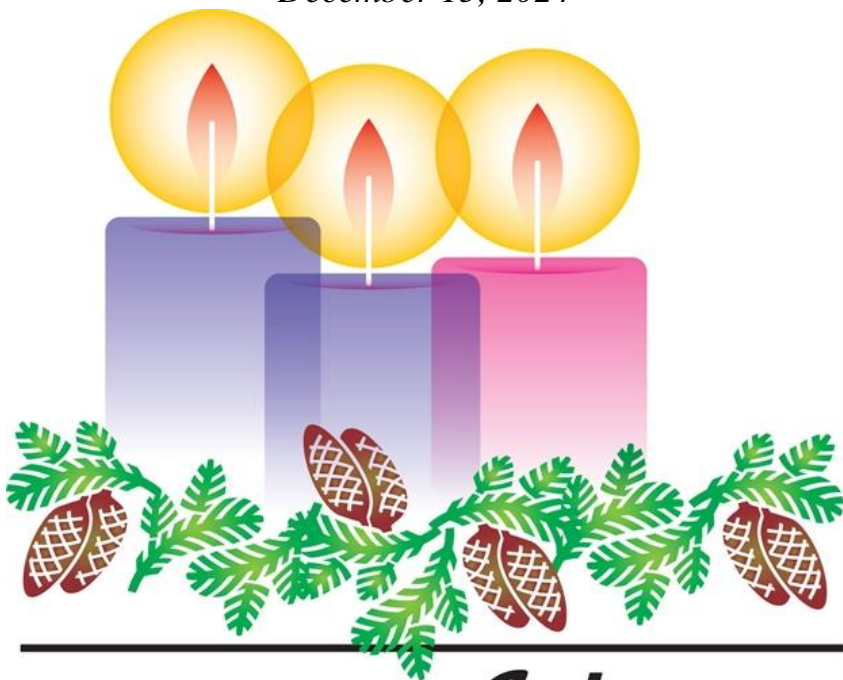


Welcome to
WEST CLERMONT LUTHERAN CHURCH
Member of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
December 15, 2024



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Worship 9:30am
Pastor Micheal Erickson

West Clermont Lutheran Church
Address: PO Box 327
Phone: 563-423-7170

Email: wclc@acegroup.cc

Website: westclermontlutheranchurch.com

Facebook Live @ West Clermont
<https://www.facebook.com/100011482533370>

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

INTRODUCTION

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP BELL

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.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WCLC MISSION STATEMENT: *As children of God, called to love God and one another, we proclaim the Word of God through study, prayer, worship, and discipleship. We serve those in need within our congregation, our community, and our world as an expression of God's love for us. LOVE, PROCLAIM, SERVE!*

THE ADVENT WREATH:

R: One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting, in the midst of growing darkness, strengthens some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting

life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

HYMN: *“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”*

ELW 240 v. 1, 2, 3

P: As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus. O ransomed people of the Lord, come,

C: ...let us travel on God’s holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.

GATHER HYMN: *“O Come, O Come, Emanuel”* **ELW 257**

vs.1,2,5

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P: God of might,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

P: God in our midst,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

KYRIE (Spoken)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen, amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: 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.

NOISY CAN OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Light Of The World" by Lauren Daigle.

CCLI # 7023299 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLhaZIBSpo>

WORD

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

R: *The Word of the Lord.*

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6 (Responsively)

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³ **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵ **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

R: *The Word of the Lord.*

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: Alleluia.

C: Alleluia.

P: I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (*Matt. 11:10*)

C: Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats

or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: *The gospel of the Lord.*

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Mike Erickson

****Sunday school youth and teachers are dismissed to class.****

SERMON

Pastor Mike Erickson

HYMN OF THE DAY: “*O Come All Ye Faithful*” **ELW 283**

APOSTLES’ CREED:

I believe in God,

the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,

God’s only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Lord, in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.**

WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars. We praise you for these gifts. Strengthen us so that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING MUSIC: “Angels We Have Heard On High” ELW 289

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Love. Proclaim. Serve.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Prayer List

Requested: Jeanette (Davisson) Cain, Don Erickson, Jake Noggle, Karen Guyer, Karen Kohls, Ardell Fortune, Julie Albertson, Larry Kohls, Sarah Updegraff-Murray, Eric Clubb, Bill and Cindy Thias, JoAnn Bishop.

Assisted Living, Nursing Homes & Shut-Ins: Betty Erickson, Bud Siebrecht, Karen Follett, Judy Nelson, Madonna Stumme, Doris Guyer, Evelyn Tague.

In the Military: Jeff Kleppe, Nathan Guyer, Kennedy White.

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Loose: \$46.65

Basement Rental: \$100.00

Total General Fund: \$5,739.27

Building Fund: \$175.00 (Regular: 50.00, Solar: \$35.00, Roof: \$90.00)

Attendance: 70

Regular: \$5,151.36


Flow Thru: \$399.59


Noisy Can: \$41.67


What's Happening


Mon. 12/16	6pm	Community Club Mtg.
Wed. 12/18	9am	Sarah Circle
	1pm	Mary Circle
	2pm	Ruth Circle
	6pm	Youth & LL Christmas Practice & Pizza
Sun. 12/22	9:30am	4th Sunday of Advent
		CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
	10:30am	Fellowship
	4pm	Sunday Mtg.




 **Noisy Can Offering** for 4th Quarter will go to Cindy Thias who is battling cancer.

 **Direct Deposit Offering** is available for your weekly/monthly offering. Simply contact the office for account and routing information. It's fast and easy!

 **NO QUILTING.** Quilters will resume on Tuesday, January 7th. Happy Holidays!

 **SOTH Christmas for Kids** is Dec. 18th 1& 19th @ St. Olaf Auditorium. If your family would like to receive gifts, a referral is needed. For questions, call the SOTH office @ 563-783-2409. They are in need of volunteers for both events. Call same number to help.

 **Handel's Messiah.** Performance is **TONIGHT** @ the Methodist Church in West Union.



Christmas Giving Tree. Thank you to all who participated this year. Luther League also made each child a tie blanket. We had 2 families with 5 children total. Each child receives 5 things they need and 5 things they want.

NOTE: Unlike the SOTH Christmas for Kids, where all items are accepted and where families “shop” for a couple of gifts for each of their kids to help with Christmas buying; for the families we get for our Giving Tree from Parent Share & Support, our filled tags are their Christmas. Hopefully this helps explain why there are specific items for each tag. The families are anonymous but from Fayette County with the request for families to be close to Clermont.



Hat & Mitten Tree is up. Collection of hats, gloves, mittens, scarfs and socks will go through the Christmas season to be donated to the North Fayette Valley Elementary/Middle School.



Annual Live Nativity @ St. Peter Lutheran Church in Eldorado is TONIGHT from 5-7pm.

*Where your
treasure is,
there will
your heart
be also.
Math. 6:21*

My Offering

Name _____

Address _____

Amount _____

Offering Envelopes for 2025 have changed.

Members will no longer receive personalized offering envelopes. Instead, envelopes like the one pictured will be available for you in the church office & also at the usher’s table in the sanctuary. You can pick up an envelope each Sunday or take a few home. Please make sure your name is on the envelope, so your contribution can be recorded properly.



Poinsettias for Christmas Eve may be dropped off anytime. Please let the office know if they are a memorial.



Children's Christmas Program is next Sun., Dec. 22th @ 9:30am.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is Tuesday, December 24th @ 7pm. No services on Christmas Day.



Nominations are now open for council positions and various church committees for 2025. Please prayerfully consider how you can play a leadership role at West Clermont. If you are interested in any position, please contact a member of council or someone currently serving on the committee you are interested in.