

As We Gather

Christmas is coming! But the coming of the promised Messiah does not just signify a baby being born in a stable; it reveals the Son of God coming to a broken, sinful world to save each of us from our own sinful nature. He comes to rule His people with loving justice; He comes to sacrifice Himself for us; He comes to fulfill all God's promises to us.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is being celebrated today. It is the belief of the Lutheran Church, based on Jesus' own words, that in this Sacrament His body and blood are really present and that forgiveness of sins and the assurance of salvation are offered to all who come confessing their sins and believing in Him. Communion is therefore offered to those who share this confession of faith. Children who are not yet confirmed are invited to come forward with their parents to receive a blessing. Guests who may have questions about Communion at Mt. Calvary are encouraged to talk to Pastor Brighton.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

OPENING HYMN:

"Once He Came in Blessing"

Hymn #333

THE INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Brothers and sisters in Christ, although we have been blessed with faith by the Holy Spirit to put our trust in our Lord Jesus, by nature we daily and presently lack faith in the Father's saving work of sending His Son to Bethlehem. Therefore, let us go to God, our Father, confessing our sins.

(please kneel)

Most merciful God,

We confess that we have not always seen Your daily and eternal blessings throughout our lives. We have let the troubles of this world overwhelm us. We have failed to share our Christian faith. We have neglected to hear Your Law and to let Your Gospel increase our hope and joy. For Jesus' sake, forgive us; renew Your grace; and lead us with the saints before us to magnify Your holy name. Amen.

Jesus told His heavenly Father, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God, as it is written of Me in the scroll of the book." He has won forgiveness and eternal life for us by His obedient life, His sacrificial death, and His glorious resurrection. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: THE ANGEL'S CANDLE

The fourth candle on our Advent wreath reminds us of the angels who announced the Savior's birth. Their song of joy rings across the centuries to fill the darkness of every heart with the light of glory and love. We pray:

Lord of Hosts, for the ministry of angels we give You thanks. Fill the dark night of our fallen world with the angels' good news of great joy! Amen.

THE HYMN:

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, from heav'n's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sound the blessed angels sing.**

(As the hymn stanzas are sung, John and Kay Robertson will light the candles on the Advent wreath at the 8:00am service. John and Ruth Lange will light the candles at the 10:45 am service)

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Come in our midst with power, Lord Jesus, that we may know the blessedness You bring to our low state; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Micah 5:2–5a *(Little Bethlehem shall be the birthplace of the promised ruler of Israel.)*

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he shall be their peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 10:5–10 (*Jesus came to earth to do His Father's will.*)

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" ⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA VERSE:

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL IS ANNOUNCED:

The Holy Gospel according to St Luke the first chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:39–56 (*Elizabeth greets Mary and the unborn Jesus, and Mary rejoices in God, her Savior.*)

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." ⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”
⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise to You, O Christ.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Pete LeBorious
Director of Christian Education

THE HYMN OF THE DAY:

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Hymn #361

THE MESSAGE:

"The King from Bethlehem"

Vicar Tim Staffeld

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS: After each petition, the Worship Leader will say, *"Lord in Your mercy,"* and the congregation will respond, ***"Hear our prayer."***

THE GATHERING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

++ The Stewardship Thought ++

**Advent points us to the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies
about the coming of the Messiah, the baby Jesus, Our Savior.**

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... and His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6)

OFFERTORY HYMN:

"Arise, O Christian People"

**Arise, O Christian People!
Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior,
Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone
The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown.**

**Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
Turn not from me a side,
And help me to receive You
This blessed Advent-tide.
From stall and manger low
Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing Your praises gladly
And forth Your glory show.**

THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. In Him we are truly blessed, and while we await the celebration of His birth and anticipate His second coming, our thanksgiving and praise cannot be contained. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the

Christmas at Mt. Calvary. This year we will follow our normal pattern of three services on Christmas Eve and they will be as follows:

5:00 pm service – The service is especially for families with young children. The children will be invited to dress up with costumes provided and help Pastor Brighton tell the Christmas story. This year we will have special music provided by Haydn and Levi Crook on the banjo and violin.

7:00 pm service – The service will feature our Festival Choir singing, "The Glory of the Lord" from Handel's *Messiah* and the Handbell choir. The service will conclude with candlelight and the singing of "Silent Night."

10:00 pm service – The service will include the celebration of Holy Communion and conclude with candlelight and the singing of "Silent Night."

The Getty's in Concert! You can purchase your ticket online at: Gettymusic.com/tourChristmas. Look for the December 21 performance at the Fox Theater in Atlanta and select "ticket," then put LCEF2015 in the promo code box and you will save 15% off the price of your ticket. The concert begins at 7:30 pm and will feature a huge choir, great music, great Irish dancing, some sing-a-long Christmas carols, and their well-known hymn, "In Christ Alone."

Members of the Week - John and Ruth Lange - were both raised in Oregon, in the beautiful Willamette Valley. They met at Oregon State University and were married in 1969. After completing his military duty in the Army Band at Fort Lewis, Washington, John began his career as an agricultural statistician with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Portland, Oregon. The family transferred to Sioux Falls, South Dakota in 1973, and then to Woodbridge, Virginia, in 1976, where John worked 30 years at the USDA headquarters office in Washington, DC. Ruth began her fulltime career in 1990, also working for the Department of Agriculture. They both retired in 2006. They raised two wonderful sons, David, who does research in high energy physics at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland, and Michael who is a mechanical engineer at MERC here in Warner Robins. The Langes moved to Warner Robins in November 2014 to be close to their son, Michael, and his family, including two beautiful granddaughters, Emily, 12, and Megan, 9. Both John and Ruth sing in the Sanctuary choir here at Mt. Calvary and hope to become more involved in the life of the church in the coming years. They feel blessed to be part of such a wonderful, loving church family.

Our Altar Flowers were provided this week by Steve & Jackie Kaestner, to the glory of God, and by Gary & Beverly Webb, in honor of their wedding anniversary.

Matthew Forehand, one of our members, will be serving in the Middle East until the beginning of May. Matt's wife is pregnant and caring for their 3-year-old daughter. Hopefully, he will be home for the birth.

The Board of Outreach is distributing "Christmas Blessing Cards." We ask each member to take two or three cards and use them as you bless a member of our community. Perhaps you can pay for a person's meal at a fast food restaurant and give them a "Christmas Blessing Card" in the process. We want the community to feel blessed by Mount Calvary during this Christmas season.

Christmas Dinner Giveaways: There is a box at the church entrance for items to give away at the annual Helping Hands Dinner. These can be free things you get in the mail such as notepads and calendars or whatever you think may be wanted.

Mount Calvary's Helping Hands Christmas Dinner! Christmas Day from 12-2 at First United Methodist Church (205 N. Davis Dr.) we will serve hundreds of people with a warm Christmas dinner. We will need help preparing the event, working in the kitchen, serving food, making deliveries, and much more! If you want to help in any way, big or small, please sign-up on the Helping Hands Christmas Dinner sign-up sheet at the information desk or outside Vicar's office.

I want to thank all of my friends at Mount Calvary for the prayers, phone calls, cards and meals you provided me with following my recent surgery. I feel truly blessed. – Jan Clark

Sweethearts Dinner - Sunday, February 14th, 6-8 pm in the Michael Fellowship Hall. We look forward to a delicious meal and the traditional chocolate dessert contest where you, the guests, provide your favorite chocolate indulgence. The Board of Fellowships asks folks to bring in a wedding photo to display during the event. Babysitting will be provided. If you have any questions, please see your BOF members, Keith Dierking, Deb Fingles, Michelle Crawford, and Doug Branham. Cost is \$5 a person. What a deal!

Honduras Mission Trip Opportunity. Christ Lutheran Church in Perry welcomes you to join their 6th Annual Mission trip to Children of Love Lutheran Orphanage and Church in La Paz, Honduras on January 23-30, 2016. The trip cost is a round trip ticket to Tegucigalpa in Honduras (currently about \$400-\$600), plus \$200, and your passport. For additional information, see childrenoflove.org or contact John or Renee Lehenbauer at ph/txt (478) 397-5914 or christlutheranperry@gmail.com.

Nursery volunteers – Please make sure to check the schedule in the nursery to see when you are scheduled to volunteer!! The schedule for December and January is on the wall in the nursery. A big THANK YOU to all of our nursery volunteers!! I appreciate your help and your willingness to serve Mount Calvary's smallest members!!! If you have any questions, please feel free to call or text Cynthia at (478)718-9340.



ALTAR FLOWERS

**The Flower Chart for 2016 is posted.
Now would be a good time to get the
weekend that you want reserved.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

The family of Tony Kong, Evy Keyes' dad, who died on December 11.

Fred Crawford, Rob's father, who had a pacemaker put in on December 17th.

Kurt Rover, who was hospitalized with fluid around his heart.

Betsy Luppino, whose Parkinson's Disease symptoms are making it difficult for her to swallow.

Jeannie Hawkins, who is recovering at home after hospitalization for fluid in her lungs.

Josie Kong, Evy Keyes' mom, who has been diagnosed with hydrocephalus (water on the brain) and a brain tumor.

Keep In Your Prayers

Sonya Popken, Karen Harmon, Marrassa Halsell, Regina Ragan, Jan Clark, Deloris Denzine, Chet Branscom and Karen Johnson.

(NOTE: Those listed under "Keep in your prayers" are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office.)

Those Battling Cancer

Those battling cancer: Ken Reilly, Anne Harter (daughter of Dick & Susan Kesler), Margaret Frazier, Mary Jahnke (Joe's sister), Barry Rice (Becky McVay's brother), Norma Young (Melinda Hopf's aunt), Paula Babcock, Kathy Grube, Chet Branscom, Mary Schwope (Michele Durbin's aunt), Jeannette Poniske (Fred Tamer's mom), Bruce Oswalt (Krystal Ferguson's father), Gary Jennings (Margaret Jennings' son) and Elaine Mead (Jeannie Hawkins' aunt).

Those Serving our Country in Dangerous Areas

Matthew Forehand, Jake Huffman, Chris Walker, Darrin Landis, Denver Yarbrough, Michael Welch, Jonathan Fetchik and Christian Corbitt, for safety and good health as they serve our country in dangerous areas.

SERVING US TODAY

PREACHER: Vicar Tim Staffeld. **LITURGIST:** Pastor David Brighton. **ELDERS:** Laird Van Gorder (8 am) and John Hunter (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Taitum Gossman (8 am) and Tyler Longbine (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Brian Harper, David Rossman, Bob Yeager & Richard Uitto. Late – Mike Hopf, Bruce Bauman, Dave Harter, Ed Bodony & Earl Bogardus. **ALTAR GUILD:** Sue Glaser, Barb Mabee, Ginger Martin, Kathy Robinson & Sharon Suckow. **LAY READERS:** Kathy Robinson (8 am) and John Hunter (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Gary Webb. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Lyle Wurdeman (8 am) and Josh Johnson (10:45 am).

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: D. J. Nelson (Thur 5 pm), Eric Gossman (Thur 7 pm), Bill Gragg (Thur 10 pm, Rob Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Laird Van Gorder (Sun 8 am) and Bob Gerstenberger (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Taitum Gossman (Thur 5 pm), Andrew & Nathan LeBorious (Thur 7 pm), Carlee Toler & Sara Van Lannen (Thur 10 pm, Christopher Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Abigail Halsell (Sun 8 am) and Libby Parsons (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD CHRISTMAS EVE:** Lois Harter, Melinda Hopf, Ruth Miller, Suzanne O'Daniel & Maureen Young. **ALTAR GUILD NEXT WEEKEND:** Sallie Brinkley, Barbara Locke, Sherry Parsons & Pat Stetzler. **LAY READERS:** Jeff Townsend (Thur 7 pm), Roger Moeller (Thur 10 pm), John Trichinotis (Sat 6 pm), Judy Van Gorder (Sun 8 am) and Cindy Schafer (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Nancy Branscom (Thur 5 pm), Gary & Beverly Webb with Lynn & Koda Cook (Thur 7 pm), Jan Clark (Thur 10 pm), Paul & Molly Keister (Sun 8 pm) (Sun 8 am) and Betty Cummings & Nancy Hoar (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15 and Colossians 3:12-17

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday – 41 Early – 104 Late – 139 Total – 284
Midweek Advent Service - 100

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	6:30 pm	TAG Night
Monday	11:30 am – 4 pm	(TAG Ice Skating)
	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Bell Choir
Thursday	Christmas Worship	
	5:00 pm	Families With Kids
	7:00 pm	Candlelight Service
	10:00 pm	Candlelight Service with Communion
Friday	12- 2 pm	Helping Hands Christmas Dinner
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
Sunday		NO SUNDAY SCHOOL