**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Northwood, Iowa  
641-324-2984  
www.flcnorthwood.org**

*THAT ALL MAY KNOW THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST*



**Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 11th, 2022  
9:00 am**

**Pastor Becky Sogge**

**Organist/Pianist:** Delores Knudson

**Acolytes:** Caysen Chodur

**Lay reader:**

**Special Music:** Senior Choir

**Ushers:**

**Greeters:** The Kenison family

**Sound/Video:** Camden Trenhaile, Mark Willand

**Counters:** Mike & Judy Stevens, Steph Perkins

### Prelude -Delores Knudson

### Welcome – Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness (Please Stand)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. **Blessed be God’s name forever.** **Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just. God of new beginnings, **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.** **We have strayed from your paths.** **We prepare for war instead of peace.** **We dishonor one another and your creation.** **Purify us with your refining fire** **and set us again on your way of love,** **that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,** **and welcome your coming among us.** **Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn** *Prepare the Royal Highway*ELW 264

**Greeting p. 138**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

### 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.**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Special Music:  *Waiting* -Senior Choir**

**First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10**

1The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 2it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. 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.

3Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4Say 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.”

5Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6then 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; 7the 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.

8A 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. 9No 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. 10And 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 146:5-10**

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;** **who keeps promises forever;**

who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.

**The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;** **the Lord loves the righteous.**

The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**The Lord shall reign forever,** **your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

**Second Reading: James 5:7-10**

7Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. 8You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! 10As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11**

2When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” 4Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”  
 7As 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? 8What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10This is the one about whom it is written,   
 ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
  who will prepare your way before you.’  
11Truly 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 the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Sermon *Pastor Becky Sogge*

### Hymn of the Day *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* ELW 257

### Ministry Moment: Rev. Art Zewert, Chaplin for MercyOne Hospice of North Iowa

### Prayers of Intercession

### God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Offering**

**Offering is received in the plates at the entrance of the sanctuary,   
or electronically through Vanco.**

### Offering Prayer

**Lord’s Prayer p. 145**

**Closing Hymn** *Hark the Glad Sound*ELW 239

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude -Delores Knudson

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Announcements

***Welcome, we are glad you are here!   
Join us for Fellowship in the Fireside room after worship today.***

**Today,** October 11th, there is a church council meeting after worship.

**There will be a Christmas dinner served after worship** on Christmas Day. Please sign up in the Narthex if you would like to attend and/or volunteer to help plan, prepare and serve dinner. Contact Pastor Becky with any questions.

**Place your bid for the Christmas Quilt** outside the Sanctuary. Profits will go towards the General Fund.

**We are looking for a Care Group Coordinator** to help oversee the monthly groups and duties. If interested, please contact Pastor Becky.

**The Nominating Committee is hard at work!** If anyone would like to serve on Church Council or any other elected positions, please let us know in the office: Audit Committee, Nominating Committee, Scholarship committee, Trust Fund, Voting members for Synod Assembly and Rep to LRH Annual Meeting.

Next Sunday will be our SS Program…luncheon and Candlelight Service.

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| **Weekly Calendar** | | |
| Sunday, December 11 | 9:00 am | Worship Service with N.O. |
|  | 10:10 am | Sunday School |
|  | 10:10 am | Church Council Mtng. |
|  | 6:30 pm | JH. Youth |
| Tuesday, December 13 | 11:00 am | Staff Mtng. |
|  | 6:30 pm | Bell Choir |
|  | 7:00 pm | AA-Al-Anon |
| Wednesday, December 14 | 5:15 pm | Confirmation |
|  | 5:30 pm | Choir |
|  | 7:00 pm | Inspire |
|  | 7:50 pm | SH Youth |
| Thursday, December 15 | 8:30 am | Quilting |
|  | 9:00 pm | Prayer Group |
|  | 6:30 pm | Taekwondo |
| Sunday, December 18 | 10:00 am | Worship Service with N.O. |
|  | S.S. | Christmas program & Lunch |
|  | 3:00 pm | LRH Service |
|  | 7:00 pm | Candlelight Service |

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| **Sunday Attendance and Giving** | | | |
| **Date** | **Attendance** | | **Giving** |
| December 4 | 103 | | $2,361 |
| November 24 | 55 | | $4,101 |
| November 20 | 77 | $1,293 | |
| November 13 | 124 | $2,674 | |

**Mission Project for December**

**Heifer International**

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| **INSPIRE Attendance** | |
| **Date** | **Attendance** |
| December 7 |  |
| November 30 | 36 |
| November 23 | 53 |
| November 16 | 55 |