

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNEAU • HORICON • SALEM-LOWELL

PREPARE FOR CHRIST'S COMING...

REJOICE



Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 16-19, 2021

OPENING HYMN 1

“The Advent of Our King”

Please stand

INVOCATION

We rejoice, heavenly Father, that you have stirred up your might and have come to save us.

Our spiritual eyes turn toward Bethlehem, the birthplace of your Son, as foretold by the prophet Micah.

We accept with joy the fulfillment of your prophecy.

As John the Baptist recognized your Son before he was born, help us also to recognize him as your Son and our Savior.

In a most marvelous manner, you prepared a sacrifice for our sins in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

Send us your Holy Spirit that we may truly believe and accept this miracle of your love.

As we anticipate with joy the celebration of his birth,

Grant us your grace that we may see in him the greatness of your love for us. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another

Silence for self-examination

We confess, almighty God, that we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed our own ways and the desires of our hearts instead of your will and way.

We have broken your commandments and neglected your righteous decrees.

We have offended you, our mighty and eternal God.

There is no health in us.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

For the sake of your great mercy, O Lord, forgive us. Spare us the just punishment our sins deserve according to your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

And grant that for his sake, we may live sober, upright and godly lives to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, our heavenly Father, has taken away your guilt and punishment. Because of the living and dying of God's appointed Lamb, our Lord Jesus Christ, he has forgiven you and restored you to your Father's house. May God grant you peace and joy as you await his return from heaven to gather his people home.

Amen.

ADVENT LITANY

We light four Advent candles, remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

We remember Jesus whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.

We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Four Advent candles are lit as the congregation sings.

HYMN 702 v.2

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

**God’s people, see him coming:
Your own eternal King!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God’s promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord,
For he fulfills God’s Word!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 4:1-2, 6-8, 25-5:5 EHV

The man was intimate with Eve, his wife. She conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, “I have gotten a man with the LORD.”² She also gave birth to Cain’s brother Abel.

Abel tended sheep, but Cain worked the ground...

⁶The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why do you have that angry look on your face? ⁷If you do good, will you not be lifted up? If you do not do good, sin is crouching at the door. It has a strong desire for you, but you must rule over it.”

⁸Cain said to Abel, his brother, “Let’s go into the field.” When they were in the field, Cain attacked Abel, his brother, and killed him...

²⁵Adam was intimate with his wife again. She gave birth to a son and named him Seth, because she said, “God has set another child in place of Abel for me, since Cain killed him.” ²⁶Later a son was born

to Seth, and he named him Enosh. This is when people began to proclaim the name of the LORD.

¹This is the account about the development of Adam's family: In the day that God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. ²He created them male and female and blessed them, and on the day they were created, he named them "mankind."

³ Adam lived 130 years, and he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his own image, and he named him Seth. ⁴ The days of Adam after he became the father of Seth were 800 years, and he became the father of sons and daughters. ⁵ All the days that Adam lived were 930 years. Then he died.

Please stand

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:39-55 EHV

³⁹ In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. ⁴⁰ She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

⁴⁶ Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and

holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

He has lifted up the lowly.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY 23

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

SERMON

Revelation 12:1-6 EHV

Prepare for Christ's Coming: Rejoice!

A great sign appeared in the sky: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ²She was pregnant, and she cried out in pain and agony as she gave birth.

³ Another sign also appeared in the sky: There was a huge red dragon that had seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. ⁴His tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and threw them to the earth. The dragon stood before the woman, who was about to give birth, so that he could devour the child as soon as it was born.

⁵She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will shepherd all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was snatched up to God and to

his throne. ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God in order that she might be fed there for 1,260 days.

Please stand

CONFESSIO OF FAITH

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

We pray together...

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.

Please stand

OFFERING HYMN CW21 752 v1

“Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings”

Melody “Christ, the Word of God Incarnate” CWS 750

**Gracious God, you send great blessings
New each morning all our days.
For your mercies never ending,
for your love we offer praise.
Lord, we pray that we, your people
who your gifts unnumbered claim,
Through the sharing of your blessings
May bring glory to your name.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.
Amen.

Please be seated

CLOSING HYMN 399

“To God Be the Glory”

Preacher: Paul Schupmann

Liturgist: David Brandt

Organist: Ruth Affeld

Songs are reprinted under Onelicense.net A-720071 and CCLI License 11520516* The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2017 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. www.wartburgproject.org* The Holy Bible: New International Version. (1984). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.* Artwork from www.shutterstock.com, used with permission, license #176535422* or ChurchArt Pro, license #74051531* and Worship House Media, used with permission.* Refrain Tune: Robert J. Thompson. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Announcements

Once again, 35 **poinsettias** have been ordered from Robin's Countryside Gardens to be purchased by members for the Juneau Campus this Christmas. The cost for the plant is \$14. If you would like to donate a poinsettia to church for the Christmas season, please see the sign-up sheet in the Juneau narthex.



If you were planning on giving a gift for a **Family in Need**. Please bring your gift by this Sunday, December 19th.

Candy Bag Donations: St. John's has a tradition of giving a candy bag to the children who participate in the Christmas services. If you would like to donate towards the candy bags, please bring your items to any of our campuses or church office by December 19th.

Gifts for Koelplin Seminary Family. To those of you participating, please bring your gift for the Koelplin family by Sunday, December 19th at 11:30am so we can deliver to them before Christmas. You can find the labeled drop box under the table in the narthex. Thanks to you all for your generosity!

<u>In-Person Worship Attendance:</u>	
Thanksgiving	232 (132, 100)
Nov 27-28	325 (NA, 30, 120, 76, 99)
Dec 2-5	377 (44, 30, 100, 83, 120)
Dec 9-12	354 (52, 21, 125, 45, 111)

<u>Offerings given to our Lord</u>	
<i>November 24-25</i>	
General	\$2,820.00
Missions	\$435.00
Total	\$3,255.00
<i>November 27-28</i>	
General	\$13,063.49
Improvement	\$100.00
Lakeside	\$109.95
Missions	\$436.90
Total	\$13,710.34
<i>December 2-5</i>	
General	\$14,258.85
Improvement	\$90.00
Lakeside	\$95.95
Missions	\$430.90
Total	\$14,874.70
<i>December 9-12</i>	
General	\$13,450.29
Improvement	\$300.00
Lakeside	\$195.00
Missions	\$601.90
Total	\$14,547.19

VOLUNTEERS (12/16-12/19)

Greeters:

6:30 PM Matt and Char Lober
8:00 AM Carol Soldner, Randy and Fran Mohr Family
10:30 AM Carol Leissring, Tony and Suzi Colantonio

Ushers:

6:30 PM Lee Weiss, Dylan Stegner, Joel Bischoff
8:00 AM Chuck Wolfram, Bruce Soldner, Josh Soldner, Nick Voigt, Kevin Voigt, Josh Voigt
9:30 AM Ken Leistico, Larry Westenberg, Wyatt Stowell
10:30 AM Rick Leissring, Scott Bilgrien, Blake Tonn, Blake Tonn II

**2022 Offering
Envelopes are
available for pickup
today!**

This Week at St. John's

Sunday (12/19)

8:00 AM Worship @ Juneau
8:15 AM Bible Class @ Lowell
8:30 AM Sunday School @ Lowell
9:00 AM Blood Pressure Screening @ Juneau
9:15 AM NO Sunday School @ Juneau
9:30 AM Bible Class @ Juneau
9:30 AM Sunday School Christmas Worship @ Lowell
10:30 AM Worship @ Juneau

Monday (12/20)

6:30 PM Board of Education @ Juneau
6:30 PM Readings Bible Study @ Juneau

Wednesday (12/22)

9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study @ Juneau
7:00 PM Choir @ Juneau

Thursday (12/23)

1:30 PM **School Christmas Eve Service @ Juneau**

Friday (12/24)

6:30 PM **School Christmas Eve Service @ Juneau**
9:00 PM **Candlelight Service @ Lowell**

Saturday (12/25)

9:00 AM **Christmas Day Worship @ Juneau**
5:00 PM NO Worship @ Horicon

Sunday (12/26)

8:00 AM Worship @ Juneau
9:30 AM Worship @ Lowell
10:30 AM Worship @ Juneau

Welcome to St. John's

WELCOME

We are so glad you joined us to worship our Lord Jesus today! St. John's is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are happy to answer your questions about our service, our beliefs, or communicant membership at any of our campuses. Please join us again soon!

PERSONAL PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Good Shepherd, I was glad to be here, gathered with your flock to worship you. Cause the Word I have heard to take root in my heart and bear fruit in my life. Guide me in paths of righteousness, that my words and actions might lead others to glorify you. Amen.

Pastors & Assistant

David Brandt 608-343-2206

Paul Schupmann 920-344-9839

Joel Luetke 920-285-1351

Tommy Welch 920-740-1370

Principal

Richard Cody 920-386-4644

Staff Minister

Ryan Kummerow 608-345-1900

Worship Services

(same service at all locations)

Thursday

6:30pm Juneau

Saturday

5:00pm Horicon

Sunday

8:00am Juneau

9:30am Lowell

10:30am Juneau

Bible Classes

Sunday

Juneau Campus

9:30-10:15

Salem-Lowell Campus

8:15-9:00 AM

Monday

Juneau Campus

6:30 PM

Tuesday (2nd, 4th, 5th)

Juneau Campus

6:30 PM

Wednesday

Juneau Campus

9:00 AM (Ladies Bible Study)

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

Juneau Campus

920-386-3313

400 S. Main St.

Juneau, Wisconsin

Horicon Campus

920-386-3313

716 Clinton St.

Horicon, Wisconsin

Salem-Lowell Campus

920-386-3313

105 Juneau Rd.

Lowell, Wisconsin

School Office

920-386-4644

402 S. Main St.

Juneau, Wisconsin

www.stjohnsdodgecounty.com

Download our St. John's Dodge County app today!

