

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 Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, Pastor Joseph Goodroad, Vicar
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THE 4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 18, 2022

TODAY IS THE 4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT For three weeks you have heard the proclamation of God's messengers, calling the faithful people of God to readiness and watchfulness. These messengers were God's chosen prophets, Isaiah and John specifically, who, through the preaching of repentance and faith in God's merciful promise of a Savior, gathered the remnant of Israel to receive the blessings of God's kingdom.



In today's Gospel, the messenger is an angel, speaking to Joseph and announcing that the woman to whom he was engaged was going to have a baby. **"Do not fear to take Mary as your wife,"** the angel says, **"for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."** Not only was Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary to be his wife, the angel also reveals that Mary would be His chosen instrument to give birth to the Savior. **"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."** In this way, Mary is used by God to fulfill the promise spoken through the prophet Isaiah that He Himself would redeem Israel from all her sins. Mary is the servant of God through whom the Servant of all mankind assumes His role as Savior.

Joseph believed the word that the angel had spoken. So must you! The child that was conceived in the womb of the virgin Mary was, and is, Immanuel, "God with us." He is with you today bringing forgiveness and salvation in the Word that you hear and in the Sacrament you receive. **"This is my body . . . This is my blood."** Not only is Immanuel "God with us" in the Sacrament of the Altar, He is "God for you" as you believe what is said and you receive His flesh and blood for the forgiveness of your sins. How do you know this? God has declared it by His messengers through His Holy Word.

I. THE PREPARATION

Invocation

"Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come" LSB #350



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

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. SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Introit



Cantor: Oh that You would rend the heavens | and come down,*
that the mountains might quake at Your | presence.

Cong: **I wait for the Lord, my | soul waits,***

and in His | word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the | morning,*

more than watchmen for the | morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is | steadfast love,*

and with Him is plentiful re- | demption.

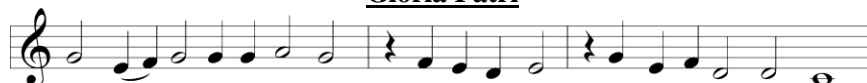
And He will redeem | Israel*

from all his in- | iquities.

Cantor: Oh that You would rend the heavens | and come down,*
that the mountains might quake at Your | presence.

(Ps. 130:5-8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1)

Gloria Patri



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Omitted during Advent as a reminder of the Penitential nature of the Season of Advent

The Salutation



P The Lord be with you.

II Timothy 4:22



C And with thy spir - it.

The Collect of the Day

P: 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

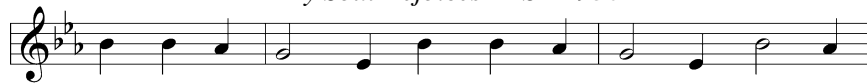
Isaiah 7:10-17

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual

"My Soul Rejoices" LSB #936



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622

Text: © 1991 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001799

Tune: Public domain

The Epistle
Romans 1:1-7

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, the virgin shall conceive and | bear a son,*
and they shall call His name | Immanuel. (*Isaiah 7:14*)



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

The Holy Gospel
Matthew 1:18-25

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, 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

“Savior Of The Nations, Come” LSB #332

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and

here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,

That the Lord chose such a birth.
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 God was there up - on His throne.
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

- 5. God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.
- 6. For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.
- 7. From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.
- △ 8. Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973
 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
 Text (sts. 3, 6–7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 4–5, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission:
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 Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

The Sermon

Following the Sermon, please rise to sing the Offertory

Stand

The Offertory

Psalm 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.

THOSE SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE THIS WEEK

Elder: Alan Czarnetzki **Service Assistant:** Brady and Bo Wayson

Organist: Roxann List **Ushers:** Carson Irwin, Jim Niebergall

Tellers: Jonah Bolin, Tom Strub **Shut-Ins:** Becca Barber

✕ OUR WEEK TOGETHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST ✕

Sun. 12/18	4:00 p.m.	Festival of Christmas Music at Our Redeemer
Mon. 12/19	6:30 p.m.	Confession and Absolution
	7:00 p.m.	Board of Elders
Tues. 12/20	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Advent Service at Peace – Shell Rock
Wed. 12/21	10:00 a.m.	Our Redeemer Book Club
	11:00 a.m.	Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
	Noon	Midday Advent Service at Our Redeemer
	5:25 p.m.	Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Midweek Advent Service at Our Redeemer
Thur. 12/22	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Caroling
Sat. 12/24	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Divine Service at Peace - Shell Rock
	6:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Divine Service at Our Redeemer
Sun. 12/25	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer (No Sunday School or Bible Class)

Sunday, December 11, 2022
Attendance: 91 Communion: 80

Wednesday, December 14, 2022
Attendance: 19/32

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24

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

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

Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25

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

Readings and Hymns for Wednesday, December 21, 2022 - Midweek Advent 4

Psalmody: Psalm 146 (antiphon: v. 5): Reading: Isaiah 7:10-17

Office Hymn: Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming 359
Closing Hymn: Let The Earth Now Praise The Lord 352

Readings and Hymns for December 25, 2022 - The Nativity Of Our Lord

The Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-18

Invocation: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful 379
Gradual: Let The Earth Now Praise The Lord 352
Hymn of the Day: Let All Together Praise Our God 389
Offertory Hymn: Let Our Gladness Have No End 381
Distribution: Come, Your Hearts And Voices Raising 375
Distribution: Now Sing We, Now Rejoice 386
Final Hymn: Joy To The World 387

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. Pastor Knox has begun a study of the birth of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. This will continue the Sundays throughout Advent and Christmas. Pastor Saunders is teaching this morning and will be covering the familiar account of Luke 2.

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. There will be no Sunday School on December 25.

WEEKLY READINGS/HYMNS STUDY This class meets on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. to study the weekly readings, hymns, and propers for the upcoming Sunday. It is a way to prepare for the coming week's Divine Service. After Christmas we will resume offering this class on Wednesday evening.

THE VICAR'S BIBLE STUDY This class meets at Our Redeemer on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 9:00 a.m. and at Peace in Shell Rock on the Tuesday of that same week at 6:00 p.m. The class is studying the words of hymns and the Scriptural texts which underlie these hymns. The class will resume in January on the 9th and 10th.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY The Jr. High/Sr. High Youth meet for Bible Study with Vicar Goodroad on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. and holiness. The class will resume in January on the 4th.

THE FINAL MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES will take place this Wednesday, December 21 at Noon and 6:30 p.m. As we have throughout Advent, our attention will be drawn to the words of the Old Testament readings for the week, all which come from Isaiah *"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel."*

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC This afternoon at 4:00 p.m. the congregation is invited to celebrate the Christmas Gospel in Word and Song. The festival will include Advent and Christmas music sung or played by instrumentalists, vocalists, the Sunday School students, the Adult Choir, and the congregation. This is an expansion of what we might normally have thought of as the Children's Christmas program. Please read all the details in the latest REPORTER on page 11.

RIDES AVAILABLE If there are any of our members who would like to attend this evening's Christmas Music Festival, we have drivers who will help those who are unable to drive or perhaps prefer not to drive after dark. Please speak with Char Strub (319/266-6118) and the Christian Care Committee will help to make arrangements for a ride.

CONFESSION/ABSOLUTION The regular time for Corporate Confession and Absolution, on the 3rd Monday of the Month, will take place tomorrow, Monday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m. Time for Individual Confession and Absolution will be available after the Service of Corporate Confession and is always available by appointment as well. Please call Pastor Knox or Pastor Saunders to make those arrangements.

CHURCH FINANCES The church budget is tight. We estimate approximately \$16,000 in expenses for the remainder of the year. With the understanding that the downturn in the economy has made things challenging at home, the same has happened at church. The leadership of the congregation asks all of our members to reflect on the blessings which God gives you through His word and sacraments and then joyfully support the proclamation of the Gospel with your offerings

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES Please pick up your envelopes for 2023. They are on a table in the Parish Hall. If you have questions, please see Rod Lair.

A DRAFT OF THE UPDATED PHOTO DIRECTORY is in the Narthex or Parish Hall for you to review. Please double check it for accuracy today.



CHRISTMAS CAROLERS We plan to go Christmas Caroling on Thursday, December 22 in the late afternoon-early evening. Our first appointment is at Mallard Point starting at 4:00 p.m. We will also go to the Windhaven building at the Western Homes at 5:30 p.m. and sing for some of our individual members as well. There is some paperwork to fill out for entrance into Mallard Point. If you plan to sing with us, please get that paperwork from Pastor. Plan to meet at Church at about 3:30 p.m. and then join us as we bring some Christmas joy into the lives of our Shut-Ins and residents of Nursing Homes.

ADOPT A FAMILY A big thank you to all members that supported our “Adopt a Family” (thru Friends of the Family) and the Angel Tree recipients (thru the Salvation Army). Thank you for your prayers in support of the recipients, thanks to those that fulfilled a tag and returned it in a timely manner, and thanks to those for their monetary support. All money donated was used to fill the tags that were not taken by other members. We were able to fulfill all 30 tags for children from the Salvation Army, and the bulk of the wish lists from two adult clients of Friends of the Family.

Your generosity provides encouragement to those that are working to move ahead with their lives and helps ease some of the financial hardship many are experiencing. The Friends of the Family gifts were delivered to their office on Friday 12/9, and the Salvation Army volunteers picked up their gifts from the church on Sat. 12/10. Thanks to all!

2023 OFFICERS At the November Voters’ Meeting the following were elected to serve as Officers during 2023. The installation of Officers will take place on Sunday, January 8th.

Secretary: Gerry Peterson Treasurer: Tim Koch
Education: Ryan Thornton Youth: Anna Staudinger
Communication and Outreach: Jim Niebergall
Elders: Tom Strub and Stephen Hoffman
Trustees: Blake Wayson and Kelly Barber
Endowment Committee: Dave Kmoch

They join the following whose terms of office continue in 2023:

President: Roger Mishler Vice-President: Doug Nefzger
Stewardship: Rod Lair Christian Care: Char Strub
Financial Secretary: Stephen Hoffman
Elders: Alan Czarnetzki, Matt Kenitzer, Rod Lair, Ryan Thornton
Trustees: Dusty Greiman, Chris Fink, Dean Fink, Brad Bovy
Endowment Committee: Martha Garms, Kathy Niebergall