 **Kerkhoven Lutheran Church**

 **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Living and trusting in god’s amazing grace we welcome all to worship, learn and serve in celebration of Christ’s love.**

**Second Sunday in Advent**

 **December 5, 2021 9:00 AM**

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.”

**Prelude**

**GATHERING**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ELW p. 94**

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN “Prepare the Royal Highway” ELW # 264**

 1 Prepare the royal highway;

 the King of kings is near!

 Let ev'ry hill and valley

 a level road appear!

 Then greet the King of glory,

 foretold in sacred story:

 *Refrain*  Hosanna to the Lord,

 for he fulfills God's word!

 2 God's people, see him coming:

 your own eternal king!

 Palm branches strew before him!

 Spread garments! Shout and sing!

 God's promise will not fail you!

 No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

 3 Then fling the gates wide open

 to greet your promised king!

 Your king, yet ev'ry nation

 its tribute too may bring.

 All lands will bow before him;

 their voices join your singing: *Refrain*

 4 His is no earthly kingdom;

 it comes from heav'n above.

 His rule is peace and freedom

 and justice, truth, and love.

 So let your praise be sounding

 for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

 Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

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**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

**The Annunciation**

Luke 1: 26-28, 30-32, 38

Leader: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, “Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High.” And Mary said, “I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will.”

**The Magnificat**

Luke 1: 46-55

46And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
 48for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name. 50His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
 and lifted up the lowly; 53he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
 55according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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**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.**

**WORD**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle Michael Wirth Family**

*Reader* - During this season we light a candle each week as a reminder that Jesus brings light into the darkness of our world. The second candle we light today we call the **Candle of Peace.**

We light the candle of Peace today knowing that only through faith in Jesus can we experience eternal and everlasting peace. For He is, as promised from days of old, our 'Prince of Peace'.

[Light the first (blue) & second (blue) candles]

*Let us pray:***Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may prepare the way of the Lord in our daily life and know true and everlasting peace; in Jesus’ name. Amen**

### **First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4**

*God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.*

1See, 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. 2But 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; 3he 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. 4Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

### The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Luke 1:68-79 Reading Responsively**

### 68"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. **69He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,**

### 70as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, **71that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**

### 72Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, **73the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us**

###  74that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

### **75in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

### 76And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,**77to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.**

### 78By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, **79to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

### **Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11**

*The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

### 3I thank my God every time I remember you, 4constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6I 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. 7It 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. 8For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

### The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia” ELW p. 142**

### **Gospel:   Luke 3:1-6**

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

In 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.'"

### The Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON Pastor Tim Larson**

**HYMN OF THE DAY “He Came Down” ELW # 253**

 1 He came down that we may have love;

 he came down that we may have love;

 he came down that we may have love;

 hallelujah forevermore.

 2 He came down that we may have light;

 he came down that we may have light;

 he came down that we may have light;

 hallelujah forevermore.

 3 He came down that we may have peace;

 he came down that we may have peace;

 he came down that we may have peace;

 hallelujah forevermore.

 4 He came down that we may have joy;

 he came down that we may have joy;

 he came down that we may have joy;

 hallelujah forevermore.

 Text: Cameroon traditional

**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**

Each portion of the prayers ends with “Hear us O God”. Congregation response: “**your mercy is great”.**

**OFFERING INTERLUDE**

**OFFERTORY “As the Grains of Wheat”** **ELW# 465**

Offering plates will be brought to the altar during offertory

*Refrain* As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill

 were gathered into one to become our bread;

 so may all your people from all the ends of earth

 be gathered into one in you.

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,

 may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come

 when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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**MEAL**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND 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.**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:**

**“Break Now the Bread of Life” ELW # 515**

 1 Break now the bread of life,

 dear Lord, to me,

 as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.

 Beyond the sacred page

 I seek you, Lord;

 my spirit waits for you,

 O living Word.

 2 Bless your own word of truth,

 dear Lord, to me,

 as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.

 Then shall all bondage cease,

 all fetters fall;

 and I shall find my peace,

 my All-in-All!

 3 You are the bread of life,

 dear Lord, to me,

 your holy word the truth that rescues me.

 Give me to eat and live

 with you above;

 teach me to love your truth,

 for you are love.

 Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841-1913, alt.

  **“As We Gather At Your Table ” ELW # 522**

 1 As we gather at your table,

 as we listen to your word,

 help us know, O God, your presence;

 let our hearts and minds be stirred.

 Nourish us with sacred story

 till we claim it as our own;

 teach us through this holy banquet

 how to make Love's vict'ry known.

 2 Turn our worship into witness

 in the sacrament of life;

 send us forth to love and serve you,

 bringing peace where there is strife.

 Give us, Christ, your great compassion

 to forgive as you forgave;

 may we still behold your image

 in the world you died to save.

 3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon

 other guests to share that feast

 where triumphant Love will welcome

 those who had been last and least.

 There no more will envy blind us

 nor will pride our peace destroy,

 as we join with saints and angels

 to repeat the sounding joy.

 Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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 **“Jesus Loves Me!” ELW # 595**

1 Jesus loves me! this I know,

 for the Bible tells me so;

 little ones to him belong,

 they are weak, but he is strong.

 *Refrain*  Yes, Jesus loves me,

 yes, Jesus loves me,

 yes, Jesus loves me,

 the Bible tells me so.

 2 Jesus loves me! he who died

 heaven's gates to open wide;

 he will wash away my sin,

 let his little child come in. *Refrain*

 3 Jesus loves me! he will stay

 close beside me all the way;

 when at last I come to die,

 he will take me home on high. *Refrain*

 Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

 **“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” ELW # 597**

 1 My hope is built on nothing less

 than Jesus' blood and righteousness;

 no merit of my own I claim,

 but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

 *Refrain*  On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;

 all other ground is sinking sand.

 2 When darkness veils his lovely face,

 I rest on his unchanging grace;

 in ev'ry high and stormy gale

 my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

 3 His oath, his covenant, his blood

 sustain me in the raging flood;

 when all supports are washed away,

 he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,

 oh, may I then in him be found,

 clothed in his righteousness alone,

 redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

 Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We give you thanks almighty God, that you have refreshed us

through the healing power of this gift of life;

and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us,

through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love

toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG “Hark, the Glad Sound” ELW # 239**

 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,

 the Savior promised long;

 let ev'ry heart prepare a throne

 and ev'ry voice a song.

 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,

 in Satan's bondage held.

 The gates of brass before him burst,

 the iron fetters yield.

 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,

 the bleeding soul to cure,

 and with the treasures of his grace

 to enrich the humble poor.

 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,

 your welcome shall proclaim,

 and heav'n's eternal arches ring

 with your beloved name.

 Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

**DISMISSAL**

Led on by the saints before us,

go in peace to serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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**SERVING THIS MORNING**

Pastor – Timothy P. Larson

Musicians – Alison Nelson and Mariah Rudningen

Lector - Michael Wirth Family

Ushers – Michael Wirth Family

Acolytes –

Communion Assistant – Barb Norton

Greeter- Barb Norton

***PRAYER CONCERNS:*** *(Periodically these prayer concerns will be moved to the prayer concerns list in the newsletter)* Family of Joshua Jurek, Phyllis Loven, Phyllis Meyer, Lee Meyer, Doris Bakken, Keith Lundberg, Andrea Raths, Kathy Schol, Dennis Doering, Calvin Carls

**Stewardship Snippet – Second Sunday in Advent,**  **Philippians 1:9-11 –**And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

*Love is the theme for the Second Sunday in Advent. When we cultivate love in our lives as steward/disciples, it does overflow and guide our lives on the paths of strength and joy. --Rob Blezard Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission.*

**Fellowship Hour:** Please join us for fellowship hour immediately following the worship service in the fellowship hall. Today WELCA is still offering for bids items that were left from the last Sunday’s silent auction. Proceeds with go the WELCA projects and the KMS Backpack project.

**Advent Calendars:** We have Advent calendars available for KLC members and families. Please pick one up to use during this Advent season. They are available on the table at the bottom of the stairs, table between the offices and in the Fellowship Hall. The calendars begin on December 1 and a door is opened with a scripture verse or idea for the day to help us prepare for Christmas. These are provided by ELCA World Hunger.

**December Outreach**: The outreach project designated to receive the Noisy Offerings for the month of December will be sent Bethesda to help to purchase a baby grand piano in honor of Pastor Bill. This piano will be used for worship services and musical enjoyment at our new Bethesda North Pointe chapel - a place that was so dear to Pastor Bill. Pastor Bill Miller's joyous voice could be heard throughout the many ways he influenced the musical fabric of our communities, and our personal favorite throughout the halls near Carrie's Chapel. His presence is sincerely missed by all at Bethesda but his memory continues to inspire our hearts each day.

**This Week . . . December 6 - 12, 2021**

**Wednesday, December 8**

11:00 am KLC delivers Meals on Wheels

6:00 pm Gr. 6-8 Confirmation

 6:30 pm WELCA General Boards Meet

 6:30 – 7:30 pm Sunday School Christmas Program practice

7:00 pm Gr. 9-10 Confirmation

7:00 pm Church Boards meet

8:00 pm Church Council meets

**Thursday, December 9**

8:30 am Packing of the KMS food bags for delivery to KMS Schools

**Next Sunday, December 12**: **Third Sunday in Advent**

9:00 am Worship Service with Noisy Offering both in person and Live streamed

10:00 am 10:00 am Sunday School Christmas program practice

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall

10:45 am Sunday School Christmas Program with Noisy Offering

**Upcoming Events:**

**Tuesday, December 14**

11:00 am food truck unloading and NAPS food box distribution

**Wednesday, December 15**

11:00 am KLC delivers Meals on Wheels

6:00 pm Gr. 6-8 Confirmation

 7:00 pm Gr. 9-10 Confirmation

**Thursday, December16**

8:30 am Packing of the KMS food bags for delivery to KMS Schools

**Sunday, December 19 Fourth Sunday in Advent**

9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion both in person and live streamed

 10:00 am Appreciation Brunch for Pastor Tim Larson

2:00 pm Luther League Christmas Caroling

**Snow Removal Bid:** The Board of Properties and Grounds is calling for bids for snow removal at the church. There is snow blower that is available for use in the storage shed. Bids should be submitted to a member of the board or drop off at the church office.

**Meals on Wheels:** KLC is responsible for the Wednesday deliveries of Meals on Wheels in the community for the month of December. Please check your calendars and sign up on the list on the table between the offices for a Wednesday that you can deliver the meals. The Wednesdays we are responsible are: December 8, 15, 22, and 29. Thank you.

**Altar Guild:** The Altar Guild is in need or 2 additional people to work with another team member to prepare the sanctuary for worship each week. For more information contact Barb Norton: barb@theinwell.com or 320-894-2128. Thank you.

**KLC Worship Services are also available for viewing on YouTube!**

**KLC Office Hours for the Week of November 29-December 3:** Church office hour will be Monday - Thursday 9:00 -3:00 pm. The church office is closed on Friday. If you have questions or need assistance please call: Ann Hanson – 320-894-4464, if no answer please leave a message or send a text.

**KLC Website:** You are invited to visit our website. It can be found at <https://www.kerkhovenlutheranchurch.com/>

**On-Line Giving:** It is now possible to give your offering or a donation to KLC on-line at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YNJM> This link will now be available on our Kerkhoven Lutheran Facebook page and is available on our new website (see link above).