



Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



We celebrate gathering together this third Sunday in Advent!

December 14, 2025 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 14, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

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

ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymn Book

Morning Prayer - Marty Haugen

GATHERING

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

Land Acknowledgment

Covenant Lutheran Church acknowledges and honors the Indigenous Peoples and their ancestral homelands on which we gather. We stand on stolen ancestral homelands of the Ho-Chunk and the many other Indigenous Nations that have been historical occupants here. We respect Native Americans as caretakers of this land and Mother Earth. We strive to emulate the stewardship they first demonstrated. We embrace Indigenous People in love and gratitude. May we always seek a greater understanding of the Native community and their history as a whole as we aspire to work in meaningful partnership.

Welcome

Hymn

Oh Come, O Come Emmanuel vs.5

ELW 257

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 3

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free. As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus. O ransomed people of the Lord, come, **let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.**

Hymn

Oh Come, O Come Emmanuel vs.6

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.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

Sunday School Christmas Program - "Voices of Christmas"

Song

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing v. 1

ELW 270

As the cast gets to their places, **the congregation sings** verse 1 of Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

OPENING: PROPHECY FORETOLD

Narrator:

From the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 9:2, 6):

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

6 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.

SCENE 1: MARY'S STORY (LUKE 1:26–38)

Narrator:

God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman named Mary, in Nazareth.

Mary Narrator:

I was just a girl. Betrothed, but nothing special.

Then Gabriel came—with words so strange, so full of glory.

“Favored one,” he called me. Favored!

He said I would bear the Son of God... and I believed.

I said yes.

Gabriel Narrator:

Do not be afraid, Mary.

You will bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

The congregation will join the children singing.

Song: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" v. 1

SCENE 2: JOSEPH'S DILEMMA (MATTHEW 1:18–25)

Narrator:

Joseph, a righteous man, learned that Mary was with child.

Joseph faces the congregation. Can react to what is being said. Bell choir side.

Joseph Narrator:

What was I to do?

I didn't want to shame her. I thought I'd leave quietly.

But then... the dream.

The angel's words:

"Do not be afraid. The child is from the Holy Spirit."

So I stayed. I trusted.

SCENE 3: THE JOURNEY & THE BIRTH (LUKE 2:1–7)

Narrator:

A decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all should be registered...

So Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem.

Innkeeper Narrator:

There's no room... but the stable is warm.

Narrator:

While they were there, Mary gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in cloth, and laid him in a manger.

The congregation will join the children singing.

Song: "Away in a Manger" v.1-2

SCENE 4: THE SHEPHERDS' SURPRISE (LUKE 2:8–20)

Narrator:

In the fields nearby, shepherds watched their flocks.

Angel Narrator:

Do not be afraid!

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people.

To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah!

Narrator:

And suddenly there was a multitude of angels saying:

Angels:

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

Shepherd Narrator:

We ran.

We ran all the way to Bethlehem.

And there he was.

Just like the angel said.

A child. A king. A Savior.

In a manger.

✿ ENDING: REFLECTION AND BLESSING**Narrator:**

This is the story we carry in our hearts:

God with us.

Hope born in a manger.

Light that darkness cannot overcome.

Go now in peace, and share the joy of Christ.

The congregation will join the children singing.

Song: "Joy to the World" v. 1-2

Homily

Pastor Wendy Moen

Annunciation and the Magnificat

Holden p. 7

Litany and Prayers

Holden p. 8

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

Vocal Choir

An Invitation to Advent

Ruth Elaine Schram
arr. Douglas Nolan

Offering Prayer

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **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

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

Communion Hymns

<i>What Feast of Love</i>	ELW 487
<i>One Bread, One Body</i>	ELW 496
<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	ELW 254

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

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

Farewell and Godspeed

The Unzicker Family

Christy, Ryan, Aiyanna, Canaan and Amanda, as you leave our congregation, we wish to bid you farewell.

A reading from John:

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

In holy baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his church. When you came to this congregation we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as the people of God. In this community you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has blessed us through you. We encourage you to continue to receive and share God's gifts in Mississippi, united with us in

the body of Christ and the mission we share.

Let us pray. Eternal God, we thank you for Christy, Ryan, Aiyanna, Canaan and Amanda, and for the time we have shared with them. As they have been a blessing to us, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

Holden p. 9

Sending Hymn

People, Look East

ELW 248

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 Program today during Worship We are grateful for your encouragement**
- † **Thank you for your Christmas Flower Orders!** Plant pickup is Christmas Eve Dec 28.
- † **Much gratitude for the generous giving in the many various ways to spread joy this season!**
- † **Christmas Eve Worship Tues, Dec 24 at 4pm and 7pm- As always- Everyone is Invited**
- † **The office will be closed** Dec 24 and 25 for Christmas and Dec 31 and Jan 1 for New Years
- † **Bible Study returns Jan 7 at 5:30pm** in the Gateway room or by Zoom- Link on Webpage
- † **January Lunch Bunch** – Due to winter weather **NO Lunch Bunch** in January.

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: *Pastor Wendy Moen; Acolyte: Gwen Speth*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: *The Anderson Family*

Assistant Minister: *Ingrid Thompson* **Lector:** *Sunday School*

Greeters: *Jack and Helga Cope*

Communion Worship Assistants: *Donna Tarpinian, Gary Tarpinian, Milo Pietruszynski*

Organist/Pianist: *Meghann Proper* **Flutist:** *Denise Pigarelli*

Percussion: *John Surrell, Lars Forde* **Vocalist:** *Donna Tarpinian*

Ushers: *Mark Herbst, Loretta Smith, Bill Cook*

Sound/projection: *Jude Surrell*

Altar Guild: *Jean and Norm Sime* **Communion Prep:** *Jessica and Mia Wagner*

Altar Flowers: *by Mimi Hinshaw in honor of Russ Hinshaw's 70th birthday*

Altar Flowers: *Linda and Loren Schumacher on the 45th anniversary of their ordination*

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