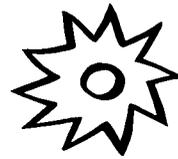


**Third Sunday of Advent
ELW Holy Communion Setting One
Sunday, December 13, 2020
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(ELW pg. 94)

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

- 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 sufferings 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!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion — to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸“For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.”

P: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM: Psalm 126

¹When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

³Then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

**⁴The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.**

⁵Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negev.

**⁶Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.**

⁷Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

P: Here ends the reading of the Psalm.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO: John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about

yourself?”²³ He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)²⁵ They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know,²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(ELW 249)

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
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SERMON

“A Lonely Advent Light in a Dark, Cynical World”

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Pastor Kurt E. Luebke

CREED

**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 into Hell
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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PEACE

THE HOLY COMMUNION

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

(ELW pg. 108)

Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the Banquet, for all is now ready.

THE PARTAKING OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(ELW pg. 114)

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

(ELW 266)

“All Earth Is Hopeful”

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome, family of Christ! Each person adds to our worship.
Thank you for being here.

The ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of Staci Billings, who passed away on December 12, 1999 given by Jim & Carolyn Billings.





WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS to the family and friends of:

James Edward “Jim” Shoemaker, father of Christy (Timothy) Billings, who passed away on Saturday, December 5, 2020 at Elmwood Skilled Nursing of Fremont.



ATTENTION:

At its November 19, 2020 meeting the St. Paul Lutheran Church Council, together with the pastor unanimously decided to discontinue in-person services if the Sandusky County COVID-19 Alert Level rises to 4 or purple.

* * * * *

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rick & Lisa Albright	son & daughter-in-law of Bill & Bev Albright
Judy Campbell	
Kade Carroll	grandson of Bev (Bill) Albright
Diane Dagg	
Mike Emans	nephew of Nancy Dagg
Sandy Gray	
Scott Griffith	brother-in-law of Barb (Adam) Wahl
Patty Hire	grandma of CCYG student
Phyllis Jess	mother of Steve (Karen) Jess
Lilly Ann Jones	
Eric Karr	nephew of DeAnn Krauss
Kristin Lloyd	granddaughter of Bev (Bill) Albright
Bobby & Jennifer McCoy	
Linda Merrill	good friend of Tammy Baker
Mel Mowry	
Sheri Pero	daughter of Joe & Karen Sawyer
Wally Potts	
Sandy Ross	
Joe & Karen Sawyer	
Jim Shull	
Joyce Weiker	
Pastor Bob Young	
Charlene Zaebst	cousin of Bev (Bill) Albright

* * * * *

DEPLOYED MILITARY PERSONNEL

Dylan Kimmet ~ son of Duane & Jeanie Kimmet
Michael Styczynski ~ husband of Elishia (Rosen) Styczynski

December 13, 2020 – December 20, 2020

<p><i>Sunday the 13th</i></p>	<p>REFLECTOR DEADLINE / noon 8:00 a.m. ~ Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. ~ Holy Communion</p>
<p><i>Monday the 14th</i></p>	
<p><i>Tuesday the 15th</i></p>	<p>7:00 pm ~ Stewardship/Finance Board Meeting</p>
<p><i>Wednesday the 16th</i></p>	
<p><i>Thursday the 17th</i></p>	<p>7:00 pm ~ Church Council Meeting</p>
<p><i>Friday the 18th</i></p>	<p>ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE</p>
<p><i>Saturday the 19th</i></p>	<p>8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. ~ Men’s Bible Study 5:00 p.m. ~ Holy Communion Worship</p>
<p><i>Sunday the 20th</i></p>	<p>8:00 a.m. ~ Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. ~ Holy Communion Service</p>

* * * * *



Reservations Necessary for Christmas Eve Services

Due to the COVID-19 resurgence in our area the Worship Board has decided to limit attendance at our Christmas Eve services to reservations only. In order to promote social distancing as much as possible there will be three services, at 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. At this time, 4:00 p.m. service has **55 spaces reserved**, 7:00 p.m. has **10 spots reserved** and 10:00 p.m. has **4 reserved**. There are still many places to be reserved. Please make reservations NOW for you and your family with John Glass at 419-680-4033. **DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020.** Thank you for your cooperation!

* * * * *



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Anyone who will be leaving Ohio for warmer weather for more than a month, please give the office your address and dates away. We will continue to mail the newsletter to you! Also, please turn in college students addresses. Thanks so much for your cooperation!

* * * * *

DEADLINE
FOR REFLECTOR

Due to additional duties in the church office during the Christmas season the “REFLECTOR DEADLINE” for turning in articles for the **January 2021 Publication** is

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 13, 2020 at NOON!!!

This deadline will be adhered to this time!!! Thank you for your cooperation!

* * * * *

Pastor Kurt will offer the last 7:00 pm midweek Advent devotion on Wednesday to all our members who are on Facebook. This week’s devotional is:

Advent 3 – December 16 (CITIES/BUSY PLACES)
Luke 2:1-5

WE HOPE YOU CAN TUNE-IN!

* * * * *



DEADLINE!

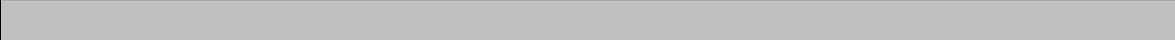
ALL ANNUAL REPORTS (unless you need to wait for a yearend bank statement) for the Annual Congregational Report Book must be in the church office by FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020 to be published in the Annual Report. Thank you for your cooperation!!

* * * * *



COLLECTING FOR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

During the month of **DECEMBER 2020**, St. Paul will be holding a special drive to collect paper product items, such as ~ **paper towels, tissue, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper & personal hygiene products** along with **non-perishable food**. The **Pantry hours** are every **Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. AND 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**



8:00 a.m. Service

10:30 a.m. Service

USHERS:

Jim Shull
Tim Billings
Kevin Larkins
Michelle Larkins
Bill Raypole
Sue Shull

Bob Kessler
Paula Chambers
Logan Nace
Matt Nace
Ada Williams

COUNTERS:

Jane Hilton
Gege Smith

Sandy Kessler
Tina Walker

Song Leaders

Jane Hilton, Bill Hutchinson & Philip Sherick

pastor@stpaulclyde.org

<http://www.stpaulclyde.org>

OUR STEWARDSHIP December 5 & 6, 2020

Worship Service Attendance 84

General Fund Offering \$ 4,734.45

Weekly amount needed to achieve budget is \$5,225.00

God uses money to illustrate His power.
“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse,
that there may be food in my house.
And thereby put me to the test,
says the Lord of hosts” (Mal. 3:10).