

December 3, 2023  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent



St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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“St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School”

[www.stphilipmilwaukee.com](http://www.stphilipmilwaukee.com)

Pastor: Raymond Kimbrough

Principal: Jason Schapekahn

**Welcome, Friend!**  
**You Have Come To The Right Place!**  
**Jesus Loves YOU!**

**WELCOME**

Guests and visitors, we invite you to worship with us again in the future.  
For more information regarding St. Philip's Lutheran Church,  
please contact Pastor Kimbrough at 414-263-1373 or 414-254-6093.  
For information on our K4 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Christian day school please contact our  
Principal, Jason Schapekahn at 414-263-7614 or 414-659-4688.

**Worship Theme**

**The King Shall Come – He is Coming to Save Us!**

Rulers plan and administrate and govern. They typically do not save. If your house is on fire, it will not be the mayor who shows up to save you from the flames. If America were attacked, the President would serve as the commander in chief of the armed forces. The President would not pick up a weapon, go to the front lines, and fight to save you from the enemy.

Jesus is different. He is both infinitely greater than all other rulers, yet also infinitely humbler. He does not consider it beneath his rank as King to risk his life for his subjects. He is willing to fight for us. He is willing to die for us. For King Jesus came into our world for one reason—to save us.

## “Order of Service”

**Opening Hymn: #301 – Savior of the Nations Come**

*Please rise*

**Pastor:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Congregation:** And also with you.

### Confession of Sins

**Pastor:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**Congregation:** Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

### Lord Have Mercy (sung)

L: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

L: Christ, have mercy upon us.

**C: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

L: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

L: Amen.

**C: Amen.**

**Pastor:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**Congregation:** Amen.

**Pastor:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### Oh Taste and See (sung)

L: Oh taste and see that the Lord is good

**C: Oh taste and see that the Lord is good.**

L: Blessed are they who take refuge in him

**C: Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

L: Your word, oh Lord, is eternal.

**C: Your word, oh Lord, is eternal.**

L: It stands firm in the heavens.

**C: It stands firm in the heavens.**

L: Your faithfulness continues.

**C: Your faithfulness continues.**

L: Forever

**C: Forever**

L: And ever

**C: And ever**

L: Amen

**C: Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

**Pastor & Congregation:** Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains would tremble before you!  
<sup>2</sup>As when fire sets twigs ablaze  
and causes water to boil,  
come down to make your name known to your enemies  
and cause the nations to quake before you!  
<sup>3</sup>For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,  
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.  
<sup>4</sup>Since ancient times no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.  
<sup>5</sup>You come to the help of those who gladly do right,  
who remember your ways.  
But when we continued to sin against them,  
you were angry.  
How then can we be saved?  
<sup>6</sup>All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf,  
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.  
<sup>7</sup>No one calls on your name  
or strives to lay hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us  
and have given us over to our sins.  
<sup>8</sup>Yet you, LORD, are our Father.  
We are the clay, you are the potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
<sup>9</sup>Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD;  
do not remember our sins forever.  
Oh, look on us, we pray,  
for we are all your people.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm of the Day – Psalm 80 (selected verses)**

Reader: Return to us, God Almighty!

**Congregation: Look down from heaven and see!**

Reader: Watch over this vine, the root your right hand has planted,

**Congregation: the son you have raised up for yourself.**

Reader: Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire;

**Congregation: at your rebuke your people perish.**

Reader: Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,

**Congregation: the son of man you have raised up for yourself.**

Reader: Then we will not turn away from you;

**Congregation: revive us, and we will call on your name.**

Reader: Restore us, LORD God Almighty;

**Congregation: make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.**

**Reader and Congregation:**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

**Second Lesson: I Corinthians 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup>Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup>For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— <sup>6</sup>God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. <sup>7</sup>Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. <sup>8</sup>He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Revelation 22:20

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### Alleluia – sung response

L: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

**C: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

L: These words were written and given to us So that our hearts can hear

That Jesus opened the doors; He is the Christ, the Son of God

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**C: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

L: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**C: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

### Gospel Lesson: Mark 13:26–37

<sup>26</sup>“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

<sup>28</sup>“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. <sup>34</sup>It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

<sup>35</sup>“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. <sup>36</sup>If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup>What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’ ”

**Leader:** The Gospel of our Lord.

**Congregation:** Praise be to you, O Christ!

## Sermon Hymn: Hallelujah (Christmas Version) - Cloverton

I've heard about this baby boy Who's come to earth to bring us joy  
And I just want to sing this song to you It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth  
The minor fall, the major lift With every breath I'm singing Hallelujah  
Hallelujah

A couple came to Bethlehem Expecting child, they searched the inn  
To find a place for You were coming soon There was no room for them to stay  
So in a manger filled with hay God's only Son was born, oh Hallelujah  
Hallelujah

The shepherds left their flocks by night To see this baby wrapped in light  
A host of angels led them all to You It was just as the angels said  
You'll find Him in a manger bed Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah

A star shown bright up in the east To Bethlehem, the wisemen three  
Came many miles and journeyed long for You And to the place at which You were  
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah  
Hallelujah

I know You came to rescue me This baby boy would grow to be  
A man and one day die for me and you My sins would drive the nails in You  
That rugged cross was my cross, too Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah  
Hallelujah



**Sermon Text:** Mark 13:26-37 (*Gospel Lesson*)

**Sermon Theme:** "Christ's Advent Call: 'WATCH!'"

1. Be an alert Christian. Verse 33
2. Be a responsible Christian. Verse 34
3. Be an expectant Christian. Verses 35-37

### **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

### **Our Offering to the Lord**

*Please place your offerings in the box at the back of church.*

*Online giving is also available from our website or click this link:*

<https://members.myeoffering.com/#/landing>.

### **Prayer of the Church**

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

**Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.**

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

**Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.**

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

**Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.**

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

**Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.**

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

**Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.**

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

**May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

**Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

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

### **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: CWH #327, verse 1 – O Come O Come Emmanuel**

### **"Our Mission Statement"**

#### **(Our Purpose as a Church)**

Our mission here at St. Philip's Lutheran is outlined for us in Matthew 28:19: 'Go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them and baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.' Making disciples includes proclaiming God's Word in its truth and purity, strengthening the faith of those under our care, and reaching out to the people of our community, (including our unchurched friends and relatives).  
Let us pray for and work together toward this goal.

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**St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School**

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Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

[www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)

### **Serving at Worship**

**Presiding Minister**  
**Cantor/Song Leader**  
**Lay Reader**  
**Piano/Organ**  
**Praise Band**

Pastor Raymond Kimbrough  
Ms. Sarah Enstad  
Mr. Thomas McNeal  
Mrs. Claire Vogel  
Mr. Erskin Henderson  
Mrs. Hayley Moldenhauer  
Mr. Thomas Moldenhauer  
Mr. Jack Wright

### **In Our Prayers**

Joyce Vernon  
Kitty Henderson  
Natasha McCants  
Susan Berg  
Gabriel Jasper

### **Next Week: December 10, 2023**

**Piano:** Mrs. Claire Vogel

**Lay Reader:** Mr. Thomas McNeal



### **WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT ST. PHILIP'S**

**Wednesday, December 6**

**Advent Chapel 8:15AM**

**Thursday, December 7**

**Girls B & Boys B BB Teams play at St. Paul's, Franklin  
Girls play at 4:30PM, Boys play at 5:20PM**

**Sunday, December 10**

**Bible Class 9:30AM**

**Worship with communion 10:30AM**

**Call meeting follows worship**

**December Calendar and Text sheet is included with today's bulletin**

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

**Sunday, December 17**

**Christmas Carol Song Service  
Junior Choir Sings for Worship  
Church Christmas Party follows worship service  
See flyer in bulletin.**

**Thursday, December 21**

**Children's Christmas Program 6:00PM**



**Sunday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve Worship w/communion 10:30AM**

**Monday, December 25**

**Christmas Day Worship 9:30AM**

**WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

The seminary chorus, a 68-voice choir, will present its annual Christmas concert *Christmas at the Seminary* at 3:00pm and 7:00pm on Sunday, December 10, 2023.

The men's choir will share the story of Jesus' birth in songs, carols, and hymns. This concert will be held in the auditorium. Open seating is available on a first-come, first-seated basis. The 3:00pm concert will be live streamed at [livestream.com/WLSLive](https://livestream.com/WLSLive) and recorded for later viewing at the same link.

The seminary chorus is composed of men studying for the pastoral ministry at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. It is directed by Prof. Aaron Christie and has toured throughout the country in its 91-year history.



**WLHS Winter Band Concert**—The band department will present their Winter Concert on Sunday, December 10, at 3:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Seating is general admission with a free-will door offering. The concert will be livestreamed at [wlhs.org](https://wlhs.org).

**WLHS Winter Chamber Ensembles Concert**—A winter chamber ensemble concert will be held on Thursday, December 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The concert will feature small instrumental ensembles, Jubilation Handbells, Inspiration Vocal Jazz & Chamber Choir, and the Wisco Kids Show Choir. Musical selections will include a variety of genres, including popular, jazz, and familiar Christmas season tunes. Seating is general admission with a free-will door offering. The concert will be livestreamed at [wlhs.org](https://wlhs.org).

**WLHS Sacred Choral Christmas Concert**—WLHS choral department will present their Sacred Choral Christmas Concert, "A Child is Born" on Sunday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The concert will feature the Freshman and A Cappella choirs, Inspiration Vocal Jazz & Chamber Choir, and Jubilation Handbells. Seating is general admission with a free-will door offering. The concert will be livestreamed at [wlhs.org](https://wlhs.org).

**Costume Sewers Needed** —Wisconsin Lutheran High School's theater program is looking for volunteers to assist with making costumes for the upcoming spring musical *The Little Mermaid*. Sewing and crafting skills are desired, but if you have a willingness to learn, we will teach you what needs to be done. Please contact Patti Wenzel at [patti.wenzel@wlhs.org](mailto:patti.wenzel@wlhs.org) or 715-360-0407 for more information.

## **What is Advent?**

The church divides the year into different seasons that emphasize the life of Christ and the life of the church. Beginning on Sunday, December 3, 2023, we will enter the season of the church year called Advent. Advent is the season of preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas, and continuing to Epiphany January 6, 2024.



### **ADVENT WREATH**

On the first Sunday of Advent, the prophecy candle is lit, in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

On the second Sunday, an additional candle is lit. This candle typically represents love. Some traditions call this the Bethlehem candle, symbolizing Christ's manger.

On the third Sunday of Advent another candle is lit. This candle is customarily called the Shepherds' candle and it represents joy.

The fourth and last candle, often times called the Angel's candle, represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

### **NEW! Reading through Advent with NPH**

Advent begins on Dec. 3. Three times a week on our blog, we're going to post excerpts from *The People's Bible* series focusing on the Gospel, First, and Second Readings from Year B of the three-year lectionary in the *Christian Worship: Hymnal*.

Take time away from the busyness of the season and be refreshed by God's Word! [Click here](#) to read the introductory post.

**Pastor Raymond Kimbrough**

**3012 N Holton Street**

**Milwaukee, WI 53212**

**Church: 414-263-1373**

**Cell Phone: 414-254-6093**

### **TO FRIENDS AND VISITORS**

*This is the house of God. In His Name we welcome each and every person. May His Word bring you closer to your Savior, assuring you of the forgiveness of all your sins through Jesus' death and resurrection.*

*If you are without a church home or have recently moved to the area, our pastor will be happy to call on you or answer your questions about church membership. If you are burdened with sorrow or trouble, we invite you to call on the pastor at any time.*

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

*St. Philip's congregation supports and maintains a Christian Day School for the thorough training of the whole child. We want each child to know, not only how to deal with this life, but to know their Savior and prepare for eternal life. The school is called St. Philip's Lutheran School and is located at 3012 N. Holton Street.*

**School Office Phone: 414-263-7614**

**Church Office Phone: 414-263-1373**

**Church Service – 10:30AM**

**Bible Class – 9:30AM**