

# New Hope Lutheran Church

“Sharing God’s gifts with all, proclaiming New Hope  
in Jesus”



Third Sunday in Advent  
December 17th, 2023

**New Hope Lutheran Church**

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**Third Sunday in Advent  
December 17th, 2023  
Worship Setting—3-ELW**

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*Pastor - Candice Hinkle*

A NOTE ABOUT COMMUNION

Here at New Hope we offer the celebration of Holy Communion at all Sunday worship services as we are able. All baptized members and guests are invited to join us as we partake in the Body and Blood of Our Savior.

A WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

At New Hope Lutheran Church, visitors are especially welcomed. We regularly gather for worship, study, fellowship and service and invite all those who gather with us to participate in these ministries. Regardless of where you come from you are foremost a child of God and are welcomed at this place we call New Hope Lutheran Church.

Just come as you are...

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*\*The People of God Gather\**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

R: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**C: Amen.** *(After the conclusion of the prayer, the wreath is lit as we sing)*

### **Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah – ELW 240**

1. Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

2. Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them

3. Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory

(Please stand if you are able)

GATHERING SONG

"People, Look East" .....ELW 248

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

GREETING

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

**C: And also with you.**

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and  
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of  
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,  
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was  
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - - ia.

*Final refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
Al - le - lu - - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - ia.

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

**C: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

**Children's Message:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Jim Culross**

First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-4;8-11

*A reading from Isaiah*

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

R: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 126**

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

## **Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24**

*A reading from 1 Thessalonians*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

R: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



(Please stand if you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Gospel: John 1: 6-8;19-28

P: The Holy gospel according to John,

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

Sermon of the Day..... Deacon Cory Driver

(Please stand if you are able)

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" .....ELW 815

**NICENE CREED**

A: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.  
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Merciful God,

**C: Receive our Prayer.**

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

OFFERING (Please stand if you are able)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let Us Pray,

**C: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

THE LORD'S PRAYER ( Spoken)

**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.**

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

SENDING SONG:

"My Soul Proclaims your Greatness" ..... ELW 251

SENDING

P: Go in Peace, Share the Good News.

**C: Sharing God's Gifts with All, Proclaiming New Hope in Jesus!  
Thanks be to God.**

Readings for December 24th



*New Hope Lutheran*  
*Sharing God's gifts with all, proclaiming new hope in Jesus.*

**Birthdays and Anniversaries:**

12/19 Kayla Bennington

**Please be sure to follow us on  
Facebook: New Hope Lutheran  
Church**



- Pastor Gretchen is available for our pastoral care needs. If anyone would like to meet her somewhere for coffee to talk, needs a home visit, or wants to speak over the phone, Pastor Gretchen will make herself available. Her email is [freeseqm@gmail.com](mailto:freeseqm@gmail.com) and she can be reached at (765) 532-3154.
- Your help is needed. The church will be incurring expenses for Candice's ordination and installation. Please consider giving a special donation to offset these expenses by either placing a separate envelope with your giving on Sunday, mailing a donation into the office, or dropping a donation off at the office. Thank you.
- ♦ A reminder that all newsletter articles and calendar events are due by this Sunday. Ted and Gretchen Leuenberger's email ([gal4900@gmail.com](mailto:gal4900@gmail.com)), home address (4900 North Boxman Place, Monticello, IN 47960), by phone (574-297-5455), or the church office.
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## PRAYER LIST

For Healing and the Courage to Cope with Life's Challenges (3 Week List)

Greater Monticello Community, New Hope Lutheran Church, Vern and Kathy Barnett, Barb Fawley, Harvey and Waneta Garbison, Shirley Ziemer

For those Battling Long Term Illness (3 Month List)

Vicki Leonard, Reinert Spille, Laura Culross, Mike Closson

For Those who are Homebound or Battling Chronic Illness

Claude Culross, Shelly Wiseley, Bill Maegldin.

Those Serving Our Country and Community

Ty Barnes, Cameron Burgess, Thomas Hiddle, Area First Responders.

Our Partners in Mission

Bishop Bill Gafkjen (GUFF-ee-ehn), The Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Pastor Gretchen Freese, Jeff Truscott (missionary in Singapore), Kathleen Lutz (missionary in Nairobi), Monticello First Presbyterian Church

### This Week at New Hope...

<b>Sunday, December 17th:</b> Worship Service at 9:00 AM. Coffee Hour following worship (Service from today will be uploaded to Youtube later this week) <b>NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE TODAY</b>
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<b>Monday, December 18th:</b> Office CLOSED but available by Phone
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<b>Tuesday, December 19th:</b> Office CLOSED but available by Phone
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<b>Wednesday, December 20th:</b> Office CLOSED but available by Phone
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<b>Thursday, December 21st:</b> Office CLOSED Thanksgiving
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<b>Friday, December 22nd:</b> Office OPEN 4-6pm
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<b>Sunday, December 24th:</b> Candlelight Light Service at 7pm
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<b>THERE WILL BE NO 9AM Service</b>
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