



Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2009

Alleluia! Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia!

GREETINGS and WELCOME to Brooklyn Lutheran Church.

VISITORS please sign the guest book.

Come and worship with us again soon!

Available from an usher:

- **Bibles** to follow along with the Scripture Readings.
- **Large print hymnal** is available.
- **Quiet bags** for small children.

Please return these to our ushers following the Service.

Prayer Before Worship: Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for using Your Word and Sacraments to give me life through Your Holy Spirit. Grant that I may never grieve Your Spirit by indifference or stubbornness, but humbly accept His gracious work in me. Amen

HYMNS: 1 20 32 16

ORDER OF SERVICE: Divine Service II: (projected on the wall—hard copies available from an usher.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY—Spoken by all together

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for Your only Son. By His coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4 (Page 1490)

Malachi calls the promised Messiah “the messenger of the covenant” Who is coming. No one will be able to survive being in His holy presence unless He is prepared. The Lord promises to send a messenger to prepare the way before Him.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 24 (Page 73)

We can stand in the Lord's presence because He has



ADVENT

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation - before the annual celebration of Christ's birthday. This season actually serves to commemorate the “coming” of Christ in three ways:

- His past coming in Bethlehem
- His present coming through grace into the hearts of His people.
- His future coming at the end of time

The past, present, and future are drawn together in one anticipation season.

Blue is the color of hope. Since Advent stresses anticipation of God's coming, the blue paraments serve to remind us of our hope of eternal life. It is a quiet joy we have at this time of year, a joy of hope amid solemnity about our sins. It is a time of watching, waiting, and praying for Christ to come again.

A PRICELESS GIFT

Orphaned, Stephanie was put into foster care. Eventually she came to live with the Weavers. Mrs. Weaver found Stephanie sullen, withdrawn, and uncommunicative. She asked to see her records. The first foster family wrote, “Stephanie is a quiet, shy girl.” The second family wrote, “She obeys, but she doesn't participate much in the family.” Mrs. Weaver doubted if Stephanie would be with them long; she seemed so unreceptive. Still, she decided to keep Stephanie through the Christmas holiday and then talk to her social worker about a transfer to another home.

At Christmas, the Weavers exchanged a number of lovely presents, including gifts for Stephanie. Then Stephanie handed Mrs. Weaver a brown paper sack with a rough drawing of a Christmas scene on it. Mrs. Weaver opened it to find a rhinestone necklace with a couple of stones missing and a little bottle of perfume, half empty. Trying her best to act pleasantly surprised, Mrs. Weaver put on the necklace and dabbed perfume behind her ear. Stephanie said, “Mom's necklace looks good on you. You smell good like she did too.” Mrs. Weaver's heart melted. She vowed to renew her efforts to love Stephanie, and she succeeded! By the following Christmas, Stephanie had become her adopted daughter.

The Son of God came into a “foster home” many Christmases ago. The “wrappings” of the great gift that He was in a humble manger and 33 years later on a rugged cross make the love there way too easy to overlook. One stone turned up missing from the entrance to His tomb. May the sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas put us all in mind of how God so loved the world that He gave.....!

made us clean and pure through the forgiveness of sins. Having been made clean and pure, we lift up our heads, eagerly waiting for the arrival of the King of glory.

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:3-11 (Page 1825)

God, Who brought us to faith, will continue to bless us and keep us in the faith until the day when Christ Jesus comes again.

SERMON: Luke 3:1-6 (Page 1593)

Don't Face Another Winter Without Christmas

- ✘ Sense Your Messiah Coming.
- ✘ Prepare To Meet Him Through Repentance

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Meditation Theme for the week:

“Christ's Advent Bring Us Lasting Blessings”

Today's Offering Counters: B. Larson & A. Boyd

Today's Sunday School Lesson: **“Moses Leaves Egypt”**

Today	10:00	Worship Ushers: M. Hilliard and S. Melchert Lunch and Church decorating following Service
Mon.	2:00	Worship Committee
	7:00	Choir
Wed	6:30	Choir at Maranatha. Choir rehearsal following.
Thurs	7:00	Sunday School Teachers
Fri.	9:30	Bible Class

Next Sun. - 6:30am Time of Grace, TV ch 9

8:45 Sunday School

8:55 Adult Sunday School

8:55 Adult Class: Joel & Amos

10:00 Worship—Ushers R. Stelter & A. Boyd

11:15 Brooklyn Bridge School Board

7:00 Church Council

Last Sunday Worship Attendance: 64

Sunday School Attendance: 5; Adult Bible Class: 10

Offering: \$1335.00 Needed for Budget Week: **\$2,565**

Offerings YTD: \$115,396; (Budget: \$123,120) short: -\$7,725

The mitten tree is up in the Commons! Mittens, Scarves, and Hats are being gathered for distribution among children in our community who will need them against the cold Minnesota winter. Watch for sales at stores and pick some up for the tree! Former member Verna Salzwedel, living in the Brainerd area, has come through again with a year's worth of knitting countless sets for us to take to CEAP.

Preschool is looking for volunteers. Preschool will be making Gingerbread Houses again this year. On Friday, December 11 after school, we are asking for volunteers to assemble the houses and on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 15 and 16, the children will be decorating the houses. This is a great project but we can always use helpers with the children too.

Got a nest egg you need to invest wisely? The WELS Church Extension Fund offers loan certificates starting at \$500 with interest ranging from 1%(6mo.) to 3.2%(60mo.) and now 60mo. IRAs at 3.2% to 3.35%. Three saving certificates are also available. Check out materials on Commons table. In a recent 12 month period 13 WELS congregations completed building pro-

Upcoming Holy Day Service Schedule

December 16—6:30 pm, Preschool
and choir Service
December 20—10:00 am Children's Service
*Christmas Eve—10:00 pm Candlelight Service
Christmas Day— 9:00 am Festival Service
New Year's Eve—7:00 pm Service
with Communion

*What's your **ideal time for Christmas Eve Service?** (Christmas Day will be 9am). Please rank the following times – 1,2,3...all the way to eight as the time you find most favorable/least favorable: ___4pm, ___5pm, ___6pm, ___7pm, ___8pm, ___9pm, ___10pm, ___11pm. Thanks!

Please tear off and hand to an usher.

jects totaling nearly \$13 million in loans provided by WELS CEF. WELS CEF currently has 250 loans outstanding, totaling over \$122 million, and over 5,500 investors just like you!

Minneapolis WELS pastors are heading up an effort to begin ministering to prisoners at the Hennepin County lockup. A conservative jail chaplain has sought us out because of our Biblical solid teachings and has invited us to begin week morning Bible classes. Pray that this ministry will truly touch hearts – better than the man who was paroled and killed four police officers in the Seattle area. If you would like to be part of this exciting and challenging ministry, speak with Pastor. Did you return your used fall Meditations for us to send for distribution among prisoners?!

Forward In Christ, in addition to many fine Christmas season articles, features ex-con Ron Whittaker, who is now a member at Risen Savior in Milwaukee and another who writes anonymously calling himself “A Prodigal Son – Restored.” Pick up a copy of the December FIC from mailbox tray!

Brooklyn Bridge Bucks is the name for the Scrip program by which people can buy debit cards at church for purchase of all kinds of merchandise, entertainment, dining, gas, etc – even groceries and VISA prepaid card! ...and the school gets credit for a percentage of the value.

37 Prepaid (Gift) Cards for a total of \$1,236 face value were sold on a recent Sunday! If our preschool benefits 5% on these sales, it would generate about \$60 for us—at no additional cost to our member purchasers!

Check it out with Cindy Boyd and Dawn Heebl. this morning! Save yourself hassle and get people something you know they will use by going **gift cards for Christmas!** **New playground equipment** is the designated project for funds raised through Brooklyn Bridge Bucks!



*Brooklyn Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

Our Mission:

***We exist to use the
Gospel of Christ to
win the lost and to
nurture
believers, all to the
glory of God.***



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