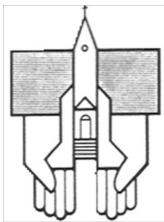
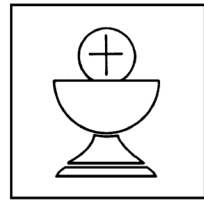


**OUR REDEEMER**  
**Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**  
**Worship Bulletin**

**For 17 December 2023**  
**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
**GAUDETE**

Pastor: Tod R. Rappe (910)488-6010 (W) 488-3046 (H)  
Organist: Holly Flanscha  
Web site: www.faylcms.org

Our practice of closed communion is the historic practice of the church. It is prompted by love, both for God's Word and for God's people. It does not deny that members of other denominations are Christians. Rather, it bows the knee to the Bible's deep concern for doctrinal truth (Rom. 16:17) and the Bible's witness that doctrinal unity is central to the common reception of this sacrament. **For this reason, guests who desire to commune are asked to speak with the pastor before the service.**



**WELCOME!** We invite all visitors to sign the guest register in the narthex and worship with us again. If you are not a first time visitor and are not communing, please complete the card located with communion cards in front of the pews. If you have questions about how to join our church or study the Scriptures with us, please speak with one of our Elders or the Pastor.

Each Saturday evening from 6-8PM Pastor Rappe avails himself for private confession and absolution, that which the historical Lutheran Church refers to as the third Sacrament. This is made available to those whose consciences are burdened and whose hearts are troubled. No one is forced to make private confession, as no one is forced to Baptism or the Holy Supper. Rather, this is the means of God's gospel to those who seek Him and the forgiveness of sins in Jesus.



**OLD TESTAMENT**

“Behold, I send My messenger,  
And he will prepare the way before Me.  
And the Lord, whom you seek,  
Will suddenly come to His temple,  
Even the Messenger of the covenant,  
In whom you delight.  
Behold, He is coming,”  
Says the LORD of hosts.  
“But who can endure the day of His coming?  
And who can stand when He appears?  
For He is like a refiner’s fire  
And like launderers’ soap.  
He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver;  
He will purify the sons of Levi,  
And purge them as gold and silver,  
That they may offer to the LORD  
An offering in righteousness.  
“Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem  
Will be pleasant to the LORD,  
As in the days of old,  
As in former years.  
And I will come near you for judgment;  
I will be a swift witness  
Against sorcerers,  
Against adulterers,  
Against perjurers,  
Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans,  
And against those who turn away an alien—  
Because they do not fear Me,”  
Says the LORD of hosts.  
“For I am the LORD, I do not change;  
Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

**EPISTLE**

Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

**1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-5**

Holy Gospel on reverse side

**MALACHI 3:1-6**

**DIVINE SERVICE**

**Setting Two**

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**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

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Collect for the Epistle

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Collect for the Holy Gospel

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(p.177)

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The Words of Our Lord.....p.179  
Peace is shared

Distribution  
#618, #356

*Te Deum* .....p.223  
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Benediction .....p.18  
Closing Hymn.....#517 v. (1,5,3)

Announcements

## HOLY GOSPEL

## MATTHEW 11:1-11

Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.

And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"

Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written:

'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,  
Who will prepare Your way before You.'

"Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.



Worship Bulletin  
For  
December 17, 2023  
Third Sunday in Advent  
Gaudete

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

**Today (17 December)**  
 10:30AM Divine Service  
 11:45AM Youth Confirmation  
 11:45AM Coffee Hour

**Tue. (19 December)**  
 10:00AM Matins & Bible Study

**Wed. (20 December)**  
 7:00PM Sunday School Christmas Program

**Sat. (23 December)**  
 6-8PM Office of the Keys/Confession

**Sun. (24 December)**  
 9:00AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study  
 10:30AM Divine Service  
 11:45AM Youth Confirmation  
 11:45AM Coffee Hour  
 7:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Serving Today**

**Altar Guild:** Alexandria Tate  
**Acolyte:** Bobby Baker

**Serving Next Sunday**

**Altar Guild:** Susanna Hitt  
**Acolyte:** Bobby Baker

**While the psalmist urges us to "make a joyful noise to the Lord",** he did NOT mean cell phone ringtones, children's noisy toys or other modern electronic marvels. Rather, these should be SILENT while we lift our voices and hearts in worship through song and prayer to our Lord. Please see that all cell phones, toys and anything else that might disrupt our worship are turned

**PLEASE COMPLETE A COMMUNION CARD**

Fill in the names of only those who are communing and hand it to the usher. You may fill out one per family.

**FROM THE BOARD OF FINANCE**

Attendance December 6 .....43  
 Attendance December 10.....96  
 General Fund Income..... \$6339.36  
 Altar Guild .....\$60.00  
 Building Fund.....\$20.00  
 General Fund weekly difference from Budget .....\$1838.53  
 The annual budget adopted by the Voters' assembly requires weekly giving of \$4500.83 to sustain it.  
 Thank you for your Contributions.

**DAILY LECTIONARY**

17 Dec. - Psalm 16 & Isaiah 25-27  
 18 Dec. - Psalm 17 & Isaiah 28-30  
 19 Dec. - Psalm 18 & Isaiah 31-33  
 20 Dec. - Psalm 19 & Isaiah 34-36  
 21 Dec. - Psalm 20 & Isaiah 37-39  
 22 Dec. - Psalm 21 & Isaiah 40-42  
 23 Dec. - Psalm 22 & Isaiah 43-45



**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God by Dick & Chucki Davis in celebration of their daughter Jessica's birthday.



**Birthdays This Week**  
 Sandy Cage 12/18



**Wedding Anniversaries This Week**  
 Randy & Kim Steffen 12/20  
 John & Lori Hill 12/22

If we have missed anyone's birthday or anniversary, please let us know.

**NURSERY ROOM** is available for children 5 years of age who are having difficulty the service. There is also a rocking chair in the room. The room also has speakers in it to hear the service.



**Mark Your Calendars For Voters Assembly Meeting** will be Sunday January 20th right after worship service. We will be voting on the new church budget for the coming year and also we will be voting on the church officers that will be serving for the year 2024. If your would like to serve on the church council, please contact our Council Chairman, Wesley Price. All voting members are urged to attend. We must have a quorum.

**Offering Envelopes for 2024** are located on the table in the church narthex.

**Altar Flower Chart** for 2024 is hanging up in the church hallway next to the church office. Please honor a loved one/remember an important event or celebrate an event by signing up to sponsor flowers. The price is \$40.00 for both bouquets per Sunday.

**No Sunday School Classes** for next Sunday, December 24th or the following Sunday, December 31st.

**We Are In Need** of an Evangelism chairperson to serve on the church council for next year. If your are interested, please see church council chairman Wesley Price or any church council member.



**Come Join Us For The Sunday School Christmas Program** this Wednesday night, December 20th at 7:00PM. Please come an support our Sunday School.

**ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE—DECEMBER 21** Thomas, called Didymus (Thomas is Aramaic for "twin" Didymus is the Greek for "twin"), is referred to four times in the New Testament. The biographical information from the Fourth Gospel presents Thomas as slow to understand. But for all his doubt, it is Thomas who makes the confession which is the climax of John's gospel. Legend associates Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, Simon, and Jude, the five "Apostles of the East," and tells of Thomas's missionary journey to India and his martyrdom at Madras. The Roman calendar has moved St. Thomas's Day to July 3 to get it out of Advent; the new Episcopal calendar retains the tradition date, December 21st.

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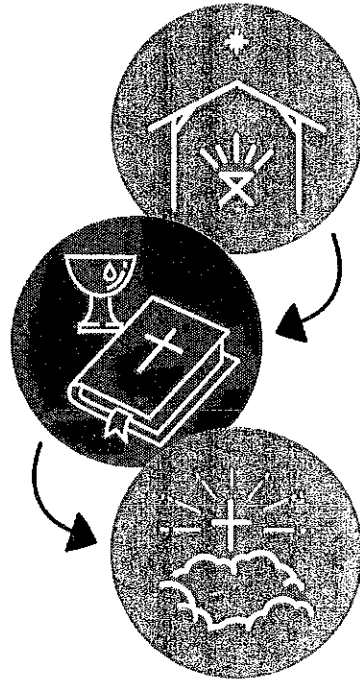
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**KIDS IN THE  
 DIVINE SERVICE**  
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**The Advent of Christ**

As you may remember, the word Advent means "coming." During the season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. But that is not the only coming of Jesus that we hear about in the Advent story.

**What is the rest of the Advent story?**

The Advent of Christ has three parts. God's Word tells us that Jesus not only came to earth as a man at Christmas, but that He comes to be with His church through His Word and Sacraments. Finally, God's Word reminds us that He will return in judgement on the Last Day. If you think about it, there sure are a lot of great things to remember and look forward to during the season of Advent!



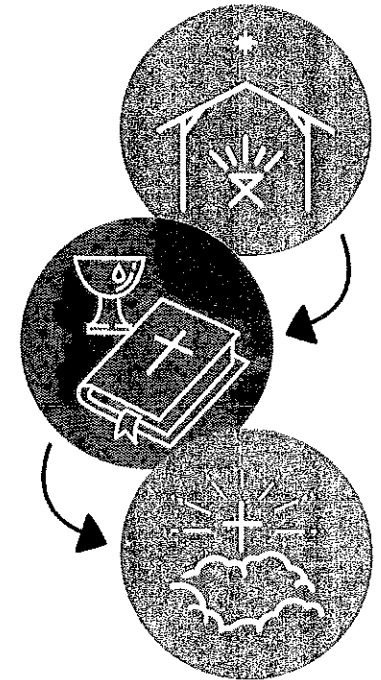
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**Parents:**

When Holy Communion is offered, allow your children to attend the altar with you. Remind them that Jesus is truly present here in the sacrament, and that we will see Him face to face on the Last Day!



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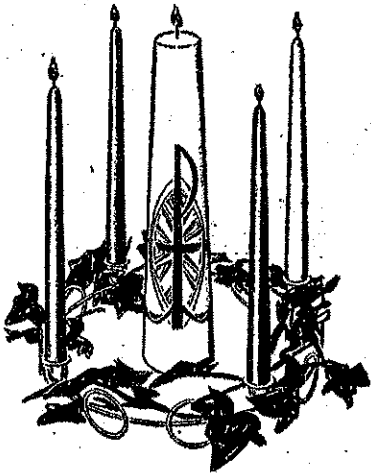
Week of: Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Season: Advent

Today is: **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent.** There are four Sundays in the Advent season—preparing and leading us to Christmas Day. The word "advent" is from the Latin word for "**coming**," and as such, describes the "coming" of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh.

Today we also commemorate **St. Thomas, Apostle.** We sing about him in verse 6: "*All praise, O Lord, for Thomas, Whose short lived doubtings prove your perfect twofold nature, the fullness of Your love. To all who live with questions a steadfast faith afford; and grant us grace to know You, True man, yet God and Lord.*"

**Church Paraments:** The church paraments are now **blue.** The history and reasoning with Advent season having blue paraments is the deep blue reflects hope and the deep blue color of the sky just before the sun rises. Therefore, we too, sit in this season with hope and anticipation of Jesus' birth, and his second coming.



The Advent wreath is a tradition stemming from Germany. Each four candles represent the 4 Sundays in Advent; each one lit as each week progresses.

And then the white candle in the middle is lit for Christmas Day.

### Reminder:

**Please join us for the Children's Christmas Program  
Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.**

In a world full of holiday frenzy, join us to hear God's word, from the lips of children, and the promise of the coming Messiah!  
Cookies and refreshments are available after.

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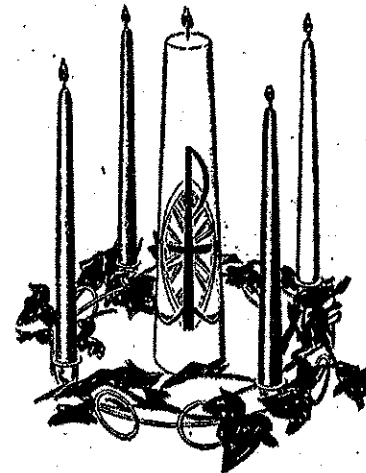
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