

Email Blast for December 31



1st Sunday of Christmas

Kent Memorial Lutheran Church

184 Sunset Hill Drive
Sunrise Beach, Missouri 65079

The Rev. Edward L. Foster, Pastor

December 31, 2023

Hearing God's Call & Responding in Love,
We Share Jesus With All!

FROM PASTOR ED

When Jesus' parents brought him to the temple they were met by Simeon and Anna who welcomed Jesus as the answer to the prayers of Israel. In this child they recognized God's hand at work bringing comfort, peace, and especially justice. It was, as they say, the end of the beginning, and but the beginning of the end. But oh what a marvelous beginning. He is still the answer to our prayers, he is still the one who will deliver comfort, peace and justice.

Have a glorious week!
Pastor Ed

OUR 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP IS AVAILABLE VIA ZOOM:

To join a worship service, please contact the church at 573-374-5267 for assistance.

Welcome to Worship

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

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Prelude

The First Noel

Vanessa Hebrank

You are invited to use this time of musical offering to prepare for worship, to open yourself to God, our Father, his Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, present in this place.

Invocation

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

C: who was born for us in Bethlehem,

P: the love of God,

C: who sent the Christ Child for us,

P: and the communion of the Holy Spirit,

C: who brings us to the Christ of Christmas,

P: be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Litany of New Birth, New Life

P: The birth of Christ has come, and the news of his salvation is being passed on from person to person.

C: We praise our Messiah who has come at last.

P: Like Simeon in the temple courts, we see this child is destined for greatness.

C: We look forward to the glory he will reveal to every person in heaven and on earth.

P: Like Anna in the temple courts, we give thanks to our God who has answered the Prayers of his people.

C: We bow our heads in adoration, grateful to God for sending us a Savior.

P: Like Simeon, we are moved by the Spirit to draw near to the Lord.

C: We hold Jesus close to our hearts and feel his tender touch.

P: Like Anna we wait for God to act when and where he wills.

C: We worship the One whom God sent in the fullness of time.

P: For Jesus alone will bring us wisdom and understanding.

C: Christ alone will bring us grace and peace.

Sharing of the Peace (We share the words, "Peace be with you" with one another.)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Carol

Joy to the World

ELW # 267, v. 1, 2 & 4

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.**

Prayer of the Day

All: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Ed

Carol

Away in a Manger

ELW # 277, v. 1 & 3

First Reading

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Old Testament p. 709

L: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148 (congregation reads responsively)

¹Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the Lord, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded, and they were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²**young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴**The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW # 289, v. 1 & 3

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

New Testament p. 181

L: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

ELW # 275, v. 1, 3 & 4

Gospel Announcement

Pastor Ed Foster

P: The gospel according to Luke, the second chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.**Gospel Reading**

Luke 2:22-40

New Testament p. 55

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ**Carol***What Child Is This*

ELW # 296

Sermon

Pastor Ed Foster

The Prayers

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.**Reception of Offerings** *Please fill out the red friendship pad and pass it to your neighbor***Offertory***In the Bleak Midwinter*

Vanessa Hebrank

Offering Prayer (sung)*As with Gladness Men of Old*

ELW # 302, v. 1 & 3

Holy Communion

ELW p. 152

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...

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n 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, hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution**The Lord's Prayer**

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.

Distribution

Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink. Communion is open to all who believe that Jesus Christ is our savior. Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. You may commune in place using a communion kit, if preferred.

Communion Carols

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Love Has Come*

ELW #270

ELW # 276

ELW # 292

Post-Communion Prayer

Benediction

Announcements

Carol *Go Tell It on the Mountain* ELW # 290

The Dismissal

P: Hearing God’s call and responding in love,
C: **we share Jesus with all!**

Postlude *We Three Kings* Vanessa Hebrank

Fellowship Time EVERYONE IS WELCOME

WORSHIP LEADERS

PastorEd Foster
Organist/Pianist Vanessa Hebrank
Choir Director.....Tracy Garrett
Handbells Director..... Katie Heaford

10:00 AM

Altar Guild..... Linda Williams
Greeters/UshersGerry & Linda Williams
Lector..... Mary Foster
Sound & Zoom Technician..... Michael Wagner
Coffee Fellowship.....Worship & Music Committee

**COMING THIS WEEK
December 31-January 7**

Today 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion (live-streamed)
11:00 a.m. Fellowship with Cookies & Cocoa
Monday New Year’s Day
Office Closed
Tuesday 11:00 a.m. WELCA Meeting
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Women’s Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Evening Bible Study
Thursday 10:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Lake Jazz Band Rehearsal
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion (live-streamed)
11:00 a.m. Fellowship (coffee & donuts)
Handbells Rehearsal

† Prayer Concerns †

OUR MEMBERS

Allan Burke
Pat Embich
Karen Thompson—health concerns

Judy Bradley—minor health issues
Jim Kruse
Bill Work
Joel Hellman
Gene Page—health concerns
Toni Wagner

OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Dave Shaver (friend of Wendy Blomberg)
Susan Lingwall—serious health issues
Jacque Ray Higgenbotham—lung & liver cancer (friend of LeeAnne Brumm)
Doris Peterson (Tracey Atzeni's mother)
Theresa White—health concerns (friend of Susan Clark)

CONTINUED PRAYERS

Cheryl Anderson	Ginger Frazier	Blanch Lacroix
Dana Anderson	Al Gann	Jim Marco
Michelle Becker	Ken Gerardy	Larry Mausbach
Jessica Birdsong	Carla Glusing	Debbie McDermott
Cody Blasberg	Ruth Goddard & family	Dave & Sara Newton
Marcille Bohling	Lyn Golvig	Steve O'Connor
Cindy Campbell	Gary Hansen	Jennifer Pedersen
Shirley Clark	Debbie Hanshaw	Zach Rezac
Evelyn Clements	Linda Harris	Ron Roberts
Lance Craft	Bryan Hastings	Marcia Robbins
Duane & Grace Cridland	Rod Hayes	Dan Rogers
Chuck Cuthbertson	Mike Holmes	Pat & Shirley Rogers
Mary Beth Fair	CF Huff	Karen Tischnor
Ron Ferguson	Beth Jackson	Bernie Wiegel
Stacey Flect	Teresa Joslin	Jerry Williams
Dave Fosler	Linda Kimberling	Larry Wilson
Shane Foster	Ed Krueger	

REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Christopher Babcock	Aaron Davis	Matt Lee
Eric Blomberg	Tanner Glodt	Jordan Lindeman
Ben Brammeier	Kristine Hubbard	Glenn Maddock
Shade Bullock	Jason Ites	Tristan Morgan
Salathiel (Sal) Caudill	Jason Judge	Adam Peterson
Dylan Craig	Adam Kralina	Trent Simmons

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 31

WELCOME TO KENT MEMORIAL Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. Communion is open to all who believe that Jesus Christ is our Savior. Personal hearing assistance devices are available in the sound room. We invite you to stay for coffee and fellowship (and donuts!) after the service. If you are visiting for the first time or searching for a church home, please include your address and phone number on the Red Friendship Pad and let us know. First time here? Please introduce yourself to Pastor Ed at the end of the service.

CARE CORE for December is Linda Williams, 573-374-9147; and for January is Joyce Burke, 712-298-0993.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT COMMUNITY FOR CHRIST Volunteer help opportunity at Community for Christ on Tuesday, January 9, Thursday, January 11, and Saturday, January 13. Sign-up sheet posted in the fellowship hall. Did you know that in 2023, 1,600 families were assisted by CFC? Thank you all for your continued support.

CFC FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Cereals - hot and cold

Condiments like catsup, mustard, salad dressings, mayo

Taco & chili seasonings

Chef Boyardee canned meals

Egg noodles

CFC thanks you for your continued support throughout this last year, not only your donations of food, but with volunteering at the store. It's truly because of you that CFC is able to support our community!!