

**Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool**  
**December 1, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**Rev. Melissa Dailey (they/them)**

*Website: [ChristLutheranVH.org](http://ChristLutheranVH.org)*

*Twitter: [@ChristLuthVH](https://twitter.com/ChristLuthVH)*

*Facebook: [/ChristLutheranVH](https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranVH)*

Church: 847-367-5787  
[ChristLutheranVH@aol.com](mailto:ChristLutheranVH@aol.com)

Preschool: 847-367-5791  
[CLCPreschool@aol.com](mailto:CLCPreschool@aol.com)

Member of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
(*ELCA* – [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org))



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**All Are Welcome – All the Time!**

You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to participate in any part of worship. If you wish to take communion, we ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus. His body and blood were given and shed for you.



Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer. We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING OF PRAYER CONCERNS

*By Kathy Davis, who will provide updated Prayers of Intercession*

## INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

– *Silence for reflection and self-examination* –

*God of all time,*

**we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us.  
We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace.  
In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light  
and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory.  
Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven

and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

**Amen.**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SONG: Light One Candle, ELW #240 (vs 1)**

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

### **LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE**

Matthew 24:42 says: *Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.*

We do not know the hour when we may meet the living Christ in our daily lives. But we do know that staying in constant vigilance, awake 24/7, is not realistic. As we enter into this Advent season, preparing to meet the living Christ anew, perhaps the call to *stay awake*, is a call to stay *open* and *watchful*. To take a moment to notice where God is already meeting us, or where we long to be met. To notice who God may be working through. To be pushed to see God working through those we least expect.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we take a moment to light the first Advent candle. This is the perfect time for us to reflect on where we have seen hope this week; where we need to see hope; and notice how God is preparing hope in each of us.

– *Silence for Reflection as we light the first candle* –

Please join in reading together:

**We light this candle, the first candle of Advent,  
*in hope and with hope.***

**May we keep awake to the living Christ  
who is already among us.**

*Let us pray:*

God of the watching and waiting,  
awaken us to see your hope in the world,  
and inspire us to be part of that hope. **Amen.**

## READING – Jeremiah 33:14-16

The 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. In 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. In 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.”

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust;**

Do not let me be put to shame;

**do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

**let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

**teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me,

**for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.**

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,

**for they have been from of old.**

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

**according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!**

Good and upright is the Lord;

**therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

He leads the humble in what is right

**and teaches the humble his way.**

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

**for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

## **READING – 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

*(Paul writes to the church of the Thessalonians:)* How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And 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.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

– *Please stand as you are able* –

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG) – ELW 172**

**Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Halle, halle, halle – lujah.  
Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!**

## **THE GOSPEL – Luke 21:25-36**

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to You, O Lord.*

*(Jesus said about the end of times:)* “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. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“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, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be 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.”

*The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.*

## SERMON – Rev. Melissa Dailey

### SONG – Christ Be Our Light, ELW 715 (vs 1, 2, 3, 5)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see...

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.**

**Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your Word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. **Christ, be...**

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. **Christ, be...**

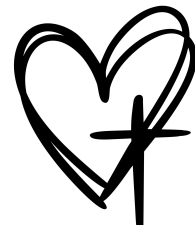
Many the gifts, many the people. Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another, sings of your kingdom come. **Christ, be...**

### APOSTLES' CREED

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 OF INTERCESSION *(on separate sheet)*

*Lord in your mercy... Receive our prayer.*



### 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.

## **BENEDICTION**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **SONG: People, Look East, ELW #248**

*(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)*

People, look east. The time is near, of the crowning of the year.

Make you house fair, as you are able,

trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east, and sing today – Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.

Give up your strength, the seed to nourish

that in the course the flow'r may flourish.

People, look east, and sing today – Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim;

Shining beyond the frosty weather,

bright as the sun and thereon together.

People, look east, and sing today – Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth, him who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming,

with the Word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east, and sing today – Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## **DISMISSAL**

*We watch and wait.* **Come, Lord, Jesus!**

*Go in peace. Serve the Lord.* **Thanks be to God!**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Joy Bags for Sue's Pantry Kids** – This year's list includes even more children (more than 50). PreSchool families will shop for youngest 25 children, while we give to the older kids. Gift bags are simple with values of about \$25 with a few things for each child. For younger teens, ideas include hats, mittens/gloves, sweater/sweatshirt, toy/game, candy and/or a small gift card to Walmart or Target. For older teens, gloves, fun socks, small gift card, candy, lotion, chapstick, ear buds/charging cord, card game, journal or pens. Please pray on how we might make this happen. Holly ([HollySJ@earthlink.net](mailto:HollySJ@earthlink.net)) has details so you can shop for a specific child (age/gender/personality), or donate cash and the CLC elves will put things together. Please provide filled bags by December 15. Thank you!
- **Saturday with St. Nick** – December 7 from 10 to noon – Our gift to the community!
- **Christmas Eve Worship** – Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. – Please take time to worship.
- **Supporting the Homeless** – Thank you to all who sent items for the camp near Pastor Padraig's home in Chicago. There was so much we must send a second load. Thank you!
- **Caring Hands** – Saturday, January 18 from 9a to noon. Making prayer shawls, comfort blankets, hats/mittens. ([CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com](mailto:CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com))
- **Donating to Storm/Fire Victims** – ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response is one of the oldest, most effective and most respected organizations for getting money where it can be put to good use. Donate at [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org).
- **Scouting!** – Boys and girls ages Kindergarten through high school have an opportunity to build skills and have fun through Scouting. Thanks for supporting our Pack and Troop!
- **PreSchool Prayers** – Keep the children, families and staff of our PreSchool in prayer.
- **Support for Anelly** – Our ministry partner Anelly, a young mother of two who has supported refugees in Chicago, has a recurrence of cancer and other challenges. Please lift her in prayer and consider supporting the Meal Train ([HollySJ@earthlink.net](mailto:HollySJ@earthlink.net)).
- **Sue's Pantry** – Call for toilet paper! And anything needed to keep a home and family clean – dish soap, laundry detergent, body wash, shampoo.
- **Love INC** – Housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Want to learn more? Have a family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to Natalie she will get us covered! (Thanks, Natalie.) (<https://loveinclakecounty.org/>)
- **COOL Ministries** – We support the COOL pantry in Waukegan with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway or give online. ([CoolMinistries.org](http://CoolMinistries.org))
- **Prayer concerns?** Consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Email [ChristLutheranVH@aol.com](mailto:ChristLutheranVH@aol.com) with your request. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** Your presence in worship is very important. Thank you for being part of this community of faith. If you would like to support our service, we welcome donations, which can be provided by credit card or Paypal through the link at the bottom of our webpage, [ChristLutheranVH.org](http://ChristLutheranVH.org). Thank you!