

✚ SECOND WEDNESDAY IN ADVENT ✚

December 8, 2021



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

✝ NAIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ✝

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Pastor: Joseph M. Berg

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Organist: Juanita Becker

Choir Director: Lois Buske

Secretary: Ashley Leyrer

About Our Worship Service

Welcome in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Our message is as old as God's Word to mankind: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to take away our sins. We gather for the Divine Service not merely for the sake of ritual or tradition. Nor do we come to worship primarily to give something back to God. Rather, we meet together to hear and receive what God has done for us. In Word and Sacrament, our gracious Lord gives us forgiveness of sins, unity with him in new life, and the promise of eternal salvation in heaven! Through this same Gospel he motivates and equips us to follow his holy will for our lives. We hope that you are comforted with the message of Jesus Christ's love as you worship with us today. Please join us again soon!

Visitors

Thank you for joining us for worship! Please read the following notes about our church. If you have any questions or need any assistance, **please speak with the pastor.**

Our practice of closed communion: If you have not communed with us before, please read the note about our Lord's Supper practices printed later in this bulletin under "Distribution of Holy Communion."

Rest Rooms are located in the downstairs fellowship hall. A wheelchair accessible restroom is located at the front of the church, through the doors to the left of the chancel.

Guest book: If you feel comfortable doing so, please sign our guest book located in the narthex so we can have a record of your visit.

Mother's Room: Parents with crying children are welcome to use the mother's room, located off of the narthex. The room is equipped with speakers so parents can listen to the service.

Chair Lifts are located off the northwest entrance for those who need to go to the fellowship hall on the lower level but have difficulty with stairs.

Scripture taken from: the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION.

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SECOND WEDNESDAY IN ADVENT

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The Season of Advent
When the Lord Comes Near

"Advent" is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four-week period before Christmas that the Church uses to connect the two "comings" of Christ. The first time the Lord came into our world it was as a tiny, helpless baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem. However, when Jesus comes again, it will be in all his power and glory with his angelic army behind him. He will be coming as judge at the end of time. Let us use these four weeks to see how the events of Jesus' first coming remove all our fears about his second coming. We can hold our heads high *when the Lord comes near*.

Midweek Advent Series
Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

This Advent series is based on readings from the apostle St. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, focusing us on the hope we have as we await the second coming of Jesus.

The Thessalonians were not only worried about their own departure; they were also concerned about loved ones who had died in the Lord. St. Paul assures them, and us, that Christians who die are in fact only asleep. When the Lord Jesus *comes with clouds descending*, their bodies shall awake to join their souls so they will live body and soul with the Lord forever in heaven! We are confident of this because Jesus has died and rose again as promised, and we are hidden in him; united to him by faith. Therefore, as we look forward to Jesus' return, let us encourage each other with these words!

✚ EVENING PRAYER ✚

Welcome to God's house in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Please enter the sanctuary quietly so you and others can prepare your hearts for God's worship service.

Personal prayers for worship are printed on pages 10-11, 134-139, and 156 in the front of the hymnal.

"Understanding Lutheran Worship" provides excellent information about the Lutheran Liturgy, the Christian Church Year, and the Books of the Bible. A copy of the booklet is located in the hymnal rack of each pew.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

(Job 11:13-15; Psalm 25; Isaiah 40:3-5; Hebrews 4:16)

N.B. There will be no pre-service announcements.

Our worship begins with the tolling of the bells, followed by the opening hymn.

TOLLING OF THE BELLS

OPENING HYMN

704 vv 1,3 "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending"



1 Lo, he comes with clouds de -
3 Those dear to - kens of his



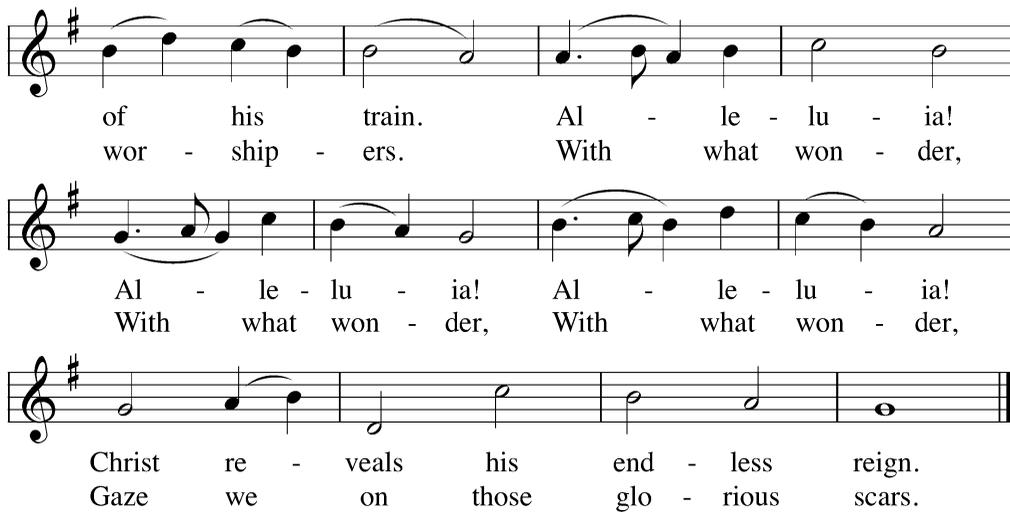
scend - ing, Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner
pas - sion Still his daz - zling bod - y



slain. Thou - sand, thou - sand
bears, Cause of end - less



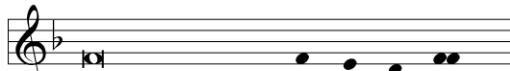
saints at - tend - ing Swell the tri - umph
ex - ul - ta - tion To his ran - somed



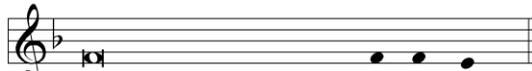
of his train. Al - le - lu - ia!
 wor - ship - ers. With what won - der,
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 With what won - der, With what won - der,
 Christ re - veals his end - less reign.
 Gaze we on those glo - rious scars.

OPENING VERSES (John 8:12; Luke 24:29; 1 John 1:5)

* Please stand.



M: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



C: the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



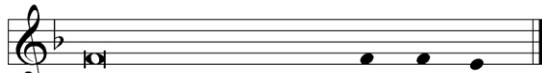
M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



C: and the day is almost o - ver.



M: Be our light and scat - ter the dark - ness,



C: and hear our evening hymn of praise.

O GRACIOUS LIGHT, LORD JESUS CHRIST



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, In you the
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth; The lamps are
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O Son of



Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
God, life - giv - ing Lord; Where-fore you are through



blest is he, And blest are you, his on - ly Son.
Spir - it: God Who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
all the earth And in the high - est heav'n a - dored.

PRAYER

M: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

* Please be seated.

LET MY PRAYER RISE BEFORE YOU (Psalm 141:1-2)



C: Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing



up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I



call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

PRAYER

M: Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

THE WORD

(Romans 10:17; Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 3:16,17)

LESSON

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

* *After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

LESSON

Mark 13:21-31

* *After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

SEASONAL RESPONSE

M: "The Lord will come again in glory. The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come." (Revelation 22:20)

SERMON HYMN

25 "The King Shall Come"

* The hymns are located in the middle to back portion of the red hymnal.

SERMON

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

"Encouraging words about the end"

MAGNIFICAT – SONG OF MARY (Luke 1:46-55)

* Please remain seated.

C: My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-
joic-es in God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa-vor
on his low-ly ser-vant. From this day all gen-er-a-tions
will call me bless-ed. The Al-might-y has done great
things for me, and ho-ly is his name. He has mer-cy on
those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.
He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the

proud in their con - ceit. He has cast down the might - y
 from their thrones and has lift - ed up the low - ly.
 He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich
 he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the
 help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his
 prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,
 to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

OFFERTORY

* Offering Collection

God, who blesses us with all we have, gives us the privilege of showing him our thanks in many ways. One of these ways is by giving back a portion of what he has given us to support the spread of his Gospel. If you are a guest, please don't feel that you must give an offering. We are happy to share with you the free, good news of Jesus' eternal love for you.

If you have an offering, you can place it in the box in the narthex, mail it to the church, or give online via the link on our church website. Thank you for your financial support of our congregation.

* Friendship Registers

A Friendship Register (i.e. the maroon book) is located at the end of each pew. Sometime before you leave, please write in your name and the names of those with you, check any appropriate box, and provide your contact information if you want the pastor to speak with you.

KYRIE – LORD, HAVE MERCY (Mark 10:47; Luke 17:12-13)

** Please stand at the direction of the pastor.*



M: In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:



C: Thanks be to God.

M: In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.



C: A - men.

LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)

C: 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.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS – SONG OF SIMEON (Luke 2:29-32)



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part



ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen

your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry
 peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles
 and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

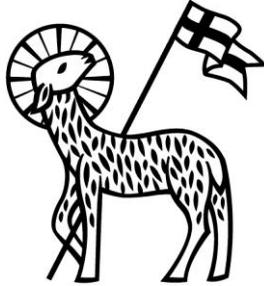
APOSTOLIC BLESSING (2 Corinthians 13:14)

M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.
 C: A - men.

** Please be seated.*

CLOSING HYMN 1 vv 1,3,4 "The Advent of Our King"





A personal prayer for after worship is printed on page 11 in the front of the hymnal.

Thank you for joining us as we together worshiped our Triune God. The Lord be with you this week!

Please contact Pastor Berg if you are need of any pastoral care during the week.

Special thanks to: Juanita Becker for playing organ and Peter Hermanson for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream.

All worshipers are encouraged to take home a copy of our weekly newsletter, the “Nain Messenger” to stay informed about all congregational news. Several copies are available on the countertop in the narthex.

“The Congregation at Prayer,” a document offering suggestions for daily devotions and Scripture readings, is posted on our church website.

If you have an offering, you can place it in the box in the narthex, mail it to the church, or give online via the link on our church website. Thank you for your financial support of our congregation.

Nain is a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

For more information about our synod, please visit its website: www.wels.net



Advent & Christmas Service Schedule

Please join us for these worship services, as we focus on our Savior's coming to save us from our sins.

First Sunday in Advent	November 28	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am
Midweek Advent 1	December 1	Wednesday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
Second Sunday in Advent	December 5	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am
Midweek Advent 2	December 8	Wednesday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
Third Sunday in Advent	December 12	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am
Midweek Advent 3	December 15	Wednesday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
Fourth Sunday in Advent	December 19	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am
The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve	December 24	Friday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day	December 25	Saturday	8:00 am	10:30 am
First Sunday after Christmas	December 26	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am
Second Sunday after Christmas	January 2	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am



The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is believed to have originated in Germany, as a folk custom. The evergreen branches symbolize God's unending love for us, and eternal life found in Christ. The four candles set in the wreath represent the four Sundays in the season of Advent. The lighting of the candles each week in Advent marks the growing anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Various traditions explain the color for the candles.

Some churches use three purple or violet candles on the first, second, and fourth Sundays to remind us that Advent is a season of repentance. Other churches use three blue candles on these Sundays to symbolize our hope and expectation at the coming of Jesus; especially his second coming in glory on the Last Day.

A rose or pink candle is often used on the third Sunday, historically observed as Gaudete (Rejoice!) Sunday as a reminder that Advent is also a time of joy.

The fifth candle, if used, is white. It is lighted on Christmas Day and symbolizes the perfection and purity of God's gift to sinners: his righteous Son, Jesus Christ.

Some traditions associate a theme with each candle. One tradition is as follows...

The **Prophecy Candle**: Also called the Hope Candle, this violet or blue candle symbolizes the Old Testament prophecies of Christ's coming.

The **Bethlehem Candle**: Also called the Peace Candle, this violet or blue candle symbolizes the birth of Jesus to the Virgin Mary in the town of Bethlehem.

The **Shepherds' Candle**: Also called the Joy Candle, this pink or rose-colored candle symbolizes the coming of the Savior into the hearts and lives of believers, like the shepherds at Jesus' birth.

The **Angels' Candle**: Also called the Good News Candle, this violet or blue candle symbolizes the final glorious coming of the Savior with all his angels on the Last Day.

The **Christ Candle**: This white candle symbolizes the day of Jesus' birth, the coming we've been waiting for, the advent of Jesus, the Light of the World.