

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

904 Bluff Street Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

A traditional, liturgical, Biblical congregation in the heart of Cedar Falls ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Christ.

Rev. Michael R. Knox, Pastor
(319) 231-9761

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, Pastor
(319) 389-5526

Matthew Baker, Vicar
(605) 342-0259

Church Office: 266-2509

Email: orlc@cfu.net Website: theforgivenessplace.org

The 4th Sunday In Advent December 24, 2023

TO OUR VISITORS We rejoice that you have joined us this morning to hear the Word of God, receive His gifts of life and salvation, and to respond to His faithfulness with “Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs” *Ephesians 5:19*

- ✘ Please take the time to fill out the Communion Registration/Visitors’ Cards which are in the small card holders on the pew.
- ✘ Please read the announcement below regarding Communion.
- ✘ Guests who will not be communing may place the Visitor’s card in the Offering plate.
- ✘ Guests who intend to commune are asked to announce this intention to the Elder and give the card to the Usher as they come forward to receive communion.

OUR REDEEMER PRACTICES CLOSED COMMUNION



The Sacrament of the Altar is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine for us Christians to eat and drink, instituted by Christ Himself. As we receive this Sacrament, the oneness of fellowship at the Altar (I Corinthians 10:17) presupposes a oneness in doctrine with the Apostles (Acts 2:42). For this reason the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of Closed Communion. If you desire to receive the Lord’s Supper and are not a communicant member of Our Redeemer or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning. Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Knox,

Pastor Saunders, or Vicar Baker about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation.

THOSE SERVING GOD’S PEOPLE THIS WEEK

Elder: Stephen Hoffman **Ushers:** Kelly Barber, Tim Koch

Service Assistants: Steven Dekutoski **Organist:** Roxann List

Tellers: Dean Fink, Dean Garms **Shut-Ins:** Roxann List



TODAY IS THE 4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT For three weeks now, you have heard the proclamation of God’s messengers, calling the faithful people of God to readiness and watchfulness. These messengers were rather peculiar people, but at the same time they were God’s chosen prophets. Isaiah and John, specifically, who through the preaching of repentance and trust in God’s merciful promise of a Savior, gathered the small remnant of Israel to receive the blessings of God’s kingdom.

In today’s Gospel, the messenger is an angel speaking to that she would be His chosen instrument to give birth to

way, Mary, another peculiar person, is used by God to fulfill the promise prophet Isaiah that He Himself would redeem Israel from her sins. Mary is through whom the Servant of all mankind assumes His role as Savior.

Though Mary has a distinct and unique role in God’s gracious plan of humble response to the angelic messenger should not be so unique. Mary’s

Lord’s servant, may it be to me as you have said,” is really the response of all the faithful children of God. God’s messenger spoke, Mary heard this message, and, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, she believed what God had revealed.

You, too, are God’s servant. Jesus gives you today His very own body and blood for the forgiveness of your sins. Your response is the same, **“may it be to me as you have said.”**



Mary and announcing the Savior. In this spoken through the the servant of God

salvation, Mary’s response, **“I am the**

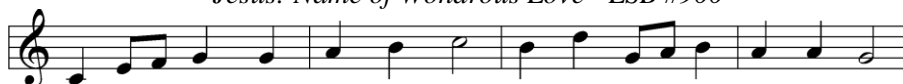
BECAUSE ADVENT IS A PENITENTIAL SEASON we observe a few liturgical changes.

- We omit the singing of the Gloria in Excelsis. (p. 187-189)

I. THE PREPARATION

Hymn of Invocation

“Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love” LSB #900



1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid - en moth - er told,
3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Kneel - ing in her low - ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.
For the prom - ise that it gave, “Je - sus shall His peo - ple save.”
When the cup of hu - man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

5. Jesus! Only name that's giv'n
Under all the mighty heav'n
Whereby those to sin enslaved
Burst their fetters and are saved.
6. Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand/Remain Standing

Invocation

P/V: In the name of the Father and of the (✠) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

C: Amen.

The Confession of Sin

P/V: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P/V: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P/V: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

P/V: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

P/V: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to be the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: Amen.

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

II. THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit



Cantor: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;*
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

Cong: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His | handiwork.*

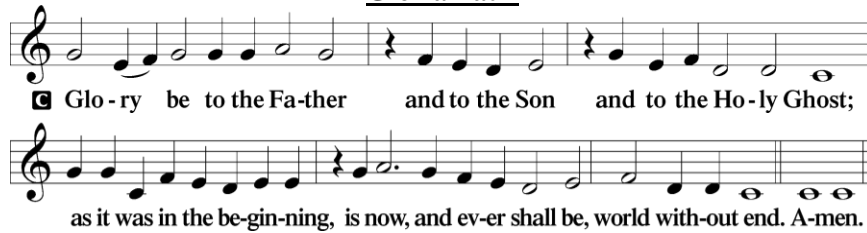
**In them He has set a tent | for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,*
and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.**

**Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them,*
and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.**

Cantor: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;*
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

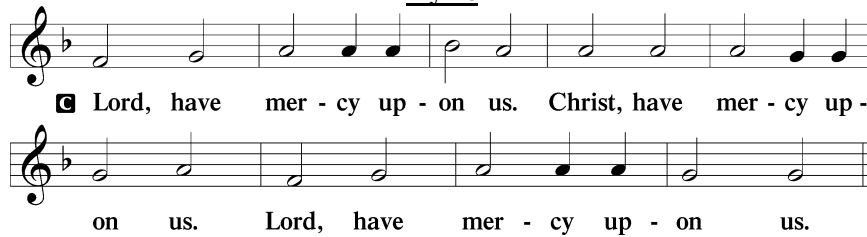
(Ps. 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Is. 45:8a, b)

Gloria Patri



Kyrie

Mark 10:47



Gloria in Excelsis

is omitted during Advent

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

The Salutation



P The Lord be with you.

II Timothy 4:22



C And with thy spir - it.

The Collect of the Day

P: Let us pray: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Be seated

The Old Testament

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

The Gradual Hymn

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” LSB #338



1 Come, Thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a-lone;



Dear de-sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
By Thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Epistle

Romans 16:25-27

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

The Alleluia/Verse



☐ Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Cantor: Behold, I send my messenger be-fore Your face, *
who will prepare Your way be-fore You.

(Matthew 11:10b)



☐ Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

P: The Holy Gospel according to the Evangelist Luke, the 1st chapter.



☐ Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed

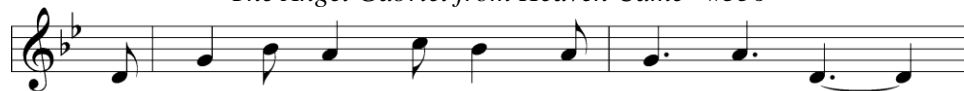
I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life (✕) of the world to come. Amen

The Hymn of The Day

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” #356



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
“To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
“My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
“Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!

The Sermon

Following the Sermon, please rise to sing the Offertory

Stand

The Offertory

Psalms 51:10-12



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

The Prayers

Various Petitions are prayed. Each petition will conclude with the response:

P: Lord, in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

The Congregation, gathered for worship in person, will now be receiving the Sacrament of the Altar. This most significant portion of the Divine Service, when our Lord Jesus Christ draws near to His people with His flesh and blood, will not be streamed. Members desiring to receive the Sacrament who are unable to be present in the Church will be visited by one of our pastors to bring them the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

Those who have joined us online for the Service of the Word are now encouraged to pray the 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.**

May the Lord bless and keep you.

Please call Pastor Knox (319/231-9761) if you would like to receive a Pastoral visit.

✠ OUR WEEK TOGETHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST ✠

Sun. 12/24	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Class (No Sunday School)
	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service at Peace-Shell Rock
	6:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Divine Service at Our Redeemer
Mon. 12/25	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Divine Service at Our Redeemer
Wed. 12/27		NO MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES
Sat. 12/30	6:00 p.m.	Bible Class at Peace – Shell Rock
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Service at Peace – Shell Rock
Sun. 12/31	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Class (No Sunday School)

HYMNS/READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

December 31, 2023 The 1st Sunday after Christmas

Readings: Isaiah 61:10–62:3, Galatians 4:4–7, Luke 2:22–40	
Invocation: Angels From the Realms of Glory	367
Gradual: O Sing of Christ	362
Hymn of the Day: In Peace and Joy I Now Depart	938
Distribution: Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising	375
Distribution: O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly	897

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. The class will take a break from Revelation on 12/31 and resume with Revelation 8 on 1/7/24.

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. There will be no Sunday School on 12/24 or 12/31.

WEEKLY READINGS/HYMNS STUDY This class meets each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. and at 6:30 p.m. The class studies the weekly readings, hymns, and propers for the upcoming Sunday. It is a way to prepare for the coming week's Divine Service. There will be no class on 12/27/23.

THE VICAR'S BIBLE STUDY This Fall Vicar Baker meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 9:00 a.m. The class also meets at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings of the same week at Peace in Shell Rock. The class will resume on January 8/9.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY **YOUTH BIBLE STUDY** The Jr. High/Sr. High Youth meet with our Vicar on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:15 and on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024 ALTAR FLOWERS – Donations for Altar Flowers for 2024 can now be given. To reserve a Sunday, please place your name on the Flower Chart in the Parish Hall and fill out a flower donation card which is under the chart. Alternatively, contact Sara Lair – (319) 830-4370 or sjlair@cfu.net. Cost is \$40.00 plus tax – Bancroft will bill you directly.

UPDATED PHOTO DIRECTORY Sometime after the New Year we will be printing a new Congregational Photo Directory. If you would like to update your photo, Tammy will be taking photos until December 31 in the lower level of the Education Wing during refreshment time. Please check the draft directory which is in either the Narthex or in the Parish Hall. Make sure that your information is correct. If everything is ok, put a check mark or your initials in the margin. If information needs to be corrected, please note what changes need to be made.

NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER AND LUTHERAN WITNESS are available in the Narthex.

PASTOR KNOX AND VICAR BAKER will be taking some time off during the week after Christmas. If Pastoral Care needs arise, please feel free to contact Pastor Knox calling his Mobile Phone – 319/231-9761.

THERE WILL BE NO MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES DURING THE WEEK AFTER CHRISTMAS

THE OUR REDEEMER BOOK CLUB will take a break for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. We will begin a new book, "The Messianic Message: Predictions, Patterns, and the Presence of Jesus in the Old Testament," by R. Reed Lessing and Andrew E. Steinmann on Wednesday, January 3, at 10:00 a.m. (prior to the weekly Pericopes study). For a book, contact Sara Lair (319) 266-1163; sjlair@cfu.net. The book will "equip you to find the message about the Messiah in each book of the Old Testament." We welcome new members!



EPIPHANY SERVICE – SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 Our Redeemer and Peace will observe the Festival of The Epiphany of Our Lord on Saturday, January 6 with the Divine Service at 9:00 a.m. at Our Redeemer. On this day the Church marks the beginning of the Epiphany Season and recalls the visit of the Magi who worship the King of the Jews.

2024 OFFICERS At the November Voters' Meeting the following were elected to serve as Officers during 2024. The installation of Officers will take place on Sunday, January 14th.

President: Doug Nefzger

Vice-President: Stephen Hoffman

Stewardship: Dave Kmoch

Christian Care: Char Strub

Financial Secretary: Greg Gerjerts

Elders: Ryan Thornton, Alan Czarnetzki

Trustees: Brad Bovy, Dusty Greiman

Endowment Committee: David Jackson

They join the following whose terms of office continue in 2024:

Secretary: Gerry Peterson

Treasurer: Tim Koch

Education: Ryan Thornton

Youth: Anna Staudinger

Communication and Outreach: Jim Niebergall

Elders: Matt Kenitzer, Tom Strub, Stephen Hoffman, Rod Lair

Trustees: Chris Fink, Dean Fink, Blake Wayson, Kelly Barber

Endowment Committee: Dave Kmoch, Cathy Niebergall

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCES

In an effort to keep the members of Our Redeemer aware of our financial condition as a congregation, the following is provided by the Board of Stewardship and the Financial Secretary.

- Giving/income Year to Date \$211,676 (*through November*)
- Budget Year to Date: \$225,600
- Difference: -\$13,924

Donations are almost \$14,000 below our 2023 budget. Please consider increasing your offerings to reduce the deficit.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Divine Service @ Peace-Shell Rock

6:30 p.m. Divine Service @ Our Redeemer

Christmas Day – Monday, December 25

9:00 a.m. Divine Service @ Our Redeemer