

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent, Yr. A  
Sunday School Program*



ADVENT: On the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, we rejoice in the great gift that is ours in Christ Jesus. To help us celebrate, we light candles on the Advent wreath to remind us, Jesus is the Light of the World. The evergreens remind us that Jesus is Life - and brings Life to us. All these are arranged in a circle because life in Christ has no end.

*Ring of Bell*

PRELUDE *Bell Choir*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

*Light Three Purple Candles and One Pink Candle*

RDR: On this FOURTH Sunday of Advent,  
we light the candle of LOVE.  
We prepare our hearts to celebrate  
the birth Jesus.  
God sent his Only Son to teach us  
about Love. "Love is patient, love is kind.  
Love bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things, endures all things.  
Love never ends."

**ALL: Come Lord Jesus! By your grace,  
may we love one another, as you  
have loved us.**

◆ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Long-expected God,

**C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the  
peace and security only you can provide. We  
reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release**

**our grip on the ways of war. We become  
impatient while waiting and weary of keeping  
awake. Teach us to live in harmony with our  
neighbors. Increase our trust in God, and  
awaken us to your advent among us, that we may  
abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according  
to God's own righteousness. † We are freed and  
forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the  
Savior. **C: Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *All verses* No. 242

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

1 **Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for  
angels herald its dawning. Sing out your joy, for  
soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts  
together, he opens wide the heav'nly door and  
lives now inside us forever.**

2 **To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel  
comes a-singing, his humble song is quiet and  
near, yet fills the earth with its ringing; music to  
heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkind-  
ness, the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter  
all hatred and blindness.**

3 **In darkest night his coming shall be, when all  
the world is despairing, as morning light so quiet  
and free, so warm and gentle and caring. Then  
shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall  
leap in wonder, the weak be raised above the  
strong, and weapons be broken asunder.**

4 **Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though  
dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall  
crown you with light, be strong and loving and  
fearless. Love be our song and love our prayer  
and love our endless story; may God fill ev'ry day  
we share and bring us at last into glory.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY *We pray together*

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

**C: With your abundant grace and might, free us  
from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly  
we may receive your promises, for you live and  
reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 7:10-16

*The sign of Immanuel*

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>"Ask a sign of  
the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high  
as heaven." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will  
not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said,

"Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted." WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

MAGNIFICAT—LUKE 1:46B-55 *We read responsively*

L: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**C: for you, Lord, have looked with favor on  
your lowly servant. From this day all  
generations will call me blessed:**

L: you, the Almighty, have done great things for  
me and holy is your name.

**C: You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

L: You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

**C: casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

L: You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

**C: You have come to the aid of your servant  
Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,**

L: the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham  
and his children forever.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 1:1-7

*Paul's greeting to the church at Rome*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

◆ HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-25

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*A God near at hand*

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. **PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**  
*Please be seated*

HYMN OF THE DAY:

*My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness* No. 251

1 **My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I  
sing my Savior's praise! You looked upon my  
lowliness, and I am full of grace. Now ev'ry land  
and ev'ry age this blessing shall proclaim—great  
wonders you have done for me, and holy is your  
name.**

2 **To all who live in holy fear your mercy ever  
flows. With mighty arm you dash the proud, their  
scheming hearts expose. The ruthless you have  
cast aside, the lowly throned instead; the hungry  
filled with all good things, the rich sent off unfed.**

3 **To Israel, your servant blest, your help is ever  
sure; the promise to our parents made their  
children will secure. Sing glory to the Holy One,  
give honor to the Word, and praise the Pow'r of  
the Most High, one God, by all adored.**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Readings from Spark Story Bible

*Congregation sings along on hymn verses:*

*Away in a Manger* v.1 No.277

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little  
Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in  
the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little  
Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

Go Tell It on the Mountain v.1 No.290

REFRAIN **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills  
and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent  
flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.** REPEAT REFRAIN

Silent Night, v.1 No.281

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so  
tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in  
heavenly peace.**

Joy to the World v.1 No. 267

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth  
receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and  
nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature  
sing.**

♦ 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

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

OFFERING—NOISY OFFERING

*Children are invited to bring an offering to the globe*

♦ OFFERING PRAYER

**P: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.**

**C: Through this meal, satisfy our parched  
places, that we may rejoice and be for the  
world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING Spoken

**P: The Lord be with you.**

**C: And also with you.**

**P: Lift up your hearts.**

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

**P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

*Please be seated*

DISTRIBUTION & HYMN No. 259

*Fling Wide the Door Unbar the Gate*

**1 Fling wide the door, unbar the gate; the King  
of glory comes in state; the Lord of lords and  
King of kings, the Savior of the world who brings  
his great salvation to the earth. So raise a shout  
of holy mirth and praise our God and Lord,  
Creator, Spirit, Word.**

**2 He is the rock of our belief, the heart of  
mercy's gentle self. His kingly crown is holiness;  
his scepter is his loveliness; he brings our  
sorrows to an end. Now gladly praise our king and  
friend, and worship him with song for saving us  
from wrong.**

**3 Oh, happy towns and blessed lands that live  
by their true king's commands. And blessed be  
the hearts he rules, the humble places where he  
dwells. He is the rightful Son of bliss who fills our  
lives and makes us his, creator of the world,  
our only strength for good.**

**4 Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ; our  
hearts are open wide in trust. Oh, show us now  
your lovely grace, upon our sorrows shine your  
face, and let your Holy Spirit guide our journey in  
your grace so wide. We praise your holy name,  
from age to age the same!**

TABLE BLESSING

*The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P: God our host, at this table you have fed us  
with joy and gladness.**

**C: Send us forth, eager to share the feast,  
welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in  
the name of Jesus. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

**P: May God who comes among us, Father, † Son,  
and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting,  
peace in the darkness, and good news to share  
today and always. C: Amen.**

◆ HYMN *verses 5-8* No. 257  
*O Come O Come Emmanuel*

5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide  
our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads  
on high, and close the path to misery.

*Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun  
of justice, now draw near. Disperse the gloomy  
clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to  
flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Corner-  
stone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that  
long for you; restore the broken, make us new.

*Refrain*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom  
captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

*Ring of Bell*

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *BELL CHOIR*

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**PARTICIPANTS**

PASTOR—D.J. Chatelaine

ACOLYTE—Abel Eggert

ADVENT WREATH FAMILY—Bauer Family

WORSHIP ASSISTANT—Carmen Nesseth

ORGANIST—Tammy Hanson

GREETER(S)—Erica Aronson

COMMUNION SET-UP—Harris & Heidi Haugen

SERVERS—Cora Lee Monroe, Candy & Don Herrlich

COFFEE—Susan & Eric Hoversten

TECH CREW—Heidi Haugen, Steve Johnson,

Holly Aldorfer, Jack Aronson, Luke Cordes

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OL/SKU#85914 *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness* No. 251

OL/SKU#85956 *Fling Wide the Door* No. 259

OL/SKU #32080 *O Come O Come Emmanuel* No. 257

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

*Jennifer Lerfald, Lavon Underdahl, Jim Fountaine, Dax Eggert,  
Larry Walker, Renee Spidahl-Carmichael, Tim Emerson, & Anne  
Laue.*

**CALENDAR**

**Su 12-21**

9 AM WORSHIP - ADVENT FOUR  
*S/S Christmas Program*

**We 12-24**

4 PM CHR. EVE SERVICE

**Su 12-28**

10 AM Lay-Led WORSHIP  
*Lessons & Carols*

*Before Jan 1 Please pick up Christmas Plants*

**Sun 1-4**

9 AM WORSHIP - EPIPHANY

- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL -

3 PM *Aspelund Emmanuel Choir Concert*

*'JESUS - LOVE'S PURE LIGHT'*

*A light supper follows*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are ready  
for pick up in the Narthex.

PASTOR—D.J. CHATELAINE

Phone 507-213-0708

[flickenyonpastor@gmail.com](mailto:flickenyonpastor@gmail.com)

CHURCH OFS

Phone: 507-789-5261

[firstlutherankenyon@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutherankenyon@gmail.com)

YOUTH DIRECTOR—BRYANA LOTHERT

Phone 507-210-0814

[flcyouth45@gmail.com](mailto:flcyouth45@gmail.com)

WEBSITE [flickenyon.org](http://flickenyon.org)

FACEBOOK:

**First Evangelical Lutheran Kenyon MN**

YOUTUBE CHANNEL:

<https://www.youtube.com/@flickenyon>