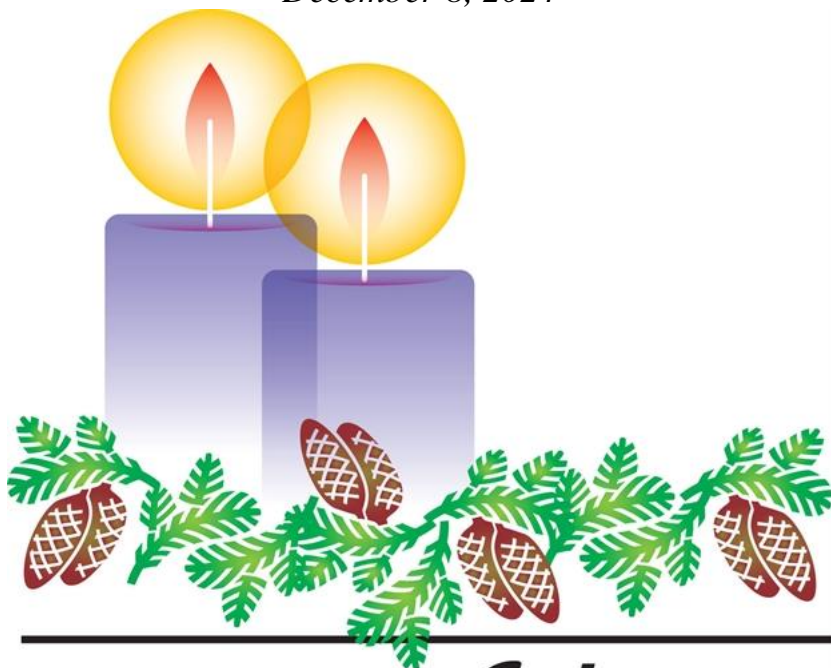


Welcome to
WEST CLERMONT LUTHERAN CHURCH
Member of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
December 8, 2024



SECOND 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>

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

INTRODUCTION

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally, all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

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 hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from a stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

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

ELW 240 v. 1 & 2

P: As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations. O people of hope, come,

C: let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

GATHER HYMN: *“All Earth Is Hopeful”*

ELW 266

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

ELW pg. 120

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW pg. 121

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: “Shepherd Boy” by Phil Wickham

CCLI #7246753 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oymYCeNRfPE>

WORD

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

R: *The Word of the Lord.*

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79 (Responsively)

⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

**⁶⁹ You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

**⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from
our enemies, ⁷¹ from the hands of all who hate us,**

**⁷² to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

**⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

**free to worship you without fear,
⁷⁵ holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

**⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,**

**⁷⁷ to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**⁷⁸ In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

**⁷⁹ to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of
death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

R: *The Word of the Lord.*

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

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

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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: *“Prepare The Royal Highway” ELW 264*

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,
and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of
bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food 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: *“Hark The Glad Sound”* **ELW 239**

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, Danice Cummings, Larry Kohls, Terry Cummings, Sarah Updegraff-Murray, Eric Clubb, Bill and Cindy Thias.

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

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

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Loose: \$19.00

Flow Thru: \$100.00

Thanksgiving: \$55.00

Total General Fund: \$1,295.32

Building Fund 185.00 (Roof: \$180.00/ Regular: \$5.00)

Attendance: 50

Copies: \$3.75


Regular: \$1,080.00


Noisy Can: \$37.57


Mon. 12/9	6pm	Women's Auxiliary
Wed. 12/11	10:30am	Copper Creek Service
	2-4pm	Senior Game Day
	6:30pm	Luther League Mtg.
Sun. 12/15	9:30am	3rd Sunday of Advent
		Sunday School
	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 Toy Drive Drop Off** is Dec. 12th & 13th from 9am-4pm @ St. Olaf Auditorium. Currently collecting new toys, gifts, or gift cards thru Dec. 11th. Monetary donations may be made & SOTH staff will purchase gifts. If your family would like to receive gifts, a referral is needed. For questions, call the SOTH office @ 563-783-2409.

 **SOTH Christmas for Kids** is Dec. 18th & 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.** If you would like to participate in the 83rd performance of Handel's Messiah, the full practice schedule is on

the bulletin board downstairs. Call Mallory Hanson for questions @ 563-379-2193. Performance on Dec.15th.



Christmas Giving Tree We are sponsoring 2 families! The tags are gone, but you can still make a cash donation to the event. Wrapped tag gifts with tags attached on the present, need to be returned to the tree by Sunday, December 15th.



Hat & Mitten Tree is up. Collection of hats, gloves, mittens, scarfs and socks will go through the Christmas season to be donated to an area charity.



Annual Live Nativity @ St. Peter Lutheran Church in Eldorado is Sunday, December 1st from 5-7pm.



The **Decorah Chorale** invites you to its **24th Annual "Home for Christmas" concert** on Sat., Dec. 14, at 7:00 p.m. at Decorah Lutheran Church. This year's concert will raise funds for the Winneshiek County Habitat for Humanity and the Decorah Community Food Pantry through a free-will offering. Admission is free for all, with a free-will offering collected to support these local causes.



10th Annual Cookie & Candy Extravaganza! @ the Elgin Public Library is Saturday, December 14th from 9-11:30am. Fill a box with you favorites for \$7 per pound. All proceeds go to the *Friends of Elgin Public Library* for the purchase of new materials for the library.

Where your
treasure is,
there will
your heart
be also.
Matt: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 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 Sun., Dec. 17th @ 9:30am.



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



Senior Game Day is Wednesday, December 11th from 2-4pm @ West Clermont Lutheran. Please come for fellowship, snacks, cards, games, and FUN! Bring a friend!



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.

Join the conversation this Tuesday! Pr. Mike will be zooming in on this event and is inviting you to join.

The connection will be on the big screen TV in the fellowship room. Information below.

Join ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton for a conversation about God's Love Made Real. This ELCA movement encourages us to create a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 12 p.m. Central time

Zoom (save this link)

[Registration](#) is encouraged but not required.

What can I expect?

Bishop Eaton will share why God's Love Made Real is meaningful to her and the future of the church. The **Rev. Lorna Halaas**, bishop of the Western Iowa Synod, will host the conversation, and participants will have a chance to ask questions and share stories.

Is this event for me?

This webinar is especially for people who care about the ELCA and live in Region 5, which includes synods in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. If you don't live in one of these synods, stay tuned for an upcoming event in your region.

Can I watch the event later?

A recording may be available at some point in the future, but we encourage you to stream the event live on Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 12 p.m. Central time.

What else do I need to know?

Learn more about God's Love Made Real at lovemadereal.elca.org.

We look forward to sharing this time with you!