

**Old Testament Reading:**  
**Micah 5:2-5a**

- <sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler 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 given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.
- <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.
- <sup>5</sup> And he shall be their peace.

**Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10**

- <sup>5</sup>When Christ came into the world, he said,
- “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;
- <sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.
- <sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,

as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

<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, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-45**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby 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 from the Lord.”

*When Christ came into the world*



**About the Cover:** The Old Testament sacrifices and offerings were always given in order to point forward to Christ. Christ has come to fulfill the Law, not merely with the outward observance of sacrifices and offerings, but with His whole body. For Christ has accomplished what we could never do. By taking on human flesh, He has redeemed and sanctified us, going all the way to the cross. He has become the one-time and eternal sacrifice for us.

**St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)**

**8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254**

**815-989-2025**

**December 22, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

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*Office of Matins (Lutheran Service Book, pg. 219)*

Hymn of Invocation 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

Opening Versicles (Advent, p. 219)

*Venite* (p. 220)

Psalm 80: 1-7

<sup>1</sup>Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**

<sup>2</sup>**Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,  
stir up your might and come to save us!**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

<sup>6</sup>**You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**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.**

Office Hymn 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Readings (on back of bulletin)

Responsory (Common, p. 221)

Sermon

Canticle Hymn 936 Sing Praise to the God of Israel

Presentation of the Offering

Kyrie (p. 227)

Collect of the Day

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your  
might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly  
lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with  
the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

*After each petition:*

P let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

*The prayer concludes:*

P ... now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benediction (p. 228)

Closing Hymn 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*Silent Prayer*

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS**

churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org  
Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org  
https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo

**HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE  
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

**Rev. Timothy Nerud** Pastor  
815-989-2025 (Office) 612-940-8138 (Cell)

Elder: Mike Dahl

Greeter: Janet Bertso

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

**WE PRAY:** Eternal God, who in the Son has offered Yourself as the last great Sacrifice for us, and who in the Spirit has sanctified us because of it, raise our hearts in praise and thanksgiving until we are called to the Father's mansions; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

**WELCOME TO ALL!**

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Terri's hours (Monday—Friday, please call ahead) 8 am—12 pm  
Pastor's hours (Monday, Pastor's day off)  
(Tuesday— Friday) please call ahead

**STREAM SERVICES** <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and on the website: [www.stjohnsgeneseo.org](http://www.stjohnsgeneseo.org).

**DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES** - use this website ([www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)) to receive daily devotions sent to your email or phone. You never have to be without God's word.

*All bulletin announcements need to be in the Office by Wednesday mornings.*

**ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY**

Sunday school—3/5 Adult Bible Class—6 Worship—37

**OFFERING**

Offering last Sunday \$6507.00  
Weekly giving needed per 2024 Budget \$4,481.54

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S**

Today	8:30 am	Christmas Practice for children
	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Christmas Eve Worship
Wednesday	10:00 am	Christmas Day worship/Holy Comm.
Next Sunday	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Holy Communion

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."  
Psalms 122:1*

**LUKE 1:45** – “**And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.**” The Lord always fulfills what He promises. We can be certain of that, and He has proven it over and over again. This faith in the Lord's own faithfulness is what gives us the courage to follow the Lord's commands in the face of the world's anger and resistance, just as it gave Mary the courage to carry on in her seemingly embarrassed circumstances.

**ATTENDANCE BOOK**—We ask everyone attending this morning to sign the red attendance book found at the end of each pew, then pass it back.

**THANK YOU** to Rev. Steve Anderson for leading Adult Bible class and worship this morning. We are richly blessed to have faithful pastors caring for us.

**THE GIVING TREE**—**It is not too late to participate!** You are invited to participate in this mission project. See the insert for directions. Bless others with your gifts of love this season.

**COLLECTING CALENDARS**—We will collect 2025 calendars Dec. 15—29. Place them in the basket found on the table next to the coat room. Thank You!

**SPECIAL WORSHIP OPPERTUNITIES DURING THIS SEASON!**

- Christmas Eve Service, Dec. 24 @ 6:30 pm
- Christmas Day Service, Dec. 25 @ 10:00 am
- New Year's Eve Service, Dec. 31 @ Concordia Geneseo @ 6 pm

**LIFE THOUGHTS**— Jesus brought God delicately amidst sinners, as humble in crucifixion as He was helpless in conception. Yet this estate did not hinder but, in fact, heralded the full realm and reign of God for us. And thereby He re-affirmed the worth of even the feeblest human beings. God's gift of life arrives all the better for the plain packaging He habitually hides it behind. *Prayer:*

*Lamb of God, make it so that our taking hold of You leads us to cradle Your little ones as well. Amen.*

**WITNESS & OUTREACH**—Luke 1:39-45 (46-56): At the news of the prophecy’s fulfillment, Mary burst out singing a song of joy. Today we have seen the prophecy of the Savior come to fulfillment through Jesus. May we also burst forth with great joy and enthusiasm in sharing the saving message of Jesus that this world so desperately needs to hear.

**MESSAGE FROM LCRL**—Looking for that ideal last-minute gift? How about a gift that will advocate for Religious Liberty and Life? See [www.LCRLfreedom.org/donate](http://www.LCRLfreedom.org/donate).

**DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS**—**Water heater for Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline.** Dollar for Missions (DFM) contributions in late 2024 will help to pay for a new water heater at Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline. The church’s previous water heater is almost 20 years old.

“This is another ‘non-glamor’ item,” said CID Mission Executive Ken Schurb. “Yet to proclaim the Gospel in Spanish at Cristo Rey, especially in winter time, a reliable hot water heater is a helpful piece of equipment to have.” Plumbing as well as painting and many other such things have their place in a mission.

Cristo Rey is CID’s only congregation in which the ministry is conducted almost entirely in Spanish. It serves, particularly, Spanish-speaking people in the Quad Cities.

Pastor Pablo Dominguez has served in East Moline for over 20 years. First he was a CID missionary-at-large, then subsequently pastor of Cristo Rey. The congregation formally joined the Synod in 2018. **Amount to be funded:** \$1,000 **Project:** Replace water heater at Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**—**The 2024 Flower Chart is now on the bulletin board next to the restrooms.** Cost for weekly flowers are \$30 for two arrangements. We greatly appreciate those who help with providing flowers for Sunday worship services. **Please sign up for a Sunday.**

#### **PRAYER MINISTRY**

*The Church waits for the Second Comin in repentance, hope and faith. For the following, we pray “Lord, have mercy.”*

**MISSION**—*Pray for faithful readings of the New Testament.* That all the words of the apostles and evangelists may result in faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

**ST. JOHN’S FAMILY**—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

<b>Elizabeth Bjork</b>	<b>Paula Chapa</b>	<b>Joyce DeFauw</b>
<b>Betty Firch</b>	<b>Arlyn Helke</b>	<b>Jessica Johnson</b>
<b>Lynne Johnson</b>	<b>Linda Lundquist</b>	<b>Aaron Raschke</b>
<b>Drew Schillinger</b>	<b>Carolyn Wildermuth</b>	<b>Marilyn Woods</b>

**Dawn Daebelliehn**                      **Lisa Peterson**  
**Brandon & Shaeli Streeks & family** (Adopted Seminarian)  
**Jon/Anita Clausing** (missionaries in Kenya)  
**Don Eggers** ( son of friend of Marilyn Woods)  
**Jodi Martins** (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)  
**Shandel Loenser**  
**Paul Werner** (brother of Dan Werner)  
**Justin Rittenhouse** (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire)  
**Marty Cavato** (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)  
**Ellen Bauer** (grandmother of Joel Werling)  
**Don Lutz** (husband of an LWML friend of Liz Neumann)  
**Gary Kilstom** (friend of Brad Gehn)

**MILITARY**—We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

**Mandy Davila** (daughter of Linda Aper)  
**Luke/Nicole Thompson** (son/daughter-in-law of John/Kindra Thompson)  
**Karl Flynn** (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)  
**Casey Powers Jr.** (step son of Lisa Powers)  
**Brittany Loenser** (daughter of Gabe Loenser)  
**Rylie Hallendorff** (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)

#### **LUTHERANS FOR LIFE**

“Merry Christmas! And may the certainty of God’s love for you in Jesus Christ give you strength, comfort, and confidence this day to face whatever comes tomorrow. For, nothing can overpower the persevering power and blessing of Christmas.” *Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*