



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Second Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. ^

Prelude....A time for silent reflection

Advent Candle Lighting

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

*vs. 1-3 **ELW #240***

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another,

we confess our sin before you.

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

We forget that we are your children

and turn away from your love.

Forgive us, Blessed One,

and assure us again of your saving grace.

Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

✠ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,

inheritors of the eternal promise,

and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

ELW #239

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074, Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever,

To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani (608-387-2311)

Additional Contact Information:

Pastor Cathleen: cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu

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FACEBOOK!! Home page: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Wilton WI

Prayers for the Children

We ask that all members join the Women of the ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn, Gracie Brandau; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley & Aria Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Kennedy & Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, & Kaylin Gruen; Emma, Bryce, Marah & Bria Gruen; Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Brady Zimmerman; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Tyler & Jaden Bever; Carlee, Collin,& Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Tyler Brandau; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Angel Brueggen; Callie Fleming; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Emma Elder; Bryson Lamb; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Watson Sebranek.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for all children everywhere, that you would keep them in your care.

In Jesus name I pray.

Amen

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.^

First Reading

The prophet Zephaniah’s message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God’s salvation is at hand.

Zephaniah 3:14-20

- ¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
- ¹⁵The 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.
- ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
- ¹⁷The 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
- ¹⁸as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I 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.

²⁰At 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.

Isaiah 12:2-6

²Surely 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.

³**With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And 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.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God’s joy and peace.

<u>Poinsettia Memorials</u> <u>To the Greater Glory of God</u>	
<u>IN HONOR OF</u>	<u>BY</u>
Alrita Ornes	John & Barb Ornes
<u>IN MEMORY OF</u>	<u>BY</u>
Winnafield & Alta Waege	Dennis & Sherri Waege
Gordon Ornes	John & Barb Ornes
Mid (Sullivan) Witt, Dan	Jerry and Pat VonHaden
Sullivan, Ruben VonHaden	“ “
Robert Sullivan	“ “
Ed Sr., Shirley and Ron Ross	The Ross Family
Elwin Steinke	Anita Steinke and Family
Ray Nofsinger, Deb Kroeger	April Arndt & Luke Kroeger
Mark Sapp, Esther Hunt and other family and friends	George and Carolyn Dougherty
Earl & Anita Brandenburg,	“ “
Junior & Bonnie Brandau	Leonard & Dixie Arndt
Gary Bever	“ “
Carl & Freda Bever	Barb Bever & Family
Bill & Ida Brandau	Karen and John Arzt
Lipscomb & Mary Louise Baker	“ “
Uncle Gary and Uncle Wayne	Katie, Emily, and Ann
Carol Osteboe	Bud Osteboe
Leonard & Galetta Brandau	Rick & Lori Brueggen & Family
Herman & Clara Buchholz	

- Six Indoor Recreational Centers for children and adults

Former Camp Counselors, Retired School Teachers, Physical Education Teachers or Coaches, Social Workers, Compassionate Community Members...What ever your talent or skill, WE NEED YOU!!

Whether you are able to give one day per week for the next few months or able to commit to one total week, WE HAVE A SPOT FOR YOU! What becomes difficult is trying to piece meal schedules of only a few hours here or there or only one or two days of the next six months. Our

volunteers need to help us offer consistency to those we are serving. We need up to 100 volunteers per day so trying to work around various schedules is difficult. In the last month, we received an enormous response from the community wanting to serve our Afghan guests. While this is amazing, we are trying to respond to each one. We are giving priority to those who are able to offer a larger time commitment to this project. Your patience is appreciated, if you have already signed up and have not heard from us and are able to volunteer, please reach out to info@cclse.org.

If you have a church group, student group, business or organization that would like to send groups of volunteers, we would love to work with you! Please contact us directly at info@cclse.org. We are happy to answer your questions and will meet with you to help you through the process.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH SORTING DONATIONS

If you are only able to give a day or afternoon, we will still be needing your help as we sort through and continue to pack donations for delivery. Please join with us in keeping all we serve in prayer.

Poinsettia Memorials

There is still time to make a donation toward a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one. Please use the envelope in the narthex, write your name on the outside and your instructions. Thanks.

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

Luke 3:7-18

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷John 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? ⁸Bear 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. ⁹Even 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."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers 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."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” **ELW #254**

Prayers of Intercession (Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**)

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.

Katie Wallace, Steve Zirk, Curt Brieske, Sue Ann Degenhardt, Dave Crowe, Randy Steinbrink, Annette Udulutch, Gloria Meltesen, LuAnn Bever-Denter, Florence Dougherty.

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Danelle Dougherty, Robert
Cale

CALENDAR

Today	Christmas Brunch	9:00 am—1:00 pm
	Wilton Community Center	
Wed., Dec. 15	Confirmation	6:30 – 8:00 pm
Sun., Dec. 19	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Afghanistan Refugee Assistance—From Catholic Charities, La Crosse

Current primary needs at Ft. McCoy are for volunteers for a variety of services and hijabs for the Afghan women.

Thank you to everyone who is interested in volunteering their time, skills, and compassionate nature in providing service to our new Afghan neighbors currently living at Fort McCoy. We need a lot of help over the next few months!

We currently operate:

- Three Women and Children Centers
- Two Sewing Centers
- One Learning Center for children and young adults and supporting over six local centers around the base
- One Legal Center

P: Come to Christ’s banquet.
Feast on God’s gift of grace.

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ’s table.

“Lamb of God” ELW p.154

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit’s power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.^

*Benediction

Sending Hymn “Prepare the Royal Highway” **ELW #264**
Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.
C: Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God’s People, Pastor: Cathleen Morris; Organist: Nalani Bever;
Reader: Lori Arndt; Communion Servers; Justin & Kirstin Arndt Arndt

OFFERING

Offering plates are located in the Narthex as you enter and exit the church.

Offering Prayer
God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
Amen.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ^

***GREAT THANKSGIVING** ELW p. 152

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** ELW p. 153

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Words of Institution

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.