



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024

10:00am

Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Woodsboro, MD 21798

301-845-4533

woodsborolutheranchurch.com

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.

The December bulletins are given 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 dedicated to the glory of God and in memory of Gloria Gladhill's birthday on December 18th from her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

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

December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent
GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Light the third candle of the Advent wreath.

Reader One: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O Woodsboro, from you shall come forth for me...” What? What might God be calling forth from us?

People: God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

Reader Two: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God’s promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God’s love for all creation.

***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.

(Continued)

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**

#265 – The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

***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 binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

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

PSALM

Luke 1:46b-55

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

⁴⁷ my 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:

⁴⁹ you, 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.**

⁵¹ You 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.**

⁵³ You 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,**

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

SECOND READING:

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

(Continued)

⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law),

⁹ then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a five-line staff. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The piece ends with a double bar line. The number 'S102' is written in the upper right corner of the first staff.

***GOSPEL:**

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Glory to you, O Lord

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” [

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

- ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

]

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Sean

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

#248 – People, Look East

***APOSTLE’S 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 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 our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. 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

Bernadette Harper/Beth

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,
you feed us with the harvest of the land,
and you provide for our every need.
Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor,
and transform them into a feast that welcomes all,
in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.
Amen.

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.**

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**

#251 – My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

***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, Larry Beard, 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 or 301-606-3632.

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

Free Community Dinner – The first community dinner of the new year will be on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, in the Social Hall from 5 to 7pm. The next free community dinner in the WELC Social Hall in conjunction with St. Paul’s Lutheran Church of Walkersville will be on January 18, 2025 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.

The 2025 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. Thank all of you for your continued support!

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

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.

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

Year-to-Date Offerings – Thank you very much for your continued support. The updated year to date offering as of December 18, 2024, is \$112,370.52 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, January 15, 2025 at 11:30 am. We are planning to go to Pasquale's Pizza and Restaurant, Waterside, 8305 River Run Road, Frederick. 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 1st, 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.

Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 27; 101 South Main Street
Woodsboro, MD 21798
Nancy Swain, Office Administrator
woodsborolutheranchurch.com
woodsboroevangelical@comcast.net
Office 301-845-4533