

ANNOUNCEMENTS
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28, 2021

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jim Cleveland; Carolyn Wilkins; Jack & Lureen Vaught; Tony Sikora; Maddie; Aiden Snyder; Cindy; Jim Lambert; Sylvia Braun; Mason Salomon; Mullet family

CHRISTMAS AT THE COURTHOUSE is THIS WEEKEND, Dec. 3 & 4 in CC. They need lots of volunteers and there are many different opportunities to help out! Check out the flyer on the bulletin board for more info.

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES: on Wednesdays in Advent (Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22), join us for a potluck supper at 6pm followed by the service at 7pm. Vicar Woelmer has planned a series of services and sermons walking through the teachings and blessings of Holy Baptism. I encourage and challenge you to join us for all four!

THANK YOU to all who helped decorate the church for Advent and Christmas!

CHRISTMAS GIVING PROJECTS: Toys for Tots, Socks (and Hats!) for Vets, and the Giving Tree are all underway. See the newsletter for more info!

JACK & LUREEN VAUGHT: while Jack & Lureen are in Minnesota for Jack's radiation treatments their address will be 1623 4th St. NW #2, Rochester, MN, 55901. They thank you for your continued prayers and support.

CALENDAR

Sun. Nov. 28 (Ad Te Levavi)	8:00 & 10:00am Worship 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30am Confirmation
Wed. Dec. 1	6:00pm Potluck Supper 7:00pm Holy Communion
Thu. Dec. 2	7:00pm Bible Study
Sun. Dec. 5 (Populus Zion)	8:00 & 10:00am Holy Communion 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30am Confirmation

THE BACK PAGE

While the world celebrates Christmas and sings out: “It’s the most wonderful time of the year!” the church celebrates Advent by setting its focus on the teaching of eschatology—the end of all things—and the teaching of repentance by John the Baptist. While the world spends November and December preparing for Christmas, the church spends the four weeks before Christmas preparing for the coming of God into the world in Jesus, as well as the approaching return of the risen Lord in all His heavenly splendor. If we view Advent as simply “pre-Christmas,” we lose focus of the themes and true meaning of Advent as presented to us in Scripture.

Over the next four Sundays, the Back Page will look at the themes for each Sunday in Advent along with various Advent traditions. One overarching theme is the three-fold “comings” of Jesus Christ. He came (Incarnation), he comes (Word and Sacrament), and he will come again (Last Day). As the church celebrates the *adventus* (Latin for “coming, approach”) of Christ, we don’t simply climb back into the Old Testament to pretend that Christ has not yet come. Rather, we experience a real waiting, an authentic expectancy of an event that has not yet taken place, an event that still lies out there ahead of us.

This impatient longing, waiting, and expectancy of the Church is expressed in the context of our Introit this week: “To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul” (*Ad Te Levavi*). Though the enemies that surround us cause our waiting to be fraught with impatience, the response of God’s people is: “I trust in You, let me not be ashamed.” One of the many ways that the Church has celebrated this waiting is through the lighting of the Advent wreath. As we observe the flickering flame of the candle and the circle of evergreens, we are reminded of the enduring life we have in Christ. Just as fire provides light in the darkness, Christ is the true light coming into the world darkened by sin. Just as evergreens endure the bitter cold and the heavy winter snow, Christ provides us with the strength to endure the darkness of night, the cold of winter, and the eventual end of all things when He comes again in glory. In Advent, we are provided with the strength and endurance to “stand up and raise our heads” because Christ, our redemption, is coming near.

-Vicar Woelmer