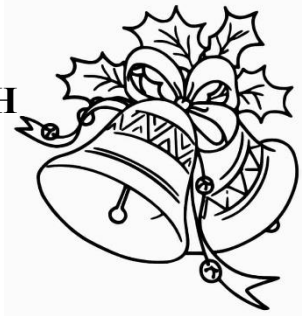




**NEW JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE HANGING OF THE GREENS**

November 30, 2025

10:30 am



PRELUDE MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PROCLAMATION

Reader 1: The hour has come. Now is the time to prepare for the coming of our Lord. “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up and every hill shall be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of Lord has spoken.” (Isaiah 30:3-5)

Stand

OPENING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

26

GREETING

Lay Leader: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

LITANY OF THE GREENS

Lay Leader: Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth

People: **Let the earth hear, and all that feels it.**

Lay Leader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

People: **the desert shall rejoice and blossom.**

Lay Leader: They shall see the glory of the Lord,

People: **the majesty of our God.**

Lay Leader: Nations shall come to your light,

People: **and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

Lay Leader: This is the Lord for whom we wait;

People: **let us be glad and rejoice in the salvation of God.**

Lay Leader: Lord, you have called us together as your people and given us this new day. Bless us as we gather to share fellowship with you and each other and help us to grasp and live out the true meaning of this season. We thank you for the creative presence of your Holy Spirit within and among us.

People: **Amen.**

Sit

THE MEANING OF THE SERVICE

Reader 2: As we prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for this holy season of Advent, we are preparing ourselves for the coming of our Messiah; an infant, born of the Blessed Virgin. Advent means “coming.” Christians have celebrated Advent for centuries, as a time of waiting and anticipation of the birth of the Savior at Christmas. The Advent season is a time for prayer, reflection, and preparation, but its mood is one of hope.

Reader 1: The hanging of the greens service involves you, the children of the Messiah, and our prayers are the spoken words, the hymns, and the decorations which will give extra meaning to your personal and communal preparation for Christ’s birth.

THE BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader 2: Prophets of the Old Testament foretold the coming of the Messiah, and now that promise is coming to fulfillment with the birth of the Christ Child. Now is the time for us to prepare – for the promise of God always remains. The circular shape of the wreath is symbolic of God’s unending love for all his creation. The candles on the wreath are symbolic of God’s light. The light grows brighter each passing week as the time draws close to our Savior’s birth.

Lay Leader: Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may be always ready to welcome Him.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Lay Leader: That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God’s love, we pray to the Lord.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Lay Leader: That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin, we pray to the Lord.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Lay Leader: That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ, we pray to the Lord.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Lay Leader: That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus, we pray to the Lord.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Lay Leader: Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, He is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candle(s) of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May He come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Light the candle on the Advent wreath during the singing of the hymn.

Hymn: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

54

SANCTUARY WREATHS

Reader 1: As you look around our sanctuary you see many wreaths. As you focus on the one being held, you see the simple circle of evergreen branches. The circle signifies a life without end, the eternal kingdom of Jesus, the Christ. Christmas greens point to deep, rich meanings of the season: laurel and bay symbolize victory and triumph; yew and cypress stand for eternal life; mistletoe symbolizes peace; and the prickly leaves of the holly are symbols of the crown of thorns.

The wreath is hung.

CHRISMON TREE

Reader 2: The use of the pine and cedar is generally believed to be of German origin and ascribed to Martin Luther. Remembering his tender interest in children and the nativity, the inspiration may well have proceeded from him. The great reformer, it is said, wandered out one Christmas Eve and became entranced with the wonder and beauty of the starry sky. Looking up, Luther thought of Him "who for me and our salvation, came down from heaven." On his return home, Luther set up a tree for his children and decorated it with candles to remind us that the Christ Child came to earth as the Light of the World.

Lay Leader: My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders, Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea. His birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us. May its lights guide us to the perfect light. Let us ask God to send His blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.

People: Lord, give light to our hearts.

Lay Leader: That the Church may always reflect the joy of Jesus Christ who enlightens our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, give light to our hearts.

Lay Leader: That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, give light to our hearts.

Lay Leader: That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, give light to our hearts.

Lay Leader: That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, give light to our hearts.

Lay Leader: Lord our God, we praise You for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise You for the light of Israel; the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, Your Son: He is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of Your love. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

The tree lights are turned on.

Anthem: *People Look East*

Chancel Choir

HANGING OF CHRISMONS

Reader 1: Since the mid 1960's, New Jerusalem has designed, made and displayed chrismons. What exactly is a Chrismon? "Chrismon" is a combination of the words "Christ" and "monogram," and means "symbols of Christ." The most important aspect of a Chrismon ornament is its ability to share Christ's story, His identity, His story, and of the Holy Trinity. All Chrismon ornaments are made in white and gold to symbolize the purity and majesty of the Son of God.

The Chrismons' themes come from early Christian symbols, the Bible and church histories. You'll notice that we only use tiny white lights on the tree, which point to Christ, the "Light of the World". We'll now hear some of these Chrismon stories.

Individuals will come forward and share their Chrismon stories.

Hymn: *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* # 34

THE BETHLEHEM STAR

Reader 2: Under the lights of the shining star, the announcement of the birth of Christ was made. The star proclaimed the joy with unfading brightness that was to last forever. There was a star in the East on Christmas morn, leading to the place of birth of the Savior.

The star is lit.

THE POINSETTIA

Reader 1: In many churches, you will see arrangements of poinsettias. The poinsettia, a winter flowering plant, symbolizes eternal life and the birth of Christ. This beautiful plant has a cluster of small yellow flowers that spring forth from among crimson leaves. The crown of yellow flowers reminds us of Him who was born the infant King. The star-shaped formation of the leaves reminds us of the guiding star of Bethlehem, which was shone at that first Christmas. The crimson color of the leaves symbolizes the fact that the Babe of Bethlehem became the Savior of the world as Christ shed His blood upon the cross of Calvary. The white poinsettia reminds us of the purity of Christ.

The Offering Hymn: *The First Noel* # 56
(The ushers will bring the offering forward during the hymn)

STAND

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Lay Leader: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Peace on earth, and glory in the highest heaven!

Lay Leader: I will hear what the Lord God has to say –

People: A voice that speaks for peace.

Lay Leader: Peace for all faithful people,

People: and those who turn to the Lord in their hearts.

Lay Leader: God's help is near for those who fear Him,

People: that His glory may dwell in our land.

Lay Leader: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Peace on earth, and glory in the highest heaven!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PEOPLE: 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.

DISMISSAL AND BENEDICTION

Lay Leader: The greens have been hung; the music fills the air with our songs and words of praise. Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us, and remain with us forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7

5:00 pm

Christmas Program

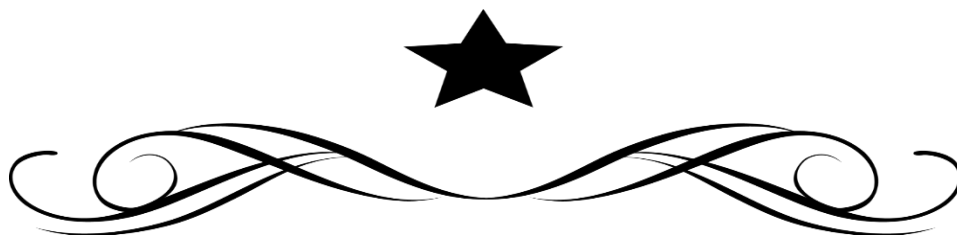
(followed by soup & sandwich supper)

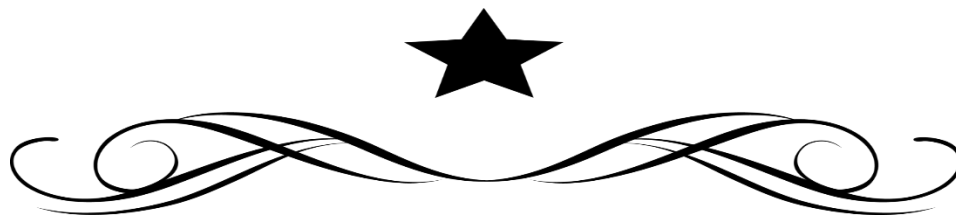
December 24

8:00 pm

(Pre-Service Music to begin at 7:45 pm)

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Holy Communion





2025 Hanging of the Greens

~ Those Participating in the Service ~

Lay Leader	Cindy Coulter
Reader 1	Rusty Lutz
Reader 2	Paula White
Acolyte	Lydia Lutz
Organist	Carolyn Miller
Chancel Choir Director	Connie Bumgarner
Chancel Choir Assistant	Betty Scipione
Audio/Video	Robert Hoyle
Wreath Carrier	Dale Lutz
Poinsettia Carrier	Paul Kurzyna
Lighting	BJ Morgan
Program Assistant	Sandra Bollinger
<p>Sharing their Chrismon Stories:</p> <p>#1 Dale Weaver: <i>Introduction & Bell</i> Raye Lynn Weaver: <i>Flower of Sarah</i></p> <p>#2 Jim Mauney: <i>Rose of Sharon</i> Libby Mauney: <i>Spaghetti Angel with ballroom skirt</i></p> <p>#3 Dennis Weaver: <i>Creator of Heaven and Earth</i> Kay Weaver: <i>Holy Spirit</i></p> <p>#4 Alan Bolch: <i>Holy Christian Church</i> Pat Bolch: <i>Forgiveness of Sins</i></p> <p>#5 Charles Kiser: <i>Resurrection of the Body</i> Rhonda Kiser: <i>Life Everlasting</i></p>	
<p>Decorating Tree with Chrismons</p> <p>Group #1: Ann Kanupp, Callie Southers ~ Sadie & Jasper Group #2: Jose & Helen Barba ~ Rachel, Faith, & Emilia Group #3: Bradley & Brianne Southers ~ Leighton & Logan Group #4: Jacob & Elizabeth Hewitt ~ Bella & Caiden</p>	