

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WEEK OF DECEMBER 5, 2021

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

**THANK YOU** to Pr. Burgland, Vicar Woelmer, & Sem. Woodhouse for serving in my absence; and **thank you** to all for your prayers during our quarantine. We're all doing well and glad to be with you in worship again!

-Pastor, Megan, Aaron, Josiah, & Jonathan

**ELDERS & CHURCH COUNCIL** meet this Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 6 & 7pm.

**YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY** next Sunday, Dec. 12, at 6pm. Details coming soon! Hope you and your families can join us.

**ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES:** on Wednesdays in Advent (Dec. 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. Join us for all four!

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

**JACK & LUREEN VAUGHT:** 1623 4<sup>th</sup> St. NW #2, Rochester, MN, 55901. They thank you for your continued prayers and support.

### CALENDAR

Sun. Dec. 5 (Advent 2 – Populus Zion)	8:00 & 10:00am Holy Communion 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30am Confirmation
Tue. Dec. 7	6:00 / 7:00pm Elders / Church Council
Wed. Dec. 8	6:00pm Potluck Supper 7:00pm Holy Communion
Thu. Dec. 9	7:00pm Bible Study
Sun. Dec. 12 (Advent 3 – Gaudete)	8:00 & 10:00am Worship 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30am Confirmation 6:00pm Youth Group Christmas Party

## THE BACK PAGE

Last week, you likely noticed that the *Gloria in Excelsis* was omitted during the season of Advent. The only other time that this happens is during the penitential season of Lent, when the colors are also typically violet. Although we (and many other churches) use blue for Advent and Violet for Lent, there remains a strong connection between Advent and Lent. Because of the abundance of Christmas songs, decorations, and shopping during this time of the year, we are more inclined to connect Advent to Christmas. There's nothing wrong with this inclination, for we indeed look forward to Christ's birth on Christmas. However, according to the church year, it's also very appropriate to connect Advent to Lent. Both seasons are *penitential* seasons. That is, their purpose is to "stir up" 1) repentance, 2) fasting, and 3) prayer in the Church's preparation for her coming Savior.

Therefore, the omission of the *Gloria in Excelsis* is one of the most pointed ways that the Church expresses repentance and sorrow during Advent. By withholding herself from this song of praise, she patiently waits for Christmas Day when she may join in the song of the saints and angels to glorify her heavenly King. This period of waiting is filled with deep sorrow over sin, impatient cries over the sinful world, and great longing for the coming of Christ.

The Introit for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent shows God's response to His repentant Church, the Daughter of Zion (*Populus Zion*): "Behold, surely your salvation is coming. The Lord will cause His glorious voice to be heard, and you shall have gladness of heart." Repentance, sorrow, and fasting will soon be replaced with forgiveness, gladness, and feasting when the Lord's glorious voice is heard on Christmas Day. Surely the Church's salvation is coming! Gone will be the days of frustration and grief, impatience and waiting. Gone will be the days of silence, the days when the *Gloria in Excelsis* is not heard in the Church.

*"Soon will come that hour When with mighty power  
Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render,  
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing"* (LSB 333:3)

-Vicar Woelmer