



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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DECEMBER 22, 2024



**When Elizabeth heard the greeting of  
Mary, the baby leaped in her womb.**

Luke 1:41, ESV

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**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church**

308 Market St. / PO Box 246, New Berlin, PA 17855  
[www.newberlinlutherans.com](http://www.newberlinlutherans.com) | 570-966-2815

**Beverly Hoffman, Synod Approved Minister**

Please contact Beverly Hoffman for all pastoral needs.

1-570-428-4876 | [bevhoff@ptd.net](mailto:bevhoff@ptd.net)

**Christine Rowe, Parish Secretary**

[christine@newberlinlutherans.com](mailto:christine@newberlinlutherans.com)

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# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU ARE HERE!

## Navigating Worship

Congregational responses are written in bold.

*\* indicates to stand as you are able*

## AED Available Downstairs

In case of an emergency, an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is located in the stair tower on the first floor.

## Nursery

The nursery is available downstairs—please wipe down toys used.

## Streaming Video

We extend our worship from our building into our community on Facebook, and YouTube. The front two pews and chancel are visible on the video.

## Today's Worship Leaders:

Presiding:	Beverly Hoffman
Greeter/s:	Jean Sauers
Lector:	Kathleen Ferster
Acolytes:	Emma Mitchell & Audrey Resseguie
Cantor/s:	Ronald and Frances Blatchley
Music Dir:	Frank Shue
Video Operator:	Nancy Morgan
Communion Set Up:	Fran Blatchley
Communion Baker:	Miriam Milbrand

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✠ GATHERING ✠

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

# 257

*Verses 7 and 8 are sung while the Advent Candles are Lit*

**\*CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
alive in the world,  
reviving creation,  
arriving soon. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**  
**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have turned away from our neighbors.**  
**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We plead: come to us.**  
**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth:  
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,  
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
receive the grace and forgiveness of God  
through ✠ Christ Jesus,  
whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

# \*GATHERING SONG

# 254

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

## \*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.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



WORD



**FIRST READING**

MICAH 5:2-5A

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore they shall be given up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of the ruler's kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And the ruler shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of  
the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now the ruler shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

Word of God, Word of Life  
**Thanks be to God.**





## \*GOSPEL

LUKE 1:39-45

The holy gospel according to St. Luke  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Children make their way up to the front when called*

## HOMILY

BEVERLY HOFFMAN

## \*HYMN OF THE DAY

# 263

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME



**\*APOSTLE'S CREED**

*PRESIDING BEGINS*

**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  
and 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 to 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

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence*

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## \*PEACE

*Feel free to shake hands during Sharing of the Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**



M E A L



## OFFERING

*An offering is collected in the plates located in the narthex and by the elevator.  
You may give electronically at <http://newberlinlutherans.com/give>.*

## Chancel Choir

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Edward S. Barnes

## \*OFFERTORY

# 184

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta - ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

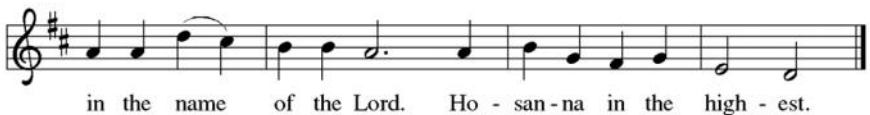
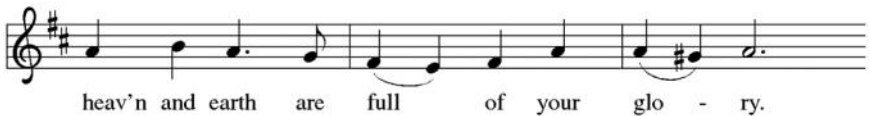
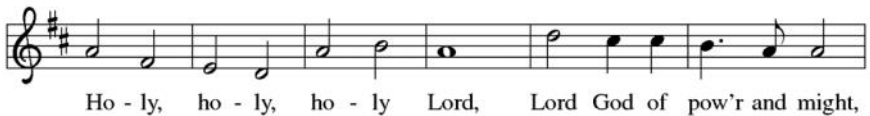
## \*OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,  
you alone are holy,  
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:  
beyond the stars;  
beneath the sea;  
within each cell;  
with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness:  
through the water;  
by night and day;  
across the wilderness;  
out of exile;  
into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:  
at the heart of human life;  
near to those who suffer;  
beside the sinner;  
among the poor;  
with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take and eat;  
this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,  
he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink,  
saying: This cup  
is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us  
on the way,  
at the table,  
and to the end,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:  
in our gathering;  
within this meal;  
among your people;  
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks  
to you, holy God,  
through Christ Jesus,  
by your Spirit,  
in your church,  
without end. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,  
we are bold to 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.**

## \*COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Both sides process forward simultaneously by the center aisle.*

*At the front pew are empty cups for wine. The cups that are filled are grape juice.*

*The Common Cup is also available.*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## COMMUNION SONGS

MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS # 251

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL # 257

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Please stand as you are able.*

Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**



## SENDING



### \*BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✚ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

### \*SENDING SONG

REJOICE, REJOICE BELIEVERS

# 244

### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*We hear "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers" as we go forth to*

LIVE GOD'S GRACE; SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE; SERVE THE LORD

*All are invited for coffee, snacks, and fellowship in the parish hall.*



## *Christmas Eve*

*Join us Christmas Eve December 24, at 8:40 p.m. for Pre-Service Choral music performed by our own Chancel Choir. It will definitely set the mood for the Christmas Eve Service which begins at 9:00 p.m.*



# Fellowship After The Service

Join us for fellowship every Sunday after worship  
In the Fellowship Hall.

Today's Fellowship is hosted by Ronald and Frances Blatchley

Jan. 5	John and Nancy Showers
Jan. 12	Katie Brobst and Kathleen Ferster
Jan. 19	Katie Mitchell
Jan. 26	Deb Boyer



## Worship Leaders for Christmas Eve 9:00 p.m.

Presiding:	Beverly Hoffman
Greeter/s:	Deb Wetzel
Lector:	Deb Wetzel
Acolytes:	Nancy Morgan and CarolAnn Miller
Cantor/s:	CarolAnn Miller
Music Dir:	Frank Shue
Video Operator:	Kay Trick
Communion Set Up:	Steve and Linda Resseguie
Communion Baker:	Miriam Milbrand



**THERE IS STILL TIME TO PICK UP A QUICK AND EASY, LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFT WITHOUT EVEN GOING TO THE OVERLY CROWDED STORES!!!!**



**How? By purchasing Gift Cards!**

Gift cards are available for purchase from Kathleen Ferster after Sunday church services. Weis and Giant cards are available in \$25 and \$100 increments. L & L cards are available in \$50 and \$100 increments. If paying by check, please make it out to Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church with a note at the bottom of the check that it is for Food Pantry Gift Cards. Cash payment will also be accepted. Proceeds go toward the buying food for the Food Pantry. See how easy that is?!



## Embrace Hope

Several years ago, Evangelical Hospital's Chaplain started a program called, "Embrace Hope". This program uses quilts that volunteers make to give comfort to patients at the end stage of life. The quilts provide warmth and comfort to the recipient and then are given to the family to keep. A month ago our church donated such a quilt in memory of Chuck Ritter.

Today, the quilt will be donated in memory of Carl and Helen Scholl. Please lay your hand on the quilt as you come up for communion, and say a prayer for the Scholl Family.



Next Sunday.....

December 29th everyone is invited to meet at John and Nancy Shower's home for a Potluck dinner, Fellowship and Carols Around the Piano. The festivities begin at 4:00 p.m.



The Shower's will provide a baked ham and anyone attending may add their favorite dish to share. Bishop Craig Miller will be leading us in worship and Frank Shue will lead us in Carols.

Please R.S.V. P. to Nancy Showers at 570 966-1132 so she knows how big a ham to get and how many chairs to set out. A near-final count by Friday evening, December 27th would be really helpful.

*\*This will replace our regularly scheduled 9:00 am service. In other words, there will be no 9:00 a.m. service at Messiah Lutheran on December 29th. If you would like to attend a 9:00 a.m. service, Christ Lutheran in Lewisburg has invited Messiah Lutheran for Lessons and Carols.*

On December 19th, the food pantry served 67 families and 135 individuals. Our next Food Pantry distribution will be January 16th. The New Berlin Food Pantry are members of the Central



Pennsylvania Food Bank. This membership allows us to purchase items needed for the Food Pantry at .19 a lb., delivered right to our door! In addition, this also allows us to receive many free items for the Food Pantry. There has been an increase of families and individuals who need the services of our Food Pantry. Please pray for the Food Pantry and prayerfully consider making a

# Worship Leaders for Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025

*Volunteers are not needed on December 29 as we will meet at  
John and Nancy Showers' Home*

Presiding:	Beverly Hoffman
Greeter/s:	Mim Keister
Lector:	Tom Milbrand
Acolytes:	Tom Milbrand and Mea Long
Cantor/s:	JR Erdley
Music Dir:	Frank Shue
Video Operator:	Phillip Heggenstaller
Communion Set Up:	Ron and Penny Hauck
Communion Baker:	Frances Blatchley

## ***Have a prayer request?***

*Fill out the yellow Prayer Request card and drop it in the offering plate or put it in the secretary's mailbox.*

***Need immediate prayers?*** Contact Tom Milbrand (272-305-0058), Diane Walter (570-966-0333), or Frances Blatchley (570-966-0288) to have prayers shared on the prayer chain.

*Please remember to give Christine Rowe an update on the status of those on our prayer list.*

***Remember to fill out at least one Communion card each year.***

Can't make it to church in-person?

Attend remotely on Facebook, YouTube and the phone. To listen in on the phone, call 570-989-8899.

# *In our prayers*

Healing, wholeness, and encouragement

*Long Term*

Alicia Saxon, Noah Navickas, Matthew Myers, Steve Boonie, Lori Haines, Jeffrey Ames, Oliver Auman, Aimee Erdley, Bev Fausey, Christine Koons, Darrell O'Bryant, Robert "Butch" Hestor, Betty Reber, Michael Callahan, Angela Golfieri, Todd Miller, John Hollenbach, Eric Brosious, Kay Fleming, Taryn Myers, Brantley Herman, Timothy Shomper, Jane Ohlidia, Weston Treas, Trudy Livingston, Mick Hauck, Lark Springer, Logan Roush, Katelyn Mattison, Tena Decker-Norman, Mary Hoover, Laurie Thomas, John Wagner, Beth Ann Troutman, Craig Stumpff, George Hauck, Sandy Raymond, Kathy Spangler, Dianne Bailor, Doug Aikey, Loretta Weatherill, Melissa Boonie, Adam Guzenski, Julia Hauck, Ellie Crane, Jami and Dylan Crane, Tracy Sassaman, Paul Burkholder, Sue Ulrich, Charlie Stabler, Shawna St. Claire, Stanley St. Claire, Larry St. Claire, Daytona Wentzel, Tim Walsh, Jared Mowen, Ted Kolvich, Ron Trick, Cameron Osgood, June Bingaman, Belle McCreary, Michelle (Pam Erdley's friend)

*short Term*

Mary Wagner, Ken Walter, Rev. Wayne Lupole, Janice Reaser, Carole Jacka, Deb Wetzal, Linda Renner, Betty Hollenbach, Kathleen Ferster

Providence and Protection for first responders and military service men and women

Stanley Miller, Benjamin Pilko

Companionship, Prayer and Support for our Homebound

Carol McJilton, Valda Sassaman, Julia Fetter, Mick and Mary Hauck, Harold Spangler, Nancy Hummel

*Comfort for those who Grieve*

For the family and friends of Harold Spangler, Michael Bastian, Deb Thompson, Kay Hestor, Miriam Logan, Glenn Keister, Sarah Mae Radel

# This Week

Today, December 22

9 am Service of Holy Communion  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Tues., December 24

9 pm *Christmas Eve Service*

Next Sunday, December 29

4 pm Potluck & Hymn Sing  
@ John and Nancy Showers' Home

\*There will not be a Sunday Morning Worship service @ Messiah on December 29. We are welcome to join Christ Lutheran at 9:00 a.m. for Lessons and Carols.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

*Psalm for Monday-Wednesday is Luke 1:46-55, Luke 2:1-20, Psalm 96, 97*

Mon.	Dec. 23	Micah 4:6-8	2 Peter 1:16-21
Tues.	Dec. 24	Isaiah 9:2-7	Titus 2:11-14
Wed.	Dec. 25	Isaiah 52:7-10	John 1:1-14

*Psalm for Thursday-Saturday is Psalm 148*

Thurs.	Dec. 26	2 Chronicles 24:17-24	Acts 6:1-7; 7:51-60
Fri.	Dec. 27	Proverbs 8:32-36	John 21:19-24
Sat.	Dec. 28	Isaiah 54:1-13	Revelation 21:1-7
Sunday, Dec. 29		1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52	