

# Notice the Stable

Advent & Christmas 2024



Martin Luther wrote:

“Nobody notices or understands  
what God performs in the stable.”

This season, let’s notice what God performs  
in unexpected, out-of-the-way places.

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024



New Joy Lutheran Church & Preschool

**Welcome.** We are blessed by your presence among us today. This bulletin contains the outline and words for worship this morning. Please see the back pages of this bulletin for ministry announcements and additional welcome information about New Joy Lutheran Church.

**Little children** are always welcome in worship – even and especially when they’re a little noisy! We welcome children to worship God by toddling around, playing with toys, shaking tambourines, babbling, singing, and coming to the Lord’s Table. If little ones get too noisy during spoken parts of the service – the reading of Scripture, the sermon, or prayers – please try to quiet them or take them into the hallway for a moment to calm down. Thank you!

Our **nursery** is also available most Sundays for **children aged 5 and under**.

**God’s promises** are at the heart of our worship. God promises justice for the lowly, forgiveness for the sinner, hope for the despairing, and joy for the sorrowful. These promises are “the Good News of Jesus Christ,” fulfilled by Jesus’s birth as a vulnerable child, his works of liberation and grace among us, and his victory over sin, death, and injustice by his resurrection from the grave. In the songs and prayers, Scripture and preaching, you’ll hear of God’s promise for you personally, for society, for this world that God so loves.

**Our worship style** is patterned after centuries of tradition reaching back to some of the earliest Christian communities. Our service is structured yet also informal, shaped by tradition yet also new. We observe seasons that lift up various themes from the life of Jesus and the mission of the church. In our prayers we pray not just for ourselves but for the church; all of creation; our neighbors and our society; the sick and suffering; and, for the blessed departed. We pray seeking that God’s promises would come to us and through us to a world in need.

**Holy Communion** is a meal of Christ’s radical welcome, real presence, and complete forgiveness. All are welcome to receive the gift of Jesus’ body and blood in the bread and cup of Holy Communion. We use grape juice for communion, and gluten-free bread is available upon request. Not sure whether to receive communion, or how? Simply find the pastor in the communion line and ask.

**Welcome.** We are so glad you are with us today.

**INTRODUCTION TO THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT.** Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary’s magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ’s advent is for “the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—“we proclaim the Lord’s death.”

# **GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**PRELUDE SONG**

**WORDS OF WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER**

## OPENING SONG: SOMEBODY'S KNOCKIN' AT YOUR DOOR



Some-bod - y's knock-in' at your door; some-bod - y's knock-in' at your door;



O sin-ner, why don't you an-swer? Some-bod-y's knock-in' at your door.



1 Knocks like Je - sus.  
2 Can't you hear him? Some-bod - y's knock-in' at your door.  
3 Je - sus calls you.  
4 Can't you trust him?



Knocks like Je - sus.  
Can't you hear him? Some-bod - y's knock-in' at your door;  
Je - sus calls you.  
Can't you trust him?



O sin-ner, why don't you an-swer? Some-bod-y's knock-in' at your door.

## APOSTOLIC 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.**

## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

## SONG: CHILD OF LIGHT

### Verse

A spark ignites, a candle glows,  
a heart delights in the pleasure it knows.  
Light comes so close, creation knows,  
flame reaches higher and warmer it grows.  
Like the wreath, a circle of light,  
love all around us flows.

### Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
We see your light and lift our voice,  
and Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Come Child so bright Oh hear our joy, Rejoice!



## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING LITANY

Our waiting is almost over. Jesus is coming!

**Mary and Elizabeth announce the good news.**

Let us listen to these women,  
to their praise and prophesy.

**They proclaim the goodness of God.**

We light four candles. The light shines brighter.

Gracious God, we pray, give us light to see your Son.

**To see God's promise of justice and mercy.**

God lifts up the lowly, fills the hungry with good things.

**Our souls magnify the Lord.**

Let us listen to the women who speak your promise.

**Let us see that the kingdom of God is near.**

## ADVENT WREATH PRAYER

## SONG: CHILD OF LIGHT

*Repeated; see above*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

# WORD

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
 from you shall come forth for me  
 one who is to rule in Israel,  
 whose origin is from of old,  
 from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
 then the rest of his kindred shall return  
 to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
 in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
 And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
 to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Psalm 80:1-7

**℟** *Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)*

<sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;  
 shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup> **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,  
 stir up your strength and | come to help us. ℟**

<sup>3</sup> Restore | us, O God;  
 let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup> **O Lord | God of hosts,  
 how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?**

<sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the | bread of tears;  
 you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup> **You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,  
 and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup> Restore us, O | God of hosts;  
 let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. **℟**

# EPISTLE

Hebrews 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – ADVENT ALLELUIA

Voice 1

Al - le - lu\_ ia\_ Al - le - lu\_ ia\_ Al - le - lu\_

Voice 2

Al-le-lu\_ ia! Al-le-lu\_ ia!

11

ia\_ Al - le - lu\_ ia! Show us Your Word, Your

Al-le-lu\_ ia! Praise You! Al-le-lu\_ ia! Al-le-lu\_ ia! Al-le-lu\_ ia! Praise You!

18

light in our sto-ry. We sing in praise, our hope, Your Glo-ry! Al - le - lu - - ia!

Al-le Al-le Al-le-lu i - a!

## GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

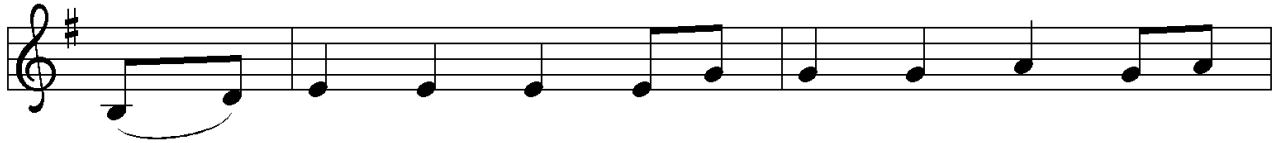
## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*repeated; see above*

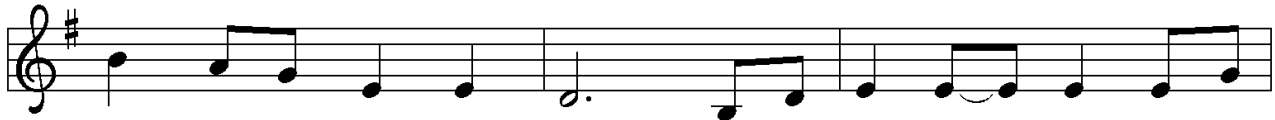


# SERMON

## SONG OF THE DAY: CANTICLE OF THE TURNING



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



*Refrain*  
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

## MISSION STATEMENT

**New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community called by God to extend a radical welcome, share a generous grace, nurture transforming faith, and live God’s promise.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*We pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Each petition concludes:  
 Lord, in your mercy  
 Receive our prayer.*

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.  
**And also with you.**  
*Please extend a sign of Christ’s peace with those around you.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

## OFFERING PRAYER


# MEAL

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

5



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks, to the

8



Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise!


## PROPER PREFACE

### SANCTUS (Holy, Holy, Holy)



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly are You, Lord, God of hosts!\_\_\_\_\_

5



Hea - ven and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

9



Blessed is He who comes in the name, Comes in the name of the Lord!\_\_\_\_\_

13



Hea - ven and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*During the Eucharistic Prayer, which includes Jesus' words instituting the Lord's Supper, the congregation prays the following responses:*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

...

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

...

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**



## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION MEAL IS SERVED

*In communion, Jesus gives himself in the form of bread and cup to all who desire to receive. While we feast, we sing.*

### LAMB OF GOD – Advent Lamb of God

♩ = 62



Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer - cy on us.

5



Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer - cy on us.

9



Lamb of God you take a-way the sin. Grant us peace.

### COMMUNION MUSIC – WAIT FOR THE LORD



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

## ADVENT POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Voice 1

Voice 2

11

Al-le-lu\_ ia! Praise You! Al-le-lu\_ ia! Al-le-lu\_ ia! Al-le-lu\_ ia! Praise You!

18

Al-le Al-le Al-le-lu i - a!

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

# SENDING

## BENEDICTION

## SENDING SONG – JOY TO THE WORLD



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We give thanks for all who give of themselves for service to God and to this community.

The band members are Glenn Hoffman, Jim Gregory, & Karen Archbold.  
The Sound Board is run by Steve Castle.

	<b>Today</b>	<b>Next Sunday, Dec. 29</b>
Assisting Minister	Kyle Blakley	Becky Suchomel
Reader	Carly Havlik	Lucy and Amanda Duckworth
Acolyte	Logan Johnson	Open
Livestream Operator	Phil Havlik	Rich Kittlstved
Altar Guild	Jessica Allen	Jessica Allen
Nursery Care	Lucy Platt	Anya Verik
Ushers	Becky Suchomel, Cindy Tomishima	Becky Suchomel, Cindy Tomishima
Greeters	Open, Open	Open, Open
Advent Wreath Lighting	Luke Johnson and Family	

*We give thanks to the musicians, writers, and church ministries who create and publish much of the music, prayers, and words we use in worship.*

Our liturgy music – the music that repeats weekly and forms the scaffolding of our service – was composed by our Music Minister, Glenn Hoffman. Thank you, Glenn, for composing such faithful music for us this Advent season!

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- **Wait For The Lord** – by Jacques Berthier and Taizé Community, © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

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- **Somebody's Knockin' At Your Door** – by African American spiritual; arr. Richard Proulx, b, Text and Music: Public Domain, Copyright Holder is GIA Publications, Inc.
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- **Joy To The World** – by George Frederic Handel and Isaac Watts, Public Domain

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WHAT A JOY** it was to welcome Bishop Tim Graham and his wife Meme (pronounced “Me-me”) at worship last week. Let us continue to pray for Bishop Graham and his wife in their new life here in Central Indiana, and in his ministry among us as Bishop.

**COFFEE HOUR** is shared on the first Sunday of the month, and on other special occasions. If you would like to help with our monthly Coffee Hour, please reach out to Kristi Kittilstved.

**SHARING GENEROUSLY PLEDGES** – We are still receiving pledges of financial support for 2025. Can you make a pledge of financial support? Your statement of intent to give helps us plan our budget for 2025. Pledge cards are available in the entranceway at the Sharing Generously display. Questions? Reach out to Jessicah Duckworth or any member of the Sharing Generously Team.

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025**

**NEW MINISTRY TEAMS** are forming next month. Are you interested in contributing to our Christian Learning or Worship Ministry teams? If so, contact Pastor Chris or Becky Suchomel, our Ministry Board President.

**JEWISH-LUTHERAN DIALOGUE EVENT** is coming to New Joy in early February. More information is coming soon!

**NEW MEMBER CLASSES** –are you or someone you know interested in joining New Joy Lutheran Church? We hold new member classes once/year each winter early in the New Year. Classes are held immediately worship for several weeks in January and February with newcomers and “oldcomer” established church members. The class also includes a dinner at Pastor Chris’ house. Please let Pastor Chris or Nicole Williams, Parish Administrator ([office@newjoy.org](mailto:office@newjoy.org)), know if you’re interested in joining. Full details to be announced after the start of the New Year.

**KROGER CARD DONATIONS** – The church office receives calls from families and individuals in need. While we are unable to support people with rent or significant utility expenses, we do like to provide people with Kroger gift cards to help with their gas or grocery needs. We are currently out of Kroger gift cards. If you are able, next time you’re at Kroger purchase one or more \$25 gift cards and drop them off at the church office so that we can continue to provide a small amount of comfort to our neighbors in need. Thank you.

# Notice the Stable

Advent & Christmas  
at New Joy

## Advent Wreath Workshop

- Sunday, November 24, 5pm

## Sundays of Advent

- December 1, 8, 15, 22, 9:30am

## Children’s Christmas Singalong & Storytelling

- Sunday, December 15,  
in worship (9:30am)

## Advent Evening Prayer services

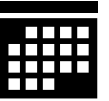
- Wednesdays,  
December 4, 11, 18, 7pm

## Christmas Season Services

- Christmas Eve, Tuesday,  
December 24, 5pm & 7:30pm
- Sundays, December 29 &  
January 5, 9:30am



# THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR



<b>Today, Sunday, December 22</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Worship, 9:30am, The Fourth Sunday of Advent</li><li>• <i>Nursery provided for children aged 5 and under during worship</i></li></ul>
<b>Monday, December 23</b>
<b>Tuesday, December 24</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5:00pm Family-oriented Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</li><li>• 7:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</li></ul>
<b>Wednesday, December 25</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Merry Christmas</li></ul>
<b>Thursday, December 26</b>
<b>Friday, December 27</b>
<b>Saturday, December 28</b>
<b>Sunday, December 29</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Worship, 9:30am, The First Sunday of Christmas</li><li>• <i>Nursery provided for children aged 5 and under during worship</i></li></ul>

**New Joy Lutheran Church is a spirited community called by God to extend a radical welcome, share a generous grace, nurture a transforming faith, and live God's promise.**

**Extend a Radical Welcome** We are a spirited community that strives to welcome, value, accept, and nurture all people wherever they are in their relationship with God. Since our founding in 2002, New Joy has been committed to welcoming people of all races, incomes, and expressions of the LGBTQIA+ community.

**Share a Generous Grace** We are a spirited community which boldly proclaims that forgiveness, mercy, love, and salvation are free gifts of God's grace.

**Nurture Transforming Faith** We are a spirited community that receives faith as a gift of God that transforms us and the world.

**Live God's Promise** We are a spirited community that boldly lives in our Lord's promise of renewed and everlasting life.

**New Joy Lutheran Church & Preschool**

316 W. 156<sup>th</sup> Street, Westfield, IN 46074  
317 896-1402, [www.NewJoy.org](http://www.NewJoy.org)

The Rev. Chris Duckworth, Pastor  
[pastor@newjoy.org](mailto:pastor@newjoy.org)

Nicole Williams, Parish Administrator  
[office@newjoy.org](mailto:office@newjoy.org)

Miranda Verik, Preschool Director  
[preschool@newjoy.org](mailto:preschool@newjoy.org)

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New Joy Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).  
[www.iksynod.org](http://www.iksynod.org) | [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

The Rev. Timothy Graham, Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA  
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

