

The Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to receive strength through hearing God's holy Word. We also gather to offer him our worship and praise.

Welcome to our guests & visitors. We are glad that you are here. Please join us again soon.

We want you to feel welcome and comfortable. Here are a few notes to help with that:

Large print worship folders are available. You'll find them at the entryway table. Please ask if we can be of help with this.

Connection cards are also located on the entryway table. We'd love the opportunity to get connected with you in additional ways – either in person or digitally. **You can hand the card to Pastor Glende, or simply place it into the offering box.**

Restrooms are located down the hallway on the right.

And please ask if there are any other questions we can answer for you.

You can reach us at: *Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church* |
Office: 910-868-1907 | www.welsfayetteville.org
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CALL TO WORSHIP

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

C: **We remember Jesus who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptizer prepared the way of the Lord.**

M: We hear his call to repent.

C: **We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**

M: Jesus, our Savior, said: "Yes, I am coming soon."

C: **We, his people, say: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."**

HYMN 327

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Please stand

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

Silence for Reflection

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world;

through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

Malachi 3:1-7b

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. **2** But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. **3** He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, **4** and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. **5** "So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty. **6** "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. **7** Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?'"

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 66 *The pastor will sing the first verse. Congregation, please join for verse two and verse at close. The Psalm portions are spoken as indicated.*

M: *From Heaven above to earth I come
to bear good news to every home;
glad tidings of great joy I bring,
whereof I now will say and sing:*

C: **"This is the Christ, our God most high,
who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will himself your Savior be
from all your sins to set you free.**

M: Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

C: Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!

M: Praise our God, O peoples,

C: Let the sound of his praise be heard.

M: He has preserved our lives

C: and kept our feet from slipping.

M: Come and listen, all you who fear God;

C: Let me tell you what he has done for me.

M: If I had cherished sin in my heart,

C: the Lord would not have listened;

M: But God has surely listened

C: and heard my voice in prayer.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

sung: **Glory to God in highest heaven,
 who unto us his Son has given,
 while angels sing with pious mirth
 a glad new year to all the earth!**

NEW TESTAMENT

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you. **4** In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy **5** because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, **6** being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. **7** It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. **8** God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. **9** And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, **10** so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

Luke 3:4,6

M: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him!

C: **And all people will see God's salvation. Alleluia!**

Please stand

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— **2** during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. **3** He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **4** As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. **5** Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. **6** And all people will see God's salvation.'"

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

The pastor will sing the first verse of the following hymn. You are invited to join in the rest.



1.Com - fort, com-fort all my peo-ple; "Speak of peace," so says our God.
2.All their sins our God will par-don, blot - ting out each dark mis-deed;
3.John the Bap-tist's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
4.Straight-en out the crook-ed high-way; Make the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark-ness, groan-ing from their sor - rows' load.
All that well de - serve his an - ger he no more will see or heed.
call - ing peo - ple to re - pent-ance for the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, read - y for his ho - ly reign.



Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
They have suf - fered man - y day; Now their griefs have passed a - way.
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is spread a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver."
God will changetheir ach - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
Let the val - leys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

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SERMON

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYER REQUESTS & LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4)

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

(Numbers 6:24-26)

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace, Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 311

“Dawning Light of our Salvation”

Onelicense.net # A-720770.

Following the service this morning:

Tim and Karen Shankweiler, giving thanks to the Lord for 50 years of marriage, will Renew their Marriage Promises to one another. You are invited for this brief ceremony and cake afterwards.

Schedule

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Tues | Women’s gathering | 1pm |
| | DRGL training | TBD |
| Wed | Youth confirmation/catechism class | 6:15pm |
| SAT | Men’s group | 10am |
| Next Sunday | Bible Hour, classes for all ages | 9am |
| | Worship | 10am |

Other upcoming happenings

We'd like to get a **new round of the Bible Information Classes** going. Please talk with Pastor Glende if you have an interest or would like to know more.

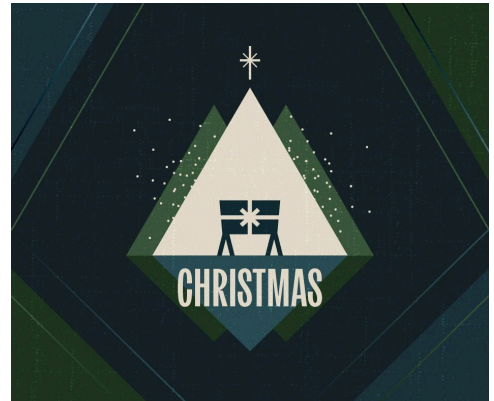
Special Christmas Services

Dec.22 - Children sing in the service to share the Christmas news

Dec.24 Christmas Eve Candlelight worship 6:30pm

Dec.25 Christmas Day worship 10am

Christmas Invitations... printed invitation cards are on the entryway table. They include the info for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Digital posts and digital invitation material will get scheduled, start appearing, and be emailed out this week.



Christmas Caroling date TBD: Tentatively set for Wednesday Dec.18. Look for more details to be announced in the coming days.

Christmas Poinsettias - If you'd like to help beautify the front of the sanctuary for the Christmas season by bringing in a poinsettia, you're invited to bring them in any time leading up to Christmas. (Following all the Christmas services, you'd be welcome to take them home with you.)

Devotional materials: if you missed these resources the past couple Sundays, you'll find them on the entryway table.

- **Meditations** daily devotional booklet (Dec-Feb)
- New **Forward in Christ** magazine... December edition.

Ongoing Volunteer opportunities:

- **Weekly Cleaning** - signup sheet is out. A whiteboard checklist of basic cleaning tasks is on the inside of the far hall closet.
- **Property care** - please talk with Dewey Stevenson if you'd like to know more about helping with tasks on our to-get-done list.
- **Weekly snacks** – you're welcome to bring something for refreshments and/or snacks on Sundays. Thanks to everyone who does!