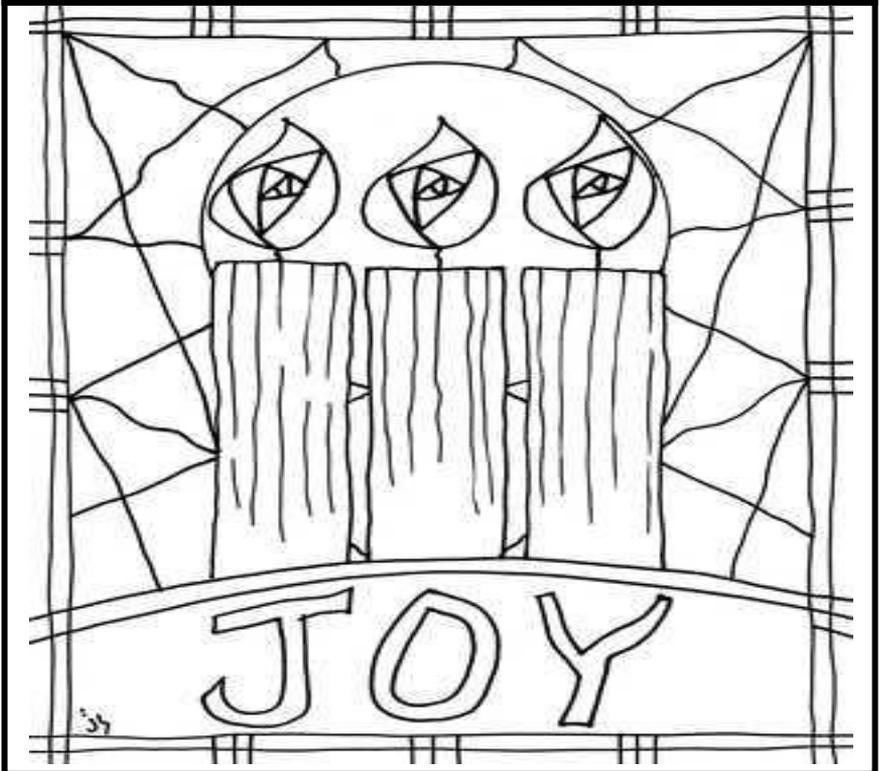


Advent 3



The desert shall rejoice ... with joy and singing.



December 15, 2019
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Prayer Before Worship *This is the day of joy, O Lord! You call our hearts to wait for you--and often those waiting hearts are weighed down with sorrows, worries, and troubles. You offer hope, based on your promises; where there is hope, there is joy. Lift up those who are downcast; lift up those who are ignored and passed by; lift up the soul that looks to you. For you are the Savior of all who call upon you: in Jesus' name. Amen.*

This Week's Prayer List We pray for a portion of Zion's family and friends... Jeff, Tina, Carley, Caleb, Collin, Canton, and Cadee Vinkemeier; Lydene Vinkemeier; Kurt, Sarah, Taylor, Nicholas, and Luke Vinkemeier; Dennis and Ruth Vinkemeier; Leon, Sarah, and Amanda Vinkemeier. We pray for those under the care of a physician, undergoing treatment and therapy; for all difficulties meeting obligations, and a strong faith for every need.

Choir Practice – There will be a brief choir practice today after church to share the gift of singing together, as we give glory to God.

Toy Drive – The local fire departments are collecting toys for children in the community who may not otherwise get anything “under the tree”. If you would like to donate an unwrapped toy (or toys), a box will be in the church/school lobby through December 17th.

Congratulations to Barb Scholz who turned 90 on Saturday!

Devotionals Available - *Portals of Prayer* and "*Light of the World*," an advent devotional written by students of Mayer Lutheran. Take one for yourself or someone you love.

The LHS Fund is in need of a financial boost as the end of the year approaches. Our 2019 obligation is \$22,715.00, \$55 per communicant member. Of that, we have contributed \$12,207.66 thus far. Please consider a donation to this fund so that we can continue playing our part in *Preparing the Next Generation of Christian Leaders*. Thank you!

Opening Hymn # 341 (vv. 1-3)

**“Lift Up Your Heads,
Ye Mighty Gates”**

P In the Name of the Father † Son † Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The message of Advent is one of preparation. We hear of John, calling to all:

C Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.

P Prepare the way for the Lord;

C Make his path straight.

P O Lord, prepare our hearts for worship.

C Make straight the way that leads to the Lord.

P Save us, Lord, from the sins we know in our heart.

C Save us, Lord, from the sins we hide.

(pause for reflection and self-examination)

P The God of righteousness makes our lives righteous, through the Son he loves; he has made our ways straight. Be assured: in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven.

C Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

P Praise the Lord!

Confession of Faith: Psalm 146

C Praise the Lord, O my soul!

P I will praise the Lord as long as I live!

C I will sing praises to my God as long as I exist!

P Do not trust in princes or in human beings, who cannot deliver!

C Their life's breath departs, they return to the ground; on that day their plans die.

- P** How blessed is the one whose helper is the God of Jacob,
C Blessed is the one whose hope is in the Lord his God,
P The one who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,
C I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
P Blessed is our God
C Who remains forever faithful, who vindicates the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.
P The Lord releases the imprisoned.
Women: The Lord gives sight to the blind.
Men: The Lord lifts up all who are bent over.
C The Lord loves the godly.
A I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into Hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
P The Lord protects those residing outside their native land;
C He lifts up the fatherless and the widow, but he opposes the wicked.
A I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.
P The Lord rules forever, your God, O Zion,
C Throughout the generations to come: Praise the Lord!

Redeemer, come and open wide
 My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
 O enter with Thy grace divine;
 Thy face of mercy on me shine.
 Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
 Until our glorious goal is won.
 Eternal praise and fame
 We offer to Thy name.

Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn #357 (vv. 1, 5, 6, 7) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Old Testament Reading *Do not fear!* **Isaiah 35:1-10**

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading *Be patient.* **.James 5:7-11**

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Choir **“Can This Be the Child?”**

P The Gospel of our Lord, from Matthew, chapter eleven.

C Praise be to you, O Lord!

Gospel Reading *Jesus, are you the one?* **Matthew 11:2-15**

P This is the Gospel of our Lord. **C** Praise be to you, O Christ!

Children's Message

Sunday School to follow in Mr. M's room

Sermon Hymn # 347 **“Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People”**

Sermon **Are you the One?** **Matthew 11:3**

The question asked of Jesus is ours, too.

1. Our questions arise from the depth of our S_____.

2. God's answer isn't always what we E_____.

3. God's great blessing comes from the L_____.

Hymn # 349 **“Hark the Glad Sound!”**

Offering

Choir

“Mary’s Song”

Prayers and Lord's Prayer

P His name shall endure forever: **Psalm 72:17-19**

C His name shall be continued as long as the sun:

P All mankind shall be blessed in him:

C All nations shall call him blessed.

P Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only does wondrous things.

C And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen.

Exhortation

P May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The Lord bless you † make his face shine upon you † give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn # 343

“Prepare the Royal Highway”



Finances

Salary:

Beginning Balance (1/1/2019)	-\$59,468.86
YTD Income	\$392,835.17
YTD Expenses	-\$400,982.84
Current Balance (12/10)	-\$67,616.53
Current Loan Amount	\$92,604.00

Missions:

YTD Total (12/8)	\$5,590.00
Budgeted	\$6,620.00
Unbudgeted	\$690.00
2019 Pledged	\$7,500.00
2019 Goal	\$15,000.00

LHS:

Year to date total (12/8)	\$13,422.66
2019 Commitment	\$22,715.00
Per communicant member	\$55.00

Building/Repair Fund:

Account Balance (12/5)	\$10,660.19
Suggested household contrib.	\$550.00

Thanksgiving Day Challenge/Gift Matching Final Report

Thank you to all of those who donated to this year's special Thanksgiving Day offering designated to the Salary Fund. The total received in the special offering envelopes, including the gift match commitments totaled \$48,260. To God all praise and glory for blessing us with members who supported the event with their generosity. And a very special thank you to the individuals who made a generous commitment to be involved in the gift match itself. The continued support of our members until the end of the year and beyond is greatly appreciated.

Finance Board

December 15th – December 21st

Sun, Dec. 15th Sunday Service 9:30
Tue, Dec. 17th Evangelism Meeting 7:30
Wed, Dec. 18th Confirmation 6:15
Fri, Dec 20th Christmas Eve Program Rehearsal 8:15AM

December 22nd – December 28th

Sun, Dec. 22nd Sunday Service Communion 9:30
Mon, Dec. 23rd – Jan. 1st No School - Christmas Break
Tue, Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Program 7:30
Wed, Dec. 25th Christmas Day Service 9:30

Breakfast with Santa at Mayer Lutheran High School on December 14th from 9 – 11 AM. Proceeds go towards the MLHS Mission Trip.

Thank you from the Southwest Carver Food Shelf! We collected 105 pounds of food and \$170 in cash. Your contribution is greatly appreciated from those we serve.

Sincerely,
Linda Worm (director)

Answers to Sermon Questions
{ { 1. Soul 2. Expect 3. Least } }

Agnus Day

Matthew 11:2-11

