

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 5, 2021

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska, 402-662-3125  
Rev. Jonathan Jensen, Transitional Minister, 402-768-3665

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Luke 1:68-79)

P: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel...

**C: For he has visited and redeemed his people...**

P: And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

**C: The prophets told us that God would do this.**

P: In doing this God is carrying out the mercy promised to our fathers...

**C: And keeping the covenant he made with them.**

P: God promised our father Abraham that we would be delivered from our enemies...

**C: God promised that we might serve him without fear...and do so in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives.**

P: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High...

**C: For you will go before the Lord to prepare his way...**

P: To give the knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins...through the tender mercy of our God.

**C: The day of dawn is coming from on high.**

P: Light will be given to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**C: This light will guide our feet into the way of peace.**

#### ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING LITANY

P: "In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people'" *(Luke 2:8-10)*.

P: Today we remember the shepherds, workers for the common good, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, God valued them, and God declared the greatest news of all to them alone.

**C: Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us, back-breaking laborers on whom our economy stands, those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness.**

Reader: On this second Sunday in Advent, we light the second candle as a symbol of the shepherds, agents of the gospel and redeemers of the world.

*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.**

**3. We light the second candle and hear God's holy Word. It tells us cling to Jesus, prepare to meet your Lord. It tells us cling to Jesus, prepare to meet your Lord.**

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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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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 – Malachi 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

#### SECOND LESSON – Philippians 1:3-11

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *(Noisy offering is taken at this time.)*  
*(Children are excused to go downstairs for Sunday School.)*

#### HOLY GOSPEL – Luke 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and

Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>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;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathon Jensen

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

#34(LBW), vv. 1-3

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray,

**C: God of Light, our world is a very dark place. Therefore, we offer the gifts of 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.**

APOSTLES' CREED

p. 65

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary...

**All: (sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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. 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN: "Lamb of God" p. 72

POST COMMUNION BLESSING:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

**All: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Still, Still, Still"

**1. Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow. For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, Holy Star its vigil keeping. Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.**

**2. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth. The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes, let sleep surround you. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.**

**3. Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come. While guardian angels without number, watch you as you sweetly slumber. Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come.**

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SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

**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 and our shut-ins.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** Trenton Schmidt, Destiny Wilgers (Dec. 2) Jeff Garrels, Danelle Lenners (Dec 3) Dean Baker, Wayne Robinson (Dec 4) Sawyer Wilgers (Dec 5)

**ELCA WOMEN CHRISTMAS PARTY** all women are welcome December 9th here at the church. Soup will be served at 6:00. Come join us for a fun night of fellowship with a \$10 grab gift. Hope to see you there.

**LIVE NATIVITY** Please Join us at Filley Stone Barn Today at 2 p.m appreciate any help with setup at 11 am today. Spread the word

**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.

**CHILI COOK-OFF** for Carol Joy Holling Camp Monday, November 29 from 5:30-7:30 pm at Zion Lutheran Church of Pickrell Parish Hall

**COOKIES, COCOA, & HELPERS** are needed for the stone Barn Christmas on Dec. 5 Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you can help.

**MERCY MEALS** Will be held December 6 from 4-6 pm at Odell Community Building. Sign up sheet will be in the back of church.

**I THANK YOU** for prayers and well wishes at the time of my surgery. We thank the church chicks for the delicious thanksgiving meal. And thank you from Lenhart for the many cards and 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday Wishes.

God bless you all Lenhart and Helen

**THANK YOU SO MUCH** to everyone who brought in food for the Thanksgiving Food Drive Challenge this year. Your donations to this ministry are much appreciated! We will let you know the count of food items in coming bulletins/newsletter.

**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](http://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](mailto:britanrace@gmail.com)

**BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND** on our website, [filleylutheranchurch.com](http://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](mailto: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)  
Monday, Dec. 6 - Mercy Meals

**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: Danelle Lenners Next Week Carol Frierichs

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen/DeeAnn Schmidt Next Week Susan Frierichs

Audio/Video Randy Schmidt Next Week Norm

Accompanist: Sandy Mahler

Fellowship Brenda Hippen Next Week Susan and Brad Frierichs