

Vasa Lutheran Church

Children's Christmas Program

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

Sunday, December 21, 2025

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In the darkest times we cannot see to make our way...
our eyes adjust, but still everything is shadowed and grey.

We reach out, desperate

for comfort
for balance
for the familiar
for hope

In the darkest times,
even a faltering light can be just enough:
the flame flickers, twinkles, dances—and it is dazzling!
For in its light, we see light: God in our midst.

~Candles are lit~

4. Kindle Advent candles.
Love endures through all.
Hate brings fleeting power.
Love's a real curveball.
Cherishing each other,
Heaven comes to earth.
Sacred transformation
Brings rebirth.

Sung to the tune: Cranham, the same tune used for "In the Bleak Midwinter."
Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2024

However impossible it seems,
God's promise will be fulfilled —
and blessed is the one who sees the truth of God's kingdom in our midst.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and
might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly
we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Angels We Have Heard On High

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

REFRAIN: Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Joy to the World

1	Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.	3	No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
2	Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.	4	He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

CONFESION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God,
alive in the world, reviving creation,
arriving soon. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through ✸ Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.

Amen.

COLLECTION OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

HOLY COMMUNION WITH THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Give us the courage to follow in the footsteps of Christ,
who taught us to pray, saying...

**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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We will receive communion by intinction. All are welcome at the Lord's table. You don't need to be a member of Vasa, nor do you need to be a Lutheran to receive the body and blood of Christ today. The communion bread is gluten free. Non-alcoholic wine is available for those who have dietary restrictions. Children are welcome to come forward and will receive a blessing.

BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ be with you now and forever. Amen.

Let us pray (*in unison*) God our host, **at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW 270

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



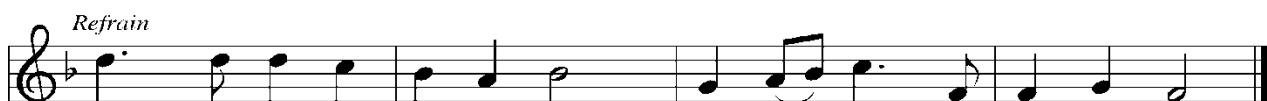
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him comc, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jc - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May God who comes among us,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Marvin Fredrickson

Communion Asst.: Teresa Schmidt,

Communion Asst. #2: Brian Schmidt

Worship Assistants Next Week

December 24 2PM/5PM

Usher: 2PM : Bruce Tilderquist

5PM : Rick Samuelson

Lector: 2PM : Barry Skog

5PM : Mo Hauck

Hospitality: 2PM : *Volunteer Needed*

5PM : John Hauck

Communion Asst.: 2PM : Barry Skog

5PM : Mo Hauck



Parish Pulse:

Dec. 14

Participating in Worship: **38**
+ **15** Live Streams

Total Offerings:

December 14th \$ 5,443

Wendy Anderson, Jay

Mikaelson, Scott

Sorenson, Lorrie

Samuelson, Lynda

Rosener Sack, Terri

Fredin, Terri Mandelkow,

Jake Jacobson, Connor

Michalicek (Rosann

Pearson's grandson), and

Roger Guttromson.



Registration for Good Earth Village Summer 2026 is now open. If your child would like to attend the summer camp call or email Preston in the office. The Vasa Congregation subsidizes families sending kids to this summer camp so that more are able to participate in the camp experiences along with deepening their faith.



The Pierce County Ecumenical Choir is inviting anyone who loves to sing to join them for the upcoming season. The choir is open to all voices. The concert theme for 2026 is Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone).

The choir rehearses on Sunday afternoons starting January 4, 2026. Rehearsals are at the Ellsworth Senior High School in the choir room at 1:30 P.M.

Concerts are held in area churches on Sunday afternoons and evenings in April except for Easter Sunday. The choir also performs at a Haitian benefit concert in River Falls that is held in late February or early March.

Singers of all levels and abilities are encouraged to participate. The ability to read music is helpful but not required.

People interested in joining the choir should contact the director for more information, **Jan Hansmeier** at jansmeier62@gmail.com or 320-241-1829.

MUSIC FOR DECEMBER 21, 2025

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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Angels We Have Heard On High

Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus*
Music, 1864

Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

Joy to the World

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell
Mason, 1792-1872

Hark! The Heard Angel Sings

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William
H. Cummings, 1831-1915

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