



**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 15, 2024**

**10:00am**

**Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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

**Woodsboro, MD 21798**

**301-845-4533**

**[woodsborolutheranchurch.com](http://woodsborolutheranchurch.com)**

**[woodsboroevangelical@comcast.net](mailto:woodsboroevangelical@comcast.net)**

**Serving God and Community**

**Reverend Sean DeLawder**

**Gary Schwartz, Organist**

**Carolyn Matukaitis, 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 given to the glory of God and in honor of our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren by Peggy Trimmer.*

*Today's altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in honor of our daughter and grandchildren by John and Pat Nash.*

**Lay Reader: Mitzi Smith**  
**Recording Assistant: Donna Droneburg**  
**Acolyte: Brian Rippeon**  
**Ushers: Mitzi Smith**  
**Altar Guild: Mitzi Smith**  
**Flower Coordinator: Pat Nash**

**December 15, 2024**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**GATHERING**

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

**PRELUDE**

**Collin Kenny and Brian Boyer**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Order for Reception of  
Mary Ann Conley  
Address**

Pastor:

By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

**Question about Participation**

Pastor:

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

Mary Ann

I promise, with the help of God.

**Welcome and Reception**

Pastor:

Let us, the members of Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**People:**

**We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

**(Continued)**

## Greeting of Christian Love

Pastor and Representatives:

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this church.

### Prayer

Pastor:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for send to us these believers that we may work together in serving the needs of others. Confirm in us the power of your covenant that we may live in your Spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind which was in Christ Jesus, to whom be all honor and glory. **Amen.**

Pastor:

Go in the peace of Christ.

**People:**

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Light the third candle of the Advent wreath.**

Reader One: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kin-dom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

**People: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

**\*CONFESSION 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**

**#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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;

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.

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

**PSALM**

**Isaiah 12:2-6**

<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup> **With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God’s name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is  
exalted.

<sup>5</sup> **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**SECOND READING:**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

S102

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL:**

**Luke 3:7-18**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root

**(Continued)**

of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Sean**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

**#239 – Hark! The Glad Sound!**

**\*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**

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 who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

**(Continued)**

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. 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.**

## **OUR OFFERING FOR GOD'S WORK**

### **Special Music**

**Emmy Kenny and Karstyn Smith –  
Silent Night and Away in a Manger  
Parker "Boomer" Smith - Jesus Loves Me**

## **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.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

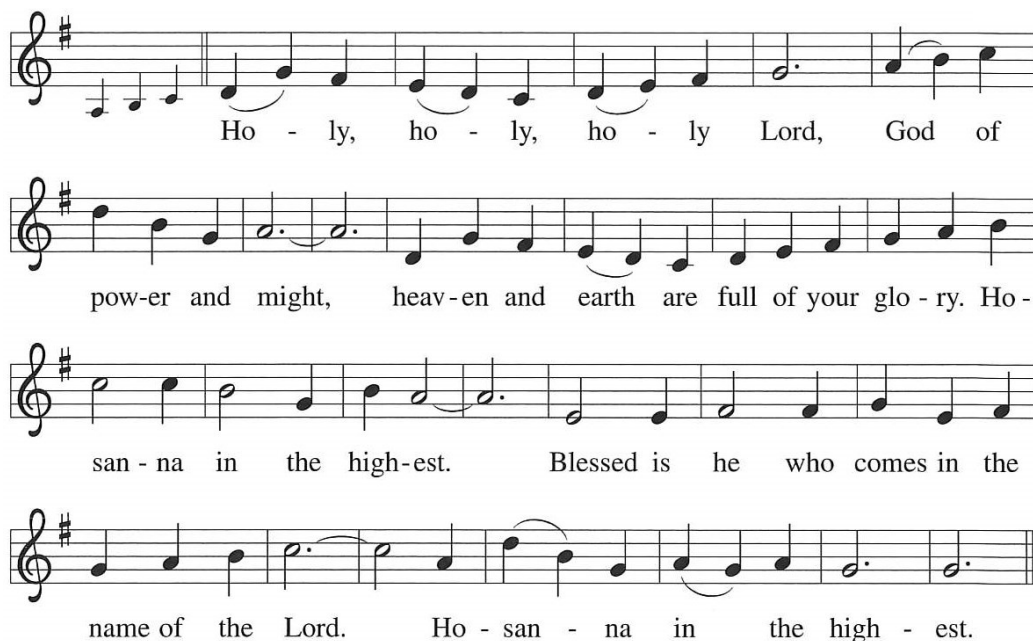
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

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

God feeds us with tender mercy.  
Come to the table.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

Collin Kenny and Brian Boyer

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.**

## **BENEDICTION**

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**

**#264 – Prepare the Royal Highway**

## **\*DISMISSAL**

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

## POSTLUDE

### **WOODSBORO EVANGELICAL PRAYER LIST**

Carolyn Abrecht, Arvella (Artie) Anders, Kelli Angleberger,  
Shirley Baker, Amanda Blank, Jessica Bowers, Juanita Bowers,  
Mack Burdette, Joan Chesser, Nancy and Donald Creager, Ruby Darner,  
Buck and Bonnie Dixon, Doug Eaves, Shari Eby, Stephanie Hammond,  
Philip Hockman, Bob Hyde, Jana Inskeep, Barbara Keyser,  
Doris Lenhart, Butch Lewellyn, Sandy Measell, Kasey Melville,  
Sue Millione, Millie Miller, Patrick Moseley, Genie Neugebauer,  
Darren Poindexter, Kizzy Giles-Rayford, Charlotte Shaffer, Gary Smith,  
Nancy O. Smith, Mike Stottlemyer, Lincoln Tiemann, Donald Trimmer,  
Pastor Harry Wolpert, and Tom Yealey

## WELC ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NOTE: In order to keep your membership active, you must take communion, and complete and submit a card once per year.**

**Pastor Sean’s Weekly Office Hours** – Every Thursday from 10:00am-2:00pm. Please feel free to stop by to say hello, give feedback or if you need pastoral care. As always, Pastor Sean can be reached throughout the week at [welcpastorsean@gmail.com](mailto:welcpastorsean@gmail.com) or 301-606-3632.

**Worship Service Social** – Join us for coffee, snacks, and fellowship on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month prior to our worship service.

**Free Community Dinner** –The next free community dinner in the WELC Social Hall is Saturday, December 21, 2024, in conjunction with St. Paul’s Lutheran Church of Walkersville from 5 to 7pm. The first community dinner of the new year will be on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, in the Social Hall from 5 to 7pm. All are welcome so invite your family and friends. Volunteers are always needed. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Sean.

**WELC Annual Christmas Concert - FREE to the Community – Today 6 – 8pm.** Directed and Orchestrated by our own Gary Schwartz. You don’t want to miss this year’s concert as it will be one to remember. There will be lots of great music with snacks and cookies during intermission.

**The 2024 Flower Chart** is posted in the narthex. Please consider volunteering to furnish flowers for Sunday worship. Contact Pat Nash at 301-639-9102.

**Council Approved Financial Reports and/or Minutes** - If you are interested in receiving a copy of either/both, please contact Nancy Swain 301-845-4533.

**WELC Food Collection – The Latest from the GVCS Food Bank** - All donations are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the food bank at 301-845-4229 (Leave a message and your call will be returned.) or email at [GVFB21w@gmail.com](mailto:GVFB21w@gmail.com). Thank all of you for your continued support!

<b>Currently, the greatest needs are:</b>		
<b>Kid’s Cereal</b>	<b>Boxed Crackers</b>	<b>Spaghetti Noodles</b>
<b>Spaghetti Sauce</b>	<b>Canned Beans, not green</b>	<b>Baked Beans</b>

**Council Meeting** – TBD in the upstairs Conference Room 6:30pm.

**Community Partners** will be collecting items for their Caring Closet program. **December's** focus will be on **Lotion** – hand, body, and chap stick (non-medicated). Your donations are greatly appreciated. Also, any food items that children could prepare over the Winter Break, such as individual **Mac and Cheese, Chef Boyardee, puddings, jello, etc.** would be greatly appreciated.

**Year-to-Date Offerings** – Thank you very much for your continued support. The updated year to date offering as of November 25, 2024, is \$104,688.13 with an annual budgeted amount of \$145,000.00. Again, we appreciate your financial contributions and ongoing support.

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Woodsboro Seniors' Luncheon Meeting** – On Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. We are planning to go to Mountain Gate, Thurmont, MD. Invite a friend. If you are interested in going, please call Doris at 301-304-5244. New members are always welcome.

**Chapel's All You Can Eat Breakfast Buffet** – Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 7-11:00am. Take your family and/or friends and enjoy a delicious breakfast (Adults - \$12.00, Children (5-10) - \$5.00). Please contact Chris Beard at 301-418-0148 if you have any questions.

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