

SERMON NOTES . . .

"The Reason for the Season = Good News!" Luke 2:10, 11

1. Christmas is the recognition that Jesus, God's Son, came to live among us and ultimately to _____ and be resurrected.
2. We are saved from God, by God, and _____ God.
3. God is the rescuer but saying we don't need to be rescued from God is to diminish God's _____ and to distort the gospel message.
4. "Do not be afraid. I bring you _____ of great joy that will be for all the people." (Luke 2:10)
5. "When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to _____ those under law that we might receive the full rights of sons." (Galatians 4:4)
6. After man's fall into sin, God calls out a people and creates a _____ system whereby they can dwell with Him.
7. _____ needed to come, in our likeness, but also in God's likeness, to be our perfect mediator and representative.
8. "Christ was sacrificed _____ to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him." (Hebrews 9:28)
9. The ultimate 'transformer' is found in Philippians 3:21 which says that Jesus will _____ our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body.
10. Rather than ignore or overlook our sin, God's holy _____ devised a way for us to be made righteous.
11. God's _____ requires that sinners either experience His judgment or have a sinless substitute experience this judgment on their behalf – we have a substitute!
12. _____ always comes at the cost of the one granting it.
13. The _____ of Christ is a demonstration not only of God's love but of God's justice. Good news for us!

HOPE

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PEACE

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JOY

χηρα

LOVE

αγαπη

Welcome to West Prairie Lutheran Church!

Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ (LCMC) Synod
40041 150th Ave., P.O. Box 9, Leland, IA 50453 - Steve Bang, pastor
Please sign the attendance sheet provided in each pew. If you are a visitor, please include your mailing address, and we invite you to join us again.

Worship Service for the 2nd Sunday in Advent 11 a.m., December 11, 2016

Prelude

Pastoral Greeting

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Please stand if you are able.

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 77

Opening Hymn, Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus... Grey Book #168

Kyrie page 78

Hymn of Praise page 79

Prayer of the Day

(All) Almighty God, You once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of Your Son and to prepare His way. Grant us, Your people, the wisdom to see Your purpose today and the openness to hear Your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare His way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever . Amen

You may be seated.

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, He will come with vengeance; with divine retribution He will come to save you."

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and

Prayer List

Jonie Bang, Marilyn Holland, Denise Holst, Irene Eide, Marlys Haugen, Blanche Durby, Ben Charlson, Dale Zingg, Angela Haugen, Dorothy Kall, Elaine Ritz, Eldora Reil, Monte Branstad, Mike Haack. All prayer requests can be submitted to: www.westprairiechurch.com/prayer; or leave a message on the church answering system @ 641-567-3733; or call Pastor Steve @ 641-590-7894.

... ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

Today

7 p.m. Youth Group

Tuesday

7 p.m. Adult Bible Class

Wednesday, December 14

1 p.m. LCMC WOW Christmas Program

7 p.m. Church Council

Next Sunday, December 18

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:15-10:45 a.m. Fellowship

11 a.m. Worship Service

4:30 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Program

5:30 p.m. Soup Supper and Bake Sale

7 p.m. Youth Group

Christmas Open House

John and Janet will be hosting their annual Open House on Wednesday, Dec. 14 from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. at MAJOPA, 905 S. Hwy. 69, Forest City.

Thank you goes out to...

Everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas;

The Juveland family for the surprising gift of a live Christmas tree!

The Advent Adventure committee for organizing the pot-luck dinner;

Everyone who donated items and helped to fill, wrap and deliver the shoeboxes to Crisis Intervention. We filled 75 boxes this year!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 p.m., West Prairie; Christmas Day Worship Service at 8:30 a.m., Sion Lutheran, Lake Mills. (NOTE: NO worship service at West Prairie on Sunday, Dec. 25.)

Reminder...

All financial books are due to the auditors the first week in January 2017. Auditors are Julie Reimann and Rita Schutte.

the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Psalm 146 (responsively)

L: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

C: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

L: Put not your trust in rulers, nor in an child of earth,

C: for there is no help in them.

L: When they breathe their last, they return to earth,

C: and in that day their thoughts perish.

L: Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

C: whose hope is in the Lord their God;

L: who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;

C: who keeps His promise forever.

L: who gives justice to those who are oppressed,

C: and food to those who hunger.

L: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

C: the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

L: the Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger;

C: He sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

L: The Lord shall reign forever,

C: Your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Lesson: James 5:7-11

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Please stand

Alleluiapage 83

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:2-15

Response: *Glory to You, O Lord*page 83

Now when John in prison heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?"

And Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me."

And as these were going away, Jesus began to speak to the multitudes about John, "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man dressed soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' palaces. But why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, *Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.* Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now

the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force. For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you care to accept it, he himself is Elijah, who was to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Response: *Praise to You, O Christ*page 83
You may be seated.

Hymn: *Joy to the World*LBW #39

The Sermon: Pastor Steve Bang

"The Reason for the Season = Good News!" Luke 2:10, 11

Hymn: *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*Grey Hymn Book #177
Please stand

Apostles' Creedpage 85

Prayer

Congregational response: Hear our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace.

You may be seated.

Offering

Please stand.

Offertory: *Create In Me a Clean Heart*page 96

Prayer:page 96

The Lord's Prayerpage 97

Benediction:page 95

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn: *The Star Carol*Grey Hymn Book #201

Postlude

Pastor: Steve Bang

Organist/Pianist: Ruth Sheldon

Usher: Byron Holst

Lectionary: Paris Reimann

Acolyte: Easton Jacobs