



Christmas Story

*Sunday, December 11, 2011
9:00am*

The East Koshkonong Lutheran Church
454 East Church Rd., Cambridge, WI 53523
Church Office: Phone 423-3017 ~ Fax 423-7512
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Interim Pastor James A. Schwarz: 608-873-5518
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www.eastkoshkonong.org

Welcome visitors! Thank you for taking the time to fill out the communion card provided by the ushers. We believe that the host of the meal provided during worship today is Christ. Christ invites everyone to this meal, saying, "This is for you for the forgiveness of sin." Echoing Christ, we invite everyone to this banquet. If you would like to receive deeper instruction in the Christian faith; if you desire to be baptized; or if you simply seek someone to pray with or for you, inquire of the pastor or indicate the need on the communion card. Grape juice is in the center ring of the communion tray.

Third Sunday of Advent

Thank you for observing a time of reflection & silence
in the sanctuary prior to worship.

Prelude.....

Advent Wreath "Light One Candle".....#240 verses 1,2,3

Lighting of Advent Wreath.....

One of the best known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayer around the wreath.

Confession and Forgiveness.....Page 94

Hymn..... "Blessed Be the God of Israel"#250

Greeting.....

Pastor: Grace and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

Congregation: And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day.....

Assistant Minister: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

First LessonIsaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of the Lord, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion —
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

Congregational Response: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson.....1 Thessalonians 5:16–24
Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

Congregational Response: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel.....John 1:6–8, 19–28
John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

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. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

"Make straight the way of the Lord,"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The East Koshkonong Church Choir.....Christmas Story

..... "When Will He Come?"

..... "Heard About a Newborn King"

Nicene Creed.....Page 104

The Prayers of the Church.....

Assistant Minister: Hear us, O God.

Congregation: Your mercy is great.

Sharing of the peace.....

The Offering.....

The East Koshkonong Church Choir.....Christmas Story

..... *“Follow the Star”*

..... *“Gesu Bambino”*

..... *“A Child is Born”*

..... *“Sing Joy to the World!”*

The Great Thanksgiving.....Page 107

Holy, Holy, Holy.....Page 108

The Eucharistic Prayer.....Page 109

The Lord’s Prayer.....Page 112

Communion

*You are invited to sing the following hymn during the
distribution of Communion:*

“Eat This Bread” 3X #472

Prayer after Communion.....

Assistant Minister : Lord God, we give you thanks

that you have fed us even now

with the banquet that is yet to come.

Keep us alert for signs of your presence

in the world around us.

Send us as healing oil and sheltering comfort

to those in need,

and make us bold in testifying to the light

of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

Blessing.....

Pastor: God most high,
God with us,
God poured out on us,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

Hymn “*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*”#815

Pastor: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

~Worship Assistants~

Pastor ~ Pastor James A. Schwarz

Assistant Minister ~ Carolyn Lien

Lector ~ Linda Mathison

Acolytes ~ Steven DeForest & Matt Kaare

Greeter ~ Ruth Bovre **Ushers** ~ Peace Circle

Communion Set-up/Take down ~ Peace Circle

Communion Assistants ~ Gloria Fruit & Lois Zerkle

Organist ~ Judy Rusch

~ Prayer Requests ~

Thanksgiving to God for...

-East Koshkonong Lutheran Church's mission and ministry.

-Prayers for the ministries of Arden and Jana Haug, John and Amy Lindstrom, Lindsay Stolen, and Jens Notstad.

God's guidance and direction for...

-Please keep the family of Cynthia Burnside in your thoughts and prayers as we express sympathy for their loss.

-East Koshkonong Lutheran Church Call Committee

-For peace in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and among all the nations of the world.

God's protection and safety for those being deployed...

- Please remember all our veterans. Give them all God's comfort in their memories of war and service to their country.

Healing and health concerns...

-Dave Nettum

-Jerry Behm

-Julia Schremp

-Duane Dieckhoff

-Kenneth Dieckhoff*

Please note: If you have a prayer request and want it put in the bulletin, please write it down on the back of the communion/welcome card or notify the office before noon on Wednesday. Prayer requests will remain for 3 weeks unless otherwise requested. Prayer requests week November 27, 2011



*Altar Flowers this morning are
in memory of Curtis W. Christensen
by Karen Hayes*

~ Announcements ~

- **Christmas Program Practice Saturday, Dec. 17th @ 9:00am** for ALL Confirmation and Sunday School Students.
- **2012 Offering Boxes are available in Friendship Hall.** Thank you for picking up your 2012 offering boxes before or after worship today. They're located on tables in Friendship Hall.
- **Attention WELCA Chairpersons: Gift Giving Meeting today following worship in Ladies Lounge.** All women of the church are invited to join the EKLC WELCA as we gather for our gift giving meeting. Please have a representative from each circle present at the meeting today in the Ladies Lounge following worship.
- **Yuletide Festival Sunday, Dec. 11th @ 3:00pm.** The Cambridge-Deerfield Men & Women's Choirs will be presenting their annual Yuletide Festival Sunday December 11th at 3:00pm, at the Historic Gymnasium at Nikolay Middle School in Cambridge. The cost is \$5 and includes a cookie reception. Everyone is welcome.
- **Gifts of Service Survey.** Don't forget to return your Gifts of Service Survey that was enclosed in your December Sunday and Beyond Newsletter. There are extras available in the church narthex. Thank you!
- **Caroling to the homebound.** Would you be interested in caroling to the EKLC homebound members? Please contact the Church Office (423-3017) or Diane Luginbuhl (423-9748) by December 12th. If there is enough interest we will go caroling December 18th following worship.
- **The annual meeting of East Koshkonong Lutheran Church** will be held on January 22nd, 2012 at the conclusion of the 9 a.m. worship service. All voting/confirmed members are encouraged to attend. At this annual meeting of the congregation, we will review the budget for 2012, and elect council members. Nominations for council and synod assembly are welcome, and can be referred to the nominating committee through a council member or the church office. **Please submit financial and written reports for the annual report to the church office by January 8th, 2012.**

~ *Calendar of Events* ~

Sunday, December 11, 2011

9:00am **Worship with Choir Concert**
10:15am **Coffee Hour in honor of Pastor Jim Schwarz**
10:15am **Sunday School Christmas Program Practice**
10:15am **WELCA giving meeting in Ladies Lounge**

Monday, December 12, 2011

7:00pm **Dartball league @ Central**

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

5:30pm **Worship Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

6:00pm **Confirmation Class Christmas Program Practice**

Thursday, December 15, 2011

8:00am **Men's Breakfast**

Saturday, December 17, 2011

9:00am **Christmas Program Practice for Confirmation & Sunday
School Youth**

Sunday, December 18, 2011

9:00am **Christmas Pageant**



H O L I D A Y



Schedule

December 11

9:00am ~ *Worship and Choir Christmas Concert*

December 18

9:00am ~ *Christmas Pageant*

December 24

3:00pm ~ *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

6:00pm ~ *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

December 25

9:00am ~ *Christmas Day Worship*



East Koshkonong Senior Choir

Director Krisy Klemp
Accompanist Judy Rusch

Choir Members

Soprano

Karen Hayes
Holly Loomis
Linda Mathison

Alto

Gloria Fruit
Beverly Lien
Carolyn Lien
Kristen Lien
Susan Repyak
Lois Zerkle

Tenor

David Repyak
Ken Rockney
Michael Stuve

Bass

Franklin Lien
Arlen Lund
Lyle Walheim