

Second Sunday in Advent

The 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.

Sunday, December 4, 2011

9:00am

The East Koshkonong Lutheran Church
454 East Church Rd., Cambridge, WI 53523
Church Office: Phone 423-3017 ~ Fax 423-7512
Email: eklc@bminet.com

Interim Pastor James A. Schwarz: Phone 423-3017 ext. 2
Home: 608-873-5518
Email: jimbev1@charter.net

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.

First 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

Confession and Forgiveness.....Page 94

Hymn..... "Comfort, Comfort Now My People".....#256

Canticle of Praise "Come, let us join".....Page 204

The Prayer of the Day.....

Assistant Minister: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.

By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives;
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 Lesson..... Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

Congregational Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm.....Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Assistant Minister = A: ~ Congregation = C:

A: ¹You have been gracious to your ¹land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for-¹tune of Jacob.

C: ²**You have forgiven the iniquity ¹of your people
and blotted out ¹all their sins.**

A: ⁸I will listen to what the LORD ¹God is saying;
and to those who turn their ¹hearts to you.

C: ⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to ¹those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell ¹in our land.**

A: ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have ¹met together;
righteousness and peace have ¹kissed each other.

C: ¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up ¹from the earth,
and righteousness shall look ¹down from heaven.**

A: ¹²The LORD will indeed ¹grant prosperity,
and our land will ¹yield its increase.

C: ¹³**Righteousness shall go be- ¹fore the LORD
and shall prepare for ¹God a pathway.**

Second Lesson..... 2 Peter 3:8–15a
This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

⁸But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be dissolved.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

Congregational Response: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia”Page 205

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel.....Mark 1:1–8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon..... “Celebration ”.....John and Amy Lindstrom

Hymn..... “Prepare the Royal Highway”#264

*You’re invited during the singing of this hymn to
Come and place a chrism on the tree.*

Blessing of the Christmas Tree.....

A: Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at your coming, O Lord,
for you come to judge the earth.
You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

P: Be praised, O God, for the blessings around us
that point to you.
Be praised, O God, for the signs of this holy season
that awaken in us wonder.
Praise for the steadfast green of this tree,
Like your love, enduring all seasons.
Praise for the light that illumines our darkness,
Like Christ, who brings light to the world.
Join our voices with those of the tree and of all creation,
Who sing at your coming:
Glory to God in the highest,
And peace to God’s people on earth.

C: Amen.

The Prayers of the Church.....

Assistant Minister: Hear us, O God,
Congregation: Your mercy is great.

Sharing of the Peace.....

The Offering and Prayer.....

The Great Thanksgiving.....Page 206

Holy, Holy, Holy.....Page 207

The Eucharistic Prayer.....Page 207

Pastor:...we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.
**Congregation: Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.**

* * *

Pastor: To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer.....Page 208

Communion

The Lamb of God.....Page 208

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

“Holy, Holy, Holy” #473 3X

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.

Amen.

Hymn..... *“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”*.....#632

Assistant Minister: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

~ *Worship Assistants* ~

Pastor ~ Pastor James A. Schwarz

Guests ~ John & Amy Lindstrom

Assistant Minister ~ Lyle Walheim

Lector ~ Karen Hayes

Acolytes~ Thea Holden & Maggie Loomis

Greeter ~ Lois Zerkle **Ushers** ~ Peace Circle

Communion Set-up/Take down ~ Peace Circle

Communion Assistants ~ Mary Ellen Christensen & Joanne Gyland

Pianist ~ Shelly Frank

Coffee Hour ~ Worship Committee



Happy
Anniversary!

*Altar Flowers this morning are in honor
of George and Jackie Waag's 25th Wed-
ding Anniversary.*

Happy Anniversary George & Jackie!

~ *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*

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



H O L I D A Y



Schedule

December 4

9:00am ~ Worship with Christmas Tree & Chrismons

December 11

9:00am ~ Worship and Choir Christmas Concert

December 18

9:00am ~ Children's Christmas Pageant

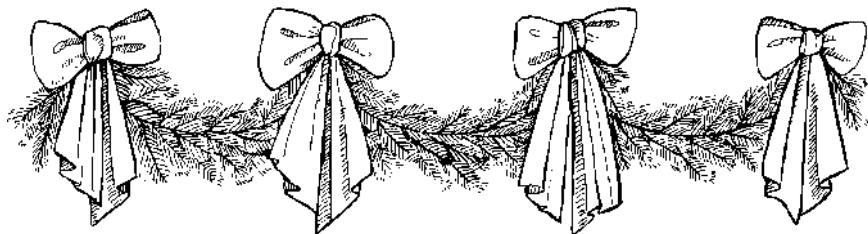
December 24

3:00pm ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6:00pm ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 25

9:00am ~ Christmas Day Worship



~ *Calendar of Events* ~

Sunday, December 4, 2011

9:00am Worship with guests John and Amy Lindstrom
10:15am Coffee Hour Hosted by Worship Committee
 Christmas Program Practice

Monday, December 5, 2011

7:00pm Dartball league at Faith Cougars

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

6:00pm Confirmation Class Christmas Program Practice

Friday, December 9, 2011

OFFICE CLOSED

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

Coffee Hour Schedule

December 4, 2011 Worship Committee
December 11, 2011 Church Council

A coffee hour signup/schedule is in Friendship Hall if you would like to volunteer to host a coffee hour after Sunday Morning Worship.
Hosts are needed for January!!

~ *Announcements* ~

- **Welcome John & Amy Lindstrom who share Good News at East Koshkonong.** Today we are blessed to hear what God has been doing through your prayers and financial partnership with the Malei people. The Malei people first heard the Good News through German Lutheran missionaries in the 1940s. Large numbers of Malei people responded and Lutheran churches now meet in every Malei village. The Good News came to them in the Jabem language and since then Malei people have been waiting to have God's Word in their own language. Today we celebrate the dedication of their New Testament which took place last December. East Koshkonong Lutheran Church has been partners with John and Amy Lindstrom since they first went to Papua New Guinea in 1991. John and Amy worked with Malei believers to enable them to translate God's Word into their own language. While helping Malei people learn to use their New Testaments, John and Amy have also begun work in two languages related to Malei and hope to see translations started in additional languages. John and Amy are currently on home assignment in Minnesota until they return to Papua New Guinea in June 2012.
- **2012 Offering Boxes are available in Friendship Hall** for members to pick up today.
- **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!
- **School Supply Drive at EKLC.** In this time of budget cuts and downsizing we are looking at various ways we can be of help in our local communities. Many area schools are accepting items for use in the classrooms. Cambridge Elementary School is accepting the following items: **Disinfectant wipes, Kleenex (boxes for classrooms), Expo markers and/or erasers, multi packs/colors, Crayola, jumbo size crayon for beginning students, Crayola, any water colors.** There is a collection box in the narthex for the local schools. If you are in another school district, check with your district office to find out what their needs may be.
- **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.