



12145 W. EDGERTON AVE. | HALES CORNERS, WI 53130 | 414-427-9337

<http://www.messiahhalescorners.com> † Email: [LBernthal@MessiahHC.org](mailto:LBernthal@MessiahHC.org)

Luke Bernthal, Pastor

Phone: 402-389-2147

Paul Tiefel, Principal

Phone: 715-869-3733

Levi Schaller, Teacher

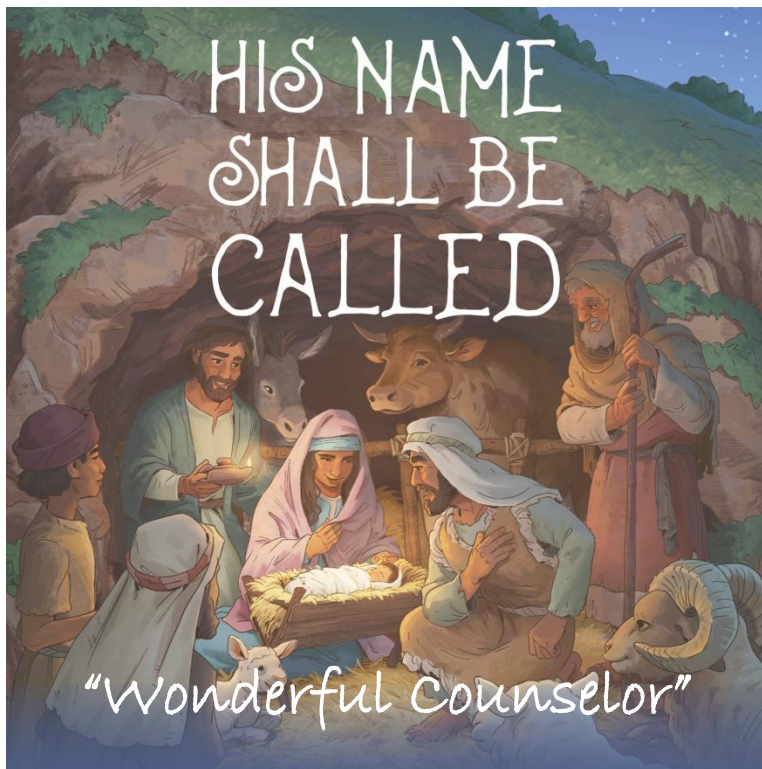
Phone: 715-529-4368

Carrie Reim, Teacher

Phone: 715-529-4030

December 4, 2024

Wednesday Advent 1



✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 119:129-136 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

## **Greeting and prayer: (Pastor)**

During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's Son, who was given the name *Jesus*—a Hebrew name that means "Jehovah saves." However, in addition to His earthly name, the Bible calls Jesus by various titles that describe something about His person or work. During our Wednesday Advent worship services we will examine some of the titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace—and will study how each of these titles describes something about *who* Jesus is and *what* He did for our salvation.

Tonight we consider Jesus' title of "Wonderful Counselor," and how His Word rescues us from the lies of the devil and our own self-deception and leads us into God's wisdom and faith, which results in our salvation. We pray that the Holy Spirit would bless our worship and study of His Word, and so, we begin our worship service with prayer...

## **Opening Hymn: 900 v. 1-3 *Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love***

*LSB 900 v. 1-3*

## **Advent Invocation**

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**P** In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**G** Amen.

## **Confession and Absolution**

*We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

**P** Jesus is the Light of the World, and in Him is no darkness at all.

**G** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.**

**P** In this Advent season we celebrate the *coming* of Jesus, the Light of the World.

**G** **Dear Jesus, we celebrate Your coming at Your birth in Bethlehem.  
We thank You for coming into our hearts by Your gift of faith,  
and we look forward to Your coming on the Last Day when You will take us,  
and all believers, to be with You forever in heaven.**

**P** As we meditate on Your manger, Your cross, Your empty tomb, and Your Word, we come before Your throne today confessing our sins and asking for Your forgiveness.

**C** Lord of heaven and earth, forgive us all our sins.

**As we see the world in darkness and in need of Your light,  
increase our faith, love, courage, and strength.**

**Give us Your power to be lights in this world, reflecting Your love. Amen.**

**P** Our Father in Heaven has been good and merciful to us.

In His love He has given us, His children, the greatest Gift: He sent His Son Jesus, the Christ Child, whose birth in Bethlehem so long ago we celebrate.

Jesus came as a lowly servant to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. By His shed blood on the cross we are forgiven! In peace and joy let us sing of our salvation!

LSB 344 v. 2, 5

2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent  
way for God with - in, And let us all our  
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. Composite Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

**P** We pray:

Shine into our hearts, O Lord, and illumine every part of our lives,  
so that we will be ready to rejoice at Your birth and be guiding lights for those who  
do not yet know Your saving grace and forgiveness; for You live and reign with the  
Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

## First Reading

***Romans 11:32-36 (ESV)***

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are  
his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

<sup>34</sup> "For who has known the mind of the Lord,  
or who has been his counselor?"

<sup>35</sup> "Or who has given a gift to him  
that he might be repaid?"

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

## Gospel Reading

***Matthew 7:24-29 (NKJV)***

**P** The Gospel reading is from Matthew 7:24-29.

**G Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!**

<sup>24</sup> "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man  
who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew  
and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> And  
everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man  
who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew  
and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

<sup>28</sup> And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his  
teaching, <sup>29</sup> for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

**P** Here ends our Scripture readings.

I O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Apostle's Creed *with explanation from Luther's Catechism (Sydow, p. 87)*

**I believe 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, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;  
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God,  
begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man,  
born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,  
purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil,  
not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood  
and His innocent suffering and death.**

*(confession of faith continues on next page ->)*

**He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom,  
and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy;  
just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.  
This is most certainly true!**

**Hymn of the Day: 383 *A Great and Mighty Wonder***

*LSB 383*

**Children's Sermon** - *Children 10 years old and younger are invited to come up front.*

**Sermon Text: Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7 (EHV)**

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for the land that was in anguish. In former times, he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will cause it to be glorious, along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.  
For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

... <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born.  
To us a son is given.  
The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.  
He will be named:  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> There will be no limit to his authority  
and no end to the peace he brings.  
He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness  
from now on, into eternity.  
The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

**Sermon Theme: His Name Shall be Called – “Wonderful Counselor”**

† What are some reasons Jesus is called “Wonderful Counselor”?

† During the season of Advent we celebrate the “coming” of Jesus. One of the ways He comes to us is through His Word. What are some ways you and your family can make use of the “Wonderful Counsel” of Jesus and His Word during this Advent and Christmas season?

## Offertory

LSB 956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12 Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583–1651, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

## **Sermon Hymn: 412 *The People That in Darkness Sat***

LSB 412

**Offering** *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

### **Choir Song: "Jesus, King of Angels"**

Jesus, King of angels, Heaven's light,  
Shine Your face upon this house tonight.  
Let no evil come into my dreams.  
Light of Heaven, keep me in Your peace.

Remind me how You made dark spirits flee,  
And spoke Your power to the raging sea,  
And spoke Your mercy to a sinful man.  
Remind me, Jesus, for this is what I am.

The universe is vast beyond the stars,  
But You are mindful when a sparrow falls,  
And mindful of the anxious thoughts that find me, surround me, and bind me.

With all my heart I love You, sov'reign Lord.  
Tomorrow, let me love You even more,  
And rise to speak the goodness of Your name  
Until I close my eyes in sleep again.

Jesus, King of angels, Heaven's light,  
Hold my hand, and keep me through the night.

### **Prayer of the Church (Responsive)** *We bring our prayers to God.*

**P** Wonderful Counselor, we come to You, Lord Jesus, thankful that You have enlightened us with the counsel of Your wonderful word of forgiveness for all our sins. Help us, we pray, as we interact with people who may be entrapped by their sin, not knowing Your full forgiveness, and unable to rejoice at the celebration of Your birth. Wonderful Counselor, use us and all we have, to bring others to hear and believe the Good News.

**C** **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**



**P** Mighty God, we come to You in faith trusting that You were and are God in the flesh, our Immanuel, *God with us*. Strengthen all who are in distress from the troubles and stresses that surround them. Assure them and us of Your presence, strengthen their faith and ours, and lead them and us to Your home above, where we may all rejoice together in Your love and grace.

**C Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**P** Everlasting Father, we come to You who conquered sin and death as ruler of creation while also serving Your people as a caring Father. Grant us to know always Your eternal presence among us and help us to amend our sinful lives and pass on the joy of Your eternal forgiveness to our neighbors, friends, and family.

**C Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**P** Prince of Peace, we give thanks that You came to earth and paid the penalty that our sins deserved. Grant us steadfastness of faith to be at peace with one another, knowing that because of Your grace and love for us, we will be with You in eternity.

**C Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**P** These things we pray to You, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace, and in Your saving name we now pray the prayer that You taught us:

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Benediction** *The "Apostolic Blessing" (2 Corinthians 13:14)*

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

## **The Doxology**

LSB 805

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly  
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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## **Closing Hymn: 704 v. 1, 4-6 (Worship Supplement) *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You***

*(please stand for last verse)*

**1. *O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?  
Your people long to greet You, My Hope, my heart's Delight!  
O Jesus, let Your Word be A lamp to light my way,  
To show me how to please You, To guide me ev'ry day.***

**4. *Love caused Your incarnation; Love brought You down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace  
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race.***

**5. *Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, Who sit in deepest gloom,  
Who mourn o'er joys departed And tremble at your doom.  
Despair not; He is near you, He's standing at the door,  
Who best can help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.***

**6. He comes to judge the nations, A terror to His foes,  
A Light of consolations, And blessed Hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth Your beams most cheering, And guide us safely home.**

Text from the Worship Supplement 2000.

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## **Announcements**



**Welcome!** We welcome all our visitors tonight.

Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again soon.

Today:  
12/4/24

**Wed. Advent Worship #1 – 6:30pm**

Saturday – **Christmas Caroling & Chili Supper** (Villa & New Perspectives) – **4pm**

Church Cleaning: Team #4 (11/30-12/7); Team #5 (12/7-12/14)

Next Sunday:  
12/8/24

**Choir – 8am**

**Worship – 9am**

**Children's Christmas Eve Practice** (sanctuary) **& Bible Class – 10:15am**

**In Your Mailbox** – Messiah Calendar - *December*



**Christmas Caroling – this Saturday, Dec. 7th – Meet at Church @ 4pm** –

This year our Christmas Caroling will be held on **Saturday evening, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**.

We'll plan to meet at church at 4pm and will be singing at Villa in Greenfield (4:30pm) and New Perspectives in Franklin (approx. 5:30pm). We plan to meet back at church afterwards for a chili supper. Please come and join us spread

some Christmas cheer as we sing of our Savior, who is the reason for the season! (Note: Lord willing, next year we will go back to doing our Christmas Caroling on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in December.)

## The Advent Wreath



The Advent wreath is rich in symbolism, and as such it aids our worship as it reinforces our hope in the ultimate coming of our Lord. The wreath is covered with evergreen. Just as this species of tree is always green, so our hope for eternity is always alive because it rests upon the living Christ. The wreath is also in the form of a circle, which has no beginning and no end. What better way to picture that our life with God is everlasting.

The lighted candles are symbolic of the light of Christ and His Gospel, which alone can lift us out of our sin & spiritual darkness. The 4 Advent candles remind us of the 4000 years of waiting for Christ by the Old Testament world. The 3 purple candles are the color for repentance (or blue, which is meant to suggest anticipation and hope). The rose (pink) candle is the color for **joy**. Each of the 4 candles has been assigned a special name with special significance: **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**.

**The Christ Candle** is the white candle in the center, and is lit on Christmas Eve. It signals that He Who is the Light of the world has been born.

The light these candles put forth seems small; so does the gospel at times. But to those in lonely darkness, it is the powerful light which shows the way to Heaven.

### Christmas Season Worship Schedule 2024

**Wed. Advent Worship Services** – Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm

**Christmas Eve – Tues. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** – 6pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service  
& Children's Program

**Christmas Day – Wed. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>** – 10:30am - Christmas Day Worship Service



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