

Christ Lutheran Church
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Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

THE WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:00 AM In-Person & Zoom

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

WELCOME

Announcements

Prelude “Freedom Is Coming”

Chancel Choir

*** A Call to Worship**

P: A chill in the air.

C: Damp penetrates to the bone.

P: Wind rattles bare tree branches.

C: An eerie silence.

P: A longing filled with hope and dread.

C: An uneasy peace.

P: Then, from the farthest corners of the earth comes a song.

C: From the deepest part of our souls comes a hope,

P: So we gather in this holy season to open our hearts to the One who fills the silence with song

C: And makes the darkness bright.

P: Today we light the third candle on our Advent wreath. May we rejoice, knowing that Jesus is coming to be with us this Christmas.

C: May we prepare our hearts to welcome him!

* Lighting of the third Advent Candle

Hymn 257 (Verses 5-6)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain***

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain***

* Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Long-expected God,

**C: we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✠ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

*** Gathering Hymn 254**

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

*** Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*** Kyrie**

(Setting 8 – Page 184)

A Kyrie may be sung. The assembly sings the refrain, and a leader sings the verses.

Refrain S 184

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

* Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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: *Isaiah 35:1-10*

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: *Psalms 146:5-10*

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;
who keeps promis- | es forever;**

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who
hunger. The LORD sets the | captive free.

⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those
who | are bowed down; the LORD | loves the righteous.**

⁹ The LORD cares | for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of
the wicked.

¹⁰ **The LORD shall | reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!**

Second Lesson: *James 5:7-10*

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord.
The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with
it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient.
Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and
sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be
judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of
suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke
in the name of the Lord. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to
God.**

* Gospel Acclamation

(Setting 8 – Page 188)

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 11th chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Holy Gospel: *Matthew 11:2-11*

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Daniel Swanson

Hymn 256

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

* Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty.

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

The Prayer of the Church

* Sharing of the Peace of the Lord

We Offer Our Gifts to the Lord

Organ Voluntary

Anthem

Chancel Choir

“A Tiny Child will Come”

Don Besig and Nancy Price

* Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

* Offertory

Hymn 674

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

**Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

Refrain

*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

**Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. *Refrain***

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *Refrain***

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

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*** Offertory Prayer**

L: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

C: Amen.

*** 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 God thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed rightand join their unending hymn:

*** (Holy, Holy Holy)**

(Setting 8 – Page 190)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

* The Words of Institution

* 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.

* P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.
 C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

The Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*)

(Setting 8 – Page 191)

S 191

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Distribution of the Sacrament
We Are Waiting”

Chancel Choir

* Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace.

C: Amen.

* The Prayer after Communion

L: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen

* Blessing

P: May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

* **Sending Hymn 581**

“You Are Mine”

* Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

* Postlude

* * * * *

In Bread and Wine our Lord Jesus meets us and we receive His Body and Blood given and shed for our forgiveness. It is a meal of love, forgiveness and renewal. If you are visiting with us today and are a baptized Christian and desire to commune, please do come to the table of the Lord. Children and youth who have not received instruction in the meaning of the Sacrament are cordially invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please come toward as directed by ushers by the center aisle and return by the side aisles.

The Bulletins and Communion Bread & Wine has been given to the glory of God in honor of our grandchildren, Cain's & Cambr's 18th Birthday by Shirley & Jim Smith

The December Newsletter has been given to the glory of God in memory of Terry's birthday and in honor of Sofia Rose's 2nd birthday by Sherry Tedrow.

Bible Studies - The God and Suffering on Thursday mornings at 10:30am. This is also on Zoom! Please come join us!

Please pick-up your Advent devotionals on the table in the main narthex.

Lectors for our Services

This Sunday, December 14 –Gary Llewellyn

Wednesday, December 17 – Paul Chiarenza

Next Sunday, December 21 – Jack Murray

Next Wednesday, Christmas Eve – December 24 – Sally Buser

Dec. Ushers: Ed & Lita Havens

Organist: Rae Ann Smith

A/V – Kathy, Dave, Mark, Joyce

Today Sunday, December 14th immediately following the service you are invited to stay for a light lunch followed by Christ Lutheran Players presentation of “Whispering Pines.” Please join your fellow congregation members as we celebrate the season.

Our Christmas Eve Service, Wednesday, December 24th will be at 7:00pm. Please bring a friend and join us.

This week –

This Sunday – Worship at 10:00am followed light lunch and play – 12:30pm

Tuesday – Executive – 5:30pm

Wednesday – Advent Service – 6:30pm

Chancel Choir rehearsal – 7:30pm

Thursday – Bible Study – 10:30pm

Reach Meal prep

Friday – Diane’s Music Class – 11:00am, Ladybirds – 11:00am

Reach Meal Prep

Saturday – Reach Meal prep and serving from 3-5:00pm

Next Sunday – Worship at 10:00am followed by blood pressure screening

Fellowship Use by Lucrecia Hull – 2-4:00pm

END OF THE YEAR CHANGE: You have previously been notified that the CLC reimbursement policy is that receipts for committee expenses must be submitted by the 15th of the month following the date of the receipt in order to be reimbursed. As the end of the year approaches, our financial team needs to close out our books in a timely manner. To that end, we are asking that **any expenses made in December 2025 MUST be submitted by January 5, 2026 (NOT the 15th).** Please make note of and adhere to this request for a shortened timeline. If you know of someone who has made purchases for your committee, please forward this information to the respective individual(s). We appreciate your cooperation and compliance. Thank you, Sally Buser, CLC Council Secretary

Christmas Staff Gift - The Church Council will be receiving monetary contributions for a Christmas gift for our church staff (*Pastor Daniel, Shirley, Rae Ann & Debbie*). The gifts will be presented at our 7:00pm Service on Christmas Eve.

If you wish to make a contribution, ***please place in an envelope, and mark “CLC Staff Christmas Gift”. Please make checks payable to Christ Lutheran Church. You may place the envelope in the collection plate, give to Dianne Short or Shirley Smith or mail to CLC Church Office, 1222 Vocke Road, LaVale, Md. 21502. You may contribute through Sunday, Dec 21st.*** Thank you.

LAST WEEK’S REPORT – December 7, 2025

Attendance In-Person 10:00am = 56
Zoom 10:00am = 4
Wed. Dec 10 In-Person 6:30pm = 12
Zoom 6:30pm = 2

Hanging of the Greens - 20
Thurs. Bible Study – None

BUDGET OFFERINGS FOR 2025

Received = 4,016.93
Needed weekly = 4,044.04
27.11

BUDGETED ACCOUNTS – JAN-NOV 2025

Actual Income = \$185,750.87
Actual Expenses = (196,628.93)
(\$ 10,878.06)

CHRISTMAS Poinsettias

6 INCH POT - \$13.00

Orders must be received by Dec. 18th.

Please print names exactly as you wish them to appear in bulletin. Please make checks payable to Christ Lutheran Church. Place payment in the white envelope along with this form and mark it “Poinsettia”. You may place the envelope in the offering plate or bring it to the Church office.

Flowers will be placed in the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. You may pick up your flowers to take home after the service Christmas Eve.

IN HONOR _____
IN MEMORY _____
BY _____

Instead of our sharing tree this year, we will be donating items to Braddock Middle School. Below are suggestions for items you could donate. Please do not wrap. There is a box in the main narthex for your contributions. You may also make a cash donation (make checks payable to Christ Lutheran)

Braddock Middle School Student Gift Ideas

Comfort & Cozy Items

- Blankets, robes, slippers, fun socks
- Cozy wear (beanies, gloves, etc.)
- Crocs & similar styles

Toys, Activities & Creative Items

- Fidget toys (quiet only; Needoh preferred brand)
- Board & card games
- Lego sets
- Coloring books with colored pencils
- Journals with color pens
- Crafting kits

Body Care & Personal Items

- Body care sets:
 - **Boys:** Old Spice, Dove Men, Axe
 - **Girls:** Dove Crumbl, Tree Hut, Bodycology
- Hair claws
- Water bottles
- Headphones

Room & Decor

- Light-up décor such as string/rope lights or signs
- Bluetooth speakers
- Projector lights/lamps

Snacks & Treats

- Candy: Nerd Gummy Clusters, Fun Dip, Ring Pops, gummy candies, Airheads
- Snacks: Takis, chips, Goldfish
- But truly all snacks are popular!

Thank you sincerely for supporting our students!

PRAYER LIST FOR DECEMBER 14, 2025

PRAYER RECIPIENT - MEMBERS

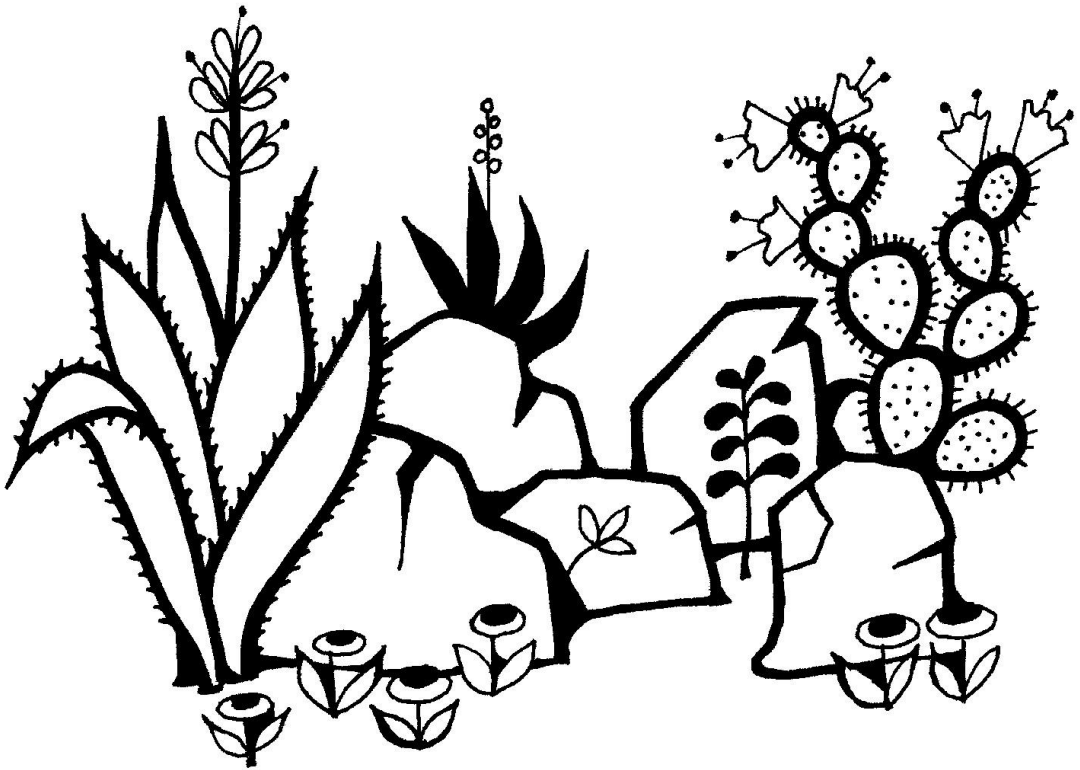
Bill & MarySue Crawford
Jack Zealand
Laura Murray
Anna Bruck
Jane Miller
Ed Havens
Gail Dawson
Mitzie & Jerry Robinette
Patty Wilson
Clem Dawson
Dave & Lisa Ahern
Kim Shoemaker
Fay Crawford
David LaBuda
Rosey & Becky McIntyre
Jonathan and Danielle Ahern
Tammy Faulkner
Pam & Dave Judy
David Tibbetts
Joyce DeMonbrun
Kathy Powell
Sharon McKenzie
Mary Lou Rowles

PRAYER RECIPIENT

Christina Puffinburger	<i>Requested by</i> Elwood & Janet Glass
Brad & Gregg Dawson, Stephen Overtom	Gail Dawson
Barbara Williams	Sharon M
Joe Kunsman, Linda Nines, Ellen Hill	Mitzie & Jerry
Brittney Meyers, Talot Omar, Terry Baker	Mitzie & Jerry
Nathan Winters	Dianne Short
Charlotte & Ed Troutman, Arlene Simmons.	Amy, Jacie Fairall Barb Simmons
Carl Chiarenza, Karen Mackert	Paul & Ruth C
Elise & Henry Jack Balber	Jack Zealand
Cheryl Trusler	Joyce D
Cheri Bielen	Jane Miller
Baby Whetzel, Kevin Mistretta, Carolyn Farr, Kendra Morriss, Paula Rose	Diane
Dan Moore, Graham Tower, Lisa Storm, Jaime Pletcher, Karen Ford	Diane K
Richard Clark, Zachary Sutterfield, Alexis Smith	Anne DeVaughn
Diane Davis, Nancy Smith, James Flynn	Antoinette Royster
Joy Kroeger-Mappes Carmen and Lance Jackson	Antoinette Royster
Bob Aman, Susie Spiker, Joan Beal	Shirley & Jim Smith
Gretchen Burke	Val & Gary Llewellyn
Sally, Roger, James Tibbetts	Dave Tibbetts
Andy Cocco	John Cocco
Marie Turnbull, Steven Suzindlak, Taylor Neumann	Lita Havens
Dan Carr, Matt Doman	Steven Hansrote
Michele Jones, Lois Shunk	Sherry T
Don Ringer, Stephanie Georgiane	Kristan Fazenbaker
Mary Lou Dorsey	Trina Firey
Vic Werner	Barbara Martin
Belinda Keller	Linda McCagh
Barbara Blough	Janice & Dave LaBuda
Galen Dean Krepps	Lisa Ahern
Jared McGensie, Chris Twigg	Patty Wilson and Rosey
Breanna Brown	Debbie Fornwalt
Kamryn Rice	Corinna Hilderbrand
Candy Heverly	Charlotte Luy
Elizabeth Ororke, Brooks Changers, Barbara Fridengu	L. Marchini

Please keep us updated

- the family of Roy Lee Bennett, the family of William S Anderson
- the family of Lashoe Gill, the family of Kathy Jackson, the family of Brianna Dunkin
- all people affected by the wildfires and other disasters
- all people of the Ukraine and all affected by the war
- all elected officials
- those who serve in our nation's armed forces including Rick Rounds, Tom Forrest



Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025