

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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PASTOR: Rev. Paul Kollek

MUSIC MINISTRY LEADER: Teri Lynn Barnaby

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Hope Lutheran Church exists to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ, and to develop our lives as his disciples.

**Rejoice in the Lord Always!
December 15, 2024**

AS WE GATHER

The weeks of Advent are a time for faithful listening. For centuries before the coming of Jesus, specially chosen messengers of God brought hope to God's people with words of encouragement. An often-heard prophetic voice is that of Isaiah, who told of the fulfillment of God's promises to His faithful people. In chapter 12 of Isaiah, we hear the prophet exclaim: "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation" (12:2). As the season of Advent progresses, we hear more and more voices announcing that God's plan of salvation is being fulfilled. John the Baptist calls out in the wilderness, telling us to repent of our sins as we prepare for the coming of the Savior. With Mary, we hear the message of the angel Gabriel, announcing that God is coming in person and that His coming will be a great blessing to all people. With joyful anticipation, we listen for the message of the coming salvation and respond with songs of praise.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

John 1:5, 9; 15:10–11; Psalm 100:1–5

- P** We light the third Advent 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.
- C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- P** The third, pink Advent candle has been known as the shepherd candle or the candle of joy. The third Sunday of Advent is known also as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* in Latin means "rejoice," as found in Philippians 4:4. We find our joy in Christ this season and always as we prepare to celebrate His birth. Jesus affirms the joy found only in Him as we remain connected to Him: "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."
- C** **The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**

P Guided by the light of joy, we respond with the psalmist: “Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!”

C **Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

P Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

C **Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

P For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

C **and His faithfulness to all generations.”**

ADVENT HYMN: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (LSB 357 v.1--3)

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN: Once in Royal David’s City (LSB 376)

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Philippians 4:4–7

P As we gather today to hear God’s Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, we come before Him as people who are broken by an imperfect world, burdened by sin, and bearing guilt for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. In the midst of our condition, the Word of God speaks to us. In today’s Epistle, we hear, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”

C **We confess we do not rejoice in everything; instead, we let the weight of this world bring us down. Instead of seeing all good things from Your hand, at times we focus on that which does not give You glory nor bring lasting joy to our lives.**

P “Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.”

C **We confess we have at times been unreasonable in our relationships with others and in our relationship with You. Our witness to Your grace has faltered.**

P “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

C **We confess we have been anxious about our sin and our circumstances of life. Create in us a clean heart and renew in us a right spirit that we may abide in Your love and that Your joy may be in us, and our joy may be full.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

CONFESSION HYMN: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (LSB 338)

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE: *Please stand and greet one another with the Peace of Christ*

CHIMES: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3:14–20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 7:18–35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” ²⁹(When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

³¹“To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³²They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

“‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’

³³For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ³⁴The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ ³⁵Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN: In Bethlehem a Babe was Born

SERMON: Pastor Paul Kollek

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

We do not pass the offering plate here at Hope. If you are a visitor, we don't want you to feel obligated to give an offering, we are just glad that you have joined us for worship this day. Those who would like to give an offering may drop it off in the Offering Basket located in the Narthex. There is also an online option for giving by using the QR code located in the back of the bulletin. Pastor will bless the offerings at this time.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

BENEDICTION

P 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.
C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (LSB 356)

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTREACH

OASIS is an afterschool program for Linden Middle School students and meets on Thursdays from 2:30 to 5pm. Volunteers are always welcome and needed! Snacks and treats are always happily consumed by hungry kids too!

CHRISTMAS ADOPT A FAMILY Thank you for signing up to help an Oasis Family! All gifts have been filled. Please bring your unwrapped donation to church by December 22nd. Monetary donations are still being accepted if you'd like to help and didn't have a chance to sign up for a gift.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORD AND WORSHIP

WORSHIP SERVICES Worship service is on Sundays at 9:30am. If you are unable to attend in person worship services, the services are recorded and will be available on our website at hopelinden.org.

ADVENT SERVICES ON WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM "MUSIC & MONOLOGUES"

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE IS DECEMBER 24TH AT 7PM

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE IS DECEMBER 25TH AT 9:30AM

BIBLE STUDIES

- Coffee & Questions with Pastor on Sunday Mornings after Worship. Stay after for great fellowship and conversation! This is a very informal time for sharing and learning.
- Women's Bible Study on the book of Isaiah on Tuesdays at 10AM
- Women's At Home Bible Study can be done at your convenience. Pick up December's packet in the Narthex.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP

STAY after Wednesday Advent Services for Cookies and Coffee!

PLEASE CHECK your church mailbox on the right side of the sanctuary. Tis the season for mail!

CHURCH BUSINESS

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS If you would like to help adorn the Church for the Christmas season, there are special envelopes located in the Narthex. All sizes of contributions are welcome. Place the envelope in the regular offering plate. Any questions can be directed to Connie Casselton at 810-869-1438.

CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

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Weekly Information

Attendance

12/8/24 Worship 9:30 43
12/8//24 Coffee and Questions 9
12/10/24 Women’s Bible Study 6
12/11/24 Mid-Week Advent 18

Collections and Facility Income

12/8/24 Givings 6429.00
Givings Needed Weekly to meet budget 3337.52

Financial Update for October 2024

Actual Revenue 11009.20
Actual Expenditures 14298.27
Actual Shortage 3288.90
YTD Shortage 1083.20



QR Code for giving via PayPal.

NEXT WEEK
Office Hours
M-Th 9am-Noon

Monday, Dec. 16
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
DERRICK & CHRISTINE BOYLE!

Tuesday, Dec. 17
Women’s Bible Study at 10am

Wednesday, Dec. 18
Advent Service 7pm
Choir 5:00
Chimes 6:00
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
DEBBIE BLACKBURN!

Thursday, Dec. 19
Oasis 2:30 to 5pm

Friday, Dec. 20
Office Closed

Saturday, Dec. 21

Sunday, Dec. 22
Worship Service at 9:30am
Coffee and Questions with Pastor
after service