

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Third Sunday in Advent

December 16, 2018

WELCOME - OUR INVITATION- To all who need comfort; to all who want friendship; to those who desire acceptance; to all who want sheltering love; to those who sin and need a Savior, whoever will come, this church opens wide its doors, and in the name of our Lord, says WELCOME!

VISITORS - We welcome you to Mt. Calvary! We hope that hearing God's Word this morning will strengthen and enrich your faith. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Carrier and sign the guest register, located in the narthex at the rear of the church.

Our Mission: To be living letters written by the Holy Spirit, read by all (2 Cor. 3:3).

The Order of Worship
Divine Service, Setting Four
With Communion
Pages 203-212

+ + +

Processional Hymn

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Hymn 515

Confession and Absolution *(Page 203)*

Introit *(Sung)*

Cantor: Rejoice in the Lord / always;*
again I will say, / Rejoice.

Blessed is he whose help is the God of / Jacob,*
whose hope is in the / LORD his God.

All: Glory be to the Father and / to the Son*
and to the Holy / Spirit.

As it was in the be-/ ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

Cantor: Rejoice in the Lord / always;*
again I will say, / Rejoice.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you. *(Spoken)*

P: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and
to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for
You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever.

C: Amen.

The Old Testament Reading Zephaniah 3:14-20 ¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

Witte

(The text can be found in Hymn 348)

The Epistle Reading Philippians 4:4-7

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

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem

“O Come, O Come, Immanuel”

Sleeth

The Holy Gospel Luke 7:18-28

(Please join in reading the words of Jesus in bold print.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord. *(Spoken)*

¹⁸ The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹ calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰ And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹ In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²² And he answered them, **“Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”**

²⁴ When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: **“What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ ²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ. *(Spoken)*

Nicene Creed *(Page 206 or back page of Service Book)*

Children's Message

Pastor Carrier

Hymn of the Day

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

Hymn 345

Sermon

“What Have We Come Here To See?” *(Luke 7:18-28)*

Prayer of the Church

*(Each petition concludes; P: Lord in your mercy . . .
C: Hear our prayer.)*

Offering

Service of the Sacrament *(Page 208-210)*

(Our Communion Practice is printed on the insert page.)

Hymn during the Distribution

“Once He Came in Blessing”

Hymn 333

Post-Communion Liturgy *(Pages 210-212)*

Recessional Hymn

“Arise, O Christian People”

Hymn 354

+ To God Alone be Glory +

OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sin. In joyful obedience to the clear teaching of our Lord Jesus, those are invited to His table who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us.

Because Holy Communion is a confession of our faith, if you are not yet instructed, in doubt, or hold a confession differing from that of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, you should first speak to pastor. If you are unable to receive Holy Communion today and wish to come to the altar rail for a blessing, we ask that you cross your arms at the rail. During the distribution of Communion, you are invited to meditate on God's Word. Those who have any concerns or questions are invited to speak with the pastor prior to or following the service.

WE WELCOME back Mr. Jeff Kumpula, the trumpeter for today's worship service. Thank you, Jeff, for adding to our worship experience today!

VOTERS MEETING – There will be no Bible Class today due to the scheduled Voters Meeting. The Voters will meet following fellowship time to elect officers and approve the 2019 budget, among other items. Your attendance and input are needed, so please try to attend.

REMINDER – Please remember to check your mailbox weekly.

MEMORIALS – Thank you to the following people for their gifts to Mt. Calvary in memory of Erv Beyersdorf: Jerry and Lorraine Roy, Carol Beyersdorf, David and Anita Beyersdorf, Kenneth Beyersdorf, Mervin and Bonnie Beyersdorf, and Kevin and Barbara Hunt.

CHRISTMAS ART PROGRAM – We have had great success with the kids Christmas Art Program. The children have been making Christmas decorations that they have taken home. Tomorrow is the final day and we will be celebrating “Jesus’ Birthday” by having a party!" We hope that you can come out and join us. The time is 4 – 6 p.m.

MEMORIAL SERVICE - A Memorial Service is scheduled for our former member, Doris Heymoss, on December 18 at 10 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton Twp.

NO BIBLE STUDY – Pastor Carrier will be out of town the Sundays of December 23 and 30. There will be no Bible class those two days. Rev. Richard Robinson, the pastor at St. John, Detroit, will be leading worship those Sundays.

SCRIP NEWS - Today, Dec. 16 is the last regular Sunday order that will be delivered by next Sunday, December 23. However, if I place an additional order by Tuesday evening, it will still arrive in time for Sunday delivery. Speak with Lucie if you need a little additional time to finish that last gift order. There are still a few retailers with bonus offers - Dominos (+3%), Red Robin (+2.75%), and Sally's Beauty (+2%) through December 21; Burlington Coat Factory (+2%) and Coldstone Creamery (+15%) through December 28.

YOU'RE INVITED – Dale Vietzke and Tammy Packwood are getting married at 3 p.m. at Mt. Calvary. If you are available to come and share in the celebration of their wedding, we would love to have you there.

THANK YOU! Thank you to all those who baked cookies and/or helped with the Christmas Festivities and gift distribution from “Gifts For All God’s Children” for the Head Start families yesterday. The gifts they received will help them provide gifts for their children that they otherwise wouldn’t be able to provide. The families were truly thankful to Mt. Calvary.

Blessings,
Carol Vietzke

WE INCLUDE IN OUR PRAYERS the following people dealing with health concerns:

From our fellowship:

Bill and Judy Buchanan, Dina Gilmore, De'Borah and Jessie Jackson, Jeff Kurtz, Karen Roemer, Karolyn Swad, Carol Vietzke, and Philonese Walker

Among our friends and families:

Ronda Burns Aitchison, Kimiko Astalos, Gabrielle Awada, Julie Buckbee (daughter of Kimiko Astalos), David Coates, Barbara Drisko (friend of Sylvia Wallace), Elizabeth Higginbotham, Jill Hupp, Luella Lanier (mother of Philonese Walker), Harrison McNally, Patricia McNally, Rev. Pat O'Brien, Sue Richardson, Izzy Sherman (niece of John Duff of Redeemer, Birmingham)

Gathered Home by God:

Arnold Karcher experienced God's ultimate healing grace in the resurrection this past Tuesday. We pray that God the Holy Spirit would comfort his family and friends.

We also pray for:

The United States military, first responders, police officers (especially Police Officer Thomas Jones), firefighters of the 9th precinct, and the city of Detroit.

Lutheran Hour Ministries - Listen to "The Lutheran Hour" every Sunday with host Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler on the following radio dials: Detroit WDFN (1130) @ 6:30 a.m.; WRDT (560) @ 6:30 p.m. and Sirius XM Satellite Family Radio 170 @ 1:00 P.M. Next Sunday, December 23, the Lutheran Hour theme will be:

"The King's Strength" – A true king's strength is seen, not in vaults and arsenals, but in the loyalty of his people. We celebrate the birth of the king who won the victory, not by taxing his subjects and killing his enemies, but by serving, loving and dying for them. By his resurrection, He destroyed the power of sin and lends us strength to become His loyal subjects. (Luke 1:26-56)

**Serving Christ and
His People Today**

Worship Leader: Rev. John Carrier
 Organist/Cantor: Daryl Witte
 Elders: Adam Kurtz, Matthew Lundgren, Jerry Roy
 Worship Reader: Bill Buchanan
 Altar Guild: Susan Riske, Carol Vietzke

**Serving Among Us
Sunday, December 23**

Worship Leader: Rev. Richard Robinson
 Elders: Adam Kurtz, Matthew Lundgren, Jerry Roy
 Worship Reader: Adam Kurtz
 Altar Guild: Susan Riske, Carol Vietzke

**Calendar for the Week of
December 16 through December 23**

Today:	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship time
	10:30 a.m.	Voters Meeting
Monday:	4:15-6:00	Jesus' Birthday Party
Wednesday:	11:15 - 12:45	Food Bank
Thursday:	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Friday:		Poinsettia delivery
Sunday:	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	3:00 p.m.	Tammy Barrow Packwood and Dale Vietzke Wedding