



" Together in Christ's love, we joyfully serve, actively witness, and dedicate ourselves to caring, teaching, and growing through the Word."

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, U.A.C.



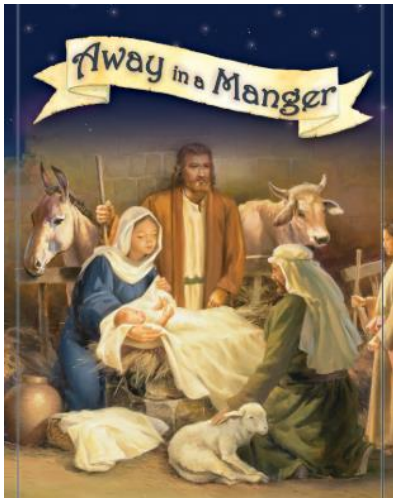
LC—MS

December 2024 Away in a Manger

The Christmas cradle hymn “Away in a Manger” (*Lutheran Service Book*, 364) is a perennial favorite of children and adults. Although pastors and musicians might quibble with the thinness of the hymn’s theology, it can be used to good effect as a lead-in to the deeper theology of the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed, especially as explained by Martin Luther in his *Small Catechism*. The work of leading the people to peer into the manger and see their Lord begins with the road map of the Old Testament. Lutherans really believe that the Old Testament revelation testifies of Christ (John 5:39)—and nowhere more clearly than in the prophecy of Isaiah. If we take seriously that the Old Testament is the manger in which the Lord lies, then it is profitable to focus on the appointed Advent texts from Isaiah included in Series A of the lectionary for *Lutheran Service Book*. Thus we have paired the tender cradle hymn with the sublime and majestic words of the fifth evangelist and connected them both with Luther’s explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed.

The theological rationale for the season of Advent includes speaking of the “comings” of the Messiah among His people: first, the promised coming in the flesh; second, the promised coming in judgment; and third, the constant gracious coming by Word and Sacraments. The so-called “third coming” of Christ in Word and Sacraments is the coming between the comings. Each advent is intimately related. The first and third advents are inseparable, and both prepare for and are interpreted in view of the second advent.

“Away in a Manger” often provides the “hook” on which to hang larger and deeper theological interpretations of the incarnation and nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ (both in sermons and liturgical resources). The explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed from Luther, well-known to many parishioners, will serve the same function, as well as deepening the themes only hinted at in the hymn. Here the exploration of these doctrines—both in a childlike and a mature context—can stand together in a coherent whole and become, to misquote Gregory the Great, the stream across which elephants swim and lambs walk.



ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

12/4 ADVENT MID-WEEK 1, 6:30 P.M.

“CHRIST’S FIRST COMING: WHO LIES IN THE MANGER?”

12/11 ADVENT MID-WEEK 2, 6:30 P.M.

“CHRIST’S SECOND COMING: FOR WHAT HAS HE COME?”

12/18 ADVENT MID-WEEK 3, 6:30 P.M.

“CHRIST’S THIRD COMING: HOW HAS HE SAVED US?”

12/22 CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, 9:00 A.M.

“JOY TO THE WORLD”

12/25 CHRISTMAS DAY, TBD

“HEAVEN IN THE MANGER”

Our Advent series, authored by Scott Murray, is anchored to the beloved Christmas hymn “Away in a Manager.” Using this simple, yet profound, hymn we will explore various “comings” of Jesus: incarnation, judgement, Word and Sacrament. Jesus Christ came once in lowliness; He will come again in glory. Let’s praise and worship him throughout this beautiful season with eager anticipation. We will encounter not only redemption, but eternity with and through the Christ child laying in the manger.

WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB—Book Club will not meet in December. They will meet back in January. Happy Holidays!



MEN OF FAITH—8AM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7—all men are invited for breakfast, fellowship, and study.



FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST—8:30AM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12—all are invited. So we can have enough tablespace, please call Gertie B., 785-571-7153.



Faith Lutheran has a prayer chain.

If you would like to be added to the prayer chain texting, please speak with Kathy. To begin a prayer request call/text Kathy Minneman (785)819-2167 or Pastor Barlau (785)-280-3852.



2024 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS—The church will purchase two poinsettias for the sanctuary. You are encouraged to donate to the Poinsettia fund. All proceeds are going to benefit member families in need. Donations can be given “to the glory of God” or “in memory of a loved one” and names will be listed in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin. Checks can be made to Faith Lutheran. Please put “Poinsettia” in the memo line. Contact the Church Office via email: faithabilene@gmail.com in order to sign up.

ALTAR GUILD 2025—A new year means another opportunity for you to serve the people of God and the Lord’s house. We do a monthly rotation, two people serve per month, but it can be 3 or 4. We prepare holy communion, change banners and paraments, and fill candles with oil. Please prayerfully consider serving. Thanks!

2025 FLOWER CHART—The sign-up poster in the church narthex is updated and available for you to pick your dates.

December Anniversaries

Kyle & Jessica Haslouer
Nolan & Eunice Mayden

12-15-2007
12-19-2020
R.W. & Donna Cook



Mark & Lillian Minneman 12-20-2008
Rocky & Ginger Sanders 12-27-1975
12-29-1959

- 1 - Darek Graves
- 3 - Brooklyn Stahl
- 4 - Tyler Savery
Trent Stahl
- 5 - Travis Luthi
Mackenzie Riffel
Owen Tichenor
- 6 - Andrew Capsey
Tiffany Harkins
- 11 - Kristen Rahe
- 13 - Joshua Gustin
- 14 - Kris Gilchrist
Nola Sanders
- 17 - Mitchell Feeney



- 19 - Kathy Keune
Ellary Krause
- 20 - Krista Leusman
Roselyn Brigman
- 21 - Caryss West
- 22 - Shirley Klein
Rylee Schlesener
- 23 - Mark Signer
River Carlsson
- 27 - Cindy Manning
Cynthia Hutchinson
- 28 - Mason Rogge
- 30 - Jenna Hayes
- 31 - Corbin Rogge



FAITHFUL SERVANTS FOR DECEMBER



Elder: R. Sanders

Organist: B. Schwab

Altar Guild: C. Krause & C. Huss

Church Service	Acolytes	Lectors	Ushers
Sunday, Dec 1 - 9:00 am	C. Depew	J. Huss	B. Zwiebel & Tom Rahe
Wednesday, Dec 4 - 6:30 pm	E. Soliday		J. Rogge
Sunday, Dec 8 - 9:00 am	K. Seematter	C. Ascher	J. Rogge & M. Rogge
Wednesday, Dec 11 - 6:30 pm	B. Schmersey		J. Rogge
Sunday, Dec 15 - 9:00 am	S. Westerman	M. Aufdemberge	G. Rahe & B. Zwiebel
Wednesday, Dec 18 - 6:30 pm	M. Kuntz		B. Zwiebel
Sunday, Dec 22 - 9:00 am	M. Rogge	J. Rippert	B. Zwiebel & J. Rogge
Wednesday, Dec 25 - 6:30 pm	TBD		Tom Rahe & G. Rahe
Sunday, Dec 29 - 9:00 am	E. Horsfall	L. Brake	Tom Rahe & G. Rahe

NOTE: A master assignment list reflecting any changes will be posted in the upstairs office/cry room.

DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9 am Divine Worship 10:15am Christmas Decorating 5-7pm Live Nativity at Abilene Heritage Center	2	3	4	5	6	7 8am Men of Faith Breakfast
8 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9 am Divine Worship 10:15am Sunday School /Adult Bible Study	9	10	11 5:15pm Midweek 4 th -5 th grade & 6 th -7 th grade 6:30 pm Midweek Advent Service	12 8:30am Fellowship Breakfast	13	14
15 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9 am Divine Worship 10:15am Sunday School /Adult Bible Study	15 <i>Calendar items due</i>	17	18 5:15pm Midweek 4 th -5 th grade & 6 th -7 th grade 6:30 pm Midweek Advent Service	19	20	21
22 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9 am Divine Worship with Children's Christmas Program	23	24	25 TBD Christmas Day Divine Worship	26	27	28
29 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 9 am Divine Worship 10:15am Sunday School /Adult Bible Study	30	31				