

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21, 2025 | 9:30 AM



CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH



"We live in Christ and share God's love with all people."

PO BOX 845 5904 VISTA DR. FERNDALE, WA
360-384-1422 clcferndale.org

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Welcome to worship at Christ Lutheran Church where we live in Christ and share God's love with all people.

CLC celebrates and affirms the sacred worth of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, including the LGBTQIA+ community; people of all cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds; specifically Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; people of all ages and abilities; and people of all social and economic circumstances – as well as any who have experienced marginalization by the Christian Church.

We commit to the work of anti-racism and inclusion in a world that profits from our division. We remember Jesus' unambiguous call to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39). We pray that all may encounter the living, loving God, whose grace meets us in our authentic humanity and who sees each of us as beloved.

We gratefully acknowledge that we gather on the ancestral homelands of the Lummi Nation of the Coast Salish language group who have stewarded this land since time immemorial, and we commit to the ongoing care of our shared land and relationships with its indigenous peoples.

Younger friends are welcome in the Pray Ground (accessed outside the sanctuary entrance) for any portion of the service.

Hearing assist units and large print bulletins are available as you enter the sanctuary. Please see an usher for assistance with these or any part of the worship service.

For all attending, we invite you to sign in on the friendship pad in your pew. We encourage you to participate in worship at your comfort level. The congregation reads the bold print and *stands as they are able.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 | PARTICIPATING IN OUR CHURCH

Presiding: Pr. Leigh DeVries

Greeters/Ushers: Russ & Dana Creydt

Communion Assistant: Melanie Halsell

Reader: Stephen Wise

Prayers of Intercession: Dave Schlack

Team: Jenise Clausen, Erin Beebe, Becky McGrady, Steve Andres

Piano: Don Clausen

Organ: Don Clausen

Violin: Joanne Donnellan

Flute: Nancy Tupper

Altar Guild: Liz Brown

Livestream Technician: Kelly Dietsch

Soundboard Technician: Jenni Herold

Liturgical Setting: ELW Setting One

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 21, 2025 | 9:30AM

GATHERING

PRELUDE

COME TO US
EMMANUEL

CLC TEAM

WELCOME

PR. LEIGH DEVRIES

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

ELW# 254

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

God of the holy dark, this advent may we reclaim the sacred dark.

As the days grow shorter and the dark of night stretches, may we remember that Christ was formed in the holy darkness of a womb—that our origin is not the garden but the dark.

May this be a season of deeper encounter with the night. May the darkness guide us into deep rest, resisting exhaustion and overexposure.

May it be a darkness that opens us to the unknown, that we would make peace with uncertainty and marvel at mystery.

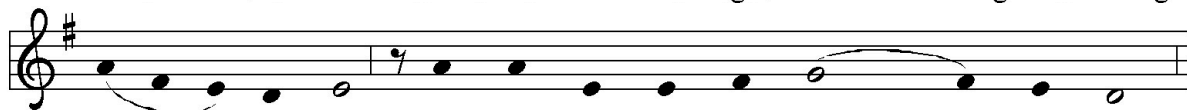
Hold us in the dark womb of Advent. Let us remember what glory grows in the dark. We light a candle in that dark for love.

ADVENT HYMN

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL



O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things



far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;



teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

You may be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 7:10-16

¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

³ Restore us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴ O Lord God of hosts,

how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**¹⁷ Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you;

give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹ Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: JAMES 5:7-10

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for Gospel Acclamation

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus. The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

You may be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

ELW# 264

CONFESSION OF FAITH

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again:**

**he is seated at the right hand of the
Father, and he will come to judge the
living and the dead.
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**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

You may be seated.

GIFT OF MUSIC

BREATH OF HEAVEN
BY AMY GRANT

JENISE CLAUSEN

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNION AND OFFERING

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



L: The Lord be with you. C: And al - so with you.



L: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.



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



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

Here we lift our hearts to you, praying:
Come, Lord Jesus!

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

All glory and honor to you, O Lord,
for the promise of your saving love—
new life and hope springing forth
from the stump of Jesse's tree;
a world where wolf and lamb,
leopard and kid, lion and calf
will live together in safety and peace
and a little child will lead us.

Here we lift our hearts to you, praying:
Come, Lord Jesus!

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

All glory and honor to you, O Lord,
for by your grace you sent us a Savior—
one who delights in worshiping you
and brings equality and justice
to people who are humble and poor,
one who has destroyed the power of
death and will be faithful and righteous
forever.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
 On the night in which he was arrested,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
 we await his coming in glory.
 Pour out your Holy Spirit,
 that by this Holy Communion we may know
 the unity we share with all your people
 in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us in the language of our hearts.

1983 Version

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

1892 Version

**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;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

You may be seated.

COMMUNION BY INTINCTION AND OFFERING

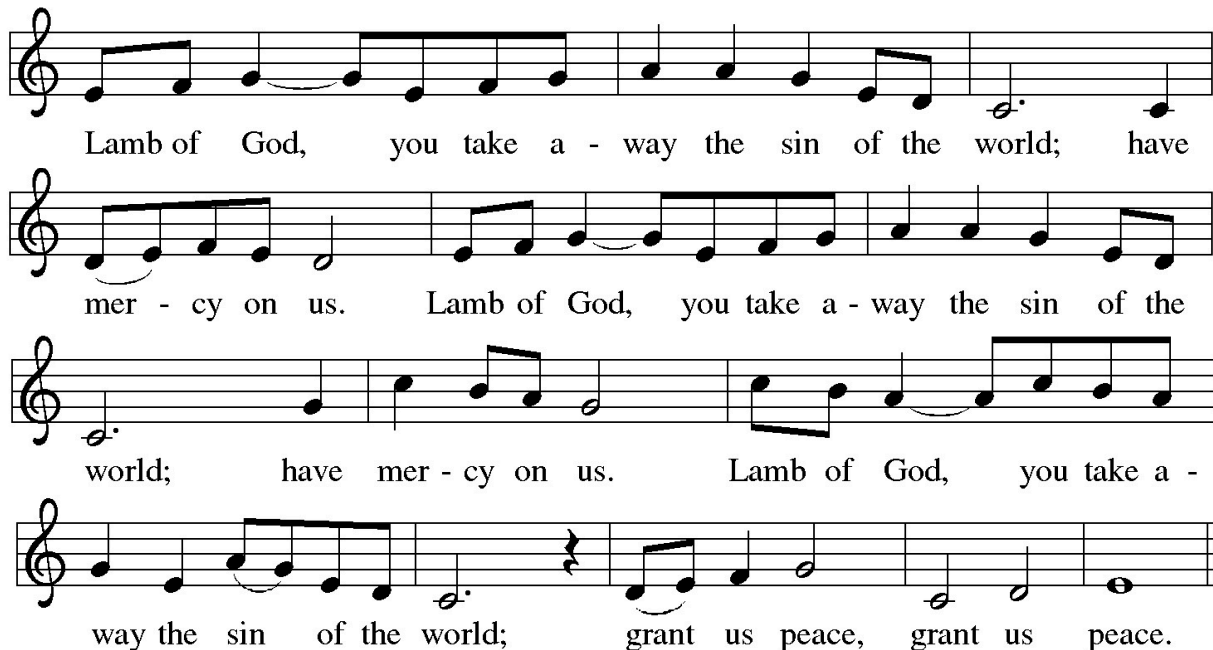
All who desire a renewed relationship with Jesus are welcome to participate in Holy Communion. Children of any age, with the consent of a parent or guardian, are welcome to commune, or may come forward to receive a blessing instead. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. If you have any allergies or sensitivities to gluten, wheat, yeast, dairy, soy, nut, or corn, please ask for the wafer alternative, as they are made in a facility that is free of these allergens. If you prefer to take communion at your seat, please notify an usher to have it brought to you. As a part of your communion experience, you are additionally invited to **light a candle, use the prayer wheel, or seek additional prayer with a Stephen Minister** seated in the front pew near the candle station as you need.

At this time, you may also present your physical offering (if you have one) prior to receiving communion in the designated offering plate. Offerings may also be received the following way:

- Mail checks to the CLC P.O. Box 845 or send a check through your bank's Bill Pay service. Please be sure to add "Attn: Financial Secretary" to the envelope;
- Give through the Church Center App (use QR code to access);
- Or through Church Center online: christ-lutheran-church-ferndale.churchcenter.com



COMMUNION HYMN



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

WAIT FOR THE LORD

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

CLC TEAM/ CONGREGATION

ELW# 262

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our host,

at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the feast,

welcome the stranger,

and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTH/BATHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES

*Happy birth/bathday to you, happy anniversary to you,
may the Lord bless and keep you another year through.*

BLESSING

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.
The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

IN A FAR OFF PLACE, JESUS COME



1 In a far - off place, Je - sus comes to earth.
2 For the poor in heart, Je - sus comes to earth.
3 In our deep - est night, Je - sus comes to earth:



Sheep and cat - tle grace the site. As the
Hum - ble shep - herds start the news. For each
ra - dian't star to light our way. Sum - mer's



an - gel songs be - gin, like the whis - per of the wind,
home-less in - fant born, for the meek and those who mourn,
heat or win - ter's chill, with a warm and lov - ing will,



na - ture's hope a - wakes a - gain; Je - sus comes.
for the wear - y and the worn, Je - sus comes.
to a world that needs him still, Je - sus comes.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Book Study: December 21st with Don & Jenise Clausen

The Holy in the Night: Finding Freedom in a Season of Waiting, by Shannon W. Dycus is an Advent Devotional that we will dig into this season. Join us each Sunday of Advent in the Fireside Room for a review and discussion of the week's most impactful devotionals.

Walk & Talk – December 24 & 31

Dec. 24: Walk and Talk is canceled. Merry Christmas to all! Observe and celebrate this Holy time at one of the worship services this day.

Dec. 31: Walk and Talk at 9:15. When the group meets on the 17th we'll consider if we'd enjoy a carpool/destination walk to wind up 2025. Stay tuned!

December 1x1x1 Project – SOUP & SOAP!

May we introduce you to our new initiative to support our Ferndale Food & Other Banks! This is called a 1x1x1 Project and it goes like this... each month we will ask for:

- 1 x your support as 1 person/1 family by bringing in:
- 1 x 1 item for the Food bank (December: SOUP!) and,
- 1 x 1 item for the Other Bank (December: SOAP! think: hand soap, bar/body soap, shampoo, deodorant).

Please drop your contributions in the designated bins in the Narthex. Contact Carol Gahm or Shay Andersen with any questions.

November Recap (Tuna & Feminine Hygiene Products):

- The Ferndale Food Bank received 91 cans of Tuna!
- The Ferndale Other Bank received 23 packages of Feminine Hygiene Products!

Thank you to Christ Lutheran Church and Preschool for your generosity to these critical local organizations!

Looking for more ways to give?

Ferndale Food Bank: <https://www.ferndalefoodbank.org/giving> OR scan this code



Ferndale Community Services: <https://ferndalecs.org/donate/> OR scan this code



Miracle Food Network: <https://www.miraclefoodnetwork.org/how-to-help> OR scan



THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

We hope you will join us on **Christmas Eve:** Wednesday, December 24th!

5:00pm Christmas Eve Family Service

Interactive Storytelling and Nativity Scene Quest!

Does your family enjoy interactive play and storytelling? Please join our 5pm service to help build the story **and** scene of Jesus' birth. Children of all ages (yes – that means everyone!) are welcome and encouraged to participate!

9:00pm Candlelit Christmas Eve Service

Communion, Candlelight and Lessons & Carols

A classic offering and an annual favorite of so many of our members. Please join us for a gorgeous "Lessons & Carols" candlelit service with communion by intinction.

THIS WEEK

Sunday 12/21 08:30am Musician Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
09:30am Worship with Pr. Leigh (Sanctuary)
10:45am Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)
Community Education: *The Holy in the Night* - Book Discussion #3 with the Clausens (Fireside Room)

Monday 12/22 09:00am Quilting (Fellowship Hall)
05:30pm Pub Church (Downtime Taps)

Wednesday 12/24 05:00pm Family Interactive Service (Sanctuary)
09:00pm Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)

Sunday 12/28 08:30am Musician Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
09:30am Worship with Pr. Page (Sanctuary)
10:45am Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)
Community Education: *The Holy in the Night* - Book Discussion #4 with Pr. Leigh (Fireside Room)

STAFF PARTICIPATING IN OUR CHURCH

Rev. Leigh DeVries, lead Pastor: pastor@clcferndale.org

Rev. Liza Okan, preschool director: preschooldirector@clcferndale.org

Don Clausen, Music Director: musicdirector@clcferndale.org

Shay Andersen, Parish Administrator: parishadmin@clcferndale.org

Please hold these people in prayer:

- Gary, Bob, Lynne, Elizabeth, Becky, Marisa & Karl, Linda, Kelly, Jim, Victoria, Dolly, Darlene, Marilyn, Paul, Christine, Rachel, Mary K., Scott, Paula, Marina, Ruthanne, Nancy, Sean, Mike, Teri, Jeremiah, Ken, Pat, Carol, Mary Ann, Janet, Sarah, Sara, Caitlin, Jacob, Christine, Ashley, Amore, Amber, Darryl, Victoria, John, Rosemary, Angel, Eric, Kim, Lucia, Michele, Ken, Tony, Amanda, Rick, Jim, Kevin, Lindsey, Kent;
- all who are homebound, or in assisted living facilities;
- those who travel;
- Brandon, Ron, Melissa, Robert, Scott, Thomas, Rick, and all serving in the military;
- those struggling with addictions and illnesses affecting the mind and spirit;
- those struggling with deteriorating health.



“We live in Christ and share God’s love with all people.”

PO BOX 845 5904 VISTA DR. FERNDALE, WA

360-384-1422 clcferndale.org

Winter Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday, 9:15am - 3:00pm

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