Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday in Advent – JOY

Baptism of Jase Konrad & Morgan Ann Norris

Rev. Joleen Gleasman

Website: ChristLutheranVH.org
Twitter: @ChristLuthVH
Facebook: /ChristLutheranVH

Church: 847-367-5787
ChristLutheranVH@aol.com

Preschool: 847-367-5791
info@PreSchool.ChristLutheranVH.org

Member of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
(ELCA – www.elca.org*)*

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, PRAYER CONCERNS, THANKSGIVINGS

After chimes, Kathy Davis will take requests to add to the Prayers of Intercession,
and provide Pastor with the updated sheet.

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 all. **And also with you!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that transformed by grace, we may walk in your way, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE (JOY)

Adapted from *The Word Made Flesh: Daily Devotions for Advent,* Creative Communications, Jacob Torbeck, *(c)2024*

Today, on the third Sunday in Advent, we light a pink candle. Sometimes known as the Shepherds Candle, this candle reflects the **joy** that comes through Jesus' arrival, and through the gift of salvation. Think about an image of the shepherds jumping for joy at the announcement of Christ's birth – THAT is the type of joy we are talking about today.

Just as the birth of Jesus gives great joy to his parents, so also his presence in the world gave joy to those who had no joy before. Jesus healed the people. He gave them hope and peace. He loved everyone – especially those who society despised. From hope, peace, and love grows joy – Joy that shines light in all the dark places. Joy that we have in knowing we are loved, forgiven and free. Joy that we need so desperately in our world today.

Today, right here at Christ Lutheran, we are surrounded by joy – we see joy in the children, the lights, the music, this gathering together. Today as we light this third candle we take time to feel that joy. We set aside our holiday preparations, our countless tasks, our anxiousness, our busy-ness. Instead, let the joyous light of God's glory be kindled anew in each of us. May we open ourselves to **JOY**, trusting that God has put that joyful spark within each of us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Let us fan the flame of our joy. Let us kindle it with care and offer to share.

Let us pray together:

> **Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus.**
> **Thank you for the gift of joy.**
> **Help us be like the shepherds, dancing with joy at your birth.**
> **Help us to share that joy by shining our light in the world.**
> **In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

We light the third Advent candle and sing…

SONG: Light A Candle Bright and Tall, verse 3

(Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette; Tune: As with Gladness Men of Old, #302)

> **Light a candle bright and tall, for the Joy this season brings.**
> **Joy like fountains brimming full. Through our world now let it ring!**
> **Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Joy, to us, we pray.**

Baptismal Family is invited forward as we sing

HOLY BAPTISM: Jase Konrad Norris & Morgan Ann Norris

Parents: Allie and Alex Norris
Jase Sponsors: Kim Norris & Harrison Menis
Morgan Sponsors: Tyllie Menis & George Arango

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Parents & Sponsors: We present Jase Konrad & Morgan Ann for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God,
do you desire to have Jase & Morgan baptized into Christ?

Parents: I do.

As you bring Jase and Morgan to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord's Prayer, Creed, and Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.
Do you promise to help Jase and Morgan
grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Jase & Morgan
in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit,
and to help them live in the covenant of baptism
and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Jase & Morgan
and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

Congregation: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

All: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word,
that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life.
To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Jase Konrad
Morgan Ann

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

BAPTISMAL PRAYER

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Jase Konrad & Morgan Ann with the gift of your Holy Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

WELCOME

Assistant Presents Candles to family

Assistant says:

Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

Children are invited to come forward

We welcome Jase & Morgan…

We welcome you into the body of Christ
and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

SONG: Jesus Loves Me, #595 (vs 1)

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so! **(Repeat)**

At this time Kathy Davis will invite any children present to exit for a quick Sunday School activity.

READING – Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it; but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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 – Matthew 11:2-11

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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

SERMON: Rev. Joleen Gleasman

SONG: Blessed Be the God of Israel, #250 (vs 1 & 3)

Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal

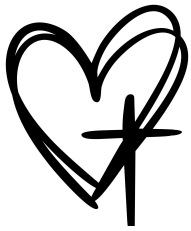
Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free,
and raises up new hope for us: A Branch of David’s tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm,
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(on separate sheet)*

God of grace… **hear our prayer.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE



The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

– *Please share a greeting or sign of peace –*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks & praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *(Presider's book on altar)*

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AT THE FRONT

All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to select a single-serving Communion kit from the tray, or to receive a blessing. Then return to your seat via the side aisle to open the kit and partake in Communion. An usher will offer a basket to collect the container. *For those worshipping at home, please consider joining in Holy Communion by taking a bit of bread or cracker and a sip of wine or juice.* **All are welcome.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Word of God made flesh, you have fed us in body and in spirit.
We find you in the wheat, the grapes, and the hands that serve them.
Bless us as we take these elements with us and out into the world.
May the hope of this feast accompany our journey. **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 of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SONG: Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding, #246 (vs 1,4,5)

Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal

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!"

So, when next he comes in glory, and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy, and with words of love draw near.

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

DISMISSAL

We prepare the way. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

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

All are invited to enjoy refreshments and conversation after worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Christmas Eve Worship** – Wednesday, December 24 at 4p
- **Poinsettias for Christmas** – If you have a poinsettia of any color or size that you would like to share, please consider bringing it to church to decorate the altar area through Christmas Eve. Thank you!
- **Stock the Pantries! – Non-Perishables Needed.** Bring your donations of nonperishable food, paper goods, hygiene supplies, etc. and we will deliver to local pantries, which need all they help they can get. Also collecting fresh milk, eggs, meat, produce for specific families.Thank you!
- **Meals in a Bag** – 2 gal ziplocks with all the nonperishable ingredients needed to make a hearty meal – bags and ingredient list/recipe cards available in the Narthex or on our website. We will provide these as needed and encourage everyone to have a couple to hand out.
- **Here to help.** Do you or someone you know need food or support, especially with the loss of benefits? Reach out to the church at ChristLutheranVH@aol.com or 847-367-5787**.**
- **Alert Whistles & Rights Cards** – On the bulletin table. To use or share as needed.
- **Pray Over Our PreSchool Ministry** – May we continue to effectively bring the message of God's love for all into our community.
- **Cub Scout Pack 273 Popcorn Sale –** email committee.chair@Pack273VH.org.
- **Troop 273 Wreath Sale –** Lucas has information; view the brochure online – https://northwoodswreaths.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/2025-NWW-Brochure.pdf
- **Donating to Victims of Flood, Earthquake, Fire, Drought, War** – 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. There is also a link on our website under "WORK."
- **Caring Hands** – On break until January 17. Making prayer shawls, comfort blankets, hat and mittens. Reach out for information or projects for home. (CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com)
- **Scouting! –** Christ Lutheran is the Charter Organization for Pack 273 & Troop 273. Programs for girls and boys ages Kindergarten through high school, building skills, making connections and having fun. For younger kids, email committee.chair@Pack273VH.org. For older kids, email committeechair@troop273vh.net. Thanks to Holly & Bill Jones and their volunteers for their efforts in leading the groups. Thanks for supporting our Pack/Troop 273!
- **Sue's Pantry** – Sue has moved her pantry to a space in Arlington Heights. We will continue to collect anything needed to keep a home and family clean.
- **Love INC** – Housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Know a family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to 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)
- **Prayer concerns?** Consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Email ChristLutheranVH@aol.com with your request. Would you join with us in prayer? Send an email to be included on the prayer mailing list. The task is simple-but-powerful – when time permits, open the email and read/pray with us.
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** 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. Thank you!