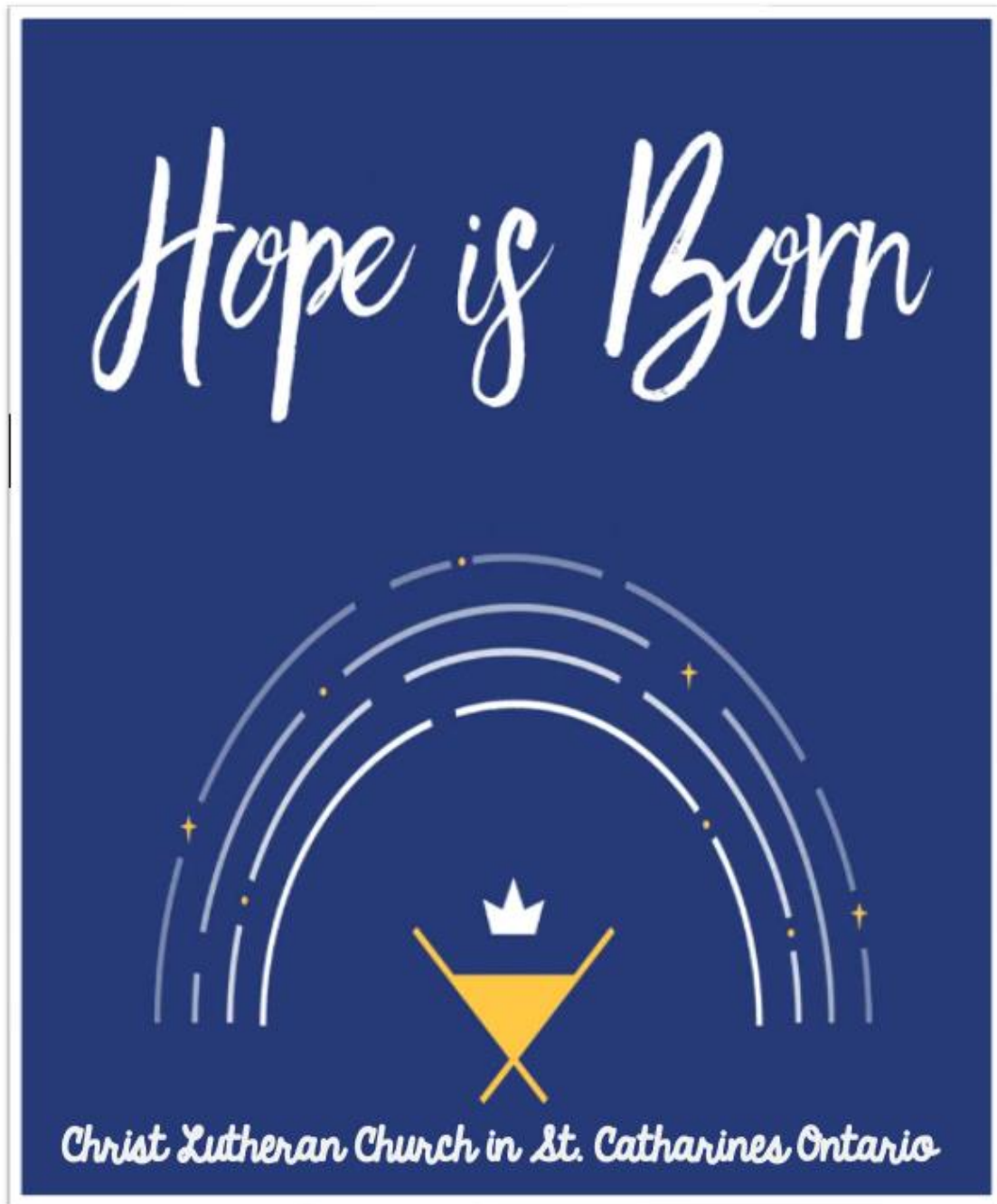


# 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 17, 2023



140 Russell Avenue  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1  
Church: 905-685-8294  
[www.christlutheransc.ca](http://www.christlutheransc.ca)

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**Office Hours:** Thursday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon  
**Bulletin Announcements:** Please send to [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca).  
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

**Pastor:** Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) [sr.pastor@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:sr.pastor@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Parish Assistant:** Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) [parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Business Manager:** Karen McCumber [business.manager@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:business.manager@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Secretary:** Pat Kimpel [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Facebook:** Lisa Gall [www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC](http://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC)  
**Bulletin by email:** [chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca)

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING\\_TKT19c\\_OIBbMqGwLw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKT19c_OIBbMqGwLw)

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**Prayer:** Almighty God, through John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, You once proclaimed salvation; now grant that we may know this salvation and serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: Matt. 11: 11-15                      Wed.: Luke 3: 10-10                      Friday: John 1: 29-34  
Tuesday: Matt. 3: 1-11                      Thurs: John 1: 6-9;15-16                      Saturday: Luke 7: 29-35

**DECEMBER 2023 WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

Dec. 17            10 am - Advent 3 - Special Children's Christmas Program  
Dec. 24            10 am - Advent 4 - LSB Setting 4 Communion  
Dec. 24            7 pm - Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols  
Dec. 24            10 pm - Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols  
Dec 25            10 am - Christmas Carol Festive Communion Service  
Dec. 31            10 am - New Years' Eve Carol Service

**Musician:** Louise  
**Reader:** Vijay Samuel

**EVENTS THIS WEEK:**

Today:                      9:00 - 9:50 a.m.: Sunday School/Coffee Hour  
                                    10:00 a.m. – Worship - Children's Christmas Program  
                                    7:30 p.m. – Choir Practice  
Tuesday:                      9:30 – 11:00 am. – Precious Moments  
                                    5:30 p.m. – Mary Martha Pot-Luck Social  
Sunday, Dec. 24:            10:00 a.m. – Christmas Eve Worship with Communion  
                                    7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Services

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday mornings from 9:00 - 9:50 a.m. Preschool in the nursery and Grades 1-6 together. Bring your children, stay for Coffee Hour!

**TODAY:** Children's Christmas Program - Thank you to all our Sunday School students and staff for their hard work in bringing us this wonderful story of Christmas Hope. God's blessings as you continue to seek Jesus our source of true Christmas Hope. Sunday school will resume Sunday, January 7th at 9 am.

**CONFIRMAND & YOUTH CHAT** will resume in January on the 2nd & 4th Sundays with youth leader Dan Figueroa. We will meet in the youth room during Sunday School from 9 - 9:50 a.m.



# CHRIST'S CAFÉ

**Hope to see you downstairs**  
**9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**  
**for Coffee, Tea & Treats!!**  
 Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats, please contact:  
 Judy Mason 905-641-7546

**PRECIOUS MOMENTS** will enjoy our last time together **Tuesday, December 19** before breaking for Christmas holidays. We will resume in the New Year, Tuesday, January 9 from 9:30-11:00am.

**CONFIRMAND/YOUTH NIGHT: Thursday, January 4, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** Come enjoy a fun evening together. Friends are welcome to join us!

**MARY MARTHA LWML-C:**  
**Tuesday, December 19, 5:30pm – Advent/Christmas Potluck (blessing) Dinner & Program**  
**Tuesday, January 16, 7- 8 p.m. – “Staying Safe Presentation”** Please join us for a presentation by Constable Michael Matwijow and his partner Constable Daryl Landry of the Niagara Regional Police, Community Oriented Response and Engagement unity (CORE). They will be speaking about what they do and the services they provide as well as providing us with information regarding current crime trends in our area and the preventative measures that we can take to reduce the chances of us being victimized. Everyone is welcome to attend!!

**VOTERS MEETING:** Save the Date! Our next congregational voters meeting will be Sunday, February 4, 2024, immediately following Worship Service. Main item for discussion/approval will be the 2024 budget.

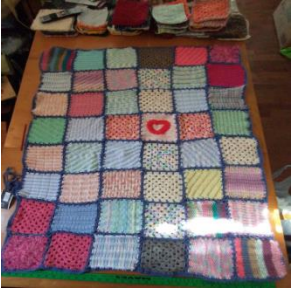
<b><u>Last Sunday Attendance:</u></b>		<b><u>Dec. 10th, 2023</u></b>	<b><u>Attn: 10 a.m. – 128</u></b>	<b><u>SOUL: 32 members, 17 staff</u></b>	
	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Weekly Need</u></b>	<b><u>Last Sunday</u></b>	<b><u>Year To Date</u></b>	<b><u>+ or – (--)</u></b>
Current	297,841.00	5,840.02	3,005.00	267,986.51	(18,399.07)
LCC Missions	17,000.00	333.33	249.00	16,734.00	387.85)
Property Improvement:			179.00	6,608.00	

**2024 DONATION ENVELOPES:** Your 2024 donation envelopes are in your mailbox for pick-up! If you do not have a mailbox, please check the table in the Narthex. If you don't have a mailbox, and you would like one, please contact our secretary Pat at [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca).

**ATTENTION DONORS:** If you are using envelope #62 from the 2022 calendar year, please contact Karen McCumber at: [business.manager@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:business.manager@christlutheransc.ca). This envelope was not assigned which makes it impossible to provide a charitable receipt at the end of the year. We would love to correct our records to make sure that the donor receives an accurate charitable receipt.

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS** have been given in memory of Margarete Higenell to SOUL by Mary Silver and Anna Schneikart; to Christ Lutheran Church by Glenn & Carole Pink; and to Canadian Lutheran World Relief by Susan Honey.

**WINTER COAT DRIVE:** for **Niagara Mobile Closet/Start Me Up Niagara**. Accepting new or gently used winter coats only!!! Please no dirty coats or ones with broken zippers. **All coats will be donated on Dec 18<sup>th</sup>!!**



**Granny Squares still needed:** This is an ongoing project we will gratefully accept more completed 6 inch knitted or crocheted Granny Squares in any pattern or colour. We would also appreciate any yarn that you may have, leftover yarn or full balls of yarn. In the narthex there is a white cube with yarn and hooks that you are welcome to take (or donate). There is another basket for completed squares. It has been about 6 months that we have been able to show Christ's love in our Caring Squares blankets. (22 blankets to date!) Thank you for donating yarn or completed squares as we continue with this project! Praise God! If you have any

questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

**USED STAMPS:** Start saving and collecting your used stamps now! They will be gathered at the LWML-C Convention and donated to a charity who will in turn use them to purchase spiritual resources like Bibles.



## Operation Christmas Cheer

To share the joy of Christmas with those in our community who are less fortunate than we are, the Outreach Committee is planning to distribute Christmas turkey dinner packages. We are asking for confidential referrals from our members.

### We need your help by:

- Providing us with confidential referrals which can be placed into a box in our church narthex
  - Donating the funds required for the purchase of perishable and non-perishable food items which will be purchased just before the packages are distributed
- Letting the Outreach Committee, Judy Mason—905-641-7546 OR Howard Bogusat—905-468-3566 know if you would be willing to help package baskets
  - Praying that this project is a success and that those who receive these gifts are touched by the joy and wonder of our Saviour's birth and by His love for each one of us.

*(please note that we are collecting "monetary donations" ONLY for this project)*

*Thank You!*

# CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

*"Christmas Hope"*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday In Advent

December 17, 2023 + 10 AM Worship

## FIRST HYMN:

*"The First Noel"*

**The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.**

**This star drew near in-to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it did take its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay.**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.**

**Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That He has made both Heaven and earth,  
And with his blood has He bought all our worth;**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel**

*Public domain, English Carol 1833*

## GATHERING IN THE LORD'S NAME:

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

**Amen. And also with you.**

Jesus said, 'No one more important than John the Baptizer has ever been born;  
**yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'** Amen. Come soon,  
**Lord Jesus!**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**The light no darkness can ever overcome.**

Let your light so shine before all others,

**That they see your good work and give glory to your Father in Heaven.**

*[The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> (pink) Advent candles are lighted]*



Let us pray: **God of joy, it is in your love that we find lasting joy. Keep us from seeking happiness in things that will not last, for we brought nothing into this world and can take nothing out of it. Teach us instead to find joy in the gift of your Son, who came into this world with nothing, yet gave us everything. May his joy bubble up in our hearts and overflow to all we meet this Advent season. Amen.**

### ADVENT WREATH HYMN VERSE

**John, baptizing, with his preaching, and by desert water poured,  
brought to those who heard his teaching news of hope and joy restored:  
'Keep your vision strong and steady, and be ready for the Lord.'**

*Words: Mark Earey © 2002 Mark Earey, texts may be reproduced for local use without further permission. From Sunday by Sunday (Royal School of Church Music UK): Music: "Angels From The Realms Of Glory"*

### The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday In Advent Holy Gospel – *John 1:6-8, 23-26*

There was a man named John who was sent by God. He came to tell people about the Light. Through him all people could hear about the Light and believe. John was not the Light, but he came to tell people about the Light... John spoke the words of the prophet Isaiah: "I am the voice of a man calling out in the desert: 'Make the road straight for the Lord.'" In the group of Jews who were sent, there were some Pharisees. They said to John: "You say you are not the Christ. You say you are not Elijah or the Prophet. Then why do you baptize people?" John answered, "I baptize people with water. But there is one here with you that you don't know. He is the One who comes after me. I am not good enough to untie the strings of his sandals." This is the Gospel of the Lord; **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### CHRISTMAS HOPE

*Julie Snyder*

#### ACT 1: *Scene 1*

Wooden Nativity scene image

#### *Scene 2*

Image of Mary & Angel appearing to her  
Image of Joseph lying down with Angel appearing to him in a dream.

#### *Scene 3*

Picture or silhouette of Mary & Joseph travelling to Bethlehem



**SONG:** *"Away In A Manger"* - Sunday School voices & bells

#### ACT 2: *Scene 1*

The Manger

## **Scene 2**

Isaiah's prophecies – the Word of God

## **Scene 3**

Image of a cross & a manger

**SONG:**        ***"Born is the King"***  
                  *Sunday School voices*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **APOSTLES' CREED:**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And 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. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence 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.**

**OFFERINGS** *are gathered.*

**OFFERING VERSE:**                                *"What Child Is This"*

**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come, peasant, King, to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving arms enthrone Him.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the Son of Mary.**

*Public domain, W. Dix, 1868*

### **PRAYERS:**

Dear Heavenly Father, as John the Baptizer witnessed to your Son, so help us to witness to the light of Christ. Give us wisdom, so that all we say and do points to Him as the Saviour of all people.

Lord in your Advent mercy:   **Hear our prayer and help us.**

We give thanks for the earth's beautiful resources. Give all of us grace to live in harmony with your creation, wisdom and generosity in our use of its gifts that all who have need are satisfied.

Lord in your Advent mercy:   **Hear our prayer and help us.**

We give thanks for leaders who serve the common good. Give wisdom to those who have responsibility and authority in every land, that we may share with justice the resources of the world, and work together in trust. Prosper the work of Canadian Lutheran World Relief through generous contributions this Christmas, and good relations with the communities and governments whom they seek to assist.

Lord in your Advent mercy:   **Hear our prayer and help us.**

We give thanks for the diversity of people here and around the world. Help us honour one another so all may be enriched by our humanity and freed from despair, poverty and exclusion.

Lord in your Advent mercy: **Hear our prayer and help us.**

We give thanks for the common friendships of the communities in which we live and work. We commend to your safe keeping our families, those with whom we work and learn, our neighbours and our friends. Enable us by your Spirit to live in love for you and for one another.

Lord in your Advent mercy: **Hear our prayer and help us.**

We give thanks that you are the God who brings mercy and wholeness. Comfort and heal, we pray, all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or any other trouble [especially...] Give to those who care for them wisdom, patience and gentleness and, to us all, your peace.

Lord in your Advent mercy: **Hear our prayer and help us.**

Heavenly Father, you alone know our true needs and desires. Shed the Advent Light on our lives and hearts, keep us walking in your path, and hear the prayers that we have offered in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER:**

*Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come...*

#### **BLESSING:**

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

#### **CLOSING HYMN: "Go, Tell It On The Mountain"**

*African American Spiritual*

**Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain! Over the hills and everywhere--  
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light**

**Refrain**

**The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Saviour's birth**



## Refrain

Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed this Christmas morn—

## Refrain

*Public Domain, adapted by John Work Jr 1912*

## Thank You card from Seminary Students

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ at  
Christ Lutheran Church in St. Catharines,

We, the students of Concordia Lutheran  
Theological Seminary would like to  
express our sincere gratitude to you  
for your donation of food and for the  
other help you provide to us.

May the Lord bless you and your  
families and grant you his favour, grace,  
mercy, peace, and love.

Yours in Christ,

Concordia Seminary Students Association

Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary  
470 Glenridge Avenue  
St. Catharines, ON

Albert  
Daniel W  
Michael T  
Edwards Farris

Joseph  
Behl  
Vijay Samuel



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

Q I X E H J R S F P M G H H U V X G  
 B Y K M Y U L T R J A S Y B K U G W  
 P S M I U E S A Y F R X V E L S O K  
 G J N H G D Q R V Y Y R R T G F L J  
 M L P N D S G P F M C D Y H X B T O  
 K A A Y E Y V S B Z K O W L B W J S  
 N O N H H I J N A O M N G E I T J E  
 Z D M G W U R H H B S K Y H W G Y P  
 N P T H E U T D V W H E A E J V I H  
 C F E A K R P H Q Q S Y E M A O D Z  
 J N T Y I G O L D N B P J M I Z C S  
 E W A B N B A M E A P Y S F Q S J O  
 S X I H G O X C B R R K C Q C J L Z  
 U F V S S A N O S T A B L E S X P R  
 S G V Z E I P V T W B W M T H G X I  
 G T D H K M J M I R Y Y F S O N A Y  
 M I M N B H E M Y C P H Z D A W K H  
 N B A G N C L N L R R M K O H O T X  
 O R G I F T S Q M C R A K I A U P I  
 F Z D M H X E J X W E H O L Y L R T



ANGEL  
 BABY  
 BETHLEHEM  
 BIRTH  
 DONKEY

FRANKINCENSE  
 GIFTS  
 GOLD  
 HAY  
 HOLY

JESUS  
 JOSEPH  
 KING  
 MANGER  
 MARY

MYRRH  
 SON  
 STABLES  
 STAR  
 WISE MEN

