will be a place waiting for you that evening!



An invitation from Pastor Janel (PJ):

If you are **interested in church membership** or know someone interested, please call PJ at the church office 507 423 5100 or her cell phone 651 726 4003. Email is: pstrjanel@gmail.com

JOIN THE TEAM
ALTAR CARE TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

We are looking for more individuals, women, men, and families to add to our list of Altar Care Team members. The responsibilities include obtaining and placement of the altar flowers for Sunday worship and other events, as well as changing the paraments on the altars, lectern, and pulpit when the seasons of the church year changes.

You would be assigned with someone else for one month of the year. We can pair you with an experienced member of the team. There are written guidelines for the tasks to be done.

Consider what a great ministry this would be for you and your family to serve and help our congregation. If you want to join the Altar Care Team or have questions, contact Barb Crouse, 423-6249, or Anne Isaackson, 423-5273.



**COTTONWOOD
CARES AND SHARES**
Take What You Need...
Leave What You Can...

The project is an effort to address food insecurity in our community, something that Christ Lutheran Church has done for several years by supporting the Lakeview School Backpack Program.

People do not always have transportation to the nearest food shelf in Marshall so our congregation's church council decided to make staples available within the city of Cottonwood. We started working on this project just as the weather turned cold and we couldn't proceed with the dream of building something that would be outdoors, **so our first location is inside at the City Office.**

Several local churches have expressed interest in this ministry to serve people's needs and we expect to work in partnership with other congregations to provide groceries for those who need them.

If you'd like to contribute food, we have a box in our front entry marked, "Cottonwood Food Pantry."

COOKBOOKS \$2

Christ Lutheran Church members compiled a cookbook several years ago. That cookbook is still available for purchase for the low price of \$2. Find the cookbooks in the front entry for yourself or for gifts for family, friends, and neighbors.

There are 268 pages of tried and true recipes from appetizers, breads, soups, salads, main dishes, desserts to traditional ethnic foods.

GIFTS AT CHRISTMAS



Christmas—a time for gifts! Giving and receiving gifts!

Perhaps you will include others outside the circle of family and friends in your gift giving this year.

ELCA World Hunger supports programs that help 42 million Americans that live with hunger and food insecurity. And the 795 million people around the world that are living with hunger issues.

JESUS is the GREATEST GIFT of all that we receive.

In response and thankfulness for that great gift consider a gift to ELCA World Hunger using the envelope included today.

Because of your generosity in sharing of time and resources, we have been able to reach out with God's never-failing love in countless ways, both inside and beyond our congregation.

We are grateful for your financial gifts which allow us to continue the many ministries that we hold in common inside of God's mission for us here in this faith community.

Financial Snapshot	
Giving Year To Date (Jan-Nov)	\$170,393
Expenses Year To Date (Jan-Nov)	\$178,743
Shortfall Year to Date	-\$8,350
Needed Weekly To Make Budget	\$3,896
Last Week's Giving December 9	\$3,983

Prayer Requests

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6-7 to, “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*” Your prayers are a gift to those requesting them, and encouragement for one another as we experience challenges, sorrows, or thanksgivings of any kind.

Health Concerns, as well as Others In Our Hearts and On Our Minds:

Shi Aamodt	Craig Ahmann	Bob Bode
Mark Bode	Elaine Elston	Adela Espinoza
Norm Evers	Sue Gropel	Gordy Geistfeld
Jon Hakes	Virginia Isaackson	Barbara Jarvis
Pr. Curt Miller	Gretchen Noon	Rodney Olson
Sonny Olson	Amy St. Pierre	Gary Timmerman
Joyce Warnke		

All those dealing with illness, addictions, depression, unemployment, under-employment, and any challenges in their lives.

Families of our Congregation.

Pray for: Marge Gigstad Janet Gniffke Adrian and Judy Golberg

Death: Dennis VanUden. Pray for Linda, Jessina, Sheldon, and Families.
Beverly Kremin. Pray for Marv, Nancy, and Families.
Roger Fragodt, father of Josh. Pray for Josh and Katie and Families.
Frank Edmondson. Pray for Allie Enga and the Edmondson & Enga Families.

Christ Lutheran Church Location: 126 Front Street (corner of Front and North First on the lake)

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Office Phone and Voice Mail: 507-423-5100

www.christcottonwood.org

Find us on Facebook: Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood MN

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Pastoral Asst. Gwen Arneson—507 423 5100; cell 612 280 5987; gwenarneson@yahoo.com

Organist Gwen Arneson—See Pastoral Assistant above

Administrative Asst. Rhoda Schmidt—507 423 5100; cell 507 829 1426;

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