



Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20 & 21st, 2025

Announcements

Introduction

More often than not, when God comes close it results in a major scandal. Our sensibilities are offended and misunderstandings fly about. When "God is with us" it's likely that public disgrace and secret dismissals will soon follow, because, essentially, when God comes close life gets disrupted.

It's under these embarrassing circumstances that the creator of the universe wants to enter humanity. Strange entrance, right? For the sake of loving us, God comes to us at the very center of scandal, both in the cradle and on the cross. So this is what it looks like when God comes close: humble and vulnerable. In Jesus, God is bringing about the dream for mending families and relationships, nations at war, the environment and all of creation. Now that's good news for all people.

Litany

At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.
O Emmanuel, **Surprise us by your coming.**

We gather together to let God's good news reorient our lives.
O Emmanuel, **Surprise us by your coming.**

We wait for the day when all the world will see the sign that God is with us.
O Emmanuel, **Surprise us by your coming.**

We are shocked by how God comes close, even at this very moment.
O Emmanuel, **Surprise us by your coming.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Let us pray. Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with the glow of hope. Amen.

Hymn 257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, v. 4 Light all four candles.

HOLY BAPTISM OF CLAIRE ELIZABETH WAGNER AND THOMAS WAGNER

PRESENTATION

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors:

I present Claire Elizabeth Wagner for baptism.

I present Thomas Wagner for baptism.

Thomas, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

Alissa and Thomas, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Claire Elizabeth baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

As you bring Claire to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that she may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Claire grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

Kortney and Josh, do you promise to nurture Claire in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Claire and Thomas and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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 hell,
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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

Claire Elizabeth, I baptize you in the name of the Father,*
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.

Thomas, I baptize you in the name of the Father,*
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Claire Elizabeth with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Sustain Thomas with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Claire Elizabeth, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Thomas, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

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Please remember the following people in your prayers: Anne Balko, Tara Henry, Larry Tweedale, and Margi Beauchaine Kirby.

Nursing Home: Norma Secreast

Assisted Living: Pepper VanLandschoot (Jacobetti), Pauline Elavsky – Harbour View,
and Jane Guyott

In Service: Craig Oas, Zac Culter, Mike Knickerbocker, Peter Peterson, Mathew Moilanen,
and our veterans who have returned to their communities.

PRESIDING MINISTER: Elaine Robbins

ASSISTING MINISTER: George – Saturday Volunteer - Sunday

USHERS: Volunteer – Saturday Perttulas – Sunday

MUSICIAN: Candace Dennis

ALTAR GUILD: Marissa Graves

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Lynn & Billie

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Saturday, December 27th – Saturday Worship Service - 4:00 pm – In person

Sunday, December 28th - Sunday Worship Service 10:30am - In person & Facebook

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There will be an Ecumenical Blue Christmas service on Monday, December 22nd at 6:00p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Munising.

Eden will hold a Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 24th at 4:00p.m.

The Prayer Group meets on Tuesdays at 10:00a.m.



GIVE USING VANCO ONLINE OR IN THE APP

You can now use Vanco to give online or using the mobile app. Make a one-time gift, or set up a recurring offering.



If Saturday or Sunday worship will be cancelled due to inclement weather, a notice will be posted on Eden's Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/EdenLutheranMunising/

It will also be listed on WLUC TV6's closing page.

www.uppermichiganssource.com/weather/closings/

Serving the congregation during worship - Please consider volunteering on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings to usher, read lessons and prayers, assist with communion, or host fellowship.

Flower Sponsors Are always appreciated. Flower sponsorship is \$30 a month. Your gift may be placed in the offering with a notation for flowers and your selected month.

Support our Youth Fund by dropping off returnable cans and bottles at the church.

If you have changed any of your contact information (address, phone, email), please complete the directory update form in narthex.

CHURCH CONTACT INFO: Please note the email addresses you should use for contacting the office and the pastor.

Office: eden@jamadots.com

Pastor: pastorofeden@gmail.com

For Pastoral Care needs, please contact Vicar Elaine Robbins
906-450-3344, or pastorofeden@gmail.com

Holden Evening Prayer

Setting by Marty Haugen

1. SERVICE OF LIGHT

Procession

Leader: Jesus Christ is the light of the world;
All: **the light no darkness can overcome;**
Leader: Stay with us now, for it is evening,
All: **and the day is almost over.**
Leader: Let your light scatter the darkness,
All: **and shine within your people here.**

Evening Hymn (*All sing.*)

1. Joyous light of heavenly glory, loving glow of God's own face,
you who sing creation's story, shine on every land and race.
Now as evening falls around us, we shall raise our songs to you,
God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.
2. In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn,
of the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song.
Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul,
Love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.
3. You who made the heaven's splendor, every dancing star of night,
make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect our light.
Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way,
loving spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.

Evening Thanksgiving

Leader: May God be with you all,
All: **and also with you**
Leader: Let us sing our thanks to God,
All: **it is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe, from old you have led your people by night
and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and
your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all
creation.

All: **Amen**

2. PSALMODY, READINGS AND CANTICLES

Psalm 141 (*All sing.*)

Let my prayer rise up as incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.
O God, I call to you, come to me now;
hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer rise up as incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

Keep watch within me, God;
deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright.

Let my prayer rise up as incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

All praise to the God of all, Creator of life;
all praise to the Christ and the Spirit of love.

Let my prayer rise up as incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

Silence for meditation

Leader: May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

All: **Amen**

READING: Psalm 85:8-13

Silence for reflection.

READING: Romans 8:18-25

Silence for reflection.

Leader: The light shines in the darkness

All: **and the darkness has not overcome it.**

THE ANNUNCIATION

Leader: And angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God most high." And Mary said, "I am a servant of my God, I live to do your will."

THE MAGNIFICAT *(All sing.)*

1. My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you,

You have looked with love on your servant here,
and blessed me all my life through.
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One,
strong is your kindness evermore.
How you favor the weak and lowly one,
humbling the proud of heart.

2. You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,
and uplifted the humble of heart,
you have filled the hungry with wonderful things,
and left the wealthy no part.
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One,
strong is your justice, strong your love,
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.
3. My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love on your servant here,
and blessed me all my life through.

3. LITANY AND PRAYERS

Refrain (*Sung by all after each verse.*)
God of mercy, hold us in love.

- Leader:
1. In peace, in peace we pray to you:
 2. For peace and salvation, we pray to you:
 3. For peace between nations, peace between peoples:
 4. For we who are gathered to worship and praise you:
 5. For all of your servants who live out your gospel:
 6. For all those who govern that justice might guide them:
 7. For all those who labor in service to others:
 8. Grant weather that nourishes all of creation:
 9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger:
 - 10: For all the beloved who rest in your mercy:

All: Help us, comfort us, all of our days:
Keep us, hold us, gracious God.

Leader: Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live you Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

Leader: God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

All: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come: your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Leader: Let us bless our God:

All: **praise and thanks to you.**

Leader: **May God, Creator, bless us and keep us, may Christ be ever light for our lives, may the Spirit of love be our guide and path, for all of our days.**

All: **Amen.**