

Welcome to Worship

St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church

December 21, 2025



Fourth Sunday of Advent

CHURCH: 419-293-3445

SJLCMcComb@gmail.com

Pastor: SAM Paul Brooks - 419-722-8625

and Rev. Ken Pollitz

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

Welcome: Thank you to those who join us for Worship. We hope you will be blessed as we pray and sing together, as we hear God's Word read and proclaimed. We gather as equals in the sight of God, who loves us, forgives us, and is WITH US. Peace be with you.

Serving at Worship Today:

READER: Carol Cary

ACCOMPANIST: Linda Ross

Your Servant Leaders:

Worship Leader: SAM Paul Brooks

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Dave Sharninghouse, 419-293-2322 Hm.
419-429-2391 Cell

NWOS BISHOP: The Rev. Daniel Beaudoin

ELCA BISHOP: The Rev. Yehiel Curry

St. John's email address: SJLCMcComb@gmail.com

St. John's Facebook page: <https://facebook.com/SJLCMcComb>

*Worship
Assistants*

Attendance Last Sunday: 12

Offering Last Sunday: \$415.00

Direct Deposit: \$20.00

Memorial Money: \$0.00

The Giving Tree: On Wednesday Dec 17, Carol Yeager and Sharon Kreh got together to sort all the gifts under and around our Giving Tree. These items went to 3 schools, Mohawk Schools, Liberty Benton Schools and McComb Local Schools. Everyone was very glad to receive them.

Christmas Families: On Tuesday, December 16, Carol took the 4 gift cards to McComb Schools office for the Christmas Families. We do not know who received them due to HIPPA Laws. I'm sure they will be very appreciated.

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2025

God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.

**please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PRAYER REQUESTS

PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "God of light." When you exhale, pray, "help me to shine for Jesus."

THE GREETING

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Leader: Lord of peace, you sent your Son to show us how to live a life of justice and peace.

ALL: Soften our hardened hearts for our neighbors.

Leader: Goad us back to loving our neighbor as you have loved them.

ALL: Help us to pause in our interactions to listen to your call.

Leader: Teach us to appreciate the little things of life,

ALL: so we can see your light, love, and peace in all people.

Leader: Let us pray,

ALL: Peaceful Creator, you have made all things to work in harmony with one another. Teach us to appreciate the sanctity of life, the serenity of nature, and your peace which passes all understanding. Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN #295

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **ALL: Amen.**

Leader: In divine love, God sent Christ Jesus to save us from our sins and from eternal death. God invites us to accept divine, holy grace. We therefore make our confession to the One who offers us this forgiving grace.

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: Long-expected God,

ALL: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

Leader: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior, in the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

* CANTICLE OF PRAISE

THIS IS THE FEAST



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. Pow - er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev - er. A - men.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Leader: Let us join our hearts and voices together in prayer.

ALL: Your Word became flesh and walked among us. Receive our gratitude and awe for all that you have done through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM READING

PSALM 130:5-8

Reader: I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word I hope; ⁶my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. ⁸It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

A READING FROM ISAIAH

(responsively)

ISAIAH 11:1-9

Reader: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

ALL: The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Reader: His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

ALL: Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Reader: The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

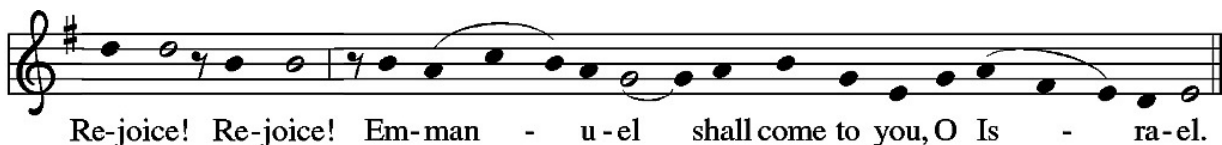
ALL: The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

Reader: The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

ALL: They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING

JOHN 1:1-18

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of John chapter 1. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Leader: The gospel of the Lord. **ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #283

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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

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.

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

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: Loving God, on this fourth Sunday of Advent, we pray for the church, the world, and those in need.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: We pray for our church, that it may be a beacon of hope and love. Lord in your mercy, **ALL: Hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: For the world, we pray for peace in places of conflict, and for justice in places of oppression. We pray for all those affected by the recent, senseless shootings. Lord in your mercy, **ALL: Hear our prayer.**

Prayer leader: We pray for all those who are sick, grieving, and struggling. We lift to you this day John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Eric, Lisa, Don, Ashley, Brandt, Mary, Pat, Gordon, Vicki, Jim, Josh, Linda, Ruth, Steve, Karen, Lisa, Bertha, Eloise, Rose Marie, Mike, Nancy, John, JoLynn, Emily, Carl, Jim, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Barb, Diana, Nina, Judy, Sean, Christina, Mike, Riley, Dennis, Anita, Amy, Nickie, Eli, Riley, Eli, Mr. Doherty, Ron, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Michael, and Cindy. May they find comfort and healing. Lord in your mercy, **ALL: Hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: We pray for our neighbors and leaders, that they may work together for the common good. Lord in your mercy, **ALL: Hear our prayer.**

Prayer leader: For the new surge of respiratory illnesses hitting children's hospitals hard. Guide the hands of the doctors and nurses. Lord in your mercy **ALL: Hear our prayer.**

Prayer leader: We pray for the homeless shelters that are at capacity in Toledo and Columbus. Lord in your mercy, **ALL: Hear our prayer.**

Prayer leader: For those who cannot find peace or joy in this season. Lord in your mercy, **ALL: Hear our prayer.**

Prayer leader: O God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship: pour out your Spirit on your servants who, with the gift of music, enliven our praises and proclaim your word with power. Through this ministry give us new awareness of your beauty and grace, and join our voices with all the choirs of heaven, both now and forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray saying,

***THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT US**

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Please share God's peace with those worshiping around you.

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: With HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE, AND LIGHT in our hearts we present our tithes, and offerings to God for all of the blessings we have received.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #188

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the corresponding notes.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: Lord our God, though we do not bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh today, we bring these gifts, along with our lives, and the fruit of our labors. Accept these offerings as our response to the faithful blessings of your love and graciousness, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



*BLESSING

Leader: Live without fear. Your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you like a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always.

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

*The Amen



*SENDING HYMN #439

SOON AND VERY SOON

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in Love to share the Good News. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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### TODAY'S WORSHIP COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

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*"Of the Father's Love Begotten"* Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite Music: Plainsong mode V, 13<sup>th</sup> cent.

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"* Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; r. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: attr. John Francis Wade

*"Create in Me a Clean Heart"* MUSIC: J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739 PUBLIC DOMAIN

*"Soon and Very Soon"* TEXT: Andrae Crouch, b. 1945 MUSIC: Andrae Crouch Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

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**Calendar of Events:**

Wed. Dec. 24 – 7:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/Communion

Thur. Dec. 25 – Merry Christmas everyone

Sun. Dec. 28 - 8:00 A.M. Worship Service

Sun. Dec. 28 – 9:30 A.M. Sunday School

Wed. Dec. 31 – Have a safe and Happy New Year

**Readers for December:**

Dec. 24 – Carol Cary

Dec. 28 - Linda Ross

Jan. 4 - David Sharninghouse

Jan. 11 - Lori McDaniel

Jan. 18 – Carol Cary

**In Our Prayers:** John Sharninghouse, Gary Kern, Paul & Sue Maki, Betty Hornbeck, Carol & David Cary, LuAnn Beverly, Colene Shoop, Eva George, Eric & Lisa Kreh, Don Edler, Ashley Edler, Brandt Edler, Mary Scroll, Pat Newell, Gordon Myers, Vicki Shoop, Jim Cary, Josh, Linda Hoops, Jan Gilley. Please pray for the victims of all natural disasters, our shut-ins, others absent from our worship this morning, all who grieve, and all others with special needs.

**FYI:** Be on the look out for new giving envelopes, they will be in the back of the sanctuary on the bench. You can pick them up, But please don't use them until January 2026. If you are using pew envelopes, please write your name on the envelope to help with our accounting, saying what it is for.

**Food Pantry for January:** We will be asking for Soup and Crackers in response to Souper Bowl Sunday. **We won't be doing the Food Pantry in Dec. due to other giving.**

# Love

*Sing Noel, Christ is born.*

*Oh, can you see the star that's  
blazing bright?*

*To guide our hearts  
to the Way,  
the Truth,  
the Life.*



*God so loved...he gave.*

*John 3:16*

# **Sermon Notes**

Write 3 teachings or ideas you heard in today's sermon:

1.

2.

3.

Something I might do to put this sermon into practice.

Write a brief prayer relating to the sermon.



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

—John 1:14

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **What is God doing in each of these stories?***

|           |              |                                      |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | John 1:1-18  | The Word Became Flesh                |
| Monday    | Luke 1:5-25  | John the Baptist's Birth Is Foretold |
| Tuesday   | Luke 1:57-66 | John the Baptist Is Born             |
| Wednesday | Luke 1:67-80 | Zechariah's Song                     |
| Thursday  | Luke 2:1-20  | The Savior Is Born                   |
| Friday    | Luke 2:21-38 | Jesus Is Dedicated and Named         |
| Saturday  | Luke 2:41-52 | Boy Jesus at the Temple              |
| Sunday    | John 1:19-34 | The Lamb of God                      |

*If your household includes younger children, use a child-friendly Bible. You might find that the children's Bible you are using may not include the very story assigned for the DAILY BIBLE READINGS. **Read to your kids anyway. Just pick a story!***

## SERVICE CHALLENGE

*SERVICE is how we enact God's great love for the entire world.*

Celebrate God's greatest gift to us by giving to others through a local or international organization as you are able.

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