

Christ Lutheran Church
1222 Vocke Road, LaVale, MD. 21502-7519
Telephone 301-729-1010
Website: CLCLaVale.org
E-Mail: christlutheran@atlanticbbn.net

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

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

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

WELCOME

Announcements

Prelude "Freedom Is Coming"

Chancel Choir

*** A Call to Worship**

P: All four candles are lit, O Lord,

C: and all the prophets tell us of your birth.

P: All four candles are lit, O Lord,

C: and all the world awaits your salvation.

P: All four candles are lit, O Lord,

C: and all the people here prepare to praise your name.

P: All four candles are lit, O Lord,

C: and heaven and earth are ready to welcome the One who is the greatest Gift of all.

P: Today we light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath. May our hearts be filled with hope for God keeps His promises!

C: May we prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus!

* Lighting of the fourth Advent Candle

Hymn 257 (Verses 7-8)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain***

Refrain

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

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *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 242 “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”**

* 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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Lesson: *Isaiah 7:10-16*

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.” Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: *Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19*

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph [|] like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- [|] on the cherubim.
- ² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, [|] and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and [|] come to help us.
- ³ Restore [|] us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we [|] shall be saved.
- ⁴ **O LORD [|] God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your [|] people pray?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the [|] bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of [|] tears to drink.
- ⁶ **You have made us the derision [|] of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh [|] us to scorn.
- ⁷ Restore us, O [|] God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we [|] shall be saved.
- ¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at [|] your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong [|] for yourself.
- ¹⁸ And so will we never turn a- [|] way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- [|] on your name.
- ¹⁹ **Restore us, O LORD [|] God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we [|] shall be saved.

Second Lesson: *Romans 1:1-7*

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 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 1st chapter.

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

The Holy Gospel: *Matthew 1:18-25*

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Daniel Swanson

Hymn 266

“All Earth is Hopeful”

* 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

* 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

Text © 1975 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

* 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. **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)

S 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
Anthem

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 260**

“The King Shall Come”

* 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 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.

Lectors for our Services

This Sunday, December 21 – Jack Murray

Dec. Ushers: Ed & Lita Havens

Wednesday, Christmas Eve – December 24 – Sally Buser

Organist: Rae Ann Smith

Next Sunday, December 28 – Anne DeVaughn

A/V – Steve, Dave, Mark, Joyce

Next Wednesday, December 31 – Rae Ann Smith

Today Sunday, December 21st 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.

The Executive Council has designed **our Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas offering to be sent to the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) and earmarked for flood disaster relief in Allegany and Garrett Counties.**

This week –

This Sunday – Worship at 10:00am followed by blood pressure screening, light lunch, play – 12:30pm

Tuesday – Worship & Music – 2:00pm

Wednesday – Christmas Eve Service – 7:00pm

Thursday – Christmas Day – Have a very Merry Christmas

Next Sunday – Worship (Lesson and Carols) at 10:00am screening

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 14, 2025

Attendance In-Person 10:00am = 40
Zoom 10:00am = 15
Wed. Dec 17 In-Person 6:30pm = 17
Zoom 6:30pm = 5

BUDGET OFFERINGS FOR 2025

Received = 6,281.00
Needed weekly = 4,044.04
2,236.96

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. 21st

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!

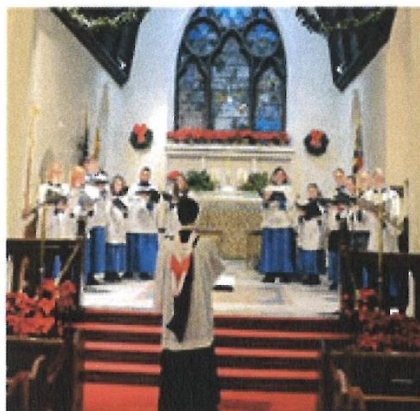


MOUNTAINSIDE BAROQUE

FALL 2025

Sunday, December 21 | 5PM

**Emmanuel Episcopal Parish, 16 Washington St,
Cumberland**



A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS



Sunday, December 21 | 5:00 pm
Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Cumberland

As part of its annual activities, Mountainside will again welcome the Scholars of St. Cecilia, Mountainside Baroque's resident chamber choir, to "ring in" the Christmas season with an ecumenical "Festival of Lessons and Carols," featuring seasonal music, traditional carols, and readings by local clergy and officials. The event is free and open to the public, though a free-will offering will be received. The church is handicapped accessible. Please join us for a light refreshments reception after the service.



Listen to performance clips on YouTube

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE AT

<https://www.mountainsidebaroque.org/shop> (OR AT THE DOOR)

DETAILS AND UPDATED PROGRAM INFORMATION AT www.mountainsidebaroque.org



PRAYER LIST FOR DECEMBER 21, 2025

PRAYER RECIPIENT - MEMBERS

Bill & MarySue Crawford
Jack Zealand
Laura Murray
Pam Mulligan
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 Overtoom	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
Erin Morrissey	Terri McCagh
Luke Smith	Lydia Martin

Please keep us updated

- the family of Jimmy Miller (cousin of Shirley Smith)
- 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



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025