

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

It's All about God's Plan!

December 24, 2023



And the angel [Gabriel] said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus.”

Luke 1:30–31

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: Soon and very soon our waiting and planning for Christmas celebrations will come to their close, and we will rejoice in Christ's coming to save us. Such waiting and planning for Christmas can also guide us as we prepare for Christ's final advent, His ultimate coming, when He returns on the Last Day. Until that glorious Day, when all portions of God's plan for our salvation will be accomplished, we are blessed with the peace "which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). Such peace is an amazing gift that the Lord gave to the virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord, when she received God's Word from the angel Gabriel. According to God's own amazing plan, Mary would carry our salvation in her womb and then, some nine months later, deliver Him into the world He would die and rise again to save. "Let it be to me according to your word," she said, accepting the Lord's plan for her life (Luke 1:38). May we say the same today as we gather in the presence of our God.

(Please stand)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord” *LSB 352 vs 1-3*

**Let the earth now praise the Lord
Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ the sinner’s help and friend**

**What the fathers most desired
What the prophets’ heart inspired
What they longed for many a year
Stands fulfilled in the glory here**

**Abram’s promised great reward
Zion’s helper Jacob’s Lord
Him of two-fold race behold
Truly came as long foretold**

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 37:7a, 34a; Isaiah 30:18*

Pastor: Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for
Him.

People: Wait for the LORD and keep His way.

Pastor: The LORD waits to be gracious to you.

People: He exalts Himself to show mercy to you.

Pastor: For the LORD is a God of justice;

People: blessed are all those who wait for Him.

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: So that we may experience the peace of sins forgiven, let us come before our Lord with humble hearts as we confess together:

People: Gracious Father, we all have sinned and fallen short of Your glory. By what we have done and by what we have failed to do, we have broken Your commands and have not accomplished Your plans for our lives.

Pastor: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, You alone give us the redemption and the restoration, the absolution and the ability to follow Your Word. Through the work of Jesus, the Word made flesh, do for us what is impossible apart from You.

People: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may follow Your plan for our lives and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: In the mercy of our gracious Father, Jesus came into this world, journeying from the crib to the cross, from the tomb and to His throne of glory in order to secure our forgiveness according to God's plan of salvation. Receive His assurance of pardon this day as we celebrate Jesus' coming to save 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 19:1, 4c, 5–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b*

Pastor: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

People: let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

Pastor: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

People: In them He has set a tent for the sun,

Pastor: which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,

People: and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

Pastor: Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,

People: and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

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: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

People: let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

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 Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might,

People: that we may know Your plan of salvation and trust that nothing is impossible with You;

Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16 ESV*

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.” But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’” Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Hallelujah Christmas Lyrics”

Sung by Dave Brown, Jim Bumgarner,
Glenn Carins & Ken Kosmalski

EPISTLE *Romans 16:25–27 ESV*

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

VERSE *Matthew 1:23a*

Pastor: Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

**People: and they shall call His name Immanuel.
Alleluia.**

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

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

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 1:26–38* ESV

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: (sing) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

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

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *LSB 357 vs 1-4*

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!

O, come, o, come, Thou Lord of might,

Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height

In ancient times didst give the Law

In cloud and majesty and awe

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to you, O Israel!

O, come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

++ SERMON ++

(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

Romans 5:1–2; Philipians 4:7; John 14:27; Luke 2:14

Pastor: In the peace of Christ, our coming King, let us bring our prayers before our gracious God.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand.

Pastor: For God’s amazing plan of salvation to reach into our hearts, that all those for whom Christ Jesus came into this world may know the hope, love, joy, and peace of sins forgiven; for perfect peace to reign in the hearts and minds of all who believe, that we may be the Lord’s instruments of peace in a world filled with troubles; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,

People: will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: For the outpouring of the Spirit of peace upon the Church of Christ Jesus, that all who wait for His appearing would be strengthened in their faith and renewed in their boldness to confess His saving name before all the world; for all those who doubt God's plan for their lives, that like the virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit would make His Word come alive in them, transforming them from the inside out; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.

People: Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Pastor: For the comfort and peace of Jesus to touch the lives of all who experience suffering, for Christ's peace to dwell among us as we celebrate His coming to save us, looking forward to the ultimate Day in which He will come again in all power and glory; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: With hearts of gratitude and praise, we join with the hosts of heaven and say:

People: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

Pastor: Into Your hands, O gracious God, we entrust our prayers, through Jesus Christ, our King and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

OFFERTORY

OFFERING HYMN

“A Great and Mighty Wonder” *LSB 383 vs 1 & 2*

A great and mighty wonder

A full and holy cure

The virgin bears the infant

With virgin honor pure

Proclaim the Savior’s birth

To God on high be glory

And peace to all the earth

The Word becomes incarnate

And yet remains on high

And cherubim sing anthems

To shepherds from the sky

Proclaim the Savior’s birth

To God on high be glory

And peace to all the earth

(Please stand)

✠ 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, who alone accomplishes Your plan of salvation and comes to us now, making the impossible possible and transforming our lives by Your Word and Spirit. 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: In Your great mercy, O Father, You sent the angel Gabriel to bring Your Word to the virgin Mary, revealing to her Your plan of salvation.

People: With grateful hearts, we receive Your Word again this day. Favor us with Your grace that we would know Your plan of salvation, offered to us in the body and blood of our Savior.

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name and in the words He has taught us:

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 HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” LSB 357 vs 5-7

**O, come, Thou 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
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**O, come Thou Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**O, come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Yourself our King of Peace
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

(Please stand)

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

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You
have accomplished Your plan of salvation in the
coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior and King.

**People: As You have filled us with the peace of sins
forgiven, inspire us to share this blessing with
others, that they, too, may know Your love and
salvation;**

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

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Romans 16:27; Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: May our gracious God strengthen your hearts,
for His plan of salvation has been revealed to us in
the coming of His Son, our Savior and King.

**People: “To the only wise God be glory forevermore
through Jesus Christ! Amen.”**

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 favor and ☩
give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN

“Hark the Glad Sound” *LSB 349*

Hark the glad sound

The Savior comes

The Savior promised long

Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne

And ev’ry voice a song

He comes the pris’ners to release

In Satan’s bondage held

The gates of brass before Him burst

The iron fetters yield

He comes the broken heart to bind

The bleeding soul to cure

And with the treasures of His grace

To enrich the humble poor

**Our glad hosannas Prince of Peace
Thy welcome shall proclaim
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

Rev. Paul Pollatz, Pastor
Marie Brown, Organist
Dave Brown, Elder & Reader
Jim Bumgarner & Frank Pignanelli, Ushers

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Merry Christmas! &
Happy New Year!**

Ladies Christmas Goodies

The ladies 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!

January 3rd & 17th

Quilting

Every Thursday from 10am to 2pm

Attendance

Sunday December 17th 9:30 am 36

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

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

Bill Fults, Preschool Jackie, home recovering
Family of JoBeth Buckley, Glenn Carins Coworker,
 called to glory
The Family of Jaine Freel, Sandy Carins, called to
 Glory
Diane Torok, friend of Nancy Nolan, Rehab after
 surgery & pray for strength
Pat Gebbink, loss of her son, William
Patrica Bates, Health Concerns

Trevor Ashley, Paul Utcai's Grandson, Cancer

Marlene Jacobs, Paul Utcai's Cousin, Sickness

Bill Switter, Home recovery

Joan Hafkesbrink, moving to assisted living

Melvin Kimbrough, in Rehab at Vibra, improving

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. 27

Sunday Morning

No Class – December 24th

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT MOUNT HOPE

Sunday December 24	9:30am – Worship w/HC 7pm Christmas Eve Service
Monday December 25	Office Closed
Tuesday December 26	Office Closed
Wednesday December 27	Office Closed No Bible Study
Thursday December 28	Office Open 10am Quilting
Friday December 29	Office Open
Saturday December 30	5pm Service
Sunday December 31	9:30am – Worship w/HC Bible Study after Service



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