



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

December 24, 2023

10:00am

Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church

P. O. Box 27; 101 S. Main Street

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Serving God and Community

Reverend Sean DeLawder

Gary Schwartz, Organist

Carolyn Miller, Vocalist

Nancy Swain, Office Administrator



Welcome to Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church

WELCOME! We are delighted that you have joined us for worship today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, we invite you to sign our guest book at the entrance to the sanctuary. Our ushers are happy to assist you in any way. The Pastor would love to meet you so please introduce yourself. Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are blessed by your presence today.

Holy Communion is open to everyone who wants to experience the presence of Christ in this sacrament. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Both wine and grape juice are offered. Gluten free wafers are available. Prepackaged communion cups with wafer are available on request, let the usher know if you prefer a prepackaged communion cup.

The December bulletins are sponsored to the glory of God and in honor of our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren by Peggy and Donald Trimmer.

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and Wishing our Church Family Blessings at Christmas and Always by John and Pat Nash.

Lay Reader: Robin Rippeon
Recording Assistant: Donna Droneburg
Ushers: Robin Rippeon
Flower Coordinator: Pat Nash

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B
GATHERING

**Please stand as able Congregation responses are in bold.*

PRELUDE

#276 – Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
#277 – Away In A Manger

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE LOVE CANDLE

Pastor:

Our souls magnify the Lord.

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

For God's steadfast love endures forever.

Each Sunday leading up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we reflect on a theme that centers us as we wait with eager expectation for the glory of God to be revealed. On this Sunday, we center on "Love" as we await the Word Enfleshed.

Member: John 3:16 reads, "For God so loved the world that God gave God's Son." God so loved the world – all of the world, not just certain humans, not just certain regions, not just certain animals or plants. The author of the Epistle to the Romans reminds us that "all of creation awaits with eager expectation for the glory to be revealed." The birds await. The trees await. The worms wait. The oceans wait. God so loved all of this world, and our hope should be in redemption for all of creation.

As we light this candle of love, let us de-center our human selves and re-center all of creation.

(candle lit)

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.

Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

(Continued)

Everlasting God,
you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
We choose comfort over courage.
We are careless with creation's bounty.
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world.
Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:
God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.
In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.
Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**

#242 – Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

***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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

in unison

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

PSALM

Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever

SECOND READING:**Romans 16:25-27**

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**GOSPEL:****Luke 1:26-38****Glory to you, O Lord**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Praise to you, O Christ

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

#272 – Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

***NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill. Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy. Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

Amen.

OUR OFFERING FOR GOD'S WORK

Roger and Grandchildren

OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

THE 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.

PREFACE FOR THE DAY

Pastor Sean

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor Sean

THE LORD’S PRAYER

in unison

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor Sean

**In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

#257 – O Come, O Come Emmanuel

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Generous God,
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

BENEDICTION

**The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you
now and forever.
Amen.**

***SENDING SONG**

#267 – Joy to the World

***DISMISSAL**

**Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

WOODSBORO EVANGELICAL PRAYER LIST

Carolyn Abrecht, Arvella (Artie) Anders, Kelli Angleberger,
Amanda Blank, Jessica Bowers, Juanita Bowers, Mack Burdette,
Joan Chesser, Sophie Castro-Davis, Peggy Carey, Nancy Creager,
Scotty Easton, Steven Griffin, Philip Hockman, Paul and Ann Hutter,
Bob Hyde, Jana Inskeep, Robert and Sandy Measell, Kasey Melville,
Kathleen Milander, Sue Millione, Millie Miller, Patrick Moseley,
Ronnie Myers, John Nash, Ken Palmer, Chester Redmond,
Charlotte Shaffer, Mitzi Smith, Mike Stottlemeyer, Ralph Swain,
Lincoln Tiemann, Donald Trimmer, Tammy and Steve Wentz, and
Pastor Harry Wolpert



Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church Christmas 2023



*The lovely poinsettias adorning our sanctuary
are given to the Glory of God*

In Loving Memory of:

Chip and Maxine Murray, and Amon and Ruth Esworthy, by
Ed and Peggy Esworthy

The Houck Family and Hartsock Family by Joann Houck

Sterling Lenhart Jr. from Doris and the Kids

My wife, Teresa, by Roger

My parents, Roger “Chick” and Cleo Myers, and my in-laws, Richard and Grace
Flanigan,

by Roger

Our Parents, Siblings, and Friends by John and Pat Nash

Ruth and Paul Beall, Sr.; Paul Beall, Jr.; and Bill Beall, John and Audrey Reeve;
by Dwight and Diane Reeve
My Husband, Rayue, by Doris Rippeon
My husband, Donald C. Smith, My parents, Charles H. and Elizabeth M. Hahn, and
My sister, Dr. Dolores Y. Bachtel, by Nancy O. Smith
Our Parents by Mitzi and Gary Smith
Our parents, Thelma and Charles Trimmer and Kitty and Bill Powell,
by Peggy and Donald Trimmer

In Loving Honor of:

My mom, Doris Lenhart, from Marilyn
My grandchildren, Karstyn and Parker (Boomer) Smith and Emmy Kenny, by Roger
Myers
My children and their spouses, Megan and Collin Kenny, Katy and Dan Smith, and
Matt and Emily, by Roger
Our Daughter and Grandchildren, by John and Pat Nash
Our children and grandchildren, by Dwight and Diane Reeve
My children, their spouses, and grandchildren, by Doris Rippeon
Our grandsons, Benjamin and Miles, by Mitzi and Gary Smith
Our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, by Peggy and Donald Trimmer

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