LUTHERAN CHAPEL



REVELATION 14:1-5, 12-13 AND LUKE 1:26-38

"MARY, MOTHER OF OUR LORD AND THE JOURNEY OF FAITH"

Mary points us to her Son, Jesus Christ. Consider the journey of Mary.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 24, 2023

lutheranchapelchurch.org (704) 864-6491

LUTHERAN CHAPEL DECEMBER 24, 2023 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT SERVICE OF THE WORD

BOLD indicates congregational responses. * Indicates that all who are able should stand to honor God.

GATHER

WELCOME

Who are you? We are children of God (1 John 3:2). What is our mission? The mission of Lutheran Chapel is to share God's love.

PRELUDE

"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

arr. Mark Hayes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P: We gather together in the name of the Father, + the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

"Savior of the Nations, Come" *PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW #263 the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home. of Sav - ior hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of 2 Not by God. Won-drous birth—oh, won-drous child— from his throne, a 3 vir - gin mild! From God's heart the Say - jor speeds, back to God his path-way leads: O heav'n and earth: God has cho-sen Mar-vel now, such а birth. was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh. God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his van-quish death's com - mand, back to reign at Ver - y God, and race to run! out to God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new. 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word! To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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LITANY

Psalm 85, Luke 2

P: Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

P: I will hear what the Lord God has to say—

C: a voice that speaks for peace.

P: Peace for all people and for his friends

C: and those who turn to him in their hearts.

P: His help is near for those who fear him,

C: and his glory will live in our land.

P: Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

*APOSTLES' CREED

All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.

L: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life + everlasting. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE *"There is a Time for Everything" Ecclesiastes 3*



© Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955 Tune: ST. PETER'S NORWALK, Stephen R. Johnson, b. 1966 Setting: Steven F. Wente, b. 1952

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

WORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

"Light a Candle in the Night"

LEADERS

Alex Berghello, Lily Baker, Katelyn Baker

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations. I will declare that Your steadfast love stands firm forever, that Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. (*Psalm 89:1-2*)

The Lord appeared to us in the past saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness." (*Jeremiah 31:3*)

"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16)





Words and Music by Lloyd Larson © 2011 Lorenz Publishing Co.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All children who want to come forward for the Children's Message at the front of the church are welcome to do so. Let the little children come unto our Lord always!

FIRST LESSON

2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26



- My Song shall be always of the loving-kiness / of the / Lord; *
 with my mouth will I ever be showing thy truth from one gener- / a-tion- /
 to an- / other.
- 2. For I have said, Mercy shall be / set up · for / ever, * thy truth shalt thou / stab-lish / in the / heavens.
- 3. I have made a covenant / with my / chosen; * I have / sworn un · to / David · my / servant;
- Thy seed will I / stablish · for / ever, *
 and set up thy throne from one gener- / a-tion / to an- / other.
- 19. For the Lord is / our de- / fence; * the Holy One of / Isra · el / is our / King.
- 20. Thou spakest sometime in visions unto thy / saints, and / saidst, * I have laid help upon one that is mighty, I have exalted one / cho-sen / out of · the / people.
- 21. I have found / David · my / servant; * with my holy / oil have / I a- / nointed him.
- 22. My hand shall / hold him / fast, * and my / arm shall / strength-en/ him.
- 23. The enemy shall not be able to / do him / violence; * the son of / wick · ness / shall not / hurt him.
- 24. I will smite down his foes be- / fore his / face, * and / **plague** / them that / hate him.
- 25. My truth also and my mercy / shall be / with him; * and in my Name shall his / horn / be ex- / alted.
- 26. I will set his dominion also / in the / sea, * and his / right hand / in the / floods.

Glory be to the Father and / to the / Son, * And / to the / Ho-ly / Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and / ev-er / shall be; * World without / end / A- / men.

STORY OF SALVATION LESSON

REVELATION 14:1-5, 12-13

John of Pamos calls on all who trust in Christ to endure. What does it mean to endure? How do we endure day by day until the Last Day?

¹Then I looked, and there was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion! And with him were one hundred forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³and they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the one hundred forty-four thousand who have been redeemed from the earth. ⁴It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; these follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been redeemed from humankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵and in their mouth no lie was found; they are blameless. ¹²Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God

and hold fast to the faith of Jesus.

¹³And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

STORY OF SALVATION TIMELINE

The timeline below offers an overview of the Story of Salvation lesson and Bible in a Year readings from Genesis to Revelation. <u>The + marks where we are now</u>. A memory verse for the week is in bold. Claim the gift for yourself!

Creation : Fall : Promise : Exodus : Conquest : Judges : Kings and Prophets : Exile : Restoration : 2nd Temple : JESUS : Apostles : + Last Day : New Creation

*GOSPEL

LUKE 1:26-38

Those who are able may stand to honor Christ during the reading of the Gospel.

Response after announcement:

C: Glory to you, O Lord

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel. 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

"Mary, Mother of our Lord and the Journey of Faith" On Endurance

Scandal of the Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord

The Law is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus' saving power: Faithful Mary believed and persevered despite all trials and difficulties as she carried Christ in her womb. Why does my belief, our belief so often fail in the midst of trials?

The Gospel is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus' ultimate saving power: Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, claims us in Holy Baptism and gives us His Word for our lives always. Let it be with us according to the Word of the Lord!

So What? When have my plans to my life conflicted with the call of God on my life? Pray let it be with me as God will, day by day.

"Canticle of the Turning"



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional Text © 1990 GIA Publications, I.c., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PRAYER

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Malachi 3:10, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

CHANCEL CHOIR

Kathy Lowe Hart

MUSICAL OFFERING

"We Wait for a Little Child"

We wait for a little child whose bed will be a manger. We wait for a little child, his name Emmanuel. We wait for a little child whose life will change the world. Oh, we wait, yes, we wait 'till he comes.

We wait for the holy birth and angel alleluias. We wait for excited shepherds glorifying God, We wait for three kings to bring gold, frankincense and myrrh. Oh, we wait, yes, we wait 'til he comes.

Jesus will grow and teach us how to love. Jesus will show us how to live in peace. Jesus the Christ will suffer on the tree and save all those who believe.

Gloria, we wait 'till he comes.



***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

C: Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with Your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

AM: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, and the congregation may respond **Hear our prayers.**

Prayers are commended in Jesus' Name.

AM: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen. *1 Timothy 2:1-4* according to

Matthew 6:9-13

(In Unison)



Text: With One Voice, 1995, based on the Magnificat Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Outside USA: Arr. from The English Hymnal, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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SENDING

***BENEDICTION**

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the Name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

"Joy to the World"





Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"In the Bleak of Midwinter"

arr. Mark Hayes

+ + + + + + +

THOSE SERVING AT LUTHERAN CHAPEL TODAY

Ministers	People of Lutheran Chapel
Pastor	Michael Comer
Administrative Assistant	Kim Rundzieher
Director of Music	Kathie Riebe
Assistant to the Director of Music Ministries	Juan Vizcarra
Assistant Minister	Sylvia Fogle
Lector	Jason Sanders
Acolyte	Renwick Royston
Crucifer	Ethan Lineberger
Head Ushers	Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman
First Aid/AED/CPR	Mark Thornburg
Council Members of the Month	Steve Ritchie & Nancy Witman

PARISH NEWS

NURSERY ATTENDANTS BY REQUEST: If your family is in need of a nursery attendant during the 10:00 service, please let our ushers know and they will contact one of our standby attendants.

RESTROOMS: Restrooms are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary. Additional restrooms are located in the Educational Building and *do not require the use of stairs*. If needed, please see an usher for assistance in locating them.

2023 CONTRIBUTIONS: It's time to get your 2023 pledges up-to-date. All donations to the church must be turned in by Sunday, December 31 to be properly credited to your account for the year.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES: 2024 offering envelopes for members of the church are now available and can be found on the table next to the stairs leading up to the balcony. For those who regularly give online or through a financial institution, please contact Kim in the church office if you still would like your envelopes.

2024 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR: If you'd like to donate altar flowers in 2024 the following Sundays are still available: April 7 & 14, July 7, September 29, and October 20. Please call or text Susan Lewis at 704-914-8451 to sign up.

2024 CONGREGATIONAL BIBLE STUDY: *All are invited to take up the Story of Salvation Bible Study as gift and discipline in 2024.* This will cover major biblical stories from Genesis to Revelation using traditional Lutheran Bible study tools such as the plain sense of Scripture, Law and Gospel, meditation, etc. In-person studies will be on Sundays at 9AM in Sunday School beginning January 7, Thursdays at 11AM beginning January 11, on-line at lutheranchapelchurch.org in the Daily Prayer section, and as printed copies in the prayer racks located in the narthex and educational building. Claim the gift of God's Word for yourself.

Join us this evening for our Christmas Eve Candlelight & Festival Service of Holy Communion Prelude music begins at 7:00 and Worship will follow.

Luke 2:1-20 "The Nativity of our Lord 2023"

DAILY PRAYER

A HOME ALTAR ALTERS THE HOME!: Each morning and evening, pray to the LORD. Sunrise, sunset and at meals are times for daily prayer (*Psalm 1*). A simple order is: Sign of the Cross + Psalms +Bible in a Year + Canticle + Hymns +Prayers + Blessing.

FEAST OF PSALMS: Christmas

	<u>Sunday</u>	Monday	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
AM	2,8	29, 34	65, 72	93, 96	99, 100	111, 114	132, 146
PM	9, 19	40, 45	89, 90	97, 98	103, 110	116, 121	147, 148

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - Week 52 December 24 to December 31, 2023

- 12/24 Morning Reading: Revelation 15—Evening Reading: Habakkuk
- 12/25 Morning Reading: Revelation 16—Evening Reading: Zephaniah
- 12/26 Morning Reading: Revelation 17—Evening Reading: Haggai
- 12/27 Morning Reading: Revelation 18—Evening Reading: Zechariah 1, 2, 3, 4
- 12/28 Morning Reading: Revelation 19—Evening Reading: Zechariah 5, 6, 7, 8
- 12/29 Morning Reading: Revelation 20—Evening Reading: Zechariah 9, 10, 11, 12
- 12/30 Morning Reading: Revelation 21—Evening Reading: Zechariah 13, 14
- 12/31 Morning Reading: Revelation 22—Evening Reading: Malachi

Morning: "Song of Zechariah" (Luke 1:68-79) Evening: "Song of Mary" (Luke 1:46-55)

Traditional Song:	"Silent Night"	ELW #281
Sing a New Song:	"Emmanuel"	W&P #36

PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP: Steve Bell, Faye Anne Boyette, Shirley Bradley, Buddy Carothers, Steve Clark, Kathy Finch, Ervin Hoffman, Henry Hoffman, Susan Jackson, Leon Moretz, Carlton Peacock, Nancy Rankin, Doug Rhyne, Bill & Kay Robinson, Pat & Barbara Robinson, Joe Veale, and Myra Weaver

FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP: Sheila Abernathy, John Austin, Sam Bell, Rick Belton, Deborah Carpenter, Jeff Cobb, Doris Coggins, Mary Collins, Carol Coutant, Tucker Doyne, Jameson Franklin, Mark Harrelson, Alfred Helms, Joyce Hoffman, Wade Huss, Michael Jemison, Rick Knowles, Bill Lankford, Pastor Terrell Long, Joyce Lowery, Pastor Charles McManus, Sherry Meek, Scott Moose, Paul Nordberg, Rita Pasour, Randy Reel, Dakota Shuford, Christy Carpenter Smith, Charlene Sorenson, and Anthony Wynn

To share concerns and updates for the prayer list you can contact the church office (704-864-6491) or call/text Pastor Comer (704-787-6439).

This QR code goes straight to the Daily prayers page on the website that list the commemorations for the week.



Wednesday, December 27 ~ NO Evening Service

Thursday, December 28 ~ NO Bible Study

Sunday, December 31 ~ **Service of the Word** ~ **1**st **Sunday of Christmas** Rev. 20:1-3, 11-15; 21:1-8 and Luke 2:22-40 *"The Song of Simeon and Celebrating the Christ Child"*

CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2023

- Sun-248:30 amFellowship9:00 amBible Study/Sunday School10:00 amWorship7:00 pmPrelude Music7:30 pmCandlelight & Festival Service of Holy Communion8:00 pmFaith Group (Fellowship Hall)
- Mon-25 Merry Christmas!
- Tues-26 Church Office Closed

Sat-30 9:30 am Hungry Peeps Support Group (Fellowship Hall)