

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 1, 2024



***The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has
not overcome it. John 1:5***

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

Sunday Service - 9:30am

Sunday Bible Study – after Service

Wednesday Bible Study – 10:30am

Rev. Paul Pollatz

(313) 565- 9445

5323 Southfield

Allen Park, MI 48101

(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

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

PREPARATION

Pastor: The “blame game” has been happening since the fall into sin when Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent for their world-changing transgression. To this day when things go wrong, the “blame game” continues among siblings, spouses, coworkers, elected leaders, and governments around the world. If we are honest, we realize that we often have no one to blame but ourselves, as we are by nature sinful and unclean. In contrast to our “blame game,” we have a blameless Savior who came into this world as one of us. Through Jesus Christ, whose birth we prepare for as we begin this Advent season, we are made holy and blameless in God’s sight. We share Paul’s prayer for the church in Thessalonica to make our hearts blameless: **“May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints”** (1 Thessalonians 3:12–13).

(Please stand)

+ PREPARATION +

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

John 1:5, 9; Genesis 3:15; Psalm 33:20–22

Pastor: Each week in Advent, we light a candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Pastor: The first Advent candle is known as the prophecy candle or the candle of hope. We hear again the first promise and prophesy made in the Garden of Eden after the fall into sin: *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”* The Lord has kept His Word through the mouths of prophets who, for generations, pointed people to the promised Savior to come.

People: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Pastor: Guided by the light of hope, we respond with the psalmist: “Our soul waits for the LORD;

People: He is our help and our shield.

Pastor: For our heart is glad in Him, because we
trust in His holy name.

**People: Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be
upon us, even as we hope in You."**

The first Advent candle is lit.

HYMN

"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!**

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:8–9; Jeremiah 33:14, 16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12–13; Luke 21:28

Pastor: As we begin the Advent season—a time of
preparation for the coming of our Savior and a
time of pondering God's great love for us given in
His Son—we also prepare ourselves to come
before Him in humility and with honesty. If we say

we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: The prophet Jeremiah proclaims, *"The days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made. . . . And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'"*

People: We confess we have not rightly rejoiced in the promises that the Lord made and fulfilled and have instead found our fulfillment in the temporal things of our lives and this world. We have sought our own rightness instead of the Lord's righteousness. Forgive us.

Pastor: Paul prays, *"May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, . . . so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus."*

People: We confess our hearts are full of blame and unholiness. Our love has been misguided and our actions have been self-serving. We have not loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us.

Pastor: As Jesus speaks of the time of His return, He calls His followers to *"straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."*

People: We confess we have not remained ready for Your return, nor realized time is short for the work You've called us to do. We have prioritized other matters instead of Your Word, relied on other things instead of Your presence, and in our thoughts, words, and actions have chosen to live our way instead of by Your commands. Forgive us.

Pastor: The Lord is our righteousness. He alone establishes hearts blameless in holiness at His coming. Redemption draws near. We are declared righteous, blameless, and redeemed because of the living, dying, and rising of our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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 89:6, 14–16, 18; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.

People: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

Pastor: Who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD? Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before You. Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light

of Your face, who exult in Your name all the day and in Your righteousness are exalted. For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

People: Glory be to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

KYRIE (sing) p. 186 in hymnal

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

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

From everlasting to everlasting You are our God, and You come to Your people. In Your Word and in the flesh of Your only-begotten Son, You come that we may know forgiveness, righteousness, and redemption.

People: Prepare us to receive You in this season and always, that our hearts may be made blameless and filled with holiness;

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.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jeremiah 33:14–16*

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Light One Candle”

Sung by Choir

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 3:9–13*

For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

VERSE *Psalms 24:7*

Pastor: Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be
lifted up, O ancient doors,

People: that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia.

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

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

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 21:25–36*

“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all

who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

“Savior of the Nations, Come” *LSB 332 vs 1-4*

**Savior of the nations come
Virgin's Son make here Your home
Marvel now O heav'n and earth
That the Lord chose such a birth**

**Not by human flesh and blood
By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh
Woman's offspring pure and fresh**

**Here a maid was found with child
Yet remained a virgin mild
In her womb this truth was shown
God was there upon His throne**

Then stepped forth the Lord of all
 From His pure and kingly hall
 God of God yet fully man
 His heroic course began

++ SERMON ++

Blameless Hearts

Text: 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 (Gospel Lesson)

Theme: God makes our hearts blameless—in holiness and love.

Goal: That all listeners rely on Jesus to make their hearts blameless through his cross, increasing in love while awaiting his coming again with all his holy ones.

(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: Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus, for His church, and for all people according to their needs. Holy Lord, You sent Your Son into this world to be our Savior from sin and death, that through Him our hearts may be established holy and blameless before You, as He will come again in glory to redeem all His people. Be with us this Advent season and always as we wait upon Him and raise our heads, awaiting the redemption to come at the second advent. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Forgiving Lord, as You have granted us the forgiveness of sins, give us the same heart to forgive those who sin against us, that our love may abound for all people. Bless all our

relationships in our families, friendships, homes, vocations, and communities, that they would reflect the love You have first shown to us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Compassionate Lord, as You come to Your people in need, grant Your continued presence with those who face trials of mind, body, and spirit. Give comfort to all facing affliction and pain, providing healing according to Your will. We lift up those who have asked us as one people to bring prayers before You, As they wait upon You, give a sure and certain confidence of faith in Your promises made and fulfilled. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, as we wait upon the redemption of the world at Christ's second coming, --we do so not alone but with Your continued presence until that day. We thank You for the nourishment You provide through Your means of grace, and especially the forgiveness assured through Christ's body and blood given and shed for us. Be with us as we prepare to receive You in the fellowship of the altar as You come to us still. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY-HYMN

“Lift UP Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

LSB 341 vs 1 & 2

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates

Behold the King of glory waits

The King of kings is drawing near

The Savior of the world is here

Life and salvation He doth bring

Therefore rejoice and gladly sing

To God the Father raise

Your joyful songs of praise

A righteous Helper comes to thee

His chariot is humility

His kingly crown is holiness

His scepter pity in distress

The end of all our woe He brings

Therefore the earth is glad and sings

To Christ the Savior raise

Your grateful hymns of praise

+ 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.

(Please stand)

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 was promised after the fall to crush the serpent's head, who was prophesied through the prophets You called, who when the time was right came into this world in our flesh, and who sacrificed His perfect and blameless body that our hearts may be established holy and blameless through Him as we await His coming again. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS *(we 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 had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: 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.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

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

“Your Table I Approach” LSB 628 vs 1-3

**Your table I approach
Dear Savior hear my prayer
Let not an unrepentant heart
Prove hurtful to me there**

**Lord I confess my sins
And mourn their wretched bands
A contrite heart is sure to find
Forgiveness at your hands**

**Your body and Your blood
Once slain and shed for me
Are taken at Your table Lord
In blest reality**

(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.

People: (spoken) **Amen**

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (we sing) 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

Psalm 136:1; 1 Thessalonians 3:12–13, adapt.

Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

People: for His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: We thank and praise You that as we prepare to
 celebrate Christ's coming in the flesh and His
 promised return, You have come to us now
 through this gift of His body and blood for the
 forgiveness of our sins and nourishment of faith.
 Enable us, equip us, and make us, through faith in
 You, and in fervent love for one another, to

**People: increase and abound in love for one another
 and for all, so that You may establish our hearts
 blameless in holiness before You, our God and
 Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus. Amen.**

CLOSING SENTENCES *John 1:5, 9*

Pastor: The light shines in the darkness, and the
darkness has not overcome it.

**People: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was
coming into the world.**

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

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

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” *LSB 341 vs 3&4*

**How blest the land the city blest
Where Christ the ruler is confessed
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King triumph comes
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav’n’s employ
Adorned with prayer and love and joy
So shall your Sov’reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

Rev. Paul Pollatz, Pastor

Marie Brown, Organist

Jim Bumgarner, Elder & Reader

Gary Mason, Glenn Cairns & Kim Armstrong, Ushers

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Downriver Circuit Youth Group Fundrasier Hosted By: St. John Lutheran Church



Youth Fundraiser

Flea Market & Bake Sale

December 14th, 9a-3p

13115 Telegraph Rd

(in the school building)

Donations appreciated!

**supports the youth groups of*

St. John's (Taylor)

Mt Hope (Allen Park)

*& Trinity (Wyandotte)**



Senior Luncheon

When: Tuesday December 17th @ 1pm

Where: Logan's Steak House in Westland

Call Ruth to confirm

Advent Potluck

TODAY!! right after service



New, Unwrapped children's toys or books
Box out in the Narthex until **December 12th**

Community Service Opportunity

Donations of Cereal Boxes for Blessed Hope.
Please place cereal in grey box by the mailboxes.

BINGO!

December 18th 6pm to 8pm

Bring a friend

Quilting

Every Thursday from 10am to 2pm

Attendance

Saturday November 23rd 5:00pm

Sunday November 24th 9:30 am 32

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

Pamela Brophy – December 5th

For the Shut-Ins

Louis Bigliardi, Assistant Living

Joan Hafkesbrink, at Beaumont Commons

Dorothy MacTavish, at home

Camell Faulk, at home

Phyllis Witte, at Aerius Health Center

Melvin Kimbrough, at home

Lynn Mayfield, at home

For Those Who Are Sick or Healing

Mary Newton, friend of Pollatz, inoperable cancer

Megan & Nathan, daughter & son in law to Cheryl
Smith, health and employment issues.

Bill Morrison, Sandy Cairns' father, now at home

Christian Warden, Prayers for healing

Barabra, Frank's sister, internal shingles

Gary Mason, continuing health concerns

Stanley Faulk, Camell Faulk's son, cancer

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT MOUNT HOPE

Sunday December 1	9:30am – Worship w/HC Advent Potluck after service
Wednesday December 4	Office Closed 10:30am Bible Study
Thursday December 5	Office Closed 10am Quilting
Friday December 6	Office Closed
Saturday December 7	5pm Saturday Service
Sunday December 8	2 nd Sunday in Advent 9:30am – Worship w/HC Bible Study after Service