

THE JOTTINGS

The Newsletter of Jehovah Lutheran Church

1566 Thomas Ave, Saint Paul MN 55104 • 651-644-1421 • www.jehovahlutheran.org

A Community of Joy . . . Celebrating, Learning & Sharing the Love of God in Christ Jesus



December 2023

Jehovah Lutheran Church

Traditional liturgy and
hymns of the faith
Gospel-centered preaching
Weekly celebration of
Holy Communion



SUNDAYS

Worship 9:30am

Growing in Faith
Sunday School
Following Divine Service

Living in Faith
Bible Study 11:00am

Join us for worship
Stay Connected
and Informed
on our Church Website:
www.jehovahlutheran.org



One Lord, one faith, one baptism
Ephesians 4:5

The Joy of Advent

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9 and Matthew 21:5 (ESV).

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Rejoice! Your King is coming to you!

Advent is probably my favorite time in the Church year. It's a time of expectant joy! It's a time when we begin to anticipate the joy that Christmas brings. As we put up decorations, buy gifts for others, and fill out Christmas cards, this joy becomes palpable as we begin to catch the excitement and expectation of looking forward to Christmas.

Sometimes we might think of Advent as a time of darkness, since the days are getting shorter and there is less and less sunlight (at least up North here in Minnesota). Sometimes this darkness darkens our moods too. As it gets colder, we may go outside less and tend to keep to ourselves more. In this context, we might begin to see Advent as a time of dark and introspection. But this should not be!

Advent is a season of light! It is the season of the Light of Christ shining into the darkness and brokenness of this world. It is a season of hope. Advent is truly a season of joy.

In his book entitled, *Surprised by Joy*, C. S. Lewis notes that the nature of joy is somewhat paradoxical. On the one hand, we have joy when we receive and possess something we want. But, on the other hand, we also have joy when we want that thing and are still waiting to get it.¹

Behold,
your king is coming to you.



This is certainly true about the joy of Advent. On the one hand, we already have received what—or rather Who—brings us joy at Advent. We have already received our Lord Jesus Christ who has come to each of us. On the other hand, we also joyfully anticipate Jesus' coming to us once again. For, as Bishop Bo Giertz puts it, Christ Jesus is by definition the one who comes to us. He is the one who comes to us again and again.²

Christ has come. Christ does come. Christ will come. Christ Jesus has come as the baby in the manger. Christ Jesus comes to us in His Word and Sacraments. Christ Jesus will come to usher in the new heaven and new earth. Christ is the one who comes, and His coming fills us with joy—joy that we have Him and joy that we continually anticipate Him.

At Advent, even though we do have Christ now, we focus especially on the joy of anticipating His coming. This joy is like the expectation of a young child who sees her presents under the Christmas tree in early December. She is excited for what she is going to receive. That excitement fills her with joy that anticipates opening the gift on Christmas.

At Jehovah Lutheran this year, let's think of Advent with this kind of expectant joy. As we move closer to Christmas, we have the opportunity to join together in worship on Sundays and Wednesday nights to celebrate this joy! On Sunday mornings, in our sermons, we will hear about Advent Acclamations that describe the joy of anticipating the coming Christ. On Wednesday nights, we'll focus on Christ already present among us, as we unwrap His gifts of Word and Sacrament.

This year, on Wednesdays, we get the awesome opportunity to share our Advent joy with our brothers and sisters from Concordia University, St. Paul and Mekane Yesus Fellowship. We also will have our afterschool outreach on Wednesdays at 4:30pm, followed by a free community soup supper at 5:30pm. Special thanks go to my brothers from the CSP Theology and Ministry faculty, Rev. Dr. Joshua Hollmann and Rev. Dr. Samuel Deressa, who will be joining me in bringing our midweek sermons this year!

continued...

If you would like to come to midweek services but are hesitant to drive in the dark, please let us know in the church office, and we will do our best to help provide rides!

Rejoice, brothers and sisters! Your King is coming to you!

Join together with us! Invite a friend, relative, or neighbor! Experience the joy of anticipating and receiving Christ among us!

Rejoice! Your King is coming to you!

Walking together with you,
Pastor Joshua Miller

¹ C. S. Lewis, *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life* (San Diego: Harvest/Harcourt, 1995), 166.

² Bo Giertz, *A Year of Grace, Vol. 1: Collected Sermons of Advent through Pentecost*, trans. Bror Erickson (Irvine, CA: 1517 Publishing, 2019), 2.

Celebrate the Joy of Advent!

Sundays: Advent Acclamations

Divine Service, 9:30AM

December 3: "Hosanna!"

December 10: "Prepare!"

December 17: "Witness!"

December 24: "Behold!"

Wednesdays: Unwrapping the Gifts

Advent Midweek

Soup Supper - 5:30pm

Evening Prayer - 6:30pm

CSP Theology Club - 7:00pm

(Appetizers and Theologianizers)

December 6: Baptism and Absolution

December 13: God's Word

December 20: The Lord's Supper

But the angel said to them,

"Do not be afraid;

for see—

I am bringing you good news of great joy

for all the people.

Luke 2:10



**FREE SOUP
& SALAD
MEALS**

Everyone Welcome

Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20
5:30 to 6:30 PM

Outreach activities 4:30 Advent Service 6:30
1566 Thomas Ave. St. Paul, MN 55104

HOSTED BY JEHOVAH LUTHERAN CHURCH &
PARTNERS OF THE ST. PAUL OUTREACH CENTER

Photo credit: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jasonalley/5262434280>



IT'S TIME TO DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!



**Saturday December 2nd
3:30pm.**

Decorating and Pizza

**Life Together - CCC (triple C!)
5:45pm**

Who likes Cookies, Caroling, and hot Chocolate?
Everyone is invited to the next Life Together
Event at Jehovah as we share the gospel with
our neighbors by our annual caroling on the
corner of Snelling and Thomas Avenues on
December 2 after decorating the church and
sharing a pizza dinner. Bring cookies to share if
you are able!

Come for any or all of the activities.



Sing Along!

Sat. December 2

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF JOYFUL CAROLING IN THE MIDWAY!

Everyone is invited to sing along!
5:45PM @ Snelling and Thomas Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104
Cookies and Hot Chocolate!

See you there!

Christmas Tea

Sunday, December 17



Bring cookies to share
and join us after Divine Service
for fellowship, cookies and tea.
All are welcome!



Share hope and joy
with youth experiencing homelessness
this holiday season!

The holidays can be a difficult time of year for the young people we support. Gifts received during the holidays allow youth to celebrate and feel valued while on their journey to independence and a bright future. It means the world to young people to receive gifts that best suit them and their children provided by caring community members. Watch the bulletin board by the lounge or call Janet Fishback at 612-388-5286 for more information.



**Lutheran
Social Service
of Minnesota**

JEHOVAH SERVICE AND EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Divine Service

9:30am Sundays in the Sanctuary

Invite a friend and join us
for a year of connecting and *Walking Together*.



Living by Faith

11:00am on Sundays

Ages 14 - 100+

Join us in person in the lounge

Contact Pastor Miller with questions
at pastorjoshuamiller@gmail.com.



Growing in Faith

Ages Birth - 13 years

Gather with us weekly in the nursery after the
Divine Service.

Parents are welcome to stay with their children.

Men's Bible Study

Join us for Bible Study on Wednesday mornings
at 11:00am in the lounge.

Bring your own Bible and coffee mug, if you like,
or use the ones provided.

No RSVP necessary

Contact Pastor Miller with any questions.



Jehovah Lutheran Church Women

Join us for coffee, conversation, prayer,
and Bible Study

on the first Thursday of the month

December 7 at 1:00pm.

Open to everyone.

Our curriculum comes from
the Lutheran Women's Quarterly
If you have questions or would like
more information, contact Pastor Miller.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

December 3

Isaiah 64:1-9

The prophet prays on behalf of Israel that God would reveal his power as of old, turn his anger from their sin and have compassion, for they cry "You are our Father."

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Paul urges the excitable Corinthians to stand firm in Christ Jesus and to depend on God's faithful help to remain blameless on the day of Christ's coming.

Mark 11:1-10

Jesus' Triumphal entry into Jerusalem.



December 10

Isaiah 40:1-11

The prophet's voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord" who comes to bring comfort and salvation to his people.

2 Peter 3:8-14

The day of the Lord will come surely though unexpectedly. "While you are waiting" consider what sort of persons you ought to be.

Mark 1:1-8

The Baptist's voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord" by repenting of your sins and receiving forgiveness.

December 17

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

The prophet announces glad tidings to oppressed Israel in words later used by Jesus to announce his ministry to all peoples, fulfilling God's ancient promise.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul exhorts the Thessalonians to maintain a life of joy, prayer and thanksgiving, and of holding to the good so as to be blameless at the coming of the Lord Christ.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Gospel of John describes Jesus as "the light of the world". The role of John the Baptist is to testify to the coming of that light.

December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

David wishes to build a temple for the Lord but God declares that he himself will establish a house and kingdom that will endure forever.

Romans 16:25-27

Paul praises God for the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ now revealed so that all nations might believe and obey him.

Luke 1:26-38

Mary's son will be God's son who will reign over an everlasting kingdom. Mary is the model of faith in accepting God's grace at work in her.

December 31

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

The prophet identifies himself with Zion and rejoices in her salvation. She will become a shining light to the nations.

Galatians 4:4-7

"In the fullness of time" God sent his Son to redeem those under the law that we might become his full heirs, certified by the Spirit.

Luke 2:22-40

Joseph and Mary bring Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, according to the law. The infant is recognized by Simeon and Anna as the one to bring salvation to all people.



CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The theme for Centennial events is "100 Years of Grace: Walking Together at Jehovah Lutheran."

The first Centennial event on Reformation Sunday was a great success! We look forward to seeing you at future Centennial Sundays at these dates:

Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 2024.
Focus will be on the 1940s-50s.

Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024.
Focus will be on the 1960s-70s.

Rally Sunday, September 8, 2024.
Focus will be on the 1980s-90s.

Reformation Sunday, October 27, 2024.
Focus will be on the 2000s-20s.



Free Winter Choral Concert December 12 7:30pm at Jehovah Lutheran Church

Jehovah Lutheran Church continues observance of its centennial year with a winter choral concert at 7:30 p.m., on Tuesday, December 12, at the church (1566 Thomas Ave., St. Paul, MN).

Conductor Ben Wegner, a member of the Jehovah congregation, will lead the University Singers, a chorus of 44 undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Minnesota.

The concert is free and open to all. Donations are welcome.

SAINT PAUL OUTREACH CENTER NEWS



This ministry is a partnership of the St. Paul Circuit of the LCMS and Concordia University St. Paul Campus Ministry. It is sponsored by the MN South District.

The St. Paul Outreach Center's primary focus is to serve and share God's love with new immigrants to St. Paul and other neighbors in the Midway, as well as partnering with CSP's international student ministry.

So far, we have had a coat drive/giveaway, kids' activities (games, practicing futsal and basketball at Hamline Park) and homework help on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm. During Advent, we will also be hosting free community meals on Wednesdays at 5:30pm before Advent service at 6:30 pm at Jehovah. Future plans include English conversation groups and family resources.

Volunteers are needed for all activities, one time or regularly! Visit <https://forms.gle/jkWK48nD3dC2dtnj6> or use this QR code if you can help or have an idea.



For more information please email s poc@jehovahlutheran.org or phone David Mennicke, coordinator, at 651-636-3271.

Coming in January: cold weather gear give away. Watch for details!

Wanted - Your Legos!

The Saint Paul Outreach Center would like to include a "Lego Club" as one of its outreach activities. Do you have Legos you can donate? We would love to have them! Want to join the club? Please contact Katie Miller or David Mennicke to let us know. Thank you for all your support!



YOUR MITES IN ACTION

2023–2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 3

SERVING GOD'S CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
Journeys Lutheran School | \$100,000

Journeys Lutheran School in Milwaukee is Serving God's Children with Special Needs by providing educational opportunities in a specialized setting to meet the children's needs. The vans purchased with grant funds will be used to transport the children to and from events, internships, and other activities. To learn more, see the bulletin board in the hallway or visit lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-3.

Orphan Grain Train +

Global Human Care Fund – We continue to highlight the work done by Orphan Grain Train. Recently, "New England Branch volunteers were ecstatic to load 5,500 pounds of food for the holidays that included frozen chicken in a donated freezer, potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, cookies and other needed aid for Myra, KY." Check out the bulletin board in the hallway or visit www.ogt.org for lots of details about more current projects, mission, needs, and how you might help as we celebrate this holiday season of Christ's love come into this world. If you would like to support this ministry, you can donate via check (made out to Jehovah with "Global Human Care Fund" as a memo) in the offering.



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Save the date! Lutherans for Life, Lifelines will hold a public information event on January 27, 2024, at 9:00 am at Trinity Lutheran Church, Waconia with Rev. Fred Hinz, MN South Public Policy Advocate. For further information, contact Rev. Fred Hinz at fred.hinz@mnsdistrict.org.

THE NEW FREEDOM STORE FREEDOM IN CHRIST

**"You gotta walk the Jesus walk
before you talk the Jesus talk"**

— A saying from an anonymous prisoner

Our Bible tells us that Jesus traveled from town to town during his time. He reached out to the poorer quarters and lived with them, too. Nicodemus went to see him under the cover of night. Once, when asked, Jesus told a rich man, "Give everything you have to the poor and follow me."

He once told us, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples." Perhaps today's version of the Jesus walk is just that simple, a direct *quid pro quo* of giving to each other, especially those in need.

Impossible? Maybe not! One of our sponsors, Bombas socks, does exactly that. They donate one pair of socks for every pair they sell. Bombas gave us 1,000 pairs this year. They are a for-profit organization too! These are good socks. Next time you need some, buy Bombas! Make them Christmas presents. Explain that Jesus walk to your children.

Or if you stay at a hotel, take that extra bar of soap with you. Next time you go to the store to buy a washcloth or a hand towel, donate your old one. Better yet, just buy two. This is the new Christian walk. It need not be physical. It is mental, a simple form of mindfulness. Maybe too, you can get together with some friends or form a group at your church. Start a drop box.

And, when you have collected enough to make the trip worth the while, just drop them off at Jehovah Lutheran or even my house. The New Freedom Store will pack them up and make sure your gifts will go where they are needed. The store packed 60 this week and gave away a truck load of your lovely quilts. Bless you!

Here's a complete list of hygiene supplies. Not every kit needs to enclose everything:

Toothbrush	Shampoo
Toothpaste	Conditioner
Floss	Razors
Nail clippers	Shaving cream
Soap	Deodorant
Washcloth	Comb
Hand towel	Socks
	Pocket Bible

Put them all in a tote bag.

A few wise parents have made this a family activity, a special way of teaching mindfulness to their children. This is the Christian walk.

Jim Seemann, Ph.D.
seemann@csp.edu

MAIN STREET LIVING
SUNDAYS 9:00–10:00am
WFTC CHANNEL 29/9-2



Main Street Living is an LCMS program that features pastors from the WFTC, channel 29/9-2, viewer area. The first half hour is a reproduction of *This is the Life*. The second half hour is a modified Lutheran worship service, which is produced locally. Program information for December is below. To watch, go to mainstreetliving.com and select the “Twin Cities” tab.

December 3: “Stable Boy” – A manger scene comes to life and tells the story of the first Christmas.

December 10: “Red Boots for Christmas” – A shoemaker learns the true meaning of Christmas.

December 17: “Christmas Is” – The shepherd in a Christmas play learns the importance of Christmas

December 24: “Christmas on Main Street” – The Christmas message at a mission brings a grandson and his grandfather together.

December 31: “Burden Made Light” – The housekeeper helps a family through the struggle of an increasingly sick child.

JOIN US
FOR OUR TALKATIVE THURSDAY
CALL - IN CHAT



We chat at **11:10am each Thursday**. All you need is your phone. Dial: 978-990-5000. If you are using a land line please dial 1 and then the number. When prompted enter the JELC code:

796345#

After the beep just say hello and your name. We can visit about how our days are going, silver linings, concerns, etc. We also will have a short devotion and prayer.

Join us on Thursdays at 11:10am

*Therefore encourage one another
 and build each other up,
 as indeed you are doing.
 1 Thessalonians 5:11*



*Merry
 Christmas*



ACTIVITY CALENDAR

December 2023



JANUARY 2024 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SUN</th><th>MON</th><th>TUE</th><th>WED</th><th>THU</th><th>FRI</th><th>SAT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>							SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
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OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR HOURS

TUESDAY - THURSDAY

8:30AM -1:30PM

FRIDAY

8:30AM -12:30PM

**Email submissions deadline for the January issue of *The Jottings*
IS DECEMBER 27TH
to office@jehovahlutheran.org**

Contact us!

Jehovah Lutheran Church

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St. Paul MN 55104

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*Jehovah Lutheran Church Is a congregation of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*