



December 8, 2024

Jerusalem: A Place of Waiting (Peace)

*Waiting is not easy to do but it is a separate activity.
In the end our sorrows, like blessings, are part of who we are.
They are part of our story... We don't get to pick and choose.*

RINGING OF THE BELLS ~ WELCOME and GREETING

ADVENT HYMN SING: (LSB 331-393)

INVOCATION

LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY

P On the way to Bethlehem, we travel to Jerusalem. The Temple is the site of the dramatic high point of Zechariah and Elizabeth's story of waiting so long for prayer to be answered. As Zechariah carries out priestly duties and Elizabeth waits outside with others, the usual and customary becomes anything but ordinary! An angelic messenger reveals a divine plan that leaves Zechariah literally speechless. It feels poignant that this week we visit Jerusalem in our Advent story and the city is known as "the city of peace." Certainly, we've been focused on the difficulties of prevailing peace in this turbulent part of the world even today. There is also the matter of our own "new Jerusalem" within. We wait for the day when we feel more peace, have more peace, within ourselves. This week, we ask, "what are we waiting for?" and we learn that what happens within us *while* we wait is as important as the outcome. Can we be at peace-work for peace – "live peaceably" – even while waiting?

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

P The journey continues, and this candle will help light our way.

C We are on our way to more peace.

P Life is full of expectations and waiting for the right time, the right answer, the right opportunity

C We are a people who wait for Good News.

P It is hard to wait, but there are milestone moments when we get a glimpse of what true peace feels like.

C God's light goes before us, we are not alone.

***O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above they deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.***

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every 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. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE: Romans 8:28-32

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC:

"Prepare, Make Room"

Duet: Caleb Novitch, Kristen Novitch

GOSPEL: Luke 1:5-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1st chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ!

ADVENT CREED

ADVENT HYMN SING: (LSB 331-393)

SERMON

PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY OF GOD

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS / OFFERING

RITE OF FELLOWSHIP

*(Please indicate if you are a member or visitor in the Rite of Friendship books and if you will be joining us for Holy Communion. **If visiting please leave us a means to contact you as we would love to follow up with you.**)*

PRAYER

P Holy and Living God, we pray to you in the midst of unanswered questions. Often we are anxious and impatient as we desperately want to know outcomes and chart our life's path with certainty. Give us patience, God. Call us to pause in peaceful surrender, even and especially when the pieces of our lives seem to be falling apart rather than getting put together. Open our hearts to know your enduring presence in this very moment, in this waiting. We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus, the Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

C Let this be a marker of assurance that we are moving in a faithful direction: God is with us every step of our way toward the Peace of Bethlehem. Jesus is being born into our lives even now. The Spirit is transforming us in this place.

P Peace be with you!

C And also with you.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

HOLY COMMUNION

We believe Christ's body and blood are truly present in the bread and wine of this Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins to all who believe. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. If you share this belief and practice, please join us in celebrating the meal of God's family – Holy Communion, please receive the wafer in the palm of your hand. (The cups with white juice are for those who have requested them. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

COMMUNION HYMNS:

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" (LSB 515)

"When Peace, like a River" (LSB 763)

BLESSING and BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: *"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" (LSB 347 vs 1 & 4)*

DISMISSAL



This year's Christmas tree has been donated by the Wanish family in memory of Jim Wanish, husband, father, and grandfather.

December 15th: Christmas Musical Festival and Brunch

~ Special music and lots of singing! ~

Please keep the following people in our prayers:

Medical / Health Concerns: Jenny Garcia, daughter of Andy & Mary Hoppe, Anne Raduechel, Raphael Klein, Marie Borchardt, Steve Dahlke, Donna Schroeder, Ava Downing, AJ Saltzmann, Erv Boehm, husband of Clarice, Janice Ambuhl, mother-in-law to Jan Feucht, Grace Kobs, Jason Borrero, Mary Utecht-Johnson, Lana Wilkinson, Linda Graebel, Carla Grulkowski, Jack Klein, Darwin Kufahl for knee surgery, Ella Holmes, Mel Sann rehab for hip replacement, Chad Simon due to a fall, Amy Smet for health concerns.

Battling Cancer: Ronald Haebig, brother of Kurt, Brenda Barttelt, sister of Carla Haebig, Paul Michalski, Perry Redeker, Emmett Heindel, Lee Seis, brother-in-law of Henry Jennejohn, Bill Kobs, Jerry Sams, friend of the Redeker's, Aissen Witter, Susan Ohde, daughter of Linda, David Hussong, brother of Bill, Tracie Wills.

Holiday Service Schedules

Christmas Eve Services: (No Communion)

10:30 am Traditional
1:00 pm Contemporary
3:00 pm Blended
5:00 pm Traditional



Christmas Day: 9:00 am Festival Traditional with Holy Communion

December 29th: 8:00 am and 10:30 am Traditional - Christmas Carol Service

From the Sewing Corner

A lot was accomplished this past week! We finished 40 backpacks and 17 pairs of shorts! Thank you to all who came and worked. We will **NOT** have any other sewing workshops until January 7th when we will focus on our quilts again. Plan to join us then. Thank you!

Son-Shine Bible Study

We will continue our Advent preparation with the Because of Bethlehem video Bible study by Max Lucado on Wednesday, with 'God Guides the Wise'. If we truly desire to experience all that God has to offer, we need to step out of our plan, step into His, and travel the magi road. We meet from 1:00 – 2:30 in the Youth Room. You are welcome to join us.



St. Mark's Community Children's Clothing and Toy Gift Event

The "Christmas Giving Tree" will be displayed in the Narthex **starting December 8th**. We are looking for members to buy Christmas gifts of toys and clothing for children in our community. Members will be asked to take an envelope that will include information about the child. Their sizes, clothing needs, favorite games or toy information will be provided by their parents or guardians to help select gifts that they need and will enjoy. Christmas wrapping paper and tape will be available under the Giving Tree for participants to use for their gifts.

We ask that the gifts be wrapped and brought back to St. Mark's office by Thursday, December 19th. Wrapped gifts will be picked up by the children's families on Sunday, December 22nd from 12:00-2:00. Families that gave gifts are welcome to attend to help with handing out the wrapped gifts, and greeting families. Christmas cookies, hot chocolate and milk for everyone!!

Thank you for your consideration of participating in this special gift giving opportunity. **If you have any questions, please contact Kim @ 715-574-6759 or Kristen @ 715-966-4172.**

2025 Offering Envelopes



The offering envelopes will be available for pickup in a couple of weeks. If you'd prefer to receive **monthly envelopes** instead of the full year's supply, please let the office know. Also, if you'd like to switch to **electronic giving**, contact Kurt in the office—it's quick and easy!

St. Mark's Scoop

December 1 - 8, 2024

- Sun, Dec 8** Traditional / Advent Hymn Sing
- Mon, Dec 9** 8:00 OGT
11:30 Noon Optimists
7:00 Band of Brothers
- Tues, Dec 10** 6:30 MIA Bible Study
~ Rhyner Funeral at 11am ~
NO Pillowcase Workshop
NO Gathering Christmas Party
- Wed, Dec 11** 1:00 Son Shine Bible Study
3:30 Worship - Traditional
4:30 Advent Supper - Meatloaf
6:00 Worship - Contemporary
6:45 Midweek / HS Youth / Confirmation
- Thurs, Dec 12** 4:00 Church Expansion Committee meeting
6:00 Celebration Choir
- Fri, Dec 13** **OFFICE CLOSED**
Pastor & Blaine's Family Day
- Sat, Dec 14**
- Sun, Dec 15** Blended / Christmas Festival Service
9:15 Christmas Brunch

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

January 11th at 6pm
Living River Concert
~ Invite family & friends~

EVENTS CANCELLED

Out of respect for the funeral of Jean Rhyner on **December 10th**, the Pillowcase Workshop and The Gathering's Christmas Party have been cancelled on that day.

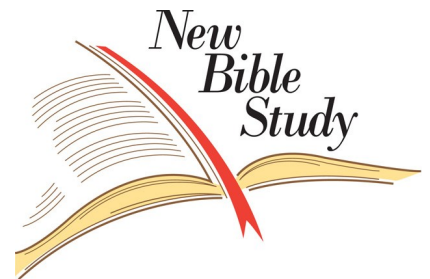
For information on ALL *St Mark's* ministry opportunities, visit

stmarkswausau.org

or scan this code for our ministry catalog



MIA is hosting the December 11 Advent dinner. We'll be serving Meat loaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, Lutheran Jello, and desserts. Proceeds benefit local families in need.



**1 Corinthians starts
January 5th**

**Join us in the
Fellowship Hall at 9:15.**

Pastor Huan / Senior Pastor:

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