



First Sunday of Advent **November 27, 2022 • 10:00am**

Saint John's Lutheran Church
The North American Lutheran Church
505 South Park Street, Asheboro, NC
336-625-4263

www.stjohnsasheboro.org

[facebook](#) StJohnslutheranAsheboronc

Molly Neal, Organist and Choir Director

Kim Walker, Secretary (secretarystjohnsasheboro@gmail.com)

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 10:00AM-2:00PM

**Service can be heard on FM RADIO 98.9 and
seen LIVE on church Face Book page and YouTube**



Setting 4, Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Our Mission: Worshipping and Witnessing for Christ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: “Gather Us In”

The assembly is invited to stand.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In this season of intentional waiting and watching for the return of Christ, we are gathered together to worship in the name of the Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: A voice cries in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a pathway for our God.” Let us come humbly before our Lord, asking for forgiveness and mercy for our sins, known and unknown, trusting in God’s promise of reconciliation and new life in Christ. (Isaiah 40:3)

(Silence for self-reflection and examination)

P: God of grace,

C: we confess that we have not been attentive to the call to prepare for the coming of your Son. We have focused our vision on things of the moment and neglected to wait and watch for his return. We have neglected to notice the plight of our neighbors near and far, and instead we have thought more of ourselves rather than others. Grant us, we pray, the gift of your forgiveness and mercy, that we may be restored to a new and right relationship with you. Amen.

P: Our Father who loves us with an everlasting love promised of old that he would send us a sign saying, “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” God is with us in Christ our Lord, the word made flesh, hears our confession and grants us undeserved mercy; be confident in his forgiveness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. (Isaiah 7:14))

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: “Come Thou Long Expecte4d Jesus”.....ELW#254

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all

C: And also with you.

KYRIE & THIS IS THE FEAST

P.147 & P.149

BLESSING OF CHRISMON TREE, LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

L: Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent means “coming” and in this season we prepare for the coming of Christ. One of the ways we prepare for his coming is by making an Advent wreath and lighting its candles to remind us of the gifts Christ brings to the world. The Advent wreath includes many symbols to help us think about Christ and his gifts. The wreath itself is in the shape of a circle. A circle has no beginning and no end. This reminds us that there is no beginning and no end to God and that God's love and faithfulness are eternal. The light from the candles - which grows brighter each Sunday in Advent, reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world. The candles remind us of God's gifts in Christ: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Presence. Today we light the candle of hope.

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C: those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

L: We join with sisters and brothers around the world, lighting candles to mark our steps in this Advent journey.

C: Today, we light the candle of Hope and give thanks for God's gift of hope.

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” vs. 1.....ELW#240

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel God fulfills the promise.

L: Let us “always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” (1 Peter 3:14)

C: Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. We celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ and our calling to share this hope with the world by letting our light shine before others.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by your mighty deliverance; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C:** Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

1The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, 3and many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his

ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 122:1-7

¹I was glad when they | said to me,*

“Let us go to the house | of the Lord.”

²Now our | feet are standing*

within your gates, | O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built | as a city*

that is at unity | with itself;

⁴To which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the Lord,*

the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the Lord.

⁵For there are the | thrones of judgment,*

the thrones of the | house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:*

“May they pros- | per who love you.

⁷Peace be with- | in your walls*

and quietness with- | in your towers.

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia

P.151

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

³⁶{Jesus said,} “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT:

Ermalyn Jaeck



SERMON:

Rev. Samar Ghandour

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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 INTERCESSION

Response: L: Lord in your mercy, C: **Hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST: The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also, with you.

Worshippers may greet one another with “the Peace of Christ” or similar words. The assembly is seated.

OFFERING: *Please place Care Cards in the offering plate. The care cards are in the pews and include communion participation, prayer requests, and other important information. You can use one card for a couple or family if you choose.*

ANTHEM:

The assembly stands

OFFERING HYMN: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful".....ELW#182

OFFERING PRAYER:

God of abundance, C: **we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND PREFACE **P.152 & P.153**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY **P.153**

LORD'S PRAYER **P.154**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God! **Thanks be to God!**
We welcome to the Lord’s Table all who are baptized and believe that Jesus offers his body and blood to sinners. Ushers will direct you. The inner circle of communion cups is grape juice; all other cups are wine. You may also drink from the common cup by looking toward the Assistant Minister. Children who do not yet commune may fold their hands at the rail to receive a blessing. If you cannot go forward for communion please let an usher know so that they may assist and bring communion to you..

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION SONG “Lamb of God” **P.154**

COMMUNION HYMN: “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”.....ELW#488

COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

P: God of mercy and grace, we thank you for feeding us with the sacrament of Christ’s body and blood —that which strengthens us in faith and assures us of new life now and in eternity. As we wait and watch for the return of the Messiah in these last days, continue to feed us with the life-giving bread and the cup of salvation in the name of Christ. **C: Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN: “Soon and Very Soon”.....ELW#439

DISMISSAL:

P: As you go from this place, remember that with God, nothing is impossible. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. **C: Amen.**

POSTLUDE: “Lift High the Cross”

Today / November 27th

8:45AM Coffee & Fellowship

9AM: Sunday School

10AM: Service of Worship

*The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in thankfulness for the family of
St. John’s Lutheran Church by Kim & Dennis Walker..*



Birthdays week of Nov. 28th thru Dec. 4th

28 Tania Kirkpatrick **30** Bruce Whiton

2 Kim Kelly & Forrest Robinson

Anniversaries week of Nov. 28 thru Dec. 4

29 Mike & Sharon Harrelson

In Service Sunday November 27th

Pam & Dennis Shaw	Altar Guild
Sharon Seitz	Greeter
Team 3	Ushers
Wittenberg Family	Nursery
Molly Neal	Organist
Ermalyn & Dani Jaeck	Acolyte, Crucifer
Pam Wolfe	Assistant Minister
Ermalyn Jaeck	Children's Sermon
Kaye Kopplin	Witness
Alfred & Vicki Bless	Counting

THIS WEEK (Nov. 28th thru December 3rd)

Monday / Nov. 28th

1pm: Fellowship Bridge

6:30pm: ESOL

7pm: Council Meeting

Tuesday / Nov. 29th

6:30pm: ESOL

Wednesday / Nov. 30th

10:30am Bible Study

6pm Choir

Thursday / Dec. 1st

6pm: American Heritage Girls

6:30pm: ESOL

6pm: SJLC Men's Meeting



POINSETTIA ORDERS Order forms will be available in the office, entrance tables and in the bulletins beginning **Nov. 27th** Cost is **\$18 per poinsettia** to have in memory or in honor of a loved one. Orders **due no later than Dec. 20th** to Marj Murdock or Carol DeLooze. This will allow time for the names and information to be prepared for the Christmas Eve / Christmas bulletin insert. Thank you

INFORMATION / REMINDERS:

December 4, 2022 Second Sunday of Advent/ Alan

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

In Service Next Week / December 4th

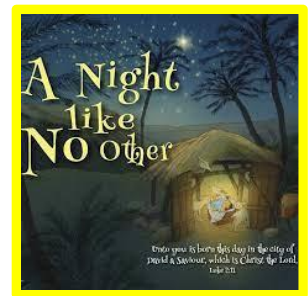
Marj Murdock	Altar Guild
Pam Wolfe	Greeter
Team 3	Ushers
Kim Kelly & Michele Dawes	Nursery
Molly Neal	Organist
Stefan Reedy / Liam Wittenberg	Acolyte, Crucifer
Ken Jaeck	Assistant Minister
Ken Jaeck	Children's Sermon
Doug Schultz	Witness
Alfred & Vicki Bless	Counting



December 3rd at 9:00 AM

Children come to enjoy Coloring Pages ,
Breakfast, Santa, Crafts
and "The Story"

Children's Christmas Play / Sunday Dec. 11
during Worship service
Practice is being held during Sunday School.
Please be sure your child is here



Our **NOVEMBER / DECEMBER** item for Christians United Outreach (CUOC) is **Chili / Kid Friendly JUICES**. Please place your contributions in the basket outside the church office. Thank you for your generosity each month.



Community, Nation & World

Veterans, current military enlisted and their families

Ukrainians / Russians

Victory Missions International

Rev. Samar Ghandour and family

Ft. Wainwright

NALC

St. John's Church Council &

Call Committee

Reformation LC

Persecuted Christians

Naomi Heart Missions / Kristi Ward

Leaders of our Country

St. John's Family:

Karen Stephens

Melinda Swain

Earl DeLooze,

Ed Tanzman (surgery Dec. 12)

Craig Wolfe,

Robert & Lynn Smith

Cynthia Allen,

Marielle Jaeck,

Bill Sheffield

Peggy Sholar (home),

Sara Rhyne (Brookdale)

Pat McGinn

Friends and Family of the

Congregation:

Hazel Hayes (Michele Dawes mom)

George Singleten (surgery for throat cancer)

/ Vanessa Ornelas

Lynn Gramham (Cancer)/Bill Sheffield

Isaac, a young boy already dealing with a heart condition has been admitted to hospital

with a severe respiratory infection / healing (Tania Kirkpatrick)

Laurie Scott / cancer (Kim Kelly cousin)

Philip Cheek (Kenny & Gidge Kidd)

Tresa Sheffield (Bill Sheffield)

Susan Roses (grandmother of Madeline & Dorothy Arbazia)

Jeanette M. Brower (Bill Sheffield)

Lee H. Sheffield (Bill Sheffield)

Jorge Guiterez-Lukemia

(friend of Olivia Smith)

Joyce Parsons (Bill Sheffield)

Charlotte 93 yr old healing from hip surgery (Cindy Whiton)

Needa Keefer / Stroke (Lesha Daniel mother)

Sheryl Barlow (Helen Klutz daughter)

11 yr old Isaiah H. (Cindy Whiton)

Katherine Vann (cancer / Kate Sefick cousin)

Gregory Coward (knee surgery)

Nathan healing (friend of Bettina)

Tristan Shepherd at Ft. Wainwright, AK

Tom healing from quadruple bypass

(friend of Cindy & Bruce)

Ivey Horne breathing issues (Kim Kelly granddaughter)

Nhena and Shamael [Ginna Schwartz granddaughter and daughter]

David Stephens

Theo Cook (Karen Wilke nieces baby)

Michele Dawes mother

Melissa Butner, aggressive breast cancer (Wittenberg family)

Katie Stone

Carolyn Hardage & family (Pam Wolfe)

Kevin & Sharon McGinn

Bruce Kyles cancer (friend of Kathy Chriscoe)

Joshua Van Ravestein



Sunday / Dec. 11th during worship service

Children & Youth Christmas Celebration - "A Night Like No Other"

"Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord (*Luke 2:11*). One night. It all comes down to one joyous, miraculous, wonderful night – the very special night when God sent Jesus to be our Savior.

**Saturday, Dec. 24 at 7pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight
and Holy Communion**

Join us for joyful celebration of Christ's birth as we sing carols of praise, hear the Christmas story from *Luke 2*, Sing Silent Night Holy Night by Candlelight, and receive the gift of Christ's love and presence in Holy Communion!

Sunday, Dec 25, Christmas Service with Holy Communion 10am

**Sunday, January 1st , First Sunday after Christmas
Service with Holy Communion 10am**

**Sunday, Jan 6, Christmas / Feast of the Epiphany Service
with Holy Communion 10am**

The Magi are led to Christ, the light of the world, who guides us into the new year ahead where we experience His presence, worship Him, and present ourselves as gifts in praise and thanksgiving



You Must Be Ready

Find the **36 bold** words from *Matthew 24:36–44* (ESV)

H H P E I S Q E R O F E B P Y
O J N E K A T I G S L E G N A
U G N I M O C U N A W A R E D
S D G H M A R R I A G E R O M
E X P E C T B G N O A H S A D
G W F T W O N F R E U N S O G
A D O G N I T A E N M T O K H
R R R M V M G E C G E L T J O
R B K I E A L S N R F Y H T U
E R G N N N A I O D X Y I H R
H O S T I K D M C L S A E E N
T K O O S N I S W E P T F A I
A E N F I L E N N I J S U V G
F N K R L H E W G F M W O E H
I X G M A R R Y I N G V E N T

But **concerning** that **day** and **hour** no one knows, not even the **angels** of **heaven**, nor the Son, but the **Father only**. For as were the days of **Noah**, so will be the **coming** of the **Son of Man**. For as in those days **before** the **flood** they were **eating** and **drinking**, **marrying** and **giving** in **marriage**, until the day when Noah entered the **ark**, and they were **unaware** until the flood came and **swept** them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then **two men** will be in the **field**; one will be **taken** and one left. Two **women** will be **grinding** at the **mill**; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, **stay** awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the **master** of the **house** had known in what part of the **night** the **thief** was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be **broken into**. Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not **expect**.