



Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We celebrate gathering together this
fourth Sunday in Advent!
As always, all are WELCOME here!
December 17, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.*

The People of Covenant are called to:

Gather, Grow and Go Serve

...With God's Love!

Welcome Thank you for joining us for Worship today!

WORSHIP ORDER – Sunday, December 17, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

*Congregation participation in **bold** in bulletin*

ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymn Book

and the Holden Morning Prayer insert by Marty Haugen

**=please stand*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 4

***Hymn**

Oh Come, O Come Emmanuel vs. 7

ELW 257

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

***Hymn**

Oh Come, O Come Emmanuel vs. 8

ELW 257

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Service of Light

Holden p. 2

Morning Hymn

Holden p. 2

Psalm 141

Holden p. 3

Psalm Prayer

May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Baptismal Hymn

Jesus Loves Me v. 1

ELW 595

A Double Ceremony of Holy Baptism for:

ELW p. 227

Delaney Prost

and

McKenna Vance Hitchcock

Parents: Kelsey & Christopher Prost

Bailey Vance & Joshua Hitchcock

Sponsors: Melissa & Alex Prost

Ashley Vance & Jared Hitchcock

Presentation

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors: *We present Delaney & McKenna for baptism.*

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ? **Parents:** *We do.*

Parental Responsibilities

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life? **Parents:** *We do.*

Sponsor Responsibilities

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this child in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? **Sponsors:** *We do.*

Congregational Responsibilities

People of God, do you promise to support Delaney and McKenna and pray for them in their new life in Christ? **We do.**

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the evil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, the ways of sin that draw you from God? **Parents & Sponsors:** *We renounce them.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. In the river Jordan your Son was baptized by John

and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

Baptism

Delaney Reed Prost, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

McKenna Rose Vance Hitchcock, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Let us pray... We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Delaney and McKenna with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Sign of the Cross

Delaney Reed Prost, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

McKenna Rose Vance Hitchcock, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Welcome

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized. **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

Gospel**Luke 2: 1-20**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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.

⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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."

¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told

them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

***Hymn**

Joy to the World

ELW 267

Homily

Pastor Wendy Moen

***Annunciation and the Magnificat**

Holden p. 7

Litany and Prayers

Holden p. 8

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

Exchange of Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Let us share a sign of peace safely with one another.

Announcements

Offering Prayer

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Liturgy of Holy Communion

Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Gathered into one by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray as our Lord taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Communion

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.

Come, take your place at the table.

Communion Hymns

As the Grains of Wheat
Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 465

ELW 471

Post Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

Prayer after Communion

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

Holden p. 9

*Sending Hymn

Canticle of the Tuning

ELW 723

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**



Care to contribute to our Church and ministries?
Scan this QR Code to give digitally with Vanco Online Giving.
Or visit www.covluth.org and click 'On-line Giving'!



Announcements:

- ✝ Christmas Services offered **Sunday, Dec 24th 9:30am, 4pm and 7pm.** All are invited to join!
- ✝ The office will be closed **Dec 25th** for the Christmas Holiday- Enjoy, knowing you are loved!
- ✝ **Lunch Bunch- 1st Wed of the Month at 11:30am Jan 3rd** Join at BBJack's in Cottage Grove
- ✝ Safe Surrender information/orientation meeting planned for **Jan 7th afternoon** more to come!
- ✝ Join Book Group **Jan 11th** discussing *The Last Supper Club* Meeting at 1pm in Gateway room
- ✝ Feed the Hungry at St. Marks in Madison, 2nd Friday of each month **Jan 12th 10:30a-1:30p**
- ✝ **Social Action meets January 15th** - work on inclusion here at Covenant with them
- ✝ Budget Listening Session Scheduled for **Jan 21st** join to hear the hard work discussed for 2024
- ✝ The American Red Cross reports major blood shortages- Give Blood at Covenant **Jan 22nd**
- ✝ Annual Congregational Meeting planned for **Jan 28th** Member voting required and appreciated!
- ✝ Thank you to the Sunday School for their Program Today- led by Karla Cornell Wevely
Participants include: Readers: Jacob Kettner, Grace Speth, Matilda Proper, Becca Royston, Ella Maag, Kaci Seamonson, Kendall Seamonson Mary: Alex Schumacher
Joseph: Jacob Kettner Shepherds: Logan Angerhofer, Brayden Edwards, Andrew Kettner, Alex Reuter, Gavin Schumacher, Levi Thelen Angels: Keira Bollig, Caleb Edwards, Cayson Edwards, Clara Ellefsen, Marjorie Ellefsen, Emmeline Frey, Olivia Frey, Clarissa Kim, Sydney Kovalaske, Quinby Proper, Grace Speth, Gwen Speth, Elena Sykes, Benta Thelen Helper: Milo Pietruszynski Star: Matthew Heil Thank you to Merlin Luschen who built the manger and supports for the scenery.

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: *Pastor Wendy Moen*; **Acolyte:** *Andrew Kettner*; **Assistant Minister:** *Ann Nelson*; **Lector:** *Sunday School*; **Greeters:** ; **Communion Worship Assistants:** *Ann Nelson, Kathy Andrusz*; **Organist/Pianist:** *Michelle Osterhaus*; **Musicians for Advent:** *Angie Kettner, Denise Pigarelli, John Surrell*; **Ushers:** *Tom Chose, Jack Cope, Stephen Peterson*; **Sound/projection:** *Lars Forde, Amanda Burian*; **Altar Guild:** *Norm and Jean Sime*; **Communion Prep:** *Jean and Norm Sime*;
Altar Flowers: *Given by Christy Unzicker in honor of her brother Clyde!*

<p>Covenant Lutheran Church 1525 N. Van Buren St. Stoughton, WI 53589 (608) 873-7494</p>	<p>Email: covlutheran@covluth.org Website: www.covluth.org</p>
<p>Pastor Wendy Moen 240-506-1388 cell</p>	<p>Email: PastorWendyMoen @covluth.org</p>