

**November 30 - December 3, 2023**



# The King Shall Come

**Prepare to Meet Him**

**St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church**

**Juneau**

**Salem-Lowell**

**Horicon**

# Advent Wreath & Candles

**Advent** is a time of expectation and hope. “Advent” means “arrival” or “coming,” and it prompts us to pause each day in December and remember why Jesus came at Christmas.

## **The History of Advent**

The word “Advent” is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming,” which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Most know Advent today as a time of anticipation and expectation of the birth of Christ. However, Advent began as early as the 4th and 5th centuries as a time of fasting and prayer for new Christians. Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas.

## **What Is the Advent Wreath?**

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death as the evergreen is continuously green. The circle reminds us of God’s unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus’ sacrifice and death on the cross, shedding his blood for our sins. Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. Families begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and they light another candle each subsequent Sunday.

## **Meaning & Symbolism of the Advent Candles**

Advent candles shine brightly in the midst of darkness, symbolizing and reminding us that Jesus came as Light into our dark world.

A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple {or blue}; the third candle is rose-colored. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus’ birth.

**The first candle symbolizes hope and is called the "Prophet’s Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah’s arrival.**

Excerpts from <https://www.crosswalk.com>

# First Sunday in Advent November 30-December 3, 2023

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Hymn 548

“The King of Glory Comes”

*Stand*

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

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

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your**

**punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **Advent Litany**

We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

**We remember Jesus who will come at the end of time. None of us knows what day that will be.**

We hear his call to watch.

**We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*One Advent candle is lit as the congregation sings*

**Congregational Response 495 v. 1&3**

**“The King Shall Come”**

## **The Word**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Old Testament

## Isaiah 64:1-9 EHV

Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and come down.  
Mountains then would quake because of your presence.

<sup>2</sup> As fire ignites stubble and as fire makes water boil,  
make your name known to your adversaries.

Then nations would quake in your presence.

<sup>3</sup> You did amazing things that we did not expect.

You came down. Mountains quaked because of your presence.

<sup>4</sup> From ancient times no one has heard.

No ear has understood.

No eye has seen any god except you,  
who goes into action for the one who waits for him.

<sup>5</sup> You meet anyone who joyfully practices righteousness,  
who remembers you by walking in your ways!

But you were angry because we sinned.

We have remained in our sins for a long time.

Can we still be saved?

<sup>6</sup> All of us have become like something unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like a filthy cloth.

All of us have withered like a leaf,  
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.

<sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls on your name,  
who rouses himself to take hold of you.

So you hid your face from us.

You made us melt by the power of our guilt.

<sup>8</sup> But now, LORD, you are our father.

We are the clay, and you are our potter.

All of us are the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup> Do not be angry, LORD, without limit.

Do not remember our guilt forever.

Please look closely.

All of us are your people.

# Psalm 85

CW'93



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.



You showed favor to your land, O LORD;\*  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people\*  
and covered all their sins.

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,\*  
and grant us your salvation.

## *Refrain*

I will listen to what God the LORD will say;\*  
he promises peace to his people, his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,\*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;\*  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen. *Refrain***

Refrain Tune: From *The Psalms for the Day, Series C*. © 1976 Fortress Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

## Epistle Reading

**1 Corinthians 1:3-9 EHV**

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

<sup>4</sup> I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup> You were enriched in him in every way, in all your speaking and all your knowledge, <sup>6</sup> because the testimony about Christ was established in you. <sup>7</sup> As a result you do not lack any gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also keep you strong until the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, who called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

## Choirs

**“Call the Baby Jesus”  
“Prepare Ye”**

**Adult Choir 8:00 AM  
Junior Choir 10:30 AM**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Revelation 22:20 NIV**

Alleluia! He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia.

*Stand*

## Gospel Reading

**Mark 11:1-10 EHV**

As they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, on the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup> and told them, “Go into the village ahead of you. As soon as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>3</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it, and he will send it back here without delay.’”

<sup>4</sup> They left and found a colt on the street, tied at a door; and they untied it. <sup>5</sup> Some who were standing there asked them, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” <sup>6</sup> The disciples answered them just as Jesus had instructed them, and the men let them go.

<sup>7</sup> They brought the colt to Jesus, threw their garments on it, and Jesus sat on it. <sup>8</sup> Many people spread their garments on the road. Others spread branches that they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup> Those who went in front and those who followed were crying out,

Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

<sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!

Hosanna in the highest!

*Be seated*

## Hymn 301

**“Savior of the Nations, Come”**

## Sermon

**1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

**Christ Brings Salvation; Even to His “Problem Children”**

*Stand*

## 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.**

*Be seated*

## Adult Choir

**“Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room”**

**8:00 AM**

## Prayer of the Church

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

**Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.**



Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

**Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.**

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

**Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.**

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

**Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.**

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

**Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.**

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

**May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

**Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Let us join together and pray.

**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.**

## Offering

*Stand*

**Offering Hymn 751 v1**

**“O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made”**

## 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.**

*Be seated*

**Hymn 313**

**“Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”**

Preacher: Duke Backhaus

Liturgist: David Brandt

Organist: Dale Grulke / Ruth Affeld

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## Announcements:

### Special ways to celebrate our Savior's coming:

More information on each event can be found in the December Welcome!

- For the ladies: **Advent by Candlelight**, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM, Juneau
  - o Sign-up in narthex
- For all: **Joint Advent Service**, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM, Juneau
  - o Cookie/bar donations needed, sign-up in narthex!
- For the kids: **Christmas for Kids**, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> 9-10:30 AM, School



### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunity:

- Ladies Aid Work Day: December 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:45 pm: No Ladies Aid meeting, but we are getting together to sign cards for shut-ins for Christmas.

### Upcoming Christmas Concerts:

- Christmas at **Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary** will be held Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 3 PM and 7 PM
- **WELS Wind Ensemble** will be Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM, Carpool leaving Juneau at 1 PM
  - o Sign-up in the narthex!
- **St. John's Jr. Choir, Band, and Recorder Concert**, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 1:30 PM and 7 PM, School
- **Luther Prep's** will be held at LPS on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 3-4 PM
- **Lakeside Lutheran's** will be held at LLHS on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, at 4 PM



**Poinsettias:** Once again, 25 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 \$15. If you would like to donate a poinsettia to church for the Christmas season, please see the sign-up sheet in the Juneau narthex or call the church office by December 18th.



### Christmas Cards Now Available:

Boxes of cards can be purchased in the Juneau church basement for \$5 for a box of 12. Bargain cards are also available!

### Current Giving Opportunities:

- **Local Food Pantry Drive:** Bring in nonperishable foods to any campus Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup> to be donated to local food pantries.
- **Giving Tree:** The giving tree in the Juneau narthex has been decorated with gift requests from families in need in the community. Please take an ornament home and return the gift/money with the ornament tag by Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>!
- **Adopt-A-Seminary Family:** A tree with ornaments with requests from one of our WLS families has been placed in the Juneau narthex! Please drop off the wrapped gift by Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>!
- **Children's Service Candy Bags:** 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 candy or money towards the candy bags, please bring your items to any of our campuses or church office by December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- **Special Christmas Gift Envelopes:** St. John's has an opportunity for you to direct a special Christmas gift toward two upcoming projects: Funding for celebrating the Juneau church and school's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and construction of a playground for our Pre-K school children. Please return your envelope to the church office or drop it in the offering plate throughout the month of December! You may also give anytime through the St. John's app. More information on the projects can be found in the welcome or on the envelopes!



Please consider St. John's when you are directing Thrivent Choice Dollars or thinking of forming a Thrivent Action Team!

### New Sunday Bible Class Coming Soon!

The Timely Topics, Timeless Truths series brings the discussions people are talking about today into a Bible study setting. The studies will equip learners with biblical truths for engaging in challenging issues with their family, friends, and coworkers. Topics include global warming, gender identity, and Santa Claus! The series will begin Sunday, December 17 in Lowell, and Juneau.

### Office Hours at Lowell:

Starting Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, the Lowell office will be staffed by a pastor on Thursdays between 1:30 and 4:30 PM. Please feel free to drop by anytime during those hours to visit with your pastoral staff!



Pastor's  
Office Hours

### **Every Member Visits:**

Scan the QR code or call the church office to sign-up for a time to connect with Pastor Mount!



### **Beaver Dam area WELS Seniors:**

All seniors are invited to St. Stephens of Beaver Dam for a noon potluck meal on Tuesday, December 12. After the meal and a devotion, Pastor Heyer will lead a Christmas singalong, using the Christian Worship 2021 hymnal. St. Stephens is located at 300 West Street in Beaver Dam. Invite a friend and enjoy the fellowship!

### **Cards for Called Workers:**

Would you like to show appreciation and give some encouraging words to our Called Workers this Christmas Season with a card? St. John's has a Christmas card box in the back of church in Juneau to place your cards into or drop them in the offering plate. We thank God for all our called workers and all they do to share Jesus with us and our school children.



Who are our called workers?

Pastor David Brandt, Pastor Joel Luetke, Pastor Nicholas Mount, Senior Assistant Duke Backhaus, Staff Minister Ryan Kummerow, Principal Rick Cody, Teacher Suzi Colantonio, Teacher Nikki Gunst, Teacher Deanna McLain, Teacher Matt Lober, Teacher Crystal Schultz, Teacher Livia Backhaus, and Teacher Rebecca Zellmer.

## **Volunteers** (11/30-12/3)

### **Greeters:**

6:30 PM Tim, Jill and Maddy Weisensel  
8:00 AM Becky Zimmerman, Dan and Barb Zank  
10:30 AM Ruth Ockerlander & Family, Hailey, Bella, Caleb

### **Ushers:**

8:00 AM Rick Bassette, Ralph Kaul, Dennis Affeld, Sean Affeld  
9:30 AM Don Gibson, Dan Becker  
10:30 AM Tom Selchert, Marty Weinheimer, Mark Ockerlander, Mason Ockerlander, and Logan Ockerlander

### **Juneau Snow Removal:** (Week of Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>)

Team 1 Rick Leissring and Kris Heinzen



## **Adopt a Seminary Family for Christmas!**

The St. John's Ladies Aid will again be sponsoring a seminary family this Christmas and we want to invite you, the members of St. John's, to be a part of this special Christmas gifting! We have been given the name of a deserving family by the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary staff (this couple has 1 daughter, Esther, born in August of 2023) and we asked them for a wish list. (Below you will see the communication we received from the Bruckschens.) To participate, you'll find a tree in the St. John's Juneau narthex with gift ideas found on the tree. Choose the gift you'd like to purchase and take the ornament with you. Once you purchase the item, wrap it, include a card with Christmas wishes if you like or it can be anonymous, and bring it to church no later than 11:30am Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be a drop box in the St. John's Juneau narthex. How wonderful that we can spread some extra special Christmas cheer to this deserving family!

From Noah Bruckschen:

First, I would like to say thank you so much for thinking of our family this Christmas season! Jamie and Esther and I are truly blessed to be thought of by so many people! It really puts things into perspective and shows God's grace and love that he showers on us through his people! Your email was read last night to three very joyful and thankful people!

After Jamie and I read the email last night, we asked Esther what she would like to put on the list for her, and she was so excited all she could do was scream!...

... We pray the Lord bless you all this Christmas season as we reflect and rejoice that Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Your humble and thankful brother in Christ,

Noah Bruckschen

# This Week at St. John's

## Sunday (12/3)

Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM- J

Worship 9:30 AM- SL

Bible Class 8:15 AM (SL) & 9:30 AM (J)

Sunday School 8:30 AM (SL) & 9:15 AM (J)

Advent by Candlelight 6:00 PM- J

Food Drive Begins!

## Monday (12/4)

Readings Bible Study 6:30 PM- J

## Tuesday (12/5)

Jesus Cares 1:30 PM- Clearview

## Wednesday (12/6)

Confirmation 5:00 PM- J

Joint Advent Service 6:30 PM- J

## Thursday (12/7)

Worship 6:30 PM- J

Ladies Aid Card Signing 6:45 PM- J

## Saturday (12/9)

Christmas for Kids 9:00 AM- School

Worship 5:00 PM- H

## Sunday (12/10)

Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM- J

Worship 9:30 AM- SL

Bible Class 8:15 AM (SL) & 9:30 AM (J)

Sunday School 8:30 AM (SL) & 9:15 AM (J)

Wind Ensemble 2:00 PM- Fall River

## Statistics

### *Offerings given to our Lord*

	<u>11/16-11/19</u>
General	\$ 11,706.87
Debt	\$ 370.46
Improvement	\$ 50.00
Lakeside	\$ 49.90
Missions	\$ 977.90
Total	\$ 13,165.13

### *Attendance*

Weekend of Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> 373 (74,26,124,45,44)

*At our Voter's Meeting, our congregation approved a weekly budget with an average total of \$20,246 (includes General, Lakeside and Missions) needed every week. **Since the beginning of 2022, our congregation has gone from zero debt to drawing a total of \$147,215.44. from the line of credit.** Please continue to support St. John's through your time, talents, treasures, and prayers. Thank you!*

# 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  
Nicholas Mount 920-344-1524  
Joel Luetke 920-285-1351  
Duke Backhaus 414-559-6107

### Principal

Richard Cody 920-386-4644

### Staff Minister

Ryan Kummerow 608-345-1900

### Worship Services

#### Thursday

6:30 PM Juneau

#### Saturday

5:00 PM Horicon

#### Sunday

8:00 AM Juneau

9:30 AM Lowell

10:30 AM Juneau

### Bible Classes

#### Sunday

Juneau Campus

9:30 AM

Salem-Lowell Campus

8:15 AM

#### Monday

Juneau Campus

6:30 PM

#### Tuesday (2nd, 4th, 5th)

Juneau Campus

6:30 PM

### 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](http://www.stjohnsdodgecounty.com)

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