



Second Sunday of Advent
10:45 a.m., December 7, 2025

Worship Leadership

Rev. Christian Marien, *Lead Pastor*
Rev. Anthony Acompanado, *Pastor*
Ben Janzow, *Praise Band Leader*

Acolytes: Zach Jahner, Audrey Roehl

Altar Guild: Cindy Finn, Kris Wells

Communion: Rick Dowling, Kristy Olson-Schubert,
Maelyn Olson **Media:** Jeff Froh **Reader:** Teri Quam

Ushers: Dennis Leatherwood, Pat Boyer

WELCOME

ADVENT 2—LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God. One candle to remind us of hope, the second candle to lead us in the way of peace, calling us to change our living to prepare for the coming of Christ.

C: **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.**

READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SONG

A Christmas Hymn (v. 1)

Come now see the Lord of Heaven
In a lowly manger laid
King deserving of a throne room
Born a poor, powerless babe
Oh the myst'ry, oh the wonder
Somehow God is one of us
Such is greatness in His kingdom
He descended to our dust

PRAYER

P: Let us pray... Holy God, a candle burns,

C: The second marker of our Advent journey.

P: As we continue, may we travel peacefully.

C: As we continue, God of journeys, speak to us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / THE REV. LARRY HARPSTER

SONG

Emmanuel (God With Us Forever)

Before You set the edge of time
Foundations of the earth and sky
You saw it all and said that it was good
The joy was set before Your eyes
You knew that You would give Your life
You saw it all and said that it was good

The heavens warred the earth stood still
His final breath He tore the veil
The angels sang Holy is His name
Defeated death He broke the grave
Our Hope returned the lost are saved
We lift our voice in never-ending praise

Behold behold the One our Love has come
Behold behold the One our King has come

Behold behold the One our Love has come
Behold behold the One our King has come

Emmanuel God with us forever
Emmanuel Savior of the world
Emmanuel Emmanuel

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Chris

SONG

Sing to the King

Sing to the King who is coming to reign
Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain
Life and salvation His empire shall bring
Joy to the nations when Jesus is King

For His returning, we watch and we pray
We will be ready the dawn of that day
We'll join in singing with all the redeemed
Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King
(Chorus)

**Come let us sing a song
A song declaring that we belong to Jesus
He is all we need
Lift up a heart of praise
Sing now with voices raised to Jesus
Sing to the King**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Chris

SONG

For All That You Have Done

Your grace will never be forgot
Your mercy all my life
Will be my soul’s forever song
My story and my light

From mountaintop to valley low
Through laughter and through tears
Surely the goodness of my God
Will follow all the years

**For all that You have done, for us
For every battle won
We’ll raise a song to bless Your heart
For all that You have done**

In all our failures and regrets
You’ve always led us home
Redemption’s arm has raised us up
Our triumph in the storm *(Chorus)*

In unity we’ll stand as one
As family we’ll go
Shoulder to shoulder, hand in hand
Into the great unknown *(Chorus)*

Emmanuel (God With Us Forever): Anthony Skinner | Bryan Torwalt | Katie Torwalt | Kyle Lee © 2016 Bethel Music Publishing SESAC Out Of The Cave Music Capitol CMG Amplifier Capitol CMG Genesis Jesus Culture MusicOne In Tenn Music Strings Of Music Publishing. **Sing to the King:** Billy J. Foote | Charles Silvester Horne © 2003 sixsteps Music worshiptogether.com songs. **For All That You Have Done:** Rend Collective © Thankyou Music. All rights reserved. CCLI License # 90978

SERVICE OF BAPTISM FOR DAWSON WILSON CAPELLE

P: Praise and thanksgiving be to our God our maker, source of all blessing. In life, in death, we trust in God's most holy name. Here at this font, we hear God's promise. Here, in the presence of water and God's Word, moments of life-changing grace enter into the world.

C: Thanks be to God!

P: Laura, do you present Dawson Wilson for the sacrament of holy baptism?

Sponsor: I do.

P: Alison, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Dawson Wilson baptized into Christ?

Parent: I do.

P: As you bring Dawson Wilson to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people; bring him to worship to hear the Word of God and to share in holy communion; teach him the Lord's prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments; place in his hands the Bible, the living Word; and tend him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Dawson grow in the Christian faith and life?

C: We do.

P: Laura, God has led you to this moment. You have been invited to tend this miracle of life in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church. Do you promise to encourage Dawson: to walk alongside him as he grows in his faith and in his relationship with God?

Sponsor: I do.

P: People of God, do you promise to support Dawson and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

C: We do.

A: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce the devil, his empty promises and all the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: I do.

A: With all the faithful who came before us we dare to confess our faith. Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

A: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

A: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth. You are the fountain of resurrection. Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again. At this font, holy God, we praise you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us. Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Dawson Wilson Capelle, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Please sing:



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: Let us pray. God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through the gift of baptism. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Dawson Wilson: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C: **Amen.**

P: Dawson Wilson, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

P: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify our God in heaven. Brothers and sisters, please welcome our new brother Dawson into the family of God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS

Please say, "Hear our prayer" and sing the following refrain after each petition.

**O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord**

Comfort: For Jimmy Maruska and family at the death of his brother Greg
For the Kinunen family following the death of Jill Rea

Healing: For Jessie Miller, recovering from surgery
For Carol Peters' granddaughter and premature twin great-grandbabies
For Ruth Dewitz, following a hospitalization
For Jay Steinke, back surgery
For Linda Foss, beginning chemo

OFFERING

Christmas Offering

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star
While angels sang to lowly shepherds
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar
Hoping to find the child from Heaven
Falling on their knees
They bowed before the humble Prince of Peace

**We bring an offering of worship to our King
No one on earth deserves the praises that we sing
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You**

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love
There is no shadow in Your presence
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne
Before the Holy One of Heaven
It's only by Your blood it's only through Your mercy
Lord I come (*Chorus*)



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

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DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All those believing in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection are welcome to receive communion at this table of grace. We offer both bread and wine for holy communion. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.

PRAYER STATION

If you desire private prayers of healing for yourself or someone you know, please receive communion and then make your way to the kneeler at the altar where one of the pastors or pastoral assistants will listen to your request and then offer a moment of prayer.

SOLO

How Many Kings

SONGS

Give Us Clean Hands

We bow our hearts, we bend our knees
Oh Spirit come make us humble
We turn our eyes from evil things
Oh Lord we cast down our idols

So give us clean hands
Give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another (2x)

**And God let us be, a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face
Oh God of Jacob (2x)**

We bow our hearts, we bend our knees
Oh Spirit come make us humble
We turn our eyes from evil things
Oh Lord we cast down our idols (*Chorus*)

Friend of God

Who am I that You are mindful of me
That You hear me, when I call
Is it true that You are thinking of me
How You love me, it's amazing

I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
He calls me friend

COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

SONG

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation,
That blessed Christmas morn (*Chorus*)

While shepherds kept their watching
Over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shown a holy light (*Chorus*)

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God.**



ASCENSION

Children Are God's Gift: We are a noisy church. We are happy to celebrate the sounds of children during worship. You are welcome to step into the lobby with your child for a break if needed. There are also Busy Bags available in the lobby.

Pew Pads: Please fill-out the blue pew pad and pass it to your neighbor. You might make a new friend!

Today at Ascension!

- **8:30 & 10:45 worship**
- **Journey to Bethlehem:** Games and activities in the narthex between services. JAM will begin in the sanctuary.
- **Kringle Pick-Up:** If you ordered kringles, please visit the Conference Room after worship to pick-up your kringles.
- **MKE Wild Church** meets at 2 p.m. in the Memorial Gardens (or West Hall, weather dependent). Everyone is welcome. Please invite friends and neighbors of all ages who are not attracted to traditional church services. Led by Pastor Larry Harpster, Wild Church is interactive and lets nature contribute to the worship experience.

Midweek Advent Worship: During Advent, we will gather in the sanctuary on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. for a half hour worship with music, prayer, scripture, devotion, and communion.

Advent Book Study: Join Pastor Chris for an Advent book study of *Voices of Advent* by Matthew L. Skinner, Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., or Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. On Tuesday nights, we will light the Advent wreath with a brief devotion before discussion. On Wednesday mornings, you are invited to stay for worship after the book study. We still have a few copies of the book available for \$13 but can also be purchased online.

Annunciation Worship & Breakfast: On Friday, Dec. 12, join us as we celebrate the visit of the Angel Gabriel to Mary with a 6 a.m. Spanish-language worship led by a mariachi band, followed by a potluck breakfast.

Go Tell It on the Mountain: Join us for a special weekend of worship with our Advent Concert Worship services. On Saturday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 14, at 9:30 a.m., the musical ensembles of Ascension will share the music of the season in the context of worship with holy communion. We will celebrate with a potluck brunch at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. Please sign-up in the narthex with what you're bringing.

Youth Choir Rehearsal: The Youth choir will rehearse on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 5:45 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 13, at 10 a.m.

Poinsettia Donations: If you would like to donate a poinsettia for our sanctuary this Christmas season (\$12 each), please fill-out the form in the back of the bulletin. You may also fill out the form online <https://tinyurl.com/PoinsettiaALC> and pay online.

Jubilate Chorale Christmas Concerts: Jubilate Chorale presents *The News the Angels Bring* today, Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3 p.m., St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa. Tickets are available at the door.

Supporting Families in El Salvador: We're collecting funds for end-of-the-year food baskets, backpacks, and shoes for families in El Salvador. This year, food scarcity is a bigger issue since most of the families lost their bean crop due to flooding. A food basket is \$50, shoes are \$40, and backpacks are \$20. You can donate online <https://tinyurl.com/ALCSJES> or with a check to Ascension that states El Salvador in the memo.

Meijer's Simply Give Program: Meijer will double match any cards purchased to support the Food Pantry of Waukesha County on Saturday, Dec. 13. When you shop at Meijer in Waukesha and grab a Simply Give donation card (next to the soda machines at check-out), every dollar goes directly to helping local families. During this time of food instability, this is a wonderful way to make your donations so farther.

Christmas Light Recycling: We will again collect broken or burned out tree lights for proper recycling. Place them in the marked bin in the Donation Center. Creation Care will recycle them.

Young at Heart: Join the Young at Heart group (for people over 55) on Wednesday, Dec. 17, for a Christmas potluck lunch and music. Bring a dish to pass if you are able. Please note that there will be no bunco this month.

AMEN Christmas Gathering Dec. 15: Please remember to drop your long underwear donations in the bin at church or bring the night of the event. Please also remember to pay Steve for your reservation. Contact Steve directly by text msg to 262-366-4078 or sboyer@HealthMarkets.com.

Mt. Meru Coffee: Consider purchasing coffee for your holiday gatherings from Ascension's Mt. Meru Coffee Project. If what you'd like isn't available in the cabinet, please fill-out the order form. Your order will be ready for pick-up at church just a few days later. You may place orders by email to Amy Gilgenbach, admin@ascensionelca.org.

Many Ways to Give



*Vanco Giving app or
Online [tinyurl.com/
SupportALC](https://tinyurl.com/SupportALC)*

Worship Support https://tinyurl.com/worshippupport		
	Dec. 13 at 6p	Dec. 14 at 9:30a
Acolytes	Marta Aparicio, Hadley Marien	Elsa Romme, Brooklyn Stigler
Altar Guild	Marge Schroeder	Marge Schroeder
Communion	Diane Dowling, Becky Pepper, Marge and Todd Schroeder	Becky Pepper, Marge Schroeder, Jennifer Werner, <i>1 volunteer needed</i>
Greeters	<i>Always appreciated</i>	Carol McDivitt, Garnet Wolff
Media	Buck Houston	Cheryl Werner
Ushers	Brian Smith, <i>2 volunteers needed</i>	Dennis Mohr, Paul Wehmeier, Scot Werner

CALENDAR <https://ascensionelca.org/events/>

Sun Dec 7 Advent II

8:30am Worship S
 9:45am Kringle pick-up CR
 9:45am Journey to Bethlehem
10:45am Worship EH S
2pm Wild Church MG WH
 7pm AA WH

Mon Dec 8

12pm Staff Mtg
 6:30pm AA Sm Group WH
 6:30pm AMEN CR

Tue Dec 9

7am AMEN zoom
 9:30am Women's Bible CR
 6:30pm Book Study HR
 6:30pm SOPHIA WH

Wed Dec 10

10:30am Book Study HR
11:30am Advent Worship S
 6pm Handbells S
 7pm AA WH
 7:15pm Adult Choir S

Thu Dec 11

10am Al Anon CR
 5pm Children's Choir MR
 5:45pm Youth Choir S

Fri Dec 12

6am Annunciation Worship EH

<u>Key</u>	
CR	Conference rm
EH	East Hall
HR	Hearth rm
MG	Memorial Garden
MR	Meeting Room
N	Narthex (Lobby)
PR	Prayer Room
S	Sanctuary
WH	West Hall
<i>Italics</i>	<i>Virtual or offsite</i>

Sat Dec 13

10am Youth Choir S
6pm Advent Concert Worship

Sun Dec 14 Advent III

9:30am Advent Concert Worship S
 10:45am Brunch
4:30pm CRASH Dinner
 7pm AA WH

Mon Dec 15

5pm AMEN at Tally's
 6:30pm AA Sm Group WH

Tue Dec 16

7am AMEN zoom
 9:30am Women's Bible CR
 6:30pm Advent Book Study

Wed Dec 17

10:30am Book Study HR
11:30am Advent Worship S
 12pm Young at Heart WH
 7pm AA WH

Thu Dec 18

9:30am TGIT HR
 10am Al Anon CR

Fri Dec 19

9am Private event S

Sat Dec 20

9am Children's Program Rehearsal S
4pm Las Posadas

Sun Dec 21 Advent IV

8:30am Worship S
10:45am Worship with Children's Program S
 7pm AA WH

Mon Dec 22

6:30pm AA Sm Group WH
 6:30pm AMEN CR

Tue Dec 23

7am AMEN zoom
 9:30am Women's Bible CR

Wed Dec 24

Church office closed
3pm Christmas Eve worship
5pm Christmas Eve worship
6pm Nochebuena EH
 7pm AA WH
9:30pm Christmas Eve worship

Thu Dec 25

Church office closed
 10am Al Anon CR
10am Christmas Day worship

Fri Dec 26

Church office closed

Sun Dec 28

8:30am Worship S
10:45am Worship EH S
 7pm AA WH

Mon Dec 29

Church office closed
 6:30pm AA Sm Group WH

Tue Dec 30

Church office closed
7am AMEN zoom
 9:30am Women's Bible CR
 10:30am Boyer group HR

Wed Dec 31

Church office closed
 7pm AA WH

Thu Jan 1

Church office closed
 10am Al Anon CR

Fri Jan 2

Church office closed

Advent & Christmas at Ascension

Activities

- Journey to Bethlehem**, Sunday, Dec. 7, 9:45a
Advent Book Study, Tuesdays, Dec. 2-16, 6:30p,
and Wednesdays, Dec. 3-17, 10:30a
Healing Hearts Meal, Monday, Dec. 8, 4:30p
Advent Brunch, Sunday, Dec. 14, 10:30 a.m.
CRASH Progressive Dinner, Sunday, Dec. 14,
4:30p
Young at Heart Christmas, Wednesday, Dec. 18,
12p
Children's Program Rehearsal, Saturday, Dec.
20, 9a
Las Posadas (*en español*), Saturday, Dec. 20, 4p
Church Office Closed, Dec. 24-Jan. 2

Worship

- Annunciation Worship** (*en español*), Friday, Dec.
12, 6a
Advent Concert Worship, Saturday 6p & Sunday
9:30a, Dec. 13 & 14
Misa (*en español*), Sunday, Dec. 14, 10:45a
4th Sunday of Advent Worship, Sunday, Dec. 21,
8:30a
Worship with Children's Program (*bilingual*),
Sunday, Dec. 21, 10:45a
Christmas Eve worship, Wednesday, Dec. 24, 3p,
5p & 9:30p
Nochebuena (*en español*), Wednesday, Dec. 24, 6p
Christmas Day Worship, Thursday, Dec. 25, 10a
1st Sunday of Christmas, Sunday, Dec. 28, 8:30a
& 10:45a



Poinsettia Donations

If you would like to donate a poinsettia for our sanctuary this Christmas season (\$12 each), please return the completed form along with your payment to the church office or place in the offering plate. You may also pay on our website and mark it "Poinsettia." Thank you for helping make the sanctuary beautiful as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! Please mark how you'd like your donation to be listed below.

In celebration of Jesus' birth

To the glory of God

Donated in honor of

Donated in memory of

Donor:

Donation amount \$ _____

Payment type: _____

Are You Visiting?

Date of Visit: _____

Time of Worship: _____

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How did God invite you here?

How can we share the life of Ascension with you?

- E-Alert
- Newsletter: e-mail or U.S. Mail?
- BLAST (ages 3-5th gr.)
- JOLT (confirmation, 6-8th gr.)
- CRASH (high school)
- Bible study (small groups)
- Choirs or other music ministries
- Serving others (local/global options)
- Starting Point (membership)

Please place in the offering plate.



ASCENSION
Lutheran Church

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