

LUTHERAN CHAPEL



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

“A LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS”

2nd SUNDAY of ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 2024

lutheranchapelchurch.org

(704) 864-6491

**LUTHERAN CHAPEL
SERVICE OF THE WORD
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*BOLD indicates congregational responses - * Indicates that all who are able should stand to honor God.*

GATHER

PRELUDE

“Christmas Bells”

Sarah Douglas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

INVOCATION

P: We gather together in the name of the Father, + the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*

ELW # 254

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

“Light a Candle for all to See”

LEADER

Wes Baker and Renwick Royston

Light a Candle for All to See

Congregation ~ Peace

Words and Music by Lloyd Larson

(Please sing when directed, sing the echo)

Light a candle for all to see. (**Light a candle for all to see.**)

The King shall come for you and me. (**The King shall come for you and me.**)

Prince of peace: Emmanuel. (**Prince of peace: Emmanuel.**)

And with us He shall ever dwell. (**And with us He shall ever dwell.**)

***APOSTLES' CREED**

All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.

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.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray

C: **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: *A Christmas Message from the children of Lutheran Chapel Church*

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Malachi 3:10, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

Arr. by Stan Pethel

Offered by the Woodwinds of The Instrument Ensemble

OFFERTORY

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Psalms 51:10-12

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER** (In Unison)

C: **Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with Your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

AM: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, and the congregation may respond **Hear our prayers.**

Prayers are commended in Jesus' Name.

AM: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

AM: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

CANTATA

“A Light Shines in the Darkness”

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Leader: Olivia Berghello

Congregation: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Leader: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

Congregation: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

Leader: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

Congregation: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

ANTHEM

“Ring the Christmas Bells

Joseph M. Martin

Offered by The Chancel Choir and The Chapel Ringers

FIRST READING —HOPE

Reader: Bram Comer

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9

ANTHEM

“Star of Advent”

Arr. By Pepper Choplin
Offered by The Chancel Choir

SECOND READING—The Story

Reader: Elena Hoffman

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:1-7

ANTHEM*“Somebody’s Talkin’ ‘bout Jesus”*Arr. by Terry D. Taylor
Offered by Chancel Choir**THIRD READING**

Reader: Luke Hoffman

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Luke 2:8-16

ANTHEM*“Heaven Sang for Joy”*Nancy Middlemas
Offered by The Chancel Choir**FOURTH READING**

Reader: Renwick Royston

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2:17-20

ANTHEM*“Rocking Song”*Dave and Jean Perry
Offered by the Ladies of The Chancel Choir**FIFTH READING—Revelation**

Reader: Noah Comer

For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known and come to light.

Luke 8:17

ANTHEM*“Little Lord Jesus”*Ron Mallory
Offered by The Chapel Ringers

SIXTH READING—Presence

Reader: Lily and Katelyn Baker

I am the one whose praise
 echoes on high.
I adorn all the earth. I am the breeze
 that nurtures all things green.
I encourage blossoms to flourish with ripening fruits.
I am led by the spirit to feed
 the purest streams.
I am the rain
 coming from the dew
 that causes grass to laugh
 with the joy of life.
I call forth tears,
 the aroma of holy work.
I am the yearning for the good.

Hildegard of Bingen, *Cries of the Spirit*

ANTHEM

“Night of Silence”

Arr. by John Ferguson

Offered by The Chancel Choir

SEVENTH READING—STILL

Reader: Pastor Michael Comer

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness.

Will the darkness understand?

John 1:5 (altered)

ANTHEM

“Sing, Choirs of Angels!”

Arr. by Jay Althouse

Please join the final verse when invited

Offered by All

Final Verse:

Sing, choirs of angels,

Sing in exultation.

Sing all ye citizens of heav’n above.

Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

SENDING

***BENEDICTION**

Numbers 6:24-26

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”

ELW #246

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” Arr. By Gilbert M. Martin



THOSE SERVING AT LUTHERAN CHAPEL TODAY

Ministers.....	People of Lutheran Chapel
Pastor.....	Michael Comer
Administrative Assistant.....	Susan Hibschi
Director of Music Ministries.....	Kathie Riebe
Choir Accompanist.....	Anna Gilreath
Assistant Minister.....	Chris Lowe
Lector.....	
Acolyte.....	Renwick Royston
Crucifer.....	Maddie Potter
Head Ushers.....	Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman
First Aid/AED/CPR.....	Tammy Royston
Council Members of the Month.....	Crown Hoffman and Jason Sanders



Upcoming EVENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION: If your family is in need of a **nursery** attendant during the 10:00 service, please let our ushers know and they will contact one of our attendants. **Restrooms** are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary. Additional restrooms are located in the Educational Building and *do not require the use of stairs*. If needed, please see an usher for assistance in locating them.

TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS ONLINE: This QR code goes straight to the “Easy Tithe” page on the website that accepts tithes and offerings electronically.



ANGEL TREE: The Outreach Committee will be hosting the annual Boys and Girls Club of Bessemer City Christmas party on **Friday, December 13th**.

ANNUAL LADIES NIGHT CELEBRATION: Please plan to attend our Ladies Night Celebration on **Saturday, December 14th**, at 6:00 pm in the Family Life Center. A wonderful meal, as well as excellent entertainment has been planned. Door prizes will be given to the lucky ladies in attendance. Back by popular demand, Terry Ratchford will MC this annual event. Charles Edwards, Steve Clark, Rick Peak, Terry Ratchford, and Fred Ward will be selling tickets. Cost of the ticket is \$18. Anyone wishing to donate a door prize would be graciously appreciated.

STAFF GIFT: Traditionally we present our dedicated Church Staff with a monetary “thank you” gift during the holiday season. If you feel so inclined to participate, there are several ways you can give your gift: You can drop your gift in the offering plate; you can mail it or drop it by the Church office; or you can hand it to one of the Executive Council members – Jason Sanders, Jenny Williamson, Crown Hoffman, Debra Hoffman, or James Hovis. Please note “Staff Gift” with your contribution. The cut-off for contributions is **Sunday, December 15th** to allow for presentation to staff on Sunday, December 22nd. Thank you for your prayerful consideration as we honor and remember our staff members who work so diligently to serve Christ and our congregation.

2024 CONTRIBUTIONS: It’s time to get your 2024 pledges up-to-date. All donations to the church must be turned in by **Tuesday, December 31st** to be properly credited to your account for the year.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES: You can now pick up your 2025 offering envelopes on the table entering the preschool area. If you are a regular visitor and would like assigned envelopes, please contact the church office.

2025 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR: If you’d like to sign up for a Sunday in 2025, please contact Susan Lewis at 704-914-8451 or email sudalewi@gmail.com.

CHILDRENS COMFORT PROJECT: Thanks to all who contributed to the Children’s Comfort Project sponsored by the Lutherans Disaster Response for Children in the NC mountains. We received many nice, useful donations and all were delivered to the synod office in Salisbury. Thanks be to God that with your help we could take part in this very important ministry!

Weekly **CALENDAR**



Sunday, Dec. 8	8:30 am	Fellowship
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Cantata ~ All Congregation Meeting (Sanctuary)
	11:00 am	Santa Luncheon
	11:30 am	Chancel Choir (Fellowship Hall)
	8:00 pm	Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)
Monday, Dec. 9	8:30 am	Preschool
Tuesday, Dec. 10	8:30 am	Preschool
	10:00 am	Clothing Closet Workday
	5:30 pm	Chapel Ringers
Wednesday, Dec. 11	8:30 am	Preschool
	7:00 pm	Avent Evening Prayer (Sanctuary)
Thursday, Dec. 12	8:30 am	Preschool
	11:00 am	Bible Study (Library)
Friday, Dec. 13	9:00 am	Men's Community Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday, Dec. 14	9:30 am	Hungry Peeps in (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00 pm	Ladies Night (Fellowship Hall)

Let's **PRAY**



DAILY PRAYER - A HOME ALTAR ALTERS THE HOME!: Sunrise, sunset and at meals are times for daily prayer (*Psalm 1 55:17*). *May God bless you as you turn to Him day by day.*

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - Week 48 December 8 to December 15, 2024

12/08 Morning Reading: 3 John—Evening Reading: Daniel 8, 9, 10

12/09 Morning Reading: Jude—Evening Reading: Daniel 11, 12

12/10 Morning Reading: Revelation 1—Evening Reading: Hosea 1, 2, 3, 4

12/11 Morning Reading: Revelation 2—Evening Reading: Hosea 5, 6, 7, 8

12/12 Morning Reading: Revelation 3—Evening Reading: Hosea 9, 10, 11

12/13 Morning Reading: Revelation 4—Evening Reading: Hosea 12, 13, 14

12/14 Morning Reading: Revelation 5—Evening Reading: Joel

12/15 Morning Reading: Revelation 6—Evening Reading: Amos 1, 2, 3

This QR code goes straight to the Daily prayers page on the website that lists the commemorations and Psalms appointments for the week.



PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP: Wanda Anthony, Braylon Beam, Ron Behringer, Steve Bell, Pauline Bradley, Shirley Bradley, Buddy Carothers, Miles Carpenter, Renee Dockery, Ann Edwards, Kathy Finch, Baker Hampton, Barbara Peacock, Doug Rhyne, Kay Robinson, Pat Robinson, Barbara Robinson, Joe Veale, and Gene & Myra Weaver.

FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP: John Austin, Kyle Banes, Rick Belton, Kathy Bradley, Peggy Button, Deborah Carpenter, Peter Cleveland, Jeff Cobb, Doris Coggins, Tucker Doyne, Jameson Franklin, Jennifer Hart, Bob Hice, Rick Knowles, Bobby Myers, Paul Nordberg, Rita Poursour, Josie Putnam, Joye Rankin, Randy Reel, Morgan Rosser, **Harold and Doris Sellers**, Dorothy Slessman, Christy Carpenter Smith, Charlene Sorenson, Judy Turner, Becky Van Dyke, Jimmy Watlington, Andi Watson, Anthony Wynn and the People affected by the hurricane.

To share concerns, prayer list updates, and any questions about the Bible in a Year readings contact the church office (704-864-6491) or call/text Pastor Comer (704-787-6439).

NEXT WEEK'S LESSONS

Wednesday, December 11 ~ Evening Prayer Service

Psalm 51 "*Son of David*"

Thursday, December 12 ~ Story of Salvation Bible Study

1 Peter 5 "*Spiritual Warfare*"

Sunday, December 15 ~ Holy Communion

1 John 3 and Luke 3:7-18 "*Fruits Worthy of Repentance*"

Hymns

ELW #254

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son

"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
 Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
 he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
 with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889