

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 2021

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska, 402-662-3125

Jonathan Jensen, Transitional Minister, 402-768-3665

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Isaiah 12:2-6)

P: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,

C: for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

P: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day:

C: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

P: Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

C: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING LITANY

P: "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David" *(Luke 2:1,3-4)*.

P: Today we remember Joseph, worn-out traveler and worried husband, doing what was necessary for the sake of his family, the burden of poverty stifling his hope in the promise of God. There was no room for him, yet he knows to whom he belongs.

C: Today we give thanks for the Josephs among us, migrating far from home when there is no choice, fiercely devoted to the ones they love, unwavering in their belief that there is room for all in the kingdom of God.

P: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Joseph, who knocks at the door, ready to take his place among royalty.

The candle is lit during singing of the Advent Hymn

ADVENT HYMN: "We Light the Advent Candles"

1. We light the Advent candles against the winter night, to welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world's True Light, to welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world's True Light.

4. Three candles now are gleaming and show us the true way. Rejoice, the Baptist cries out, your Lord has come today. Rejoice, the Baptist cries out, your Lord has come today.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In this season of light, let us go before God and confess how our words and actions contribute to the darkness instead of adding to the light. *[Silence for reflection]* God of Love and Light,

C: We confess that we are not always the light-bearers you desire us to be. We shine a spotlight on the transgressions of others while trying to keep our own sins hidden in the dark. We burn bridges by being impatient, opinionated and judgmental. We inflame others by lashing out in anger. We go through our days enveloped in the gloom of fear and doubt. We let our witness become a smoldering ember until it dies out completely.

Forgive us Jesus, the Everlasting Light. Come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel. Teach us to walk as children of light, surrounded by your love, forgiveness and healing. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

P: God is light, and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. 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. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

All: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, 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.

FIRST LESSON – Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

SECOND LESSON – Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (*Noisy offering is taken at this time.*)

(*Children are excused to go downstairs for Sunday School.*)

GOSPEL – Luke 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John 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. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Jensen

HYMN OF THE DAY: **“All Earth is Hopeful” WOV 629 vv 1-3**

(Offerings and noisy offerings are gathered and dedicated.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray,

C: God of Light, our world is a very dark place. Therefore, we offer the gifts our ourselves, our time and our resources, trusting you will use them to set the world aglow with your loving presence. May our offerings continue to shine brightly before others so they may see our good works and give glory to you. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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THE PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

P: Hear us, O God, **C: Your mercy is great.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN: **“Oh Come, All Ye Faithful”, LBW 45 vv 1-3**

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP! It’s wonderful to gather as the body of Christ to worship and give thanks to God! Thanks be to God for all of you here in person, in the parking lot and on-line!

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Dustin Fritch, Sara Miley, Melvin Dorf, Robert Jurgens, Dora Schoen and our shut-ins.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Michelle Snyder, Jade Diehl, Dalena Schultz (Dec.14)

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY Sawyer Wilgers (Dec 5) Taven Borchert (Dec 7) Jeff Kleine (Dec 8) Brooklyn Meints, Jacob Waldron, Eugene Lenner (Dec 9)

HAPPY BELATED ANNIVERSARY Ray and Ginger Boevink (Dec 11,2011)

THRIVENT CARD We aren’t going to have a caring and sharing tree this year, instead we will be using a Thrivent card to help three families for Christmas.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to all that helped with the stone barn Christmas! It was a great success because of all of you! God Bless, Lodene

SUNMART RECEIPTS: Thanks to everyone who has been saving their SunMart receipts! SunMart/Spartan Nash Co. supports a fundraising program called “Support Our Schools and Churches.” All you have to do is save your SunMart cash register receipt tapes and put them in the box in the Fellowship Hall (or give to a council person). When we have collected \$150,000 in receipt tapes Spartan Nash Company awards us a check for \$1000. We have reached our goal of \$150,000 two times so far and are starting over again with a balance of about \$95,000.00. You can also ask your check-out person if they have any extra receipts. They save the ones that people don’t want and give them out – first come, first serve. Thank you to everyone who is helping with this ministry!

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE: You can find our church website at www.filleylutheranchurch.com or by scanning this QR code:



BULLETIN ITEMS are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call or text Britan Meints at (308)-730-0599 or email her at britanrace@gmail.com

BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND on our website, filleylutheranchurch.com. Bulletins are also being sent out by email to everyone that we have an email address for. If you are not receiving the bulletin by email and would like it, please email Britan at britanrace@gmail.com with your email address.

COMING UP:

Every Wednesday – BeLoved/Confirmation, 4:00-5:30 p.m. (no classes on, Dec. 22, Dec. 29)

Wednesday Dec. 15 Christmas program practice during BeLOVED

Sunday Dec. 19 Christmas program practice immediately following church until 11:30 with dress rehearsal

Friday, Dec 24-6:00 pm Christmas Eve Children’s Program and Candle light service.

WORSHIP HELPERS

Transitional Minister – Pastor Jonathan Jensen, 402-768-3665

Council – Dave Norton-President (402-520-3555), Virgil Jobman-Vice President (402-310-6339), Carol Frerichs-Secretary (402-223-7919), Brenda Hippen-Treasurer (402-688-4466), Linda Searcey-at large (402-223-8237).

Reader: Carol Frerichs Next Week Susan Frerichs

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen/Susan Frerichs Next Week Brenda Hippen

Audio/Video Norm Flesner Next Week Brad Frerichs

Accompanist: Sandy Mahler Next Week Sarah Harder

Fellowship Susan and Brad Frerichs Next Week Delores Huls