

Old Testament Reading Micah 5:2–5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;



The Epistle Hebrews 10:5–10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.



Holy Gospel Luke 1:39–45

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Cole Camp, Missouri

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 20, 2015



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WELCOME. During the season of Advent we “welcome” Christ to the earth, long after the fact, of course. Your being here, dear visiting friend, gives us opportunity to welcome you, too. Welcoming Christ into our lives fills us full, yet leaves room for you!

WE WILL BE CELEBRATING THE LORD’S SUPPER during our worship service on Christmas Day this Friday and also next Sunday morning. Please fill out a communion registration card today and indicate the date(s) that you plan to use this Sacrament for the strengthening of your faith and place it in the basket at the back of the church.

THOSE USING THE MEANS OF GRACE LAST WEEK:

Worship Service: 93; Children’s Sermon: 12;
Adult Bible Class: 22; Sunday School: 11.

HOLY CROSS CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK of December 20 – December 27

TODAY: Sunday School Christmas Eve Program Practice, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Dual Parish Choir Practice at Holy Cross, 7:00 p.m.

MON: Pastor Mike’s Day of Rest

WED.: Bulletin deadline, 12:00 noon (moved to Wed, due to Christmas holiday)

THUR.: Area Children’s Christmas Eve Programs:

At St. John’s – 6:00 p.m.

At Mt. Hulda – 6:00 p.m.

At Holy Cross – 7:00 p.m.

At Trinity – 7:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service at Trinity, 11:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service at Mt. Hulda, 11:00 p.m.

FRI.: Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion at Holy Cross, 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Day Service at Trinity, 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Day Service at Mt. Hulda, 9:00 a.m.

SAT.: Saturday evening Worship Service at Trinity, 6:30 p.m.

NEXT SUN.: Worship Service with Holy Communion at St. John’s, 8:00 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Class at St. John’s, 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Class at Holy Cross, 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service with Holy Communion at Holy Cross, 10:30 a.m.

ACOLYTES: Dec. 20--Morgan Mummert; Dec. 24--Casey Bahrenburg; Dec. 27--Brooklyn Cross; Jan. 3 – Jenna Harms.

DECEMBER GREETER: Randy Meyer.

JANUARY GREETER: Marvin Dieckman

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Dec. 25 – Randy Meyer and Randy Harms;
Dec. 27 – Randy Harms and Charles Cordes.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS Matthew Kurz; members and loved ones in nursing homes or restricted to their homes, including Wilbert Meyer, Marge Burdick, LaRuth Vajen, Wilma Bahrenburg, Helen Harms.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE will be held TODAY from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

HOLY CROSS / ST. JOHN’S COMBINED CHOIR will be practicing this evening, at 7:00 p.m.

DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY, the bulletin deadline has been moved up. Please submit any bulletin items (call 668-2425 or email karen.oelrichs@gmail.com) to Karen by noon on Wednesday, Dec. 23 this week. Thank you!

2016 SERVICE TIME CHANGES: Beginning on January 3, 2016, the Sunday morning worship service times at St. John’s and Holy Cross will change. The Worship Service at Holy Cross will begin at 8:00 a.m. with Sunday School and Bible Class beginning at 9:00 a.m. At St. John’s, Sunday School and Bible Class will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the Sunday morning Worship Service will begin at 10:30 a.m.

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: On Christmas Eve, the Sunday School Christmas Program will be held at 6:00 p.m. at St. John’s and at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Cross. Trinity and Mt. Hulda will also each be having a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 11:00 p.m. on Thursday evening. The Dual Parish Christmas Day Worship Service with Holy Communion will be held on Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. at Holy Cross. Separate Christmas Day services will also be held at Trinity and Mt. Hulda, both at 9:00 a.m. Next Thursday evening, Dec. 31st, there will be a CCRM New Year’s Eve Service at Trinity, beginning at 7:00 p.m. On Wednesday evening, January 6th, there will be an Epiphany Service at St. John’s, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars and plan to worship in fellowship with our brothers and sisters of the Cole Camp Regional Ministry.

PLEASE JOIN THE MUEHLER FAMILY in celebrating Rev. Gary and Elois’ 55th Wedding Anniversary from 1-4 PM on Dec. 26th in Biltz Hall at Saint Paul High School in Concordia, MO. No gifts, please, just share your thoughts and memories with Amy Muehler at 13136 Siegel Ave, Cole Camp, MO 65325 or email her at amyjm24@juno.com.

Today’s Service
Divine Service Setting Three
on page 184

Hymn of Invocation: 353
“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

Introit

Psalms 138

Collect of the Day

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen (sung)

The Hymn of the Day: 357
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

The Readings:

Micah 5:2–5a
Hebrews 10:5–10
Luke 1:39–45

Closing Hymn: 348
“The King Shall Come
When Morning Dawns”