

ADVENT THREE
Sunday + December 16, 2018



Welcome home at St. Matthew



**St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

700 Pleasure Road + Lancaster, PA

717-394-9607

www.stmatthewelc.com

A Service of Holy Communion
St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lancaster, PA

Advent Three

December 16, 2018—10:00AM

PRELUDE: *"The Wexford Carol"* arr. Mark Hayes

(Time for silent prayer and meditation as we gather for worship.)

**Indicates please stand as you are able.*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us come before God in confession.
To you, O God,

People: *We lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

Pastor: Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of ✝ Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

People: Amen.

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

ELW #244

***GREETING**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: *And also with you.*

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles

"Joyous Light" from Holden Evening Prayer Book, page 3

Note: Replace "Now as evening falls" with "Now as morning glows"

WORD

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! 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. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. 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 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

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. 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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation; will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 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. Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. 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. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 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. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

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

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

p. 142a

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

People: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

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? 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. 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."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do

likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." 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."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 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."

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

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *All Earth Is Hopeful* ELW #266

***APOSTLES' CREED** Spoken in Unison

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 GOD'S PEOPLE**

Between each petition the following is said:

Asst. Min.: Lord, in your mercy.

People: ***Hear our prayer.***

Pastor: Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: ***Amen.***

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: ***And also with you.***

MEAL

GATHERING OF GIFTS AND PREPARING OF THE TABLE

OFFERING MUSIC: *"The Promise of a King"* John Purifoy
Barb Elsen, Soloist

OFFERING RESPONSE: *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn (Verse 1 only) ELW #242

OFFERING PRAYER

Asst. Min.: Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives.

Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

People: ***Amen.***

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** p. 144a

***SANCTUS** (*Holy, holy, holy...*) p. 144b

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

***ACCLAMATION** p. 145

***LORD'S PRAYER** Spoken in Unison

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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

Please follow the direction of the ushers as you approach the communion rail. You may take a small glass for the reception of wine, or you may drink or intinct from the common chalice. If you prefer not to partake of the Sacrament today, you may cross your arms and receive a blessing. We offer gluten-free wafers, please ask the pastor as you approach the rail.

The following hymns will be sung by the congregation as time permits:

<i>Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah</i>	ELW #240
<i>He Came Down</i>	ELW #253
<i>Word of God, Come Down on Earth</i>	ELW #510

***TABLE BLESSING**

Pastor: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

People: *Amen.*

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Asst. Min.: Let us pray.

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

People: *Amen.*

SENDING

***BENEDICTION:**

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER BOOK - BACK PAGE

SENDING HYMN: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

ELW #254

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude: *"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"* arr. Mark Hayes

We Remember in Our Prayers

Nancy Bitzer, Mary Burkhardt, Mildred Collins, Sarah Deckard, Ruth Ebersole, Eileen Haddad, Jacqueline Ort, Bob Sampson, Carolyn Sampson, Jean Schweers, Paul Sheaffer, Betty Sheaffer, Charlotte Underkoffler, Mary-Blair Valentine, and Jo Zwally

Congratulations, 2019 Church Council and Elected Officers!

Brenda Stauffer, President
Patricia Smith, Vice President
Barb Elsen, Secretary
John Volk, Treasurer

Other Council Members: Steve Feldmann, Jen Piersol,
Ray Shaub, Arlene Volk, Phyllis Wimer, Phyllis Wright
Weclome, Steve Feldmann and Phyllis Wimer
Thank you for your faithful service, Peggy Atkins and
George Resh.

MITTEN TREE

**Thank you for your generous gifts to the Angel Tree!
Our angel tree is now our mitten tree for the
remainder of December.**

**We welcome your mittens, gloves, earmuffs, hats and
scarves to bring warmth to those in need. The items
will be given to the Council of Churches and
Lydia's Closet for the new year.**

COMMUNITY MEAL

***Third Monday of the month, 5pm, at
Zion Lutheran, East Petersburg.
Prep work on Monday morning at
St. Matthew at 9am.***

***Contact Barb Elsen if you would like to be a
part of this vital ministry.***

Plate Offerings: Our 2018 "plate offering" money (loose cash, without designation) will be given to Ileje Lutheran Church, our sister congregation, in Tanzania.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please email to John and Arlene Volk
asvmom@gmail.com
John.volk@gmail.com

WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please email to Ray Shaub
lrshaub@gmail.com

Sue Feldmann!

Special thanks to Sue for her continued leadership and for being willing to use her gifts to help us in our transition.

SATURDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

January 5: Olde Hickory Grill, 709 Olde Hickory Road, off Oregon Pike



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS
12/04 Phyllis Wimer
12/07 Phyllis Wright
12/08 Cathy Stephens
12/12 David Ritterpusch
12/14 Mildred Collins
12/17 Kay Nolt
12/22 Sylvia Beam
12/29 Daniel Mink

Hey! Check us out and...



The Congregation

The Ministers

Pastor Robin Fero

Pastor

717-877-3386

email: pastor@stmatthewelc.com

Brenda Stauffer

Council President

717-392-1566

email:snbdncrs@comcast.net

Church Office

phone: 717-394-9607

Email: info@stmatthewelc.com

Website: stmatthewelc.com

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Council Member in Charge:	Arlene Volk
Altar Care for December	Anna Neal & Phyllis Wright
Greeter:	Janet Baker
Ushers:	Sam Jordan & Shep Smith
Reader:	Peg Sampson
Assisting Minister:	Barb Emmerich
Counters	Brad Charles & Barb Elsen

12/16 Sunday

ADVENT THREE

8:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship Service
11:30 am Evangelism (mtg
at Volk's)

12/17 Monday

5:00 pm Community Meal

12/18 Tuesday

8:30 am *Bridge Buddies*
12:00 pm Better Bones
Better Balance at Grandview
1:30pm Book Club

12/19 Wednesday

12:00 pm Brown Bag & Bible

12/20 Thursday

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

12/22 Saturday

5:00 pm Worship Service

12/23 Sunday ADVENT FOUR

8:45 am Sunday School
10:00am Worship Service

You are welcome to attend or sign up for all other events on the calendar.

Scripture Readings
December 23

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]