

## **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

## **December 21, 2025**

Radio ministry is given in honor of Paul & Bernice Stender's 70th wedding anniversary (Dec. 26).

Flowers on the altar are also in honor of Paul & Bernice's 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by their kids and grandkids.

Sunday 12/21

9:00am

Worship w/HC & on Radio & Video

10:30am

Service of Comfort & Hope - Fireside Room

**NO Sunday School** 

SS Parent group will resume on Jan. 11, 2026

Wednesday 12/24

Christmas Eve

**Prairie Manor Worship** 

Worship/HC/Worship Team Worship/HC/Sr Choir

Thursday 12/25

**Merry Christmas** 

9:00am

1:15pm

3:00pm

5:00pm

Worship/HC

Friday 12/26

Office Closed

Sunday 12/28

9:00am

**Lessons & Carols Service** 

**NO Sunday School** 

Tuesday 12/30

Deadline for end-of-year offerings

Acolyte: Skylar Valek, Emma Trom

Lector: Pam Ingvalson

Ushers: Wayde Bishop, Larry Christianson, Doug Hillson, Matt Madsen

**December's Children's Offering** is hats and gloves for BP Elementary School.

The quarterly meeting took place on Dec 7, 2025 and we passed the 2026 budget. Additional copies of the budget and agenda are in the info rack in the narthex if you missed the meeting.

We are The Welcome Place—where children learn God's love, volunteers serve with joy, and weary hearts find rest. Thank you for helping build up this ministry. Our Stewardship Team invites you to use your Christmas envelope (coming soon!)/or scan QR code to give online.

Sunday, Dec. 14 - Offering \$13,571.90 Attendance - 9am - 186

11am - 525



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20251221-ADV4 ITEM014731 ELCA-K

**Fourth Sunday of Advent** 

December 21, 2025

9:00am

Mission Statement - As God's people gathering for worship, study and service, we seek to be a "Welcome Place" for all people. This we do out of love for and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Prelude / Welcome and Announcements**

### **GATHERING**

\*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.** 

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

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Long-expected God, 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.

\*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

\*Gathering Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

#254

\*Apostolic Greeting

page 138

\*Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.

**Special Music** 

Christmas Quodlibet

Senior Choir

WORD

First Reading:

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm:

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

**Second Reading:** 

Romans 1:1-7

Children's Message

\*Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go?

page 142

P. The Gospel according to Matthew. C. Glory to you, O Lord.

\*Gospel Reading:

Matthew 1:18-25

P. The Gospel of the Lord. C. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Comfort, Comfort Now My People

#256

### **RESPONDING**

\*Apostles' Creed page 127

\*Prayers of Intercession

(Lord, in your mercy/Hear our prayer)

\*Sharing of the Peace

\*Offering

\*Offertory Music Build Us Up, Lord

Dulla O3 Op, I

#670

\*Offertory Prayer

### **MEAL**

\*Words of Institution page 144

\*Lord's Prayer page 145

Communion Distribution Lamb of God page 146

All baptized believers, including visitors and friends, are welcome to come forward down the center aisle, at the ushers' direction, and depart by the side aisles. Children who do not yet commune will be blessed at the rail. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available; indicate this preference to your server. For mobility challenges or personal preference, please notify an usher; communion will be served to you in your pew.

**Communion Hymns** 

#251, 269

### **SENDING**

\*Blessing

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

\*Sending Song

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#270

\*Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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### FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Director of Children's Ministry
Administrative Secretary
Pianist/Choir Director
Organist

Heidi Heimgartner Laurel Meester Tracy Madsen

Danielle Hein Chris Butler Karla lacovino

Custodians Gary Thorson, Wanda Edge

<sup>\*</sup>Prayer after Communion



# **Today's Readings**

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2025

### 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 Reading**

Isaiah 7:10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>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."

### **Psalm**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; tone 1



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph I like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned up-I on the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, <sup>1</sup> and Manasseh, stir up your strength and <sup>1</sup> come to help us.

<sup>3</sup>Restore <sup>1</sup> us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we <sup>1</sup> shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>O LORD | God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the <sup>1</sup> bread of tears; you have given them bowls of <sup>1</sup> tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>You have made us the derision | of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O | God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>Let your hand be upon the one at <sup>1</sup> your right hand,

the one you have made so strong for yourself.

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn a- <sup>1</sup> way from you; give us life,

that we may call up-1 on your name.

<sup>19</sup>Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

### **Second Reading**

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>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,

<sup>5</sup>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, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>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.

### Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

**Romans 1:1-7** 

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. 19Her 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. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name

him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

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

#### TODAY'S READINGS December 21, 2025

Volume 57, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23.

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