

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church

220 S. Main St.
DeForest, WI 53532
608-846-4718

office@christlutherandeforest.org
christlutherandeforest.org

Pastor Sue Beadle
Vicki Sobczak, Pianist

Neil McLaughlin, Choir Director
Deacon Bonnie Vize, Organist

December 10, 2023 - Hanging of the Greens

PRELUDE

FLOWER DEDICATION Today's Altar flowers are provided by Jim Ederer In memory of Martha Ederer, loving wife and mother.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

C: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

L: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

C: With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever-green.

L: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

C: With holly and ivy, telling of His passion, death, and resurrection.

L: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

C: By hearing again the words of the scriptures, foretelling the saving work of God.

L: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him would be saved.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

**OPENING HYMN #242 - "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" (page 8)
vs. 1 & 2**

PASTORAL GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Great and Holy God,

C: in this time of waning daylight, I confess the shadows of sin in my life. I build myself up at the expense of others. I rely on my own efforts to make my life secure. Yet you, O Lord, are the potter and I am the clay. Come to restore me in Your image, remake me into one of Your people, and rebuild what sin has broken that Your whole creation and I may rejoice.

silence for reflection

L: Fear not, people of God: The Almighty has done great things for us. God casts away our sin from us and makes of us a new creation. In Jesus Christ, God comes to set us free. Take heart in the tender compassion of our God that all our sins are forgiven!

C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

L: The Advent candles are arranged in a circle to remind us of the continuous love and power of God, which knows neither beginning nor ending. There is also symbolism in the colors of the candles. The four blue candles symbolize the coming of Christ from the royal line of David. He is coming as the King of Kings as well as the Prince of Peace.

Because Advent is a time of expectation, we light the candles on the Advent wreath each Sunday of the season. The flame of each new candle reminds us that something special is happening and something even more special is still to come.

Let us pray together.

C: **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By His coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN #257 - "O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL" vs. 2 (Printed below.)

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. Refrain

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel

(10:30 am) CHOIR ANTHEM "Prepare Ye the Way"

BLESSING OF THE PARAMENTS

L: **Scripture Reading—Exodus 39:1-5**

L: We begin the Christian year by celebrating the holy season of Advent. It is a time when we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Messiah. Advent means "coming." We celebrate these days of Advent in expectation and preparation for the arrival of our Savior.

The paraments or coverings and banners are some of the most important visual ways Christians have used to express their faith in worship services. The objective in covering the altar with cloths of various colors was to help focus the attention of worshippers on the special nature of Jesus as the Perfect Sacrifice. In the early days of Christian worship, Advent and Christmas were seen as a somber time, much like Lent is today. Purple coverings were used to speak of Jesus' Kingship, but the mood was somber.

As Christians began to share their celebration of Christmas with their non-Christian friends and neighbors, they began to focus more on the joy of Christmas. As the emphasis changed to one of joyful celebration, the color used was also changed to express this. While purple is still used in some churches and at certain times, many Christian churches now use blue paraments during Advent to speak of the Kingship of Jesus.

Let us pray.

C: **O King of Love, bless these paraments of blue. May they remind us of the height of the sky and depths of the sea and the great height and depth of your love. Fill us with joy this Advent season as we wait with great anticipation for the coming of our Savior, Jesus. Amen.**

HYMN ELW #264 - "Prepare the Royal Highway" vs. 1 & 2 (page 9)

BLESSING OF THE WREATH AND GARLAND

R: Scripture Reading—Isaiah 61:1-3

L: In many ancient civilizations, it was believed that all objects possessed spirits. Since it was believed that most trees possessed kind spirits, it became customary for people to bring home sprigs and branches of trees in order that their homes might be blessed by their presence. When Christianity came into being, the newly converted people did not want to give up their traditions, so wreaths became a symbol of God's eternal and everlasting love for us, even after death. The wreath, round with no beginning and no end, symbolized the victory and glory of the fulfillment of scripture in the coming of Jesus Christ. The wreath also signifies the crown—both a sign of the Kingship of Jesus and a reminder that for love of us, Jesus wore a crown of thorns.

Let us pray.

C: **O God, whose love is without end, bless these wreaths and garland of greens. May they be signs of your love for us and signs of the eternal life we have in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN ELW #855 - "Crown Him with Many Crowns" vs. 1 & 2 (page 10)

BLESSING OF THE MISTLETOE

R: Scripture Reading—Isaiah 52:7-10

L: We cannot hear these words of Isaiah without thinking of the healing that the coming of the Savior will bring. The evergreen most associated with healing in the ancient world was the mistletoe, at one time known as "all heal." Today, it is remembered as the plant of peace. Originally, the kiss under mistletoe was a kiss of peace, for when enemies happened to meet under mistletoe in the forest, they threw down their weapons and exchanged a friendly greeting. It is in keeping with this meaning that we decorate this place of worship with mistletoe, in anticipation of the coming of the healing presence of Jesus our Savior.

Let us pray

C: **O God, we pray for peace within our own hearts; a peace that passes all our understanding, so that we can stand with our brothers and sisters and know that your love and mercy fills us in beautiful ways. Bring peace to every corner of our world, that no more lives are lost to violence or hatred. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

SONG - "Let There Be Peace on Earth" (Printed below.)

1. Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our father
We are family.
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

2. Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.

BLESSING OF THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

L: Scripture Reading—Matthew 2:13-18

L: Along with the mistletoe, holly and ivy adorn our churches because, unlike most plants, they bear their fruit in winter. Holly has become a symbol of Jesus' suffering and death, with its prickly leaves representing the crown of thorns; the berries representing the blood Jesus shed for us; and the bitter bark symbolizing the drink Jesus was offered on the cross. The ivy is a symbol of our human weakness clinging to Divine Strength.

Let us pray.

C: **O God, so great is your love for each of us that you became a human baby in order to live among us and defeat the powers of sin, death, and the devil. Help us to remember what you endured for us in the One we know as Jesus, the One we call Savior, whose birth we are preparing to once again celebrate with great joy. In His name we pray. Amen.**

SONG - "The Holly and the Ivy" vs. 1, 2, Refrain, 3, 4, 5, Refrain (Printed below.)

1. The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown

3. The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good

2. The holly bears a blossom
As white as lily flower
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Savior

4. The holly bears a prickly
As sharp as any thorn;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn.

Refrain:

**O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing of the choir**

5. The holly bears a bark
As bitter as any gall;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.

Refrain

BLESSING OF THE POINSETTIAS

L: Scripture Reading—Philippians 2:5-11

L: The legend of the poinsettia comes from Mexico. It tells of a girl named Maria and her little brother, Pablo. They were very poor but always looked forward to the Christmas festival. Each year a large manger scene was set up in the village church, and the days before Christmas were filled with parades and parties. The two children loved Christmas but were always saddened because they had no money to buy presents. They especially wished that they could give something to the church for the baby Jesus. But they had nothing. On Christmas Eve, Maria and Pablo set out for church to attend the worship service. On their way, they picked some weeds growing along the roadside and decided to take them as their gift to the baby Jesus in the manger scene. Of course other children teased them when they arrived with their gift, but they said nothing for they knew they had given what they could. Maria and Pablo began placing the green plants around the manger and miraculously, the green leaves on top turned into bright red petals. Soon, the manger was surrounded by the beautiful star-like flowers that are called poinsettias.

Let us pray.

C: O Holy Child of Bethlehem, bless these flowers with which we adorn your house. May they remind us of the gift you desire of us, a life of faithfulness to you. Help us to do our part in ending poverty and in speaking on behalf of those who have no voice in their lives. Amen.

SONG - "Little Drummer Boy" (Printed below.)

1. Come they told me	2. Little baby	3. Mary nodded
Pa rum pum pum pum	Pa rum pum pum pum	Pa rum pum pum pum
A new born King to see	I am a poor boy too	The ox & lamb kept time
Pa rum pum pum pum	Pa rum pum pum pum	Pa rum pum pum pum
Our finest gifts we bring	I have no gift to bring	I played my drum for Him
Pa rum pum pum pum	Pa rum pum pum pum	Pa rum pum pum pum
To lay before the King	That's fit to give our King	I played my best for Him
Pa rum pum pum pum,	Pa rum pum pum pum,	Pa rum pum pum pum,
rum pum pum pum,	rum pum pum pum,	rum pum pum pum,
rum pum pum pum	rum pum pum pum	rum pum pum pum
So to honor Him	Shall I play for you	Then He smiled at me
Pa rum pum pum pum	Pa rum pum pum pum	Pa rum pum pum pum
When we come	On my drum	Me and my drum

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

L: From the beginning of Christmas celebrations, gift giving has been a part of the season. The Wise Men gave out of their treasures, and the Shepherds gave of themselves. Both express the gift of God in giving Jesus as the Savior of the World.

Unique in our history of generous givers is the story of Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra in Lycia in the 4th century A.D. He is said to have been very wealthy, his emblem being three purses and three golden balls. This was the symbol of rich Italian families of his time. The good Bishop gave his money away secretly to those whom he found in need, especially children. Gifts coming from unknown sources were commonly attributed to Saint Nicholas.

The discovery of his generosity is said to have been made by the father of three dowry-less daughters. The elder two each received a gift of gold put in their shoes by the chimney. The father resolved to watch and see who their generous benefactor could be. His vigil revealed the good Saint Nicholas as the donor of the gifts. His name survives today as the human embodiment of unselfish giving.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

To you, God, we dedicate our Advent preparations, the gifts we bring to beautify this sanctuary. To you, God, we dedicate these offerings as well, gifts of love for the Child of Bethlehem. Use us and all the gifts you have given us to your glory. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREES

L: Scripture Reading—John 1:1-5

L: Today, the Christmas tree is the center of our festivities. Glittering with lights and ornaments, it is a part of the beauty and meaning of Christmas. There are several legends and stories about the Christmas tree.

The first use of the Christmas tree was in the medieval German Paradise Plays, held outdoors and portraying the creation of humankind. The Tree of Life was a fir tree decorated with apples. Later, other ornaments were hung on them, such as paper flowers and gilded nuts. In England, branches or whole trees were brought indoors to bloom for Christmas. From these beginnings the use of a tree at Christmas was established. Martin Luther was perhaps the first to use a lighted tree.

The story is told that on one Christmas Eve, Martin Luther wandered outdoors and became enraptured with the beauty of the starry sky. Its brilliance and loveliness led him to reflect on the glory of the first Christmas Eve as seen in Bethlehem's radiant skies. Wishing to share with his wife and children the enchantment he had felt, he cut from the forest an evergreen, glistening with snow, and took it home. He placed upon it candles to represent the glorious heavens he had seen. The use of a candle-lighted tree spread to all Europe. In America, the Christmas tree is regarded as a central part of all decorations.

Let us pray:

C: The wonder of these Christmas trees shines brightly in this beautiful sanctuary. You bless us with their glory and splendor. Bless now these trees with their many lights and ornaments as our praise to you and a reflection of your glory. Amen.

SONG - "O Christmas Tree"

1. O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
Thy leaves are so unchanging;
O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
Thy leaves are so unchanging;
Not only green when summer's here,
But also when 'tis cold and drear.
O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
Thy leaves are so unchanging!

2. O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
How richly God has decked thee!
O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
How richly God has decked thee!
Thou bidst us true and faithful be,
And trust in God unchangingly.
O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
How richly God has decked thee!

BLESSING OF THE CRECHE

L: Scripture Reading—Matthew 1:18-25

L: One of the most heartwarming expressions of Christmas is the crèche. The crèche speaks of the mystery of God's wisdom. Why God chose to send Himself into our world as a baby of humble birth, born in common surroundings, we do not know. What we do know is that God reached out to all people including the poor and wealthy, the simple and the wise, the powerless and powerful. All who found Jesus knelt in humility before Him. Whenever we see a crèche, we find ourselves with Mary and Joseph; with the shepherds and their animals and with the wise men who came from far away—all bowing before the baby in a manger, overwhelmed by God's gift of love given to us all.

Let us pray

C: O God of love, we give you thanks for the amazing trust and faithfulness shown to us by Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and wise men. Grant to us even a portion of that trust, that we may follow you wherever you lead us. In the name of our Savior Jesus, who taught us to pray together saying:

**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.

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW #277 - "Away in a Manger" (page 11)

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #21577. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

A Special Thank You, to the Praise Band for leading the music and to Council members for leading the service.

Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who participated in providing gifts for the Giving Tree. We collected 41 gifts for families and the elderly in our community. Also thank you for supporting the Toys For Tots program.

Thanksgiving Meal

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Thanksgiving Outreach. We donated 15 meals to seniors through the Community Center, donated non-perishable food items to the DeForest Area Food Pantry and also helped the Moravian Church provide a meal to 85 people in need in our community.


OPENING HYMN #242 - "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though




an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

HYMN ELW #264 - "Prepare the Royal Highway" vs. 1 & 2



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Bake Sale

The Youth Group will be sponsoring a Bake Sale December 17 after the Children's Christmas Pageant.

For Sale

Lutefisk, Lefse, and Herring for sale, contact: David Erickson 608-513-9137

Quilt Sale

The Quilters are having a quilt sale December 17th as a fund raiser. The Quilters are looking to raise money for quilting material and other supplies. They would also like to raise funds to ship the quilts to those in need, wherever they may be.

HYMN ELW #855 - "Crown Him with Many Crowns" vs. 1 & 2



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
 Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893



SENDING HYMN ELW #277 - "Away in a Manger"



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

Serving you today in Christ's love:

Ushers

8:00 am

Team Kvalheim

Maddy Gaffney

Maddie Riedel

10:30 am

Team Lockman

Readers

8:00 am

Jeff Gaffney

10:30 am

Anne Emerson

Communion Helpers

No Communion

Acolytes

8:00 am

Maddie Feldman

Leighton Vieau

10:30 am

CaylieJo Pereau

Calendar-Week of December 10, 2023

Sun. Dec. 10

8:00 am Worship Service

9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

Mon., Dec. 11

8:00 am Quilters

6:00 pm Stephen Ministry

6:00 pm Girl Scout Trp #8217-NK

Tues., Dec. 12

6:00 pm Quartet Bell Rehearsal

6:30 pm Bell practice- S

6:30 pm Cub Scouts - FH/NK SSI

Wed., Dec. 13

5:30 pm Confirmand Chime Trio -S

6:00 pm Confirmation Class - NK

7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thurs., Dec. 14

6:00 pm Boy Scouts -FH

6:30 pm Cub Scout Committee-FH

Sun., Dec. 17

9:00 am Worship - Christmas Pageant

Blood Drive

We will be hosting this year's blood drive Wednesday, December 27th, from noon - 5pm at Manthe Paulson Farm's shop (4083 Manthe Road). Appointments preferred.

Feel free to contact Tracy Paulson at tlmanthe@yahoo.com or 608-279-9650 to set up an appointment.

We will be looking for volunteers and possibly food donations again as well.

Help save lives!



**Donate blood
at our
upcoming
blood drive!**



HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 17th

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (one service)

9:00 am

CHRISTMAS EVE (three services)

No Sunday Morning Service

3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm

December 31st (one service)

9:00 am

