



SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

January 5, 2025

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



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.

January bulletins are given to the glory of God.

Today's altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God.

Lay Reader: Jennifer Abrecht

Recording Assistant: Donna Droneburg

Ushers: Robin Rippeon

Flower Coordinator: Donna Droneburg

**January 5, 2025
Second Sunday of Christmas**

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,

**we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.**

**We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.**

**We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.**

**Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.**

Turn us from our ways to your ways.

Grant us the grace to begin again.

**Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.**

Amen.

Hear the good news and rejoice!

You are God's chosen ones,

holy and beloved,

✠ forgiven in Christ,

and freed to respond in joy.

Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**

#289 Angels We Have Heard on High

***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

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
 and declare it in the coastlands far away;
 say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
 and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."
¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
 and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
 and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
 over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
 and over the young of the flock and the herd;
 their life shall become like a watered garden,
 and they shall never languish again.
¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
 and the young men and the old shall be merry.
 I will turn their mourning into joy,
 I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
 and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
 says the LORD.

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

PSALM

PSALM 147:12-20

¹² Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
 praise your God, O Zion,
¹³ **who has strengthened the bars of your gates
 and has blessed your children within you.**
¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders
 and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
¹⁵ **God sends out a command to the earth,
 a word that runs very swiftly.**
¹⁶ God gives snow like wool,
 scattering frost like ashes.
¹⁷ **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
 Who can stand against God's cold?**
¹⁸ The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
 the wind blows, and the waters flow.
¹⁹ **God declares the word to Jacob,
 statutes and judgments to Israel.**
²⁰ The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
 they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING:

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

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:**

John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of

whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

Glory to you, O Lord

SERMON

Reverend Sean DeLawder

HYMN OF THE DAY

288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

***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**

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

O God, you reveal yourself in this assembly. In water, wine, and bread, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

You reveal yourself in creation. In seedlings and planets, microorganisms and galaxies, awaken us to the cry of the earth. As you nourish your people like a watered garden, empower us to nourish our creaturely companions. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

You reveal yourself in every land and in the farthest parts of the earth. Deliver peoples who suffer under oppressive regimes. Thwart the foolish plans of unjust leaders. Give wisdom to our elected officials. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

You reveal yourself in every human being. Help us recognize your image in our siblings in Christ who are in the strong grip of addiction, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illness. Grant us compassion in our care for your people. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

You reveal yourself anew every day. In this new year, renew this congregation and its ministries in our witness to the good news of the incarnation. Transform the way we have always done things into your new future for us. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You reveal yourself in the lives of your holy ones. We give you thanks for those who set their hope on you, trusting the inheritance we receive in you. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

OUR OFFERING FOR GOD'S WORK

OFFERING PRAYER

God of heaven and earth,
from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.

The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.

Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day. **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

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

SPECIAL MUSIC

#281 – Silent Night, Holy Night

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God,
 we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
 Strengthened by this goodness,
 send us forth to announce your peace,
 comfort the afflicted,

and share the good news of great joy.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

The God of love,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

lavish you with grace,

illumine your path,

and increase your joy,

today and always. **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG**

876 Let the Whole Creation Cry

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WOODSBORO EVANGELICAL PRAYER LIST

Carolyn Abrecht, Arvella (Artie) Anders, Kelli Angleberger,
Shirley Baker, Larry Beard, Amanda Blank, Jessica Bowers, Juanita Bowers, Mack
Burdette, Donna Carbone, 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, Greg Smith, Nancy O.
Smith, Mike Stottlemeyer, 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 next dinner is Tuesday, January 7, 2025 and Saturday, January 18 in cooperation with St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Walkersville. All are welcome so invite your family and friends. Volunteers are always needed. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Sean.

Celebration and Thanksgiving for Nancy Swain's Service at WELC – On January 19th Nancy Swain will be joining our 10am service so that we can thank her for her many years as our Office Administrator. Please plan to attend this service, bring her a card and thank her in person. Stay afterward for cake and coffee.

The 2025 Flower Chart is posted in the narthex. Please consider volunteering to furnish flowers for Sunday worship. Contact Donna Droneburg at 301-514-0895.

Year-to-Date Offerings – Thank you very much for your continued support. The updated year to date offering as of December 31, 2024, is \$125,583.52 with an annual budgeted amount of \$115,000.00. Again, we appreciate your financial contributions and ongoing support.

Council Meeting – TBA

Bulletin Sponsorship – If you wish to sponsor bulletins for a specific month, the amount is \$40.00. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex next to the Altar Flower Dedication chart.

Community Partners will be collecting items for their Caring Closet program. January's focus will be on **Meds** – cold medicine, pain medicine (children & adult). Your donations are greatly appreciated.

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 foodbank at 301-845-4229 (Leave a message and your call will be returned) or email at GVFB21w@gamil.com. Than all of your for your continued support!

Currently, the greatest needs are:		
Kid’s Cereal	Spaghetti Sauce	Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Beans	Boxed Crackers	Baked Beans

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chapel’s All You Can Eat Breakfast Buffet – Saturday, February 1, 7-11am. Take your family and/or friends and enjoy a delicious breakfast (Adults - \$12, Children - \$5). Please contact Chris Beard at 301-418-0148 if you have any questions.

Woodsboro Seniors’ Luncheon Meeting – We are planning to go to Pasquale’s Pizza and Restaurant, Waterside, 8305 River Run Road, Frederick, MD at 11:30am – Wednesday, January 15th. Invite a friend. If you are interested in going, please call Doris at 301-304-5244. New members are always welcome.

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