SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

A Joyful Homecoming December 10, 2023



And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. *Isaiah 40:5*

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

Sunday Service - 9:30am Sunday Bible Study – after Service Wednesday Bible Study – 10:30am (313) 565- 9445 5323 Southfield Allen Park, MI 48101

Rev. Paul Pollatz

(734)765-3468

Welcome! Members and Guests

We are blessed to have you here today. Please fill out the Guest/Member Attendance Card located in the pew rack in front of you. Guests please include your full address, zip code, and phone number. The cards will be collected by the ushers early in the service. Prayer Requests cards are available in the pew racks and should be handed to the ushers when the attendance cards are collected.

Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper is a sacrament in which Jesus' body and blood are given in and with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-30). When we receive the Holy Communion at a church, we are making a public statement that we agree with the teachings of that church (1 Corinthians 10:14-18). The Bible cautions us against receiving the body and blood of Christ in a manner that is spiritually harmful (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Supper those who have been instructed and confirmed in the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.

Large Print Bulletins

Large print worship guides are available at the ushers' stand.

Listening Devices

Listening devices are available; our ushers will be glad to assist you in signing one out for today's service.

Pew Cushions

Pew cushions are available; our ushers will be glad to get them for you.

Wheelchair Accessible Seating

Wheelchair seating is located in the fifth row from the front of the church on the left and right side of the center aisle.

Church Nursery

Our Nursery is located in the Parlor, which is the first room next to the stained glass doors. The worship service can be heard in this room. The ushers can direct you to this room.

Our Divine Service, & Bible Studies

Our Divine Service is held on Sundays at 09:30 a.m. Bible Study is held on Sundays after Service and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Our Bible studies are held Sep-May.

Our Vision Statement: Revitalize Within—Reach Out!

PRELUDE RINGING OF THE BELLS PREPARATION

Pastor: In ancient days, God spoke through the prophet Isaiah to comfort His people with the assurance of pardon and a joyful return to their home. After the time of exile, He Himself would restore them, renew them, and return them to the land He had promised them on oath to their forefathers. As He was with His ancient followers, so He is with us. Our God is for us, not against us! In the mercy of our advent King, Jesus Christ, who came once and who will surely come again, we rejoice in His goodness and gather to receive all that He seeks to give.

№ PREPARATION

HYMN

"Prepare the Royal Highway" LSB 343 vs 1-3
Prepare the royal highway
the King of kings is near
let every hill and valley
a level road appear
Then greet the king of glory
foretold in sacred story

O blest is he that came in God the Father's name

God's people, see him coming your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him spread garments; shout and sing God's promise will not fail you no more shall doubt assail you

O blest is he that came in God the Father's name

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king your king, yet every nation its tribute too should bring All lands, bow down before him all voices, thus adore him

O blest is he that came in God the Father's name

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the

Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 27:13–14; 130:5

Pastor: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

People: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Pastor: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

People: and in His word I hope.

(Please be seated or kneel, as you are able, for the confession and absolution)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION Based on Psalm 130

Pastor: With hope in the Lord's promises of renewal by His Word and Spirit, let us together confess our sins to Him.

People: Out of the depths I cry to You, Lord!

Pastor: Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to my pleas for mercy!

People: If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, I would have no hope.

Pastor: But with You there is forgiveness, therefore we place our trust in You.

People: Restore us, Lord God, and set us free from our sins.

Pastor: Renew us in Your hope, that we may wait for Your salvation.

People: Because of Your steadfast love for us in Christ, redeem us from all our iniquities. Amen.

Pastor: As we wait for Jesus' final coming, we place our hope and our confidence in the promises of His Word and find our home in the presence of His Spirit. Confessing our sins and turning away from them through lives of repentance, we are assured again this day of the Lord's steadfast love and plentiful redemption for us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ♣ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

(Please stand)

₩ WORD ₩

INTROIT *Psalm 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: v. 3*

Pastor: Restore us, O God;

People: let Your face shine, that we may be saved!
Pastor: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead

Joseph like a flock!

People: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Pastor: You brought a vine out of Egypt;

People: it took deep root and filled the land.

Pastor: Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: let You face shine, that we may be saved! Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: Restore us, O God;

People: let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

KYRIE (sing) p. 186 in hymnal

People: Lord, have mercy upon us Christ, have mercy upon us Lord, have mercy upon us

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Pastor: Glory be to God on high

People: (sing) and on earth peace, goodwill

toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son Jesus Christ. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way

of Your only-begotten Son,

People: that by His coming we may rejoice in our eternal home;

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Please sit)

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 40:1–11 ESV Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God

will stand forever. Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with

strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

with young.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Duet by Dave & Marie Brown

EPISTLE 2 Peter 3:8–14 ESV

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

VERSE Luke 3:4b, 6

Pastor: Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight;

People: all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

People: (sing) Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 1:1–8 ESV

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,"" John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

PRAYER REQUESTS & ATTENDANCE CARDS

Please pass your prayer requests and yellow attendance cards to the individual sitting nearest the aisle and the usher will collect them during the singing of the hymn of the day.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" LSB 344 vs 1-3

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh Awake and hearken for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin Make straight the way for God within And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there

We hail Thee as our Savior Lord Our refuge and our great reward Without Thy grace we waste away Like flow'rs that wither and decay

++ SERMON ++

A JOYFUL HOMECOMING

Text: Isaiah 40:1-11 (Old Testament)

Theme: in Jesus Christ, we have a joyful heavenly homecoming.

Goal: that everyone listening would find comfort in Jesus Christ's first coming that guarantees a heavenly homecoming.

(Please stand)

NICENE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father

Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life

of the world to come. Amen.

(Please be seated or kneel, as you are able, for the Prayers of the Church)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: As we wait in love for the coming of our Lord, let us together, as His advent people, bring our prayers before Him. Father in heaven, You prepare a heavenly home for all who trust in You and come into Your presence through faith in Your Son. By His coming into this world to save us from the devastation of our sins, dying and rising again to make us eternally Yours, we have been reconciled to You. We praise You, Father, for this amazing gift of love and ask that Your Holy Spirit keep Your steadfast love secure in our hearts throughout our days of waiting. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

People: To You alone our prayers we bring!

Pastor: Knowing that You have come once into this world, Lord Jesus, we are confident that You will come again. On that glorious Day when we are all gathered before You, when every knee will bow to You and every tongue confess Your holy name, we will receive the restoration of all things in heaven and on earth that Your Word has promised. Until Your final coming, O Lord, keep us secure in our salvation. Remind us that our waiting is because of Your patience, and that You call us to use this time we have been given to share Your precious Gospel with the world You died and rose again to save. Stir up the hearts of all who hear Your Word this day, that many will come to saving faith and experience the comfort of Your presence in their lives. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

People: To You alone our prayers we bring!

Pastor: As wanderers in this land, O Lord, we experience various types of brokenness and pain, suffering and grief. We lift before You in prayer those we love, who are also loved by You. For those longing for food and shelter, grant Your mercy. For those needing protection and peace, grant Your Spirit. We pray for those in our families and connected to our family of faith who have special concerns of body and spirit, Grant that all who wander find their home in You alone, O Lord. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

People: To You alone our prayers we bring!

Pastor: Comforting Spirit, fill our land, our homes, our workplaces, our schools, and all our interactions with others with Your blessings. Allow this season of waiting and preparation to refocus our hearts and minds upon Your mission for our congregation and for us as individual members of this household of faith. Stir up our hearts to make known to all the wonders You have done, so that more souls may be brought to saving faith and many would join with us in saying, "Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!"

People: To You alone our prayers we bring!

Pastor: Confident in our coming King and Savior, we entrust our prayers into the good and gracious hands of our sovereign God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who lives and reigns, both now and forever.

People: Amen.

OFFERTORY

OFFERING HYMN

"Today Your Mercy Calls Us" LSB 915 vs 1 & 2

Today your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.

Today your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.

▼ SACRAMENT ▼

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might experience a joyful homecoming when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS (sing) LSB 195

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory
Hosanna Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He Blessed is He
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have patiently shown mercy to us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

People: We thank You for the homecoming You promise to all who come to You through faith in Jesus Christ. Send to us Your comforting Spirit as we joyfully remember our Redeemer and receive Him who comes to us in His body and blood.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9–13

People: 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My № body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My № blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI (Sung) LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world have mercy upon us

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" LSB 357 vs 1&2
O, come, o, come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

O, come Thou Wisdom from on high Who ord'rest all things mightily To us the path of knowledge show And teach us in her ways to go Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

THE POST-DISTRIBUTION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (sung) TLH p. 29-30

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING 2 Peter 3:14

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in steadfast love sent Your only-begotten Son into this world of sin, we thank You that for His sake You look upon us "without spot or blemish, and at peace."

People: We praise You for the lasting home You give us as we trust in You.

Pastor: We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION Psalm 130:5; Numbers 6:24-26

Pastor: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

People: and in His word I hope.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with

People: Amen.

HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" LSB 338

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus

Born to set Thy people free

From our fears and sins release us

Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation

Hope of all the earth Thou art

Dear desire of ev'ry nation

Joy of ev'ry longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a king
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

Rev. Paul Pollatz, Pastor
Marie Brown, Organist
Frank Pignanelli, Elder
Laurie Pignanelli, Reader
Bill Switter, Dave Brown, & Kathy King, Ushers

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Tuesday is the last day

Accepting new, unwrapped toys & games for all ages. Please place them in box under the coat rack.

Thank you from Ken Kosmalski

Thank you to Jim & Karen Bumgarner, Scott & Keri Driscoll, Marie Brown, Linda Hurst, Chris Thompson, & Frank Pignanelli. who came and helped decorate the church on Saturday.

Thank you from Mt. Hope Youth Group

Thank you to everyone who baked or donated for the bake sale last Sunday. We raised \$153.

COUNCIL & ELDER METTING

THURSDAY December 14th

COMBINED meeting at 6:30pm
7pm Pastor Grentz, Circuit Visitor discussing the future of Mt. Hope

Louis Bigliardi's

New Address: 7700 Nemco Way Apt 14 Brighton, MI 48116

Phone Number: 810-360-0567

Ladies Christmas Goodies

The lades group is again accepting gently used or new items for the gift table in the narthex. There are many new items this year. Please browse & find that extra Christmas gift. One table has a suggested \$3-\$5 and the rest of the items are free will offering.

Large Quilts - \$45, Small Quilts - \$25.

The proceeds are used to replenish battings for the quilts. Some of the proceeds go to LWML Mite Box and also to Mt. Hope Lutheran.

Any questions, please speak to Bev or Ruth, or Sally. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the ladies of Mt. Hope and all goes for the Glory of God.

BINGO!

December 20th

Quilting

Every Thursday from 10am to 2pm

Attendance

Sunday December 3rd

9:30 am 44

Prayer List

If sudden illness or the need for immediate prayers occurs, please feel free to contact Nancy Dajos at 313-254-2437. Prayer requests will remain on the list for two weeks.

Anniversary Birthdays

Alyssa Corona – December 12th Shayla Ladach – December 14th Jim Smith – December 14th

For the Shut-Ins

Judy Ohannasian, at home
Dorothy MacTavish, at home
Camell Faulk, at home
Phyllis Witte, at rehab
Melvin Kimbrough, at home
Lynn Mayfield, at home

For Those Who Are Sick or Healing

Edward Utcai, Paul Utcai's family, COVID
Patrica Bates, Health Concerns
Debbie, Sam, Amy & Family, safe travels
Trevor Ashley, Paul Utcai's Grandson, Cancer
Marlene Jacobs, Paul Utcai's Cousin, Sickness
Bill Switter, Home recovery
Joan Hafkesbrink, in rehab recovering from
pneumonia

The Family of Fred Roberts, friend of Hagelstein's, called to glory. Former president of E.M.U Alumni Associated.

The Family of Sandro Ferrali, Pignanelli's Nephew, called to eternal life.

Phyllis Witte, Cards and Prayers
 Melvin Kimbrough, in Rehab at Vibra, improving
 The Family of Troy Assemany, called to glory
 Delores Kucharczyk, friend of Pam Benford, healing from hip replacement

A.C Roche, Glenn Cairns Co-worker, recovering from Treatments

Friend of The Pignanelli's, Pancreatic cancer

Important Dates

December 24th- Sunday Service 9:30am
- Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm

December 25th – No Service on Christmas Day

January 7th – (Epiphany Sunday) Church

Un-decorating after church or possibly after

Sunday morning bible study.

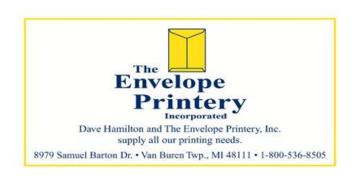
Bible Studies:

Wednesday Morning

No Classes -Dec. 20, Dec. 27

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT MOUNT HOPE

Sunday December 10	9:30am – Worship w/HC Bible Study after service
Wednesday December 13	10am Bible Study
Thursday December 14	10am Quilting 6:30pm Combined Elder & Council 7pm Future of Mt. Hope
Friday December 15	Office Closed
Saturday December 16	5:00pm Church Service
Sunday December 17	9:30am – Worship w/HC Bible Study after service



Wednesday is the last day

