

**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-45 (New Testament, pg. 56)

**Pastor Steve's Message:** "Leap for Joy"

**Apostles' Creed**

**The Prayers**

**Offering**

**Sharing of the Peace**

**The Lord's Supper**

**Post-Communion Blessing**

"Go Tell it On the Mountain"

**Blessing and Dismissal**



**DECEMBER 23, 2018**  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**Today** 10:00 Worship/Sunday school Christmas program  
11:00 Fellowship

**Christmas Eve**

Candlelight Services at 5:00 and 11:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day**

Church office and daycare center closed

*Pastor Steve on vacation Tuesday thru Friday*

**Next Sunday, Dec. 30**

10:00 Service of Christmas carols (no Sunday school)

11:00 Fellowship

*Sunday school resumes January 6*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. During this season of the four Sundays before Christmas, we have four banners. We began with the banners "Watch," "Prepare" and "Rejoice." Today we add the banner "Behold." The cross/star flame is symbolic of Christ, who was prophesied as the star that would come out of Jacob (Numbers 24:17).

We thank the Sunday school children and adults for our living Christmas story this morning. We thank Amanda Cyboron (superintendent and teacher) for organizing this year's program. We thank Judy Carstens, Emily Svitak, Tara and Nevin Peters for assisting, and we thank all the parents who allow them to tell the biblical stories of the birth of our Savior, Jesus, in Bethlehem.

Altar flowers are from Duane and Shirley Theil in celebration of the birth of Christ.

Sign-up sheet for poinsettias is on the back table.

Donuts will not be available the next two Sundays, so feel free to bring something to share during our fellowship time.

Happy Birthday Marilyn Nickols (12/25) and Rich Olson (12/29).

Happy Anniversary Fern and Leonard Zechmann (12/29).

Thanks to all of you that filled our Food Pantry cart. You are a blessing at this Christmas time!

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

For our church family

Bereavement: Darla Jessen • Linda Shaffer

Health: Cherlyn Hillrichs • Roger Young • Mona Jean Roberts

Skilled care/assisted living: Harold Dunlap • Myron Falter •

Dorothy Schiermeier • Kay Skovsende

Family and friends of our church family

Marilyn Woolard's brother Delane • Melva Duntin (Al Boelman's

cousin) • Dorothy Beaudette • Kim Alvarez • Karen Mass • Lexi

Vaipae • Diane DeCamp • Darrell Knee • Dennis Knee • Jim Ruge •

Tracy Brandt • Nate Metschke

Ongoing prayers

Msaranga Mandaka Lutheran Parish, Tanzania

**Opening Medley**

“O Come All Ye Faithful”  
“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*P: Amid the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God’s forgiveness.*

*P: God of grace and truth,*

**C: in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, and have not trusted the good news of great joy. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the fullness of your love, trusting in the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*P: The angel said, You shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins. With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen.**

**Opening Prayer**

Lighting of the Advent Candle Fourth Candle—LIFE

R: We light the fourth candle for God’s gift of life. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” Through faith in his name we have eternal life. *(Four candles are lit.)*

All say: **Gifts poured out on us in love,  
Gifts brought down from heav’n above;  
Priceless gifts for us are free—  
Placed beneath a cross-shaped tree.**

R: The holy Child of Bethlehem brings life and light to a world lost in darkness.

**C: Forgive us, Lord, when we do not reflect your life and light in our lives. Help us to walk with you in newness of life.**

R: Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

**C: All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.**

R: I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

**C: The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**

R: I am the good shepherd.

**C: The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”**

R: Jesus our Shepherd laid down his life on the cross and was raised from death to raise us to new life.

**C: Advent Lord, we praise you for the gift of eternal life received through faith in your name.**

All say: **For his sheep the Shepherd dies;  
As he rose, we too will rise.  
In each lamb the Shepherd knows  
Life abundant overflows.**

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS STORY**

Participants

Elizabeth, Colin, Delilah and Kyle Broders  
Matthew Cornelio  
Kelcie and Dylan Hall  
Connor Jorgensen  
Phoebe Krause  
Ethan, Carter, Emilee and Gabriel Olson  
Lucas, Riley, Tate and Dagny Petersen  
Isabelle and Brooks Seagren

Adult readers

Lonnie and Margaret Svitak Rhonda Beed

Manger scene

Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus: Connie, Jeff, and Rand Petersen  
Angels: Elizabeth, Kelcie, Emilee, Isabelle, Delilah, Riley and Tate  
Shepherds: Lucas, Connor, Dylan, Kyle  
Animals: Matthew, Gabriel, Dagny, Brooks, Phoebe  
Wise Men: Ethan, Carter, Colin