



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
DECEMBER 2, 2018
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME! *We are delighted to have you worshiping with us today. We pray that you find strength, security, and fellowship with God and with one another. If you are a first time visitor, we invite you to complete a CARE card found in the pew and place it in the offering plate. While you are here with us, please make yourself at home! If you have any questions about Nativity or its ministries, please contact the Church Office at 684-0352.*

PRELUDE

“Call to Advent”
Youth Choir

J. Jerome Williams

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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

The assembly reflects in silence.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in renewed life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ will live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

- 1 Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.
- 2 All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come
and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.
- 4 Even so, Lord, quickly come
to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home!

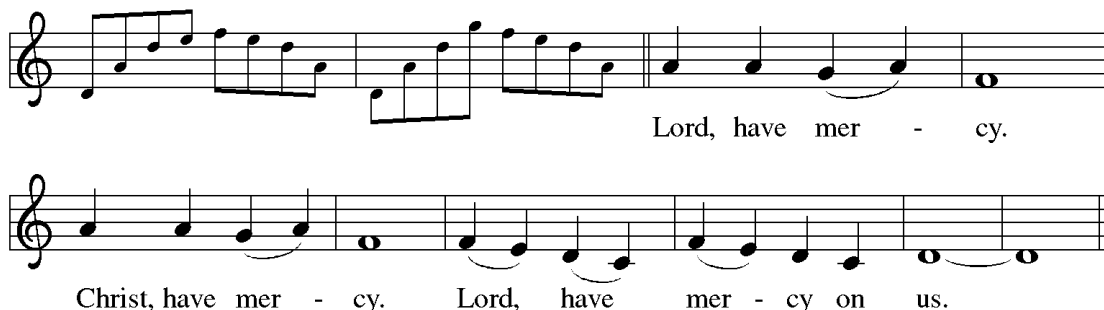
APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

8:30am *Musician will sing once. Congregation will sing second time.*
11:00am *Choir will sing once. Congregation will sing second time.*



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

C: **By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

ADVENT WREATH

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

ELW 240

*Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21st Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Mary Mappus Finklea

Tune of “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” ELW 631

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart. | 2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne. |
|---|--|

APOSTLES' CREED

A: We are gathered by God into one Church, through Christ. Together with sisters and brothers throughout the world, we confess our faith.

C: 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

A: Rejoicing in the wonder of new life in Jesus Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

Each petition concludes with:

A: God of hope,

C: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P: Accept these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, O God, for the sake of the crucified and risen one, Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING MUSIC

8:30am

“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

ELW 435

11:00am

“All Earth Is Hopeful”
Youth Choir and Nativity Choir

David M. Cherwien

OFFERTORY

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!”

ELW 246

1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
all you children of the day!"

5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son
with the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray . . . God of abundance,

**C: we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives.
Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

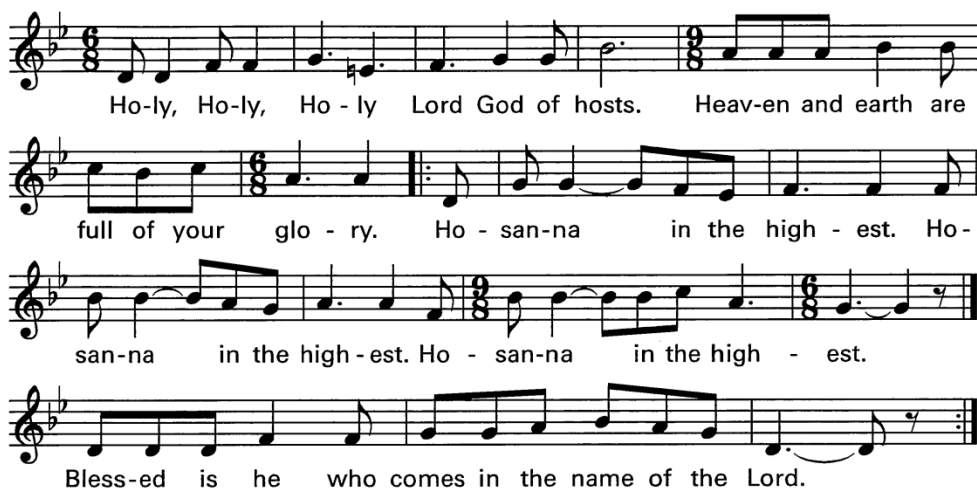
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

[The Words of Institution are spoken here]

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

C: 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.

INVITATION

P: Come to the table, for all is now ready and all are welcome.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Communion. Those unable to partake of wine or wheaten bread are assured that the Church affirms our Lord's full presence in, with, and under each element alone. To receive the bread and the wine, simply hold out your hands. If you prefer gluten-free wafer or grape juice, please hold out one finger to indicate your preference to the minister, then hold out your hand to receive. If you choose not to commune, but desire to receive a spoken blessing instead, cross your arms over your chest.

AGNUS DEI

The musical notation for the Agnus Dei is presented in two staves. The first staff is for the Choir/Cantor and the second is for All. Both staves are in 3/4 time and G major. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, mercy on us. world, grant us peace, grant us peace." The first staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign, with the instruction "1, 2" above it. The second staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign, with the instruction "Final" above it.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

ELW 250

- 1 Blessed be the God of Israel
who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us:
a Branch from David’s tree.
So have the prophets long declared
that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies
and all who wish us harm.
- 2 With promised mercy will God still
the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham,
from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear
and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness
to serve God all our days.
- 3 My child, as prophet of the Lord
you will prepare the way,
to tell God’s people they are saved
from sin’s eternal sway.
Then shall God’s mercy from on high
shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death
and lead us into peace.

“Soon and Very Soon”

ELW 439

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

ELW 242

- 1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav’nly door
and lives now inside us forever.
- 4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev’ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray ... God for whom we wait,

**C: in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things.
Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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+ worship

TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	8:30AM	11:00AM
Presiding Minister	The Rev. George Tuttle	The Rev. George Tuttle
Assisting Minister	Fred Park	Fred Park
Communion Assistant	Katie Wadington	Sue Jacklin
Acolyte	Wes Cooper	Laura Teall
Crucifer	Scott Cooper	Julia Teall
Reader	Leigha Jordan	Corinne Feid
Eucharist Presenter	Sandy and Jim Vlahos	Bill and Christine Scronce
Ushers	Bill Hamilton, Amy Haldeman	David and Glenda Travis Tommy Southern
Greeters	Randy and Kathleen Treiber	Libby Ann Dick and Sue Jacklin
Nursery Attendant	Staff	Staff
Altar Guild	Bill and Barbara Hamilton	Linda McNeil and Jean Zabel

ALTAR FLOWERS During the season of Advent, we do not use altar flowers here at Nativity. Please check the new Flower Chart on the sign up board for opportunities to sponsor flowers in worship in the coming months.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE for the month of December is given in memory of Don and Peggie Rhodes by Jeff, Carrie, Evan and Ashley Rhodes.

OUR GUEST PREACHER TODAY is the **Rev. Mary M. Finklea**.

Pastor Mary lives in Florence with her husband, Wade, and three "kids", goats Lolly, LuLu, and Leroy. She is a graduate of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and served twelve years as the pastor of Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Florence, SC. On a break from congregational ministry, she is enjoying time with her family and volunteer work. Her work in the community includes having served on the boards of Francis Marion University, Lighthouse Ministries, and Lutheran Services Carolinas. She is the former president of Women In Philanthropy of the Pee Dee. As the ecumenical representative of the SC Synod of the ELCA, she enjoys learning about traditions different from her own, and is delighted to be always learning something new.



+ learn

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES MEET NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9. Classes will also meet on December 16. No classes on December 23 or 30. Classes will resume in 2019 on January 6.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK beginning December 2.

Sunday	Luke 21:25-36
Monday	Jeremiah 33:14-16
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Wednesday	Nehemiah 9:6-15
Thursday	Revelation 22:12-16
Friday	Malachi 3:5-12
Saturday	Psalm 25:1-10
Sunday	Luke 3:1-6

TAKING FAITH HOME

This weekly devotional handout is available on the Welcome Desk. "Taking Faith Home" is a production of Milestones Ministry, LLC, and is created by a team led by an ELCA Pastor.

THE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP will meet on Thursday, January 17, at 2:00PM in the Fellowship Hall to discuss *The Hamilton Affair* by Elizabeth Cobbs. All are welcome to join this group at any time.

+ care

IN OUR PRAYERS TODAY WE NAME:

- ❖ Nativity members who are in need of healing: **Wanda Bond, Bob Burkhardt, Wanda Burkhardt, Patricia Hahn, Max Hall, Bill Hamilton, Judy Hoemann, Sue Jacklin, Mike Kestner, Don Knapp, Fay Kohn, Dana Kropf, JC Nesbitt, Steve Ridenhour, Chris Scronce, Ruth Tracy, Duane Tuttle, Brian Warnicke.**
- ❖ Nativity members in care facilities: **Dot Carpenter, Ann Colijn, Edna Franklin, Norma Grafing, Dick Horner, Marydine Lamb, Lee Lindeman-Stuenkel, Margaret Patterson, Evelyn Ridenhour.**
- ❖ In Christian sympathy for the family and friends of **Joyce Horner**, especially her husband **Dick**.
- ❖ For those awaiting the arrival of children, especially **Jennifer and Joel Kohn**.

JOIN US FOR BRUNCH BETWEEN SERVICES TODAY to welcome **Pastor George** and his wife, **Donaleigh**, and enjoy food and fellowship. Brunch is sponsored by **Trinity View Retirement Community**. Many Nativity members call Trinity View home. If you want to learn more about Trinity View and their living options, visit www.trinityview.net or call 687-0068.

JOIN US FOR PUB THEOLOGY THIS WEEK on **Thursday, December 6 at 7:30pm** at Mills River Brewery. It is time together for refreshing beverages and great discussion. All confirmed members are welcomed. (Beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages are available, so all we need is YOU!) Questions? Contact **Andra Nus** at tadnus@yahoo.com or 828.545.9519.

+ stewardship for all seasons

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY TURNED IN YOUR COMMITMENT CARDS FOR 2019! As of Thursday, November 29 totals are: **Operating Fund - 90** Households for a total of **\$323,158**. **Organ Fund - 41** Households for a total of **\$18,586**.

Receiving Commitment Cards helps the church plan well for the future, and making a commitment helps our households make intentional plans for supporting the church. If you have not yet turned in your card, we invite you to join in making your commitment! Cards can be found in the church pews and you can place your card in the offering plate. **We hope to have all commitments in by Sunday, December 9.** We would like to receive responses as soon as possible. After December 9 we will begin contacting those from whom we have not yet heard.

Thank you for being in prayer for Nativity in 2019, and for committing yourselves to being part of God's work here in this place!

+ welca

THE NATIVITY WOMEN'S GROUP will gather on Thursday, December 13, at 11:00AM in the Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy a bag lunch, meet the Syrophoenician Women (Matthew 15:21-28 and Mark 7:26) in a short Bible study, and decide on next year's Bible study. All women are welcome - just come!

THE NATIVITY CARD MINISTRY will meet on Thursday, December 13, at 12:30PM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to come and help make the beautiful cards we send to our members on the prayer list.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH will next meet January 24, 2019. **Nancy Seekamp** will be our hostess and more information will be coming in January through the Nativity e-news. All women are welcome to attend this group to enjoy a meal at a local restaurant and get to know your sisters in Christ.

+ children's Christmas pageant

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS BEGIN TODAY AT 3PM. If you have not already let **Ashley Hammack** know you want to participate, there is still time. Please reach out to her or come and join us for the first rehearsal and we will find you a place. If you cannot make the first rehearsal, but still want to participate, please reach out as soon as possible so we can make adjustments to roles.

The rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Sunday, December 2 from 3:00 - 4:00PM
Sunday, December 9 from 3:30 - 4:30PM
Sunday, December 16 from 3:30 - 4:30PM
Wednesday, December 19 from 5:30 - 6:45PM

+ this week at nativity

(FH = Fellowship Hall; PSB = Preschool Big Room; M = Modular)

SUNDAY (12/2)

ADVENT I

8:30AM Holy Communion
9:40AM Welcome for Pastor George
Brunch hosted by Trinity View
11:00AM Holy Communion
3:00PM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
4:00PM Young Youth Choir
4:30PM Young Youth
4:30PM Youth Choir
5:30PM Youth Dinner – *Horetski, Wadington and Trull families*
6:05PM Youth Group

MONDAY (12/3)

6:30PM Wondering Women (FH)
6:30PM ESL (M)

TUESDAY (12/4)

7:00PM Troop 8 Committee Meeting (FH)

WEDNESDAY (12/5)

10:00AM Bible Study
1:00PM Project Linus (FH)
1:30PM Nativity Quilters
7:00PM Evening Prayer
7:00PM AA
7:20PM Nativity Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY (12/6)

7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 8
7:00PM Eagle Board Review
7:30PM Pub Theology – *Mills River Brewery*

FRIDAY (12/7)

Church Office Closed

SATURDAY (12/8)

8:30AM Calvary Food Pantry
9:30AM Confirmation

SUNDAY (12/9)

ADVENT II

8:30AM Holy Communion
9:40AM Faith Formation
11:00AM Holy Communion
3:30PM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
4:30PM Youth Choir
5:30PM Youth Dinner - *Cooper and Nus families*
6:05PM Youth Group

+ church staff

The Rev. George Tuttle
Irem Ozay
Michele Grush
Carrie Dahlberg
Gene Hoemann
Max Hall
Mike Natarella

Interim Senior Pastor
Musician-in-Residence
Parish Administrator
Financial Secretary
Bookkeeper
Sexton
Preschool and Kindergarten Director