

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



December 3, 2017
8 a.m.

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
East High and South Bedford Streets, Carlisle, Pennsylvania
Church Office: (717) 249-3310
www.firstlutherancarlisle.org

We worship, welcome, witness, teach and serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

Welcome to First Lutheran! We are happy you are here as we gather to be strengthened, fed and blessed by God for mission in the world.

Today is the First Sunday of Advent. Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

To our guests: Thank you for worshiping with us this morning! Please feel free to ask a neighbor in your pew if you have any questions about the service or our building. We invite you to provide your name and contact information using one of the yellow cards in the pew rack. You may place the completed card in the offering plate. Please join us again soon!

We will be celebrating the sacrament of holy communion this morning. We believe that in the bread and wine of holy communion we are offered the gift of Christ's body and blood. We welcome all baptized Christians to our Lord's table, where we are united with the saints of every time and every place. Those not communing this morning are encouraged to come forward for a blessing. More information about communion distribution is provided in the bulletin. If you have not yet recorded communion during this calendar year, please complete a communion card (available in the pew rack) and place it in the offering plate.

We invite and encourage children of all ages to be present in worship – even very young children can start learning songs and prayers and the “rhythm” of worship (and it's okay if they make a little noise once in a while!). A nursery (accessible via the narthex staircase down to our ground floor) is available during the 10:30 a.m. service; activity bags are also always available in the narthex.

Everything you will need for this service, with the exception of the hymns, is included in this bulletin. The hymns are found in the back half of the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW).

***Indicates to please stand if you are able.**

Attendance last Sunday, Nov. 26, 8 a.m.: 22, 10:30 a.m.: 107 (129); 4 p.m.: 15

Welcome and Announcements***Confession and Forgiveness**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

C **Amen**

P Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Please kneel or sit.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P God of all time,

C **we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen**

P Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

C **Amen**

Please stand.

***Apostolic 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. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

The psalm is read responsively: the lector reads the light print; the congregation reads the bold print.

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

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

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

O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray? You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

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.

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

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

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

℣ The word of the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

***Holy Gospel: Mark 13:24-37**

ℙ The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

ℙ The Gospel of the Lord.

☩ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day ELW 260 *The King Shall Come

***Nicene Creed**

- P** Let us profess the faith of the church.
- C** **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

***Prayers**

- A** Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

Response: **A** Lord, in your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** **Amen**

***Sharing of Christ's Peace**

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C** **And also with you.**

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of peace: a handshake, a hug or a kiss, saying: "Peace be with you." After greeting one another, please be seated.

*Offertory Prayer

- A** Let us pray. Savior of the nations,
- C** **come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving

*Dialogue, Preface and Sanctus

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Eucharistic Prayer and Lord's Prayer

- P** Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

☩ Amen. 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

***Breaking the Bread**

P Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

Distribution of Communion

Please come forward by the center aisle. Individual glasses are available on the table at the front. Starting at the chapel (left) side and filling in across to the pulpit (right) side, please kneel or stand at the communion rail as you are able. If you are not communing and wish to receive a blessing, please indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest. Return to your pew by the side aisle, placing your glass on the empty tray located there.

***Post-Communion Blessing and Prayer**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☩ Amen

A Let us pray. God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

☩ Amen

***Benediction**

☐ May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☑ **Amen**

***Hymn ELW 244**

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

***Dismissal**

☐ Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Magnificat Octavi Toni

Johann Erasmus Kindermann

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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~ Serving in Worship ~

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Lisa M. Leber

Assisting Minister: Sandra Kohler

Minister of Music: Andy Hoke

Lector: Amy Baish

Greeter/Usher: Sandra Jumper

Communion Setup/Cleanup: Monica Frederick

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Joan's father, The Rev. Clyde Fry, and Charles's mother, Doris Inners, by Charles and Joan Inners.

PRAYER LIST

Ann & Patrick	Ryan Haggerty	Gary Palmerchuck
Cindy & family	Gordon Hamilton	David Park
Helen & Melanie	Billie Jo Hess	Bailey Parrish
Joshua	Shirley Hess	Tim Parrish
Judi & Kristi	Tyler Hess	Cheryl Parsons
Dorene Berry	Joanne Ingerson	Christine Ramond
Lauren Cozort	Emmalynn Jones	Sue Simmons
The Eshelman Family	Jeffrey Kline	Jack Stum
Eugene Failor	Nikki Knerr	Teresa Williams
Don Fry	Lynda Kondratovicz	Ashley Zink
Logan Haggerty	Michael Noss	

POINSETTIA AND WREATH ORDERS: Poinsettias and wreaths will be purchased to decorate the nave for Christmas. If you wish to order a poinsettia(s) or sponsor a wreath in memory of, in honor of, or in thanksgiving for, a loved one, you may pick up an order form on the kiosk in the narthex or in the church office. **Orders must be received by Sunday, December 17.**

Please plan to return at 11:30 a.m. this morning to help decorate for Advent and Christmas! Pizza and drinks will be available while we hang wreathes, put ornaments on trees, and set up the crèche. Please join us!

During this time, our youth will be wrapping large empty boxes with Christmas paper (leaving the top open). These boxes will be available for you to take home and fill during Advent with needed items for clients of the Domestic Violence shelter, Carlisle C.A.R.E.S. and Carlisle Family Life Center (a list of needed items will be provided). You can add an item each day as part of your Advent devotions or fill the box on a Christmas shopping trip. We hope that you will stick a bow on your filled box, bring it to worship on Christmas Eve, and put it under the chrismon Christmas tree in the nave! Help us celebrate the birth of Jesus by sharing with our neighbors in need!

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE gifts are to be placed in a large black plastic bag (one for each child) with the angel tag placed around the tied bag and **brought to the church office no later than tomorrow morning.**

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Sunday	Dec. 3	Sunday Church School	9:15 a.m.
		Holy Communion	10:30 a.m.
		Hanging of the Greens & Youth Activity	11:30 a.m.
Tuesday	Dec. 5	Staff Meeting	2 – 3 p.m.
		MLK Commemoration Committee – <i>Festal Hall</i>	6 p.m.
		Lutheran Camping Corp. Board Meeting – <i>Room 16</i>	6:30 p.m.
		Cantate Carlisle Rehearsal	7 – 10 p.m.
Wednesday	Dec. 6	WELCA Bible Study – <i>Room 16</i>	9:30-11 a.m.
		Christmas Ensemble Rehearsal – <i>Martin Luther Room</i>	5 p.m.
		Soup & Bread Supper – <i>Martin Luther Room</i>	6:15 p.m.
		Advent Evening Prayer	7 p.m.
		Worship & Music Committee – <i>Room 16</i>	7:30 p.m.
Thursday	Dec. 7	'Round-the-Tree Carol Sing Planning Mtg. – <i>Festal Hall</i>	5 p.m.
		Bell Choir	6 p.m.
		Chancel Choir	7 p.m.
Friday	Dec. 8	Cantate Carlisle Rehearsal	6:30 – 10 p.m.
Saturday	Dec. 9	Carlisle Homeschool Youth Choir Rehearsal	9 a.m. – 12 noon
		Tai Chi – <i>Festal Hall</i>	3 – 4 p.m.
		Cantate Carlisle Concert	8 p.m.
Sunday	Dec. 10	Holy Communion	8 & 10:30 a.m.
		Sunday Church School	9:15 a.m.
		Cantate Carlisle Concert	3 p.m.

Coffee and tea are available in the Martin Luther Room lounge between services.

2018 offering envelopes are available in the narthex. Please pick up your box today. Please contact Robin in the church office (249-3310) with any questions.

We invite each household to pick up a copy of *Oh Holy Night*, a daily devotional booklet that contains family devotions and activities for Advent. We hope this devotional will provide a prayerful journey for you and your family as you prepare for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Prior to Evening Prayer on Wednesdays (beginning Dec. 6) during Advent, we will offer a soup and bread supper beginning at 6:15 p.m. in the Martin Luther Room. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex if you wish to bring soup or bread. Please join us!

MUSIC FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN: We are excited to involve our young people in music for the Advent and Christmas seasons! Youth Choir is for middle and high school students and Cherub Choir is for younger kids ages 4 and up. If you know someone who would like to participate and I haven't talked to you already, please let me know!

Youth Choir: Rehearsals in the choir room will be held next Sunday, Dec. 10 at 9 a.m. and 11:40 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 16 at 9:30 a.m. (dismissal after we do your carol). Please attend as many rehearsals as you can, but at least one. The Youth Choir will be singing on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. (Lessons & Carols) and Sunday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. (Christmas Eve).

Cherub Choir: Rehearsal in the choir room will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 11:40 a.m. The Cherub Choir will be singing on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 10 a.m.

“I am the bread of life”

The Worship and Music Committee recently voted to begin using loaves of bread, rather than wafers, for most communion services at First Lutheran. While the individual wafers we have been using for years are convenient, there is something quite powerful about seeing, breaking and sharing a loaf of bread as we gather around Christ's table.

As the ELCA's statement *The Use of the Means of Grace* explains, “A loaf of bread and a chalice are encouraged since they signify the unity which the sacrament bestows...The use of leavened bread is the most ancient attested practice of the Church and gives witness to the connection between the Eucharist and ordinary life.”

We will begin using loaves of bread on Sunday mornings during the season of Advent. We will continue to use wafers when we commune by intinction at large festival services, such as Christmas Eve and Easter, and at funerals.

Though using bread can be a bit messier – not every piece torn from a loaf is the same size, some pieces are all crust, crumbs fall to the floor – our prayer is always this:

“As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathered into one to become our bread; so may all your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you.”
[ELW 465, based on the Didache]