

4th Sunday of Advent

December 21st, 2025 ~ 8:30am



+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +

2451 Saucon Valley Rd. Center Valley, PA 18034

Office: 610-865-4144

The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell, Pastor ~ 610-762-2139

Quinette Brucker, Dir. of Music/Organist

WELCOME

() Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

***Opening Litany (by Fran Pratt)**

P: Creator God, we have celebrated the hope, peace, and joy that come from You. And now we celebrate love which is Your very nature.

C: You formed the universe out of the void and breathed life into your creatures, all because of your great love.

P: Humanity rejected You, but because of your love, You made a way to restore us to relationship with Yourself.

C: Love made a way. That love is Jesus Christ who entered the world in humility and compassion.

P: It is His example by we live — protecting, trusting, honoring, persevering, and hoping.

C: May our hearts always be illumined with the light of Christ's love. Amen.

***Opening Hymn #257 (vss. 1-4) “O Come, O Come ...”**

***The Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. ~ Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

P: 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.**

Advent Candle Lighting (4th candle is lit)

“We Light a Candle” (verse 4 sung together ~ see insert)

Prayer

We praise You, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

The First Reading ~ Isaiah 7: 10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Emmanuel, God is with us!

¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ 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 Emmanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ 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.**

Psalm 80 (selective verses, read responsively)

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and come to help us.

³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴ **O LORD God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹ **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

The Second Reading ~ Romans 1: 1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ 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, ⁵ 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, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ — ⁷ 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.**

*The Gospel Acclamation



*The Holy Gospel ~ Matthew 1: 18-25

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

The Holy Gospel according to the 1st chapter of St. Matthew.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ 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.**

Sermon

*Hymn #263

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

*The Apostles' Creed (professed together)

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.

*Prayer of the Church

After each prayer petition, please respond:

God of grace ... **Hear our prayer.**

Anthem

“An Advent Litany”

The Blessing of the Communion Elements

The Lord's Prayer (traditional ~ prayed by all)



+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

Communion will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the wafer will be dipped in the chalice so that both elements are received together.

Post Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

P: God for whom we wait, in this meal You give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Closing Hymn #439

“Soon and Very Soon”

*The Dismissal

Go in peace to prepare the way for the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music



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thank you

...to Lisa Kurtz for serving as our lector

... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech

The altar flowers have been sponsored by
Kevin & Cathy Filler for our Anniversary





To be remembered in prayer ... Richard Eisenhart, Hope Geary, Jeanne Logan, Steve Schoepple, Barb Shaneberger, Tyler and Elizabeth, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, violence, and natural disasters, and other dear ones whom we name before God. †



Please join us for worship on Christmas Eve,
Wed., December 24th at 6pm.

Preludes begin at 5:45pm. All are welcome!

Our church sanctuary is brightened this Advent and Christmas season with a new tree which is presented in memory of Jeff Edwards by his loving family as this holiday would always bring much joy to his heart. Adorning the tree is also a special shining star in loving memory of granddaughter, Emersynn Isla Kaintz.

