



Advent at CLC 2021

CLC Weekly Update
Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

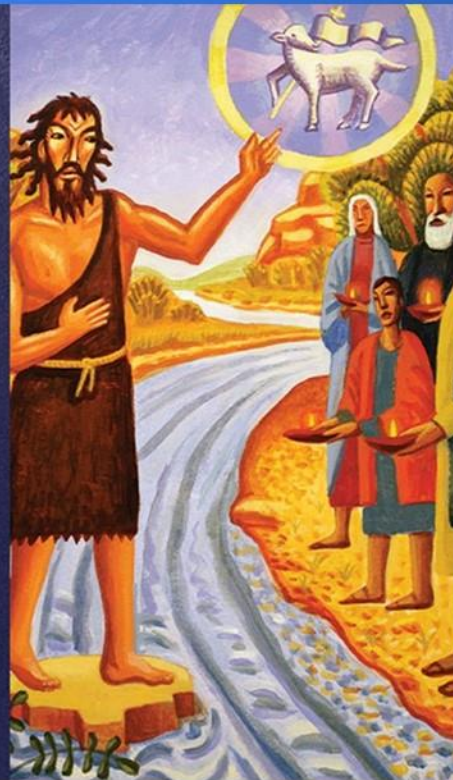
IN-PERSON WORSHIP
this Sunday, December 12 at 9:30AM
Pastor Erin Evans presiding



WORSHIP WITH US

He will baptize
you with the
Holy Spirit
and fire

LUKE 3:16



John the Baptist's good news sounds harsh, but he preaches a home for all— where inequities are banished, valleys are lifted up, and all have the resources they need for collective flourishing. Ultimately, **John's message is one of joy.** We are called to collectively build and repair the structures of our society; we are called to be kin-dom builders. Wherever we build, God is there. What we build should be a place with a large table and room for all. ~

Concordia's Ninth Annual Live Nativity Sunday, December 12

148 Marwood Rd., Cabot, PA 16023 (Entrance #5, Haven II)
Performances at 4:30, 5:15 and 6 p.m.

For more information, call 724-352-1571, ext. 8268 or visit
<https://www.concordialm.org/events-news/concordialivenativity2021>



PLEASE
CONTINUE
TO MASK



CLOSE to
HOME

JOIN US THIS SEASON

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 9:30AM

TRADITIONAL LITURGY WITH
ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING
AND CHILDREN'S
PARTICIPATION

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS "CLOSE TO HOME" ARE AVAILABLE
Printed copies of the devotional, which corresponds with our theme for the season "Close to Home" are available to pick up in the narthex or on the bulletin board in the lobby. Beautiful printed Advent Calendars are also available. ~



CLOSE to
HOME



Advent Devotional

Advent Calendar





ADVENT WORSHIP AT CLC: CLOSE TO HOME

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. *Close to Home* acknowledges the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery. John the Baptist prophesies about the One who is to come, but reminds us that we are still wandering far from God’s promised day; his message hits close to home, especially for those experiencing inequity and oppression. After receiving the angel’s news, Mary retreats to Elizabeth’s home, seeking refuge and safety. Christ is born in the midst of a journey home, in a crowded dwelling space amidst livestock and shepherds alike. The Magi travel far from home to pay homage to Christ, and, having been warned in a dream, they avoid Herod by traveling home another way. In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth—sacred ground is all around us.

***Close to Home* also names the pain many of us will carry into this season.** The holidays can poke at our grief. Many will be missing loved ones lost to sickness and tragedy. The traumas of the pandemic will still be with us. Many will have lost homes—due to natural disasters, eco-



CLOSE to
HOME

JOIN US THIS SEASON

LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY DEC. 15TH @ 7:00PM

DESIGNED TO CREATE SACRED SPACE
FOR THE GRIEF, LONGING, AND
HEARTACHE THAT FEELS CLOSE TO
HOME—ESPECIALLY DURING THE
HOLIDAY SEASON.

LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP: WEDNESDAY DEC 15th @ 7pm

For those who have experienced loss, the holidays can be a particularly painful time, stirring up grief in acute ways.

A Longest Night service is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle. In this pandemic season of life, grief and loss will be magnified and nearly universal, and a service like this may be needed now more than ever. We hope the scripture, poetry, and music are a gift to the community and the individual. CLC welcomes you to and holds this space for you. ~

Advent at CLC



A HOME
for All

Third Sunday of Advent

3rd Sunday of Advent - December 12th 9:30am -

"A Home For All"

Longest Night Service - December 15th 7:00pm - "Heartache Hits Close to Home"

4th Sunday of Advent - December 19th 9:30am -

"Seeking Sanctuary"

Another Way to Give this Season . . .

Dear Members and Friends,

I preached a sermon this summer and shared that my sister Mary lived and worked in Afghanistan for awhile, and is very active with helping Afghan refugees both to get out of the country and to resettle here. Through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, she has recently rehomed a family of 12, outside of Washington DC where she lives, and is providing everything they need: from beds to employment connections to kids toys. Her Lutheran congregation has set up a page to donate to this effort, and she has a small committee of church members helping her.

Many folks have asked if we are doing anything to support local refugees, but we just don't have the same number of families resettling here in Pittsburgh. If you'd like to help this family by donating, the money will go to providing new linens, small appliances for the kitchen, winter clothes for the family, and much needed furniture, as well as regular groceries and meals delivered for now.

You can donate at: <https://hopecp.org/donate.html> or see the Weekly Update for a Click to be taken to Hope Lutheran Church's donation page and choose **Fall Mission Appeal, Local Refugee Resettlement Fund.**

Peace,

Pastor Erin Evans



*Dear Members and Friends of CLC,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Fran and I want to take a moment to say Thank You for your generous donations to the Christ Lutheran Food Pantry over the last year. Without your support the CLC Food Pantry would not be a success. However you plan to celebrate this joyous season, be it with family or friends, please remember you are in our hearts. Be safe. Thank you again.*

Wrapping Help Wanted!

Thank you to those who were able to donate wrapped gifts this year! We have folks mailing gifts to us too, which will need to be wrapped - as well as donated gifts from other organizations!

If you can stay after church on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19th and wrap a few gifts to help us be organized, it would really help! We have nearly THIRTY families receiving gifts here the week of Christmas.



WAYS TO GIVE FOR CHRISTMAS

CLC will again be helping local families with gifts for their children. Families can sign up their kids in the office (18 and under). We need members to purchase gifts and return them to the office for distribution. Age/gender/gift wants and suggestions will be provided. We are also providing gifts for adults with mental health needs living in the local CRR home in Millvale, and wants/suggestions will be provided for those as well. Please let Pastor Erin know if you can help with this holiday generosity, and make the season bright for those in need of support.



Food Pantry Items Needed:

Mayonnaise
Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Chicken and Tuna
Pancake Mix and Syrup
Jello





Anticipation 3

Joseph Imhoff

Today a tiny blob of our ketchup landed on the plate and we had our first little taste, a teasing, of what is to come.

The Third Sunday of Advent is often designated Gaudete Sunday taken from the introit originally spoken or sung in Latin: "Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete." We know it as: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice." It is to be found in St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, the second reading in the cycle C of the lectionary.

Indeed the theme that runs through this Sunday is JOY, maybe not total joy but the expectation of joy brought by what we know is coming. Right after the beginning of the service it is apparent with the reading accompanying the lighting of the Advent Wreath with the mention of things we find joy in. As the third candle is lighted notice: it is a different color. It is rose, not pink, hence the day is often referred to as Rose Sunday in the Anglican Church, a color associated with joy.

The first reading that follows from Zephaniah reads like a song from beginning to end, it is about singing and rejoicing not for what is already here but that which is to come in the future. Just knowing what the future holds should make us happy.

The Gospel focusing on John preparing the way brings us not close to the birth of Christ but to the beginning of his ministry, so close that it's time for the people to take the promise of God seriously and prepare themselves just as we are to prepare ourselves for the coming we know



A Fresh Start

In Greece, a John the Baptist celebration is held every year, typically in June. A spectator once observed how thousands of pilgrims paraded down a trail to the floor of a great cavern, where mass baptisms were celebrated. One can imagine that the sense of anticipation among those who arrive at the festival for baptism is similar to what those who came to John in the wilderness experienced: expectation, hope, awe, maybe even fear. However, John made it clear that while he baptized them for repentance, the one who was coming would bring something totally different. Whereas John's baptism of water represented cleansing from their past, the baptism of Jesus is about a new future.

In the order for baptism in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the baptized are washed with water paired with the promise of God's love. God's love is enduring and eternal. Sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the sign of the cross forever, the baptized are invited to remember this promise daily and the good news it brings: every day, we begin anew.

This good news means that we don't have to drag with us the bur-



December 2021 CLC Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4-7pm Millvale Community Counseling Center Services	2 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry 5:30-7pm Boy Scouts 5:30 Sewing 7pm Choir Practice	3 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry 6-8pm Girl Scouts-Gathering Place 7:00pm NA Meets Library	4 9am AA Meets-Library 7pm NA Meets-Library
5 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:30am Sunday Worship	6 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry	7 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry	8 4-7pm Millvale Community Counseling Center Services 6-7pm Girl Scouts - Gathering Place	9 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Pray & Crochet 5:30-7pm Boy Scouts 5:30pm Sewing 7pm Choir Practice	10 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm NA Meets Library	11 9am AA Meets-Library 7pm NA Meets-Library Gathering Place Booked Craft Vendor Fair 10-2pm **Attend**
12 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:30am Sunday Worship	13 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry 6:15pm Yoga 7pm Pain Support	14 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry	15 4-7pm Millvale Community Counseling Center Services 5:30pm Reserve Democratic Committee 7pm Longest Night Service	16 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry 5:30-7pm Boy Scouts 5:30pm Sewing 7pm Choir Practice	17 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry 6-8pm Girl Scouts-Gathering Place 7:00pm NA Meets Library	18 9am AA Meets-Library 7pm NA Meets-Library
19 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:30am Sunday Worship	20 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry	21 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry 7pm Church Council Meeting	22 4-7pm Millvale Community Counseling Center Services 6-7pm Girl Scouts-Gathering Place	23 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry 5:30-7pm Boy Scouts 5:30pm Sewing 7pm Choir Practice	24 Christmas Eve 7:00pm NA Meets Library	25 Christmas Day 9am AA Meets-Library 7pm NA
26 Lessons & Carols 9:30am Worship	27 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry 6:15pm Yoga 7pm Pain Support	28 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry	29 4-7pm Millvale Community Counseling Center Services	30 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry 5:30-7pm Boy Scouts 5:30pm Sewing 7pm Choir Practice	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 7pm NA	

Upcoming Commemorations

Lucy, martyr, died 304

Monday, December 13, 2021

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

Las Posadas (LLC)

Thursday, December 16, 2021

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

• Our thanks to SundaysAndSeasons.com © 2021 Augsburg Fortress - Worship writings and art.

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