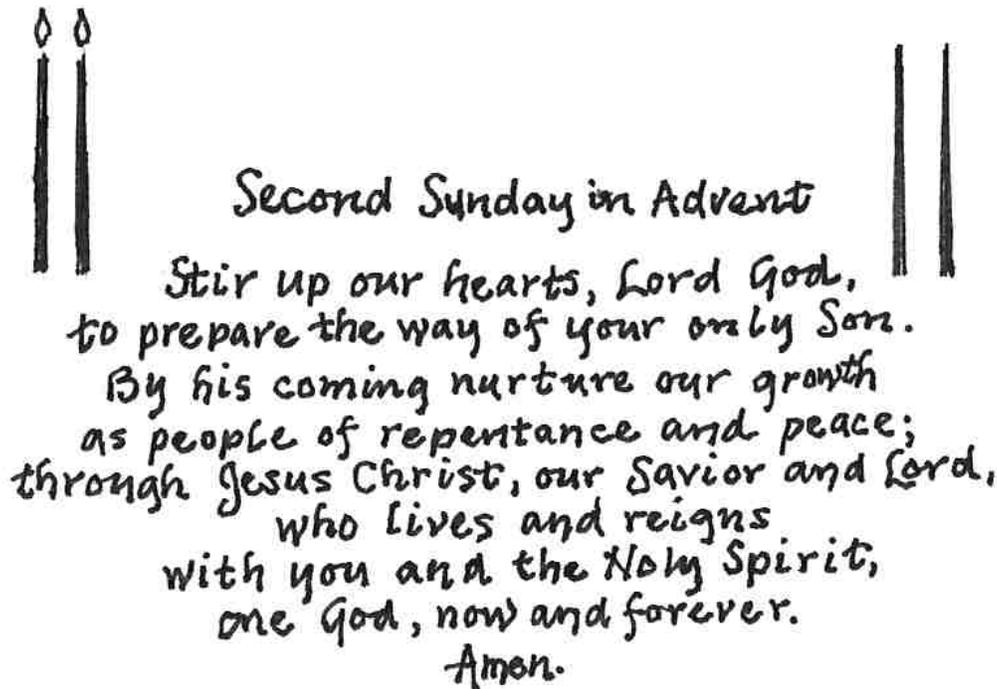


Windsor Heights Lutheran Church
Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 4, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
LARGE PRINT & ONLINE BULLETIN



Bulletin Art by Bill Lewis

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

WHLC Staff

Chris Olkiewicz, Lead Pastor ~ Robin Coughenower, Associate Pastor
Zach Meyer, Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Congregational Life Coordinator
Heidi Hennig, Office Manager ~ Zach Seifert, Financial Coordinator
Chuck Young, Facilities Manager
Jan Carlson, Organist & Pianist
Amanda Lauritsen, Director of Children's Music and Alternative Worship
Jim Cacciatore, Director of Alleluia Choir
Jon Lewis, Director of Windsor Brass
Shelly Siemer, Director of Windsor Bells
Megan Seifert, Director of Cherub Chimes

Windsor Heights Lutheran Church

1240 66th Street, Windsor Heights, IA 50324 ~ www.whlc.org ~ 515-277-6277

Prelude - *Come, Thou Long - Expected Jesus* - Molly Ijames -
Jan Carlson & Wendy Prigge

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ✝ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

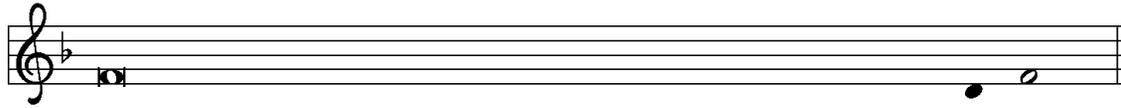
Gathering Hymn-*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* -ELW 249

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.**

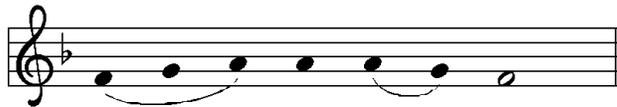
Kyrie



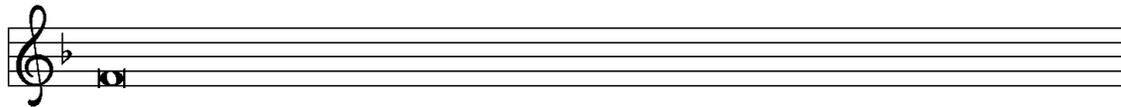
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



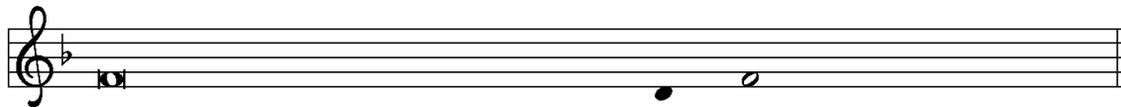
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



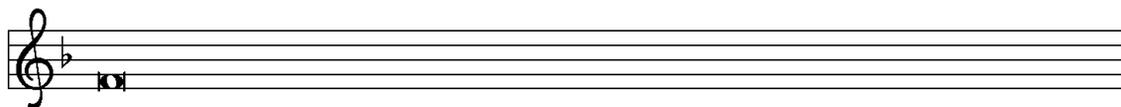
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



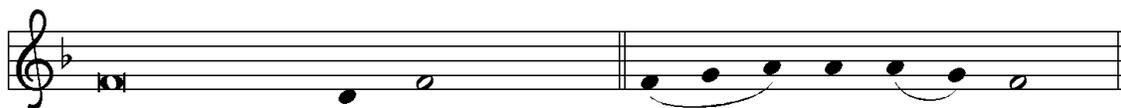
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



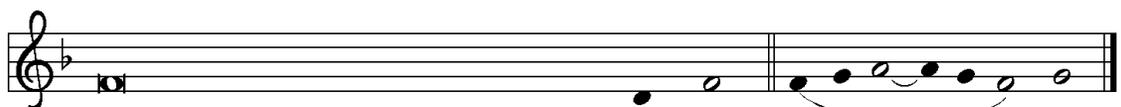
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Prayer of the Day *Response after prayer* **Amen**

– **WORD** –

First Reading - Isaiah 11:1-10 - Bible page 784 (OT)

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm - Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

- ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
²**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be
no more.
¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**
¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

Second Reading - Romans 15:4-13 - Bible page 3 (NT)

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel - Matthew 3:1-12 - Bible page 3 (NT)

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

The gospel is read.

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

Children's Message ~ Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Sermon - The Rev. Chris Olkiewicz

Hymn of the Day - *Prepare the Royal Highway* - ELW 264

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.**

Prayers of Intercession

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Peace

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

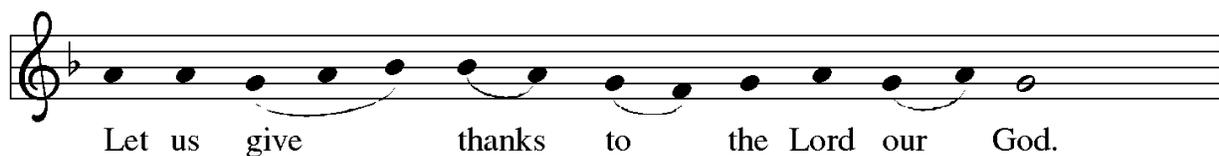
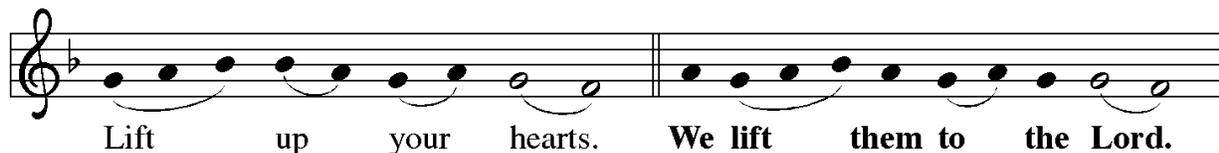
– MEAL –

**Offering - *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* - arr. Melody Bober -
Jan Carlson & Wendy Prigge**

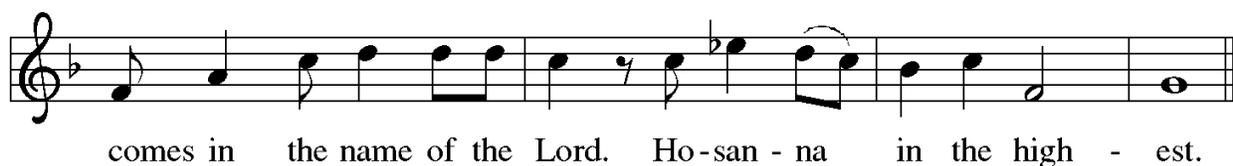
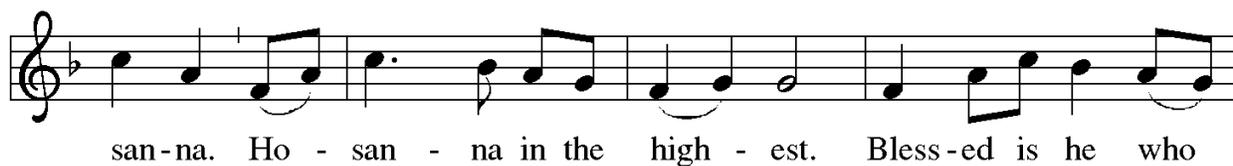
Offering Prayer

Response after prayer **Amen**

Dialogue



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,... praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

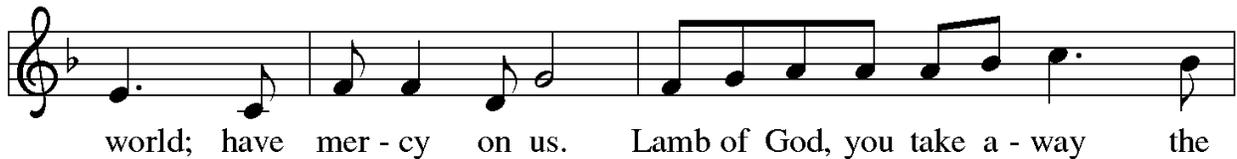
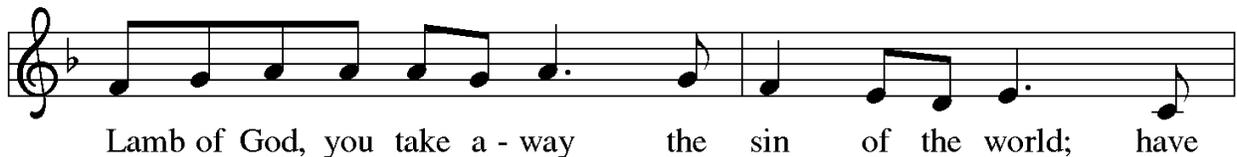
With this bread and cup...We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit...Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours...one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



Communion Hymns - ELW 266, 254

Prayer after Communion *Response after prayer* Amen

– SENDING –

Blessing

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✚ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn - *Hark, the Glad Sound!* - ELW 239

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude - *People Look East* - Linda McKechnie -
Jan Carlson & Wendy Prigge**

Sympathy to:

Sympathy to Sandee Myers and family
on the death of her mother,
Dorothy Myers of Arizona.

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We keep in our prayers:

Andy Anderson
Sandy Axness
Mike Blake
Marilyn Deavers
Kim Greenfield
Doug Johnson
David Risvold
Tom Shanley
David Sporleder
Dave West
Tony Wheeler

Celebration of Pastor Robin's Ministry

Sunday, December 11, following the 10:45 service

After 16 years of ministry at WHLC, Pastor Robin has taken a call to serve as Interim Pastor at Augustana Lutheran Church in Boone. We are thrilled for her new opportunity and very sad that she is leaving WHLC. Come join in a celebration of her ministry following the second service on December 11, her last Sunday at WHLC.

The meal will be potluck, so please bring a dish to share. We will provide cake for dessert. There will be a short program honoring Pastor Robin, but mostly we want this to be a time for you to thank her for her service here and to wish her well in her new call. Please join us!

Small Group Advent

You are invited to join Pastor Chris on Wednesdays in Advent for conversation on the devotional "The Season of Waiting (And Waiting . . . And Waiting . . .)" by Kate Bowler. The devotional is available free online at <https://katebowler.com/>. You can bookmark the page and return there each day of Advent or download the PDF and print or save it to your device.

A couple of years ago our Book Club read Bowler's book, *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved*, in which she discusses her journey through a stage four cancer diagnosis as a spouse, young mother, and theologian early in her academic career. It's a powerful, realistic, hopeful book, and her Advent devotional promises to be all those things too. There is scripture, a reflection, and prayer for each day of the season, beginning on the First Sunday of Advent.

Pastor Chris will meet in the Koinonia Room on Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. (beginning November 30) for conversation about the week's material and your own experiences of Advent. If it works better for you to join online, we will set up a computer in the room running Google Meet. Use this link and wait for the host to let you into the meeting: <https://meet.google.com/uba-adxo-vpe>

The kids advent program is today! Join us at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary!

WHLC ADVENT SERVICE ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT 4 P.M.

Viewing of the tables will begin at 3 p.m. preceding the service.

Once again donations/gifts will be given to Luther Park and an offering will be taken for supplies for Easter Seals during the service.

In order for this to be successful we need 12-15 people to host a table of 8. You may use your own dinnerware or use the church's.

Any questions and if you'd like to host a table, please notify Linda Anderson (515-491-9242) Sharman Blake (515-664-0681) or Heidi Hennig at the church office (515-277-6277).

Elderberries Sing-Along will be on Tuesday, December 6, at 11:30 a.m. Jan Carlson and Wendy Prigge will present a musical program and then play some of our favorite Christmas hymns for a sing-a-long. The meal will be catered. We hope you can come! All are welcome!

Poinsettias ~ As we look forward to celebrating Christ's birth, we are excited to support the Urbandale Food Pantry this year with donations to our poinsettia display. Please send your donation to the church office by emailing office@whlc.org or calling 515-277-6277, and include anyone you would like to honor or in memory. Names will be published similar to past years. Checks can be written out to WHLC with poinsettias in the memo line. A suggested donation is \$25; however, any amount is greatly appreciated. **Donations are due Sunday, December 18.**

ADVENT
A Season of Preparation