

# Union Lutheran Church

Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded,  
and Congregationally Focused

4770 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury, NC 28146  
(704) 636-5092 ~ <http://ulcsalisbury.org>



---

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

---

*(Please stand when indicated by \*)*

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal  
With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *The King Shall Come* (Nelson)

### GATHERING

\* Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness

P The days are coming, says the Lord, when God's promises to Israel and Judah will be fulfilled. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship, in the name of the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. (Jeremiah 33:14)

**C Amen.**

P The Lord proclaimed, "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me." Let us take this time to examine ourselves, asking for forgiveness for the things which we have done that are not pleasing to the Lord and the things which we have neglected. (Malachi 3:1)

*(Silence for self-reflection and examination)*

P God of grace,

**C we confess that we have not been attentive to the urgent call to prepare for the coming of your Son. Prepare our hearts to follow Jesus in doing your holy will. Forgive us, we pray, and shape our lives according to the cross of Christ who has called us to walk in his ways. Restore us to a right relationship with you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P In the name of Jesus, God's only Son who came to do the will of his Father, you are forgiven. By Christ's holy sacrifice your sins are wiped clean and you are made right with our heavenly Father. Rejoice in this free gift and take it to heart.

**C Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\* HYMN: *The Advent of Our God*

LBW# 22

\* Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ for whom we wait, the love of the Father who will never let us go, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

\* Kyrie *(spoken not sung)*

LBW p. 78-79

(Hymn of Praise is omitted during the season of Advent.)

\* Salutation

\* Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that by his coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

Children's Message and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Kids Choir

(2nd Candle Watching/Mary)

First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup>In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Psalm 72:1-7 *sung responsively (Congregation (bold) and Choir (not bolded))*

Choir <sup>1</sup>Give the King your jus- | tice, O God,\*  
and your righteousness to | the King's Son;

**C <sup>2</sup>That he may rule your | people righteously\*  
and the | poor with justice;**

Choir <sup>3</sup>That the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,\*  
and the little | hills bring righteousness.

**C <sup>4</sup>He shall defend the needy a- | mong the people;\*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush | the oppressor.**

Choir <sup>5</sup>He shall live as long as the sun and | moon endure,\*  
from one generation | to another.

**C <sup>6</sup>He shall come down like rain upon | the mown field,\*  
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

Choir <sup>7</sup>In his time shall the | righteous flourish;\*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

Epistle Lesson: Romans 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." <sup>10</sup>And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." <sup>11</sup>And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." <sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." <sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

\* Gospel Acclamation

LBW p. 83

\* Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." <sup>3</sup>For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" <sup>4</sup>Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Sermon: *Prepare the Way*

Pastor Heidi Punt

\* HYMN: *Prepare the Royal Highway*

LBW# 26

Church Council Recognition, Installation, and Reaffirmation

\* Nicene Creed

LBW p. 84

\* Prayer of the Church & Sharing of the Peace

LBW p. 85-86

Offering *The Offering is received as the Lord's Table is prepared. All loose offering will go towards the Social Ministry Fund. During the month of December, the Benevolence Teaching*

*Moment is on Food for the Poor). Please prayerfully consider giving to the Benevolence Fund.*  
Organ Offertory: *An Advent Introit* (Birchwood)

## MEAL

\* Offertory (“*Let the Vineyards...*”)

LBW p. 86

\* Offertory Prayer

P Loving God, we give you thanks for the generous gifts you have first given us. May that which we offer to you, come joyfully from our hearts and be pleasing in your sight.

**C Amen.**

\* Great Thanksgiving & Sanctus

LBW p. 88-89

\* Words of Institution

LBW p. 89

\* Lord’s Prayer

LBW p. 91

Lamb of God & Distribution of Communion

LBW p. 92

*At Union Lutheran Church the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday. All baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper are invited to commune. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. For those who prefer individually sealed units please indicate. Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request. Please fill out a communion card located in the pew and hand to the Usher while following their directions to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.*

\* Post-Communion Cantic (“*Thank the Lord...*”)

LBW p. 92

\* Post-Communion Prayer

P God of new beginnings, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Strengthen us for the journey of faith as we wait and watch for the Lord’s Messiah to break into our world in ever amazing ways.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

\* Benediction

P As you go from this place, remember that with God, nothing is impossible. May God the Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit go before you, beside you, and with you wherever you go. (Luke 1:37)

**C Amen.**

\* HYMN: *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

LBW# 35

\* Sending

P You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament now go therefore and make disciples of all nations

**C Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

P Union Lutheran Church you are sent!

**C Amen, amen, amen**

Postlude: *People, Look East* (arr. Nelson)



SCAN ME

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 2 (pages 77-97)

Augsburg Fortress [Copyrighted element(s)] [Copyright notice] Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license# SBL10475L. AF Liturgies License. Augsburg Fortress [Copyrighted element(s)]

[Copyright notice]

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license# SBL10475H. AF Hymns License.

CCLI License #20615971 & CCLI Streaming License #20615988 Sola Publishing (www.solapublishing.org),

Sola Online Worship Resource Site Permission is granted to active subscribers for local congregational use.

---

# Union News

---

## Sunday's Activities, December 4):

**9:15 a.m.** Kids Choir (Preschool-5th grade) will be singing at 10:30 a.m.

**9:35 a.m.** Sunday School

Children & Youth: The Passover Promise ~ Exodus 12:1-32

Adult Sunday School Class: Zechariah Hears from God ~ Luke 1:8-20

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

**Recognition of outgoing Church Council:** Jennifer Curlee, Lucinda Fraley, Brad Huffman, Gladys Morgan, and Ron Vellines

**Installation of New Council Members** Ali Davis, Vicki Hunter, Sharon Leazer, Dusty Morgan, Sr., and Debbie Rinehart

**Church Council Affirmation:** Larry Barringer, Amanda Cauble, Tara Davis, Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt, Lisa Graczyk, Steve Hutchens, and Matt Miller

**10:30 a.m. Noisy Offering** will be collected to assist with cost of Children's Live Nativity gift and Shut-ins Caroling Basket

Following worship, a brief **Live Nativity meeting** will be held.

**4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.** Union and Salem Middle/High School Youth at Union

*Please note: Union Women's Christmas Party has been cancelled for today.*

*During the season of Advent, the Altar Greenery is given to the glory of God*

---

## This Weeks' Activities:

Tuesday, Dec. 6

5:45 p.m. Advent Dinner

(sponsored by the Good Timers)

6:30 p.m. Advent Service and Confirmation

Proclaim the Wondrous Birth of Samuel

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 1:10-20; Acts 3:17-26; and

Luke 1:46-55

Advent Offering – Social Ministry Fund

Wednesday, Dec. 7

10:30 a.m. Advent Service

Proclaim the Wondrous Birth of Samuel

12 noon Advent Lunch

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, Dec. 8

9:45 a.m. Good Timers business meeting

10:00 a.m. Y Singers and Nursing Home residents

**NEEDED: Small Trees** are needed by **Saturday, December 10**, to fix nativity scenes for the Live Nativity. Please contact Elbert Kluttz if you have Trees you can cut and bring to the cemetery.

---

## Next Sunday's Activities (December 11):

**9:15 a.m.** Kids Choir (Preschool-5th grade) will be singing at 10:30 a.m.

**9:30 a.m.** Youth Chime Practice

**9:35 a.m.** Sunday School

Children & Youth: God Cares for His People ~ Exodus 16

Adult Sunday School Class: Zechariah Speaks ~ Luke 1:57-66, 76-79

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Scriptures for Sunday, December 11: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:1-10;

James 5:7-11; Matthew 11:2-15; Theme: *Fear Not*

**10:30 a.m. Noisy Offering** will be collected to assist with cost of Children's Live Nativity gift and Shut-ins Caroling Basket

Following worship, Live Nativity **costumes** will be available for pick up.

**1:00 p.m.** Church Council and Staff Christmas Party

**3:00 p.m.** Mission Team & Social Ministry

**4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.** Little Lutherans (5th grade and younger)

*Deadline for Poinsettia booklet information.*

*During the season of Advent,*

*the Altar Greenery is given to the glory of God.*

Setting up for the Live Nativity will begin on Monday, December 12.

### ***Proclaim the Wondrous Birth of John the Baptist***

Dutch Meeting Hall

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:1-8; Acts 13:22-25; Luke 1:5-25

**Advent Supper on December 13 at 5:45 p.m.** soup & sandwiches sponsored by the Property, Cemetery, and Columbarium Committee

**Advent Services:**

**Tuesday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, December 14, at 10:30 a.m.** with lunch following

***Drop off for cookies for the Live Nativity & Shut-Ins Caroling:***

*Friday, December 16, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.*

*Saturday, December 17, from 9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.*

*Volunteers & Good Timers will prepare the goodies bags for children and shut-ins at **9:30 a.m.** on Saturday, Dec. 17.*

For two inspirational afternoons before Christmas, Bethlehem comes alive in Salisbury, NC. Join the congregation of Union Lutheran Church as it transforms its church grounds to telling the story of our Savior's birth with a drive thru Live Nativity on Saturday, December 17 & Sunday, December 18, from 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bring neighbors, friends, and families of all ages! Refreshments provided. Donations gladly accepted.

Following the Live Nativity on **Sunday, December 18**, the Worship & Music Committee is hosting a **Chili Supper** before **Christmas Caroling** to our shut-ins. All are welcome to dinner and Caroling!

## Poinsettias

**Please note date & time changes:** Everyone is invited to bring your own poinsettia from home on **Friday, December 23**, from **10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.** or on **Saturday, December 24**, from **10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.** to decorate the Sanctuary.

All who participate are requested to wait till Sunday, December 25, following worship before taking your flower home.

If you would like to place a memorial or honorarium with your poinsettia, please send the information to the church office by **December 11**.

Please remember to mark your poinsettia with your name so you'll know which flower to pick up on the 25th.

### *Christmas Services Schedule:*

*Saturday, Christmas Eve Candlelight Services  
at 4:00 p.m. (Informal) & 8:00 p.m.*

*Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day at 10:30 a.m. (No Sunday School)*

### **How Can You Serve?**

The Sunday School Classes are serving the Union Fire Department by collecting **individual snacks** and drinks for the Union Fire Department to grab and eat on their way out for a call. These items can be protein bars, energy bars, beef jerky, water, Gatorade, etc.

A plastic container is available in the doorway across for the Music Room for the items or you can turn them in the Grade School "Joy" classroom.

Everyone is invited to participate in this month's Sunday School project!

### **Those Serving in December**

**Guest Organist:** Nancy Sloop

**Acolytes:** Jordan and Mallory Eagle

**Altar Guild:** Robyn Arey, Mary Hutchens, and Patsy Lyerly

**Communion Assistants:** Vicki Hunter, Elbert Kluttz, and Franklin Merrell

**Lay Readers:** Robyn Arey, Vicki Hunter, Ruby Leazer,  
Wayne and Pam Vellines

**Ushers:** Mike Cauble, Phil Cauble (HU), Elbert Kluttz,  
Wade Leazer, and Ronald Vellines

### **Offering Counters:**

Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt, Sonya Mulkey, and Vivian Sprinkle

**Current Fund Financial Information:**

Offering received Sunday, November 27	\$3,021.00
Weekly offering needed to meet our Ministry Support plan	\$5,556.00

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...**

**Nursing Home Residents** - Brenda Mahaley, Pat & Wayne Miller, and Ruth Monroe (Autumn Care), and Jean Ray (Brookdale)

**Homebound Members** – Arnold Cauble, Rachel Earnhardt, Jean Kluttz, Frances Norris, Billy Waller, and Michael Walton

**Sick/Surgery/Recovery** - Kathleen Agner, Evonne Batten, Bill Broadway, Mike Cauble, Ashley Deaton, Glenn Eagle, Linda Hartley, Steve Hutchens, Tommy and Joan Kerns, James Kluttz, Pat Kluttz, Nancy Kesler, John Knight, Eric Miller, Donnie Miller, Dwight Miller, Harold Miller, Dusty Morgan, Gladys Morgan, Jesse Morgan, Sr., Kay Morgan, William Page, Doug Peeler, Sylvia Peeler, Wyatt Thompson, and Effie Vellines

**Continual Prayer** - Nancy Ballew (mother of Kat Clifton), Nancy Barringer (cousin of Larry Barringer), Shonna Black (daughter of Jack and Deena Lanning), Gary Brown (friend of Karen Barringer), Vanna Calloway (friend of Kat Clifton), Janet Dunning (sister of Doris Shepherd), Pastor Brack East (NALC Pastor), June Fraley, Pastor Gross (NALC Pastor in Ukraine with Russian invasion), Drew Harrington (granddaughter of Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt), Amy Lowder Harrison and Jesse Morgan, Jr., Terry Holt (friend of Frank and Dawn Merrell), Emily Jones (sister of Jimmy Plyler), Teresa Kesler, Bobby Lippard (friend of Union), Glenn and Betty Sue Lowder, Patsy Lyerly and Family, Joe and Sylvia McDaniel, David Mitchell (friend of Pete Nguyen), Della Morgan (mother of Pam Vellines), Dusty Morgan, Sr. Family (Dusty, Sr., Lisa, Felisaty, and Dusty, Jr.), Ralph Neilson (relative of Evonne Batten), Hong Nguyen (mother of Pete Nguyen), Marvin Nunn, Sally Simmerson (friend of Lucinda Fraley), Ben Smith (brother in law of Cathy Painter), Hailey Swanson (granddaughter of Janie Lesley), James and Mary Trexler (sister of Brenda and Linda Cauble), Brinley Rose Upchurch, Kim Walton (friend of Lucinda Fraley), Union Fire Department #76, Haiti (gangs), Nigerian Christians, and those affected by natural or political disasters.

**Confirmation Students:** Caylea Cline, Mallory Eagle, Bailey Wilhelm, and Lucas Wilhelm

**PART FOUR: Holy Baptism ~ The Daily Purpose of Baptism**

*Where is this written? St. Paul says in Romans: “We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4)*



*(Martin Luther's Small Catechism 2010 Edition Sola Publishing-Pocket Version, page 25)*