



First English Lutheran Church

9 NW 3rd Street; Ortonville, MN 56278

Lisa Berdan, Senior Choir Director

Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett, Interim Pastor

Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Missionaries/Tanzania



December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent HANGING OF THE GREENS

9:00 am

PREPARATION

Prelude

Bells

Welcome & Announcements

ADVENT WREATH AND LIGHTING

P: Advent is a time for the human heart to wait, while trusting God's eternal time. **C: How long, O Lord, how long?**

P: For those waiting for answers prayer: **C: Grant your steadfast patience.**

P: For those waiting in the face of uncertainty:

C: Grant unshakable confidence in your sovereign provision.

P: For those waiting for justice and mercy to reign:

C: Grant a glimpse of your glory in our wounded world.

P: For all of us waiting for God's kingdom to come:

C: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Greeting & Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Gathering Hymn *'Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus'* #254

Advent Is A Time Of Preparation Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Bryson Karels & Family

Advent Lighting Hymn *'Light One Candle...'* vs. 2 #240

Greeting pg. 147

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

Kyrie *'Lord, Have Mercy'* St. James Christmas

To the tune of *'Infant Holy, Infant Lowly'*

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy upon us. God the Lord, savior gave us. Jesus Christ is born to save us. Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon – Lord, have mercy on us.

LITANY OF THE GREENS

P: How can we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the King?"

C: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

P: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the eternal Christ?

C: With garlands of wreaths of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

P: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, our Savior?

C: With arrangements of holly and ivy, symbolizing His passion, death and resurrection.

P: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the Son of God?

C: By hearing again the words of the prophets who foretold the saving work of God.

P: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

C: Let these symbols be to the Glory of God in the highest!

Prayer of the Day

P: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, **C: to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4

OT pg. 692

Hanging of Garland And Wreaths

[During the reading, the garland is brought forward & hung across rail]

From ancient times, evergreens have been considered a symbol of eternity, signifying renewal, new life, freshness, and rebirth, a sign of God's everlasting nature. Isaiah tells us, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadows of death, among them a light has shined..."

Green plants such as pine, fir, holly, ivy, and mistletoe are called evergreens because they do not die; through the seasons of the year, they remain ever-green. Ever-alive. The ancients saw them as signs of things that last forever. Therefore, we hang wreaths shaped in circles, and place garlands of green all around, as a sign of everlasting life, symbolizing the unchanging nature of our God, Christ gift of everlasting life through Him, and of the celebration of Christmas itself.

1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

2. Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; fr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4.

Luke 1:68-79

NT pg. 44

L: ⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

C: ⁶⁹ You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.

L: ⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, ⁷¹ from the hands of all who hate us,

C: ⁷² to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

L: ⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

C: free to worship you without fear, ⁷⁵ holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

L: ⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

C: ⁷⁷ to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

L: ⁷⁸ In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

C: ⁷⁹ to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE (*The significance of*) Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett
Children should come & find an ornament during the reading to hang.

Hanging Chrismons or Other Symbols of Christ & Faith (*The significance of*)

P: Here in this place, we prepare for the coming of the Lord. Here we will remember His Advent, His birth in Bethlehem, weak and helpless as an infant. And here we rekindle our prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus" as we await his coming as the bright and morning star.

C: Hang symbols and signs of Christ — ruler, prophet, priest. Hang stars, crosses, triangles, the "alpha" and the "omega" to remind us of his identity, his story, and of the holy Trinity.

The children will sit down after they have hung their decoration.

Children's Message Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett
Story of the Poinsettia ~ **A poinsettia is brought forward**

Gospel Acclamation 'Go Tell It on the Mountain' (*chorus only*) #290
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt. Music: African American spiritual.

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1-6 NT p. 45-46
P: The Holy Gospel according to... **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**
P: The Gospel of the Lord... **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

NATIVITY (*The significance of*) Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett
P: The original crib in which the Christ Child...of love in coming to us.
C: Thanks be to God for His love. Amen.

MEAL

Offering Collection and Presentation

Offertory Hymn 'Prepare the Royal Highway' vs. 1-2 #264
Offertory Prayer **C: Amen**
Prayers for the People of God
P: Come, Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

SHARING THE MEAL

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer pg. 154

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.

Invitation to Communion

Distribution Hymn 'Lamb of God' St. James Christmas
To the tune of 'What Child is This?'

O Lamb of God, O Holy Child, who takes the sin of the world away. Have mercy on us, lamb so mild, the babe, the son of Mary. This, this is your body giv'n, your precious blood, the gift of heav'n. Take, eat ♪♪ for we are one in the babe, the son of Mary.

Distribution Hymn: 'O Lord, How Shall I Meet You' vs. 1-3 #241

1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight! Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

2. I lay in fetters, groaning; you came to set me free. I stood, my shame bemoaning; you came to honor me. A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high that will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly.

3. 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.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite. Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662.

Distribution Hymn 'All Earth is Hopeful' vs. 1-3 #266

Eucharistic Blessing **C: Amen**

Post Communion Prayer **C: Amen**

LIGHTING (significance of)

Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

DEDICATION

Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. From the very beginning of creation, you have made visible your love. When our need for a Savior was great, you sent your son to be born of the Virgin Mary.

C: In every good and perfect gift, you have blessed our lives and enriched us with hope in a new tomorrow. You command us to teach our children your ways and to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy. Accept these decorations which we offer in thanksgiving; may they serve to increase our vision of your glory, to remind us of your goodness, and to radiate the hope of Jesus to all who are willing to receive it.

P: May this also be a reminder of our mission and ministry to serve you in spirit and truth and welcome all who enter this house of worship with the caring love we share with our church family here and in our community. Bring us all at length to your perfect kingdom, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

SENDING

Commission and Blessing

P: Go now and let the Lord steer you in the way of truth. Be on your guard so that you will not be caught up in the trivialities and anxieties of the world. Be alert at all times and pray for strength to escape the traps that would keep you from God. May God be your hope, to increase your love for one another; May Christ Jesus teach you how to live in the joy of His light; and may the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts in holiness, granting you peace. **C: Amen.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: We will! Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn 'Hark the Glad Sound' vs. 1-2 & 4 #239

1. Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long; let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.

2. He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held. The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim, and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751. Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820.

Bells

Postlude

Advent Liturgy: The St. James Christmas Service © St. James Music Press. Box 1009 Hopkinsville, KY 42241 - sjmp.com - 877-822-0304.

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1 Corinthians 13:13 (MSG) But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

Pastor Cheryl plans to be in the FELC Pastor office on Wednesdays 11 - 6:30 (unless in a meeting or confirmation classes) & Thursdays 10 – 3 pm (unless up at FWV with members) or by appt. You can contact her anytime via text (605-237-1501) or email her at CMQRondeau@outlook.com.

Welcome to all visitors and guests! May the joy of Christ fill you as we worship today. Friendship Pads are at the ends of each pew (by middle aisle). Fill them out, pass them on to your neighbor(s), and send them back to the middle aisle.

KDIO Radio Broadcast is sponsored in honor of our Music Family at First English Lutheran Church by Jon & Carol Ydstie. [2025 Radio broadcast cards are available on the information kiosk in the narthex; cost is \$100/week].

OFFERING UPDATE: Here are the expenses for November: \$16,605.12. Here is what we received: \$24,001.22. You're also encouraged to visit our webpage for Online Giving at www.firstenglish.net or scan the QR Code from the offering cards or bulletins.



December's pink envelope emphasis is for ELCA Missionaries. You can find special pink envelopes for designated giving in a basket in the Narthex.

Birthday wishes go out to Sharron Johnson whose birthday is today, the 8th. **The Ortonville School is looking for new or gently used youth winter gear.** There is a basket in the Narthex for this collection.

The "Giving Tree" is set up in the Narthex. Next to the tree is a basket of named envelopes of choices you may donate your gift to. Place the envelope of your choice in the box labeled "GIFTS" (preferably a check written to First English Lutheran Church). You may also take with you the ornament from the tree to gift it to someone. If you want to donate during the week, the box will be in the office. Please leave your donation with Barbara or slip it under the door. Thanks!

The ladies of FELC have napkins, towels, scrubbies and dishcloths for sale in the church Narthex. All proceeds will go to the FELC Women.

Pastor Cheryl will hold a non-denominational Blue Christmas Service at FELC on December 21st for those who mourn. A Blue Christmas service creates a safe place to join with others who mourn or struggle with loss and hear God's word of hope and healing calling you forward to the bright shining light of spring when new life will come again.

We are looking for volunteers for our Christmas Eve Service. The service starts at 2:30 pm (prelude at 2). We need 2 acolytes, 2 more lay assistants, a couple of greeters and someone to help with the tech desk.

If you would like to perform for Prelude music on Christmas Eve, please contact the church office or Marilyn Hanson (605) 880-0330 as soon as possible.

God's Creations Fundraiser Calendars can be bought in the office or in the Narthex following church! They're \$8.00. You can bring cash or pay by check (please write checks for calendars out to **FELC Youth**).

Youth bake sale - we will be planning to have a youth bake sale on Sunday, December 15th after church. If you would like to donate baked goods to their event, please contact Kaitlyn Burdorf at 320-766-4717 or at kmburdorf@hotmail.com.

The Silence and the Sound is a musical presentation of the story of Christmas, which will be performed at the Abbey of the Hills in Marvin, SD today at 1:15 pm and 4:30 pm. A freewill donation for the event will benefit the local food shelf and the ongoing mission of The Abbey of the Hills. There will be cookies & coffee following the presentation.

Annual report information is due in the office by Thursday, Dec. 19th.

The end of the year is approaching fast, have you turned in your opportunity sheets and pledges yet?

If you would like to give a poinsettia or Christmas Flower to FELC during this advent/Christmas season, please bring or have it delivered to the church office *the week leading up to Christmas*. Don't forget to let us know who it is from and the memorial/in-honor-of information so that we can list it in our Christmas Eve bulletin. If you want your poinsettia back, please put your name on it.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Bellingham Community Center, Tuesday Dec. 10 1-6 p.m. Call Audrey at (320)568-2385 for an appointment for both whole blood and Power Red donations. All donors will receive a \$15 gift card by supplying an email address.

Mark your calendars and join us for a free family fun day of skating and pizza from 10am-1pm Sunday January 5 at Sioux Historic. They have plenty of skates available if you don't have a pair at home, or bring your own if you prefer.

Stonecroft Ministries Women's Connection will be meeting on Tuesday, December 17th at 5:30 pm at **Big Stone Tabor Methodist Church**. The speaker will be Joan Reiffenberger of Big Stone City, SD on the topic, "A Word a Day." Special feature will be Alicia Dixon speaking about a Light in the darkness – Transitional living in Ortonville. Special music will be Linda Ostlund of Ortonville, accompanied by keyboard leading the group singing Christmas Carols. The cost is \$6.00, and you can register with Paula Reisdorph at (320) 760-9583 or just be a walk-in. Free nursery by reservation.

Weekly Calendar

Sun – 12/8 Before & After Service FELC Women's Craft Sale
9:00 am Worship (w/Pastor Cheryl) – Communion –
Broadcast on KDIO & FB Live
10:00 am FELC W Craft Sale, Coffee Fellowship, Sunday School
(Christmas Program Practice), Church Council Boards Meet (Individually)
10:30 am Fairway View (Pre-recorded) Worship
10:30 am (or TBD) Church Council Voting Meeting
1:15 pm Christmas Cantata Performance
(at Abbey of the Hills)
4:30 pm Christmas Cantata Performance
(at Abbey of the Hills)



Tues – 12/10 NO MORE DAY OF LOVE FOR 2024

4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (Fairway View)

Wed – 12/11 9:00 am Circle 4 Bible Study (in church lounge)

9:30 am Channel 3 broadcast

11:00 am Circle 4's Christmas Catered Lunch (by invite only)

3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8th grade)

4:30 pm Confirmation (9th grade)

5:30 pm Channel 3 broadcast & Youth Group (7-12th gr.)

7:00 pm Senior Choir

Fri – 12/13 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

Sun – 12/15 9:00 am Worship (w/Kristi Ehrenberg) – Sunday School
presents 'Just a Little Christmas' – Broadcast on KDIO & FB Live
10:00 am Coffee Fellowship & Youth Bake Sale

