



SECOND SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

*He came down that we may have light*



**Elim Lutheran Church**  
**Scandia, Minnesota**  
**December 5, 2021**

Our Mission: To  
boldly glorify God.

**Introduction:** Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally, all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome**

## **Ringing of the Bells**

## **Advent Candle Lighting** (Milligan & Havener Family)

Introduction

Scripture

*ELW 253 – He Came Down, verse 2*

Prayer

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another,  
we confess our sin before you.**

**We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**

**We falter in our call to tend your creation.**

**We find our sense of self in material wealth.**

**We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We forget that we are your children  
and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One,**

**and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
✠ your sins are forgiven.  
You are children of the Most High,  
inheritors of the eternal promise,  
and recipients of divine mercy.  
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

**Hymn:** *ELW 256 - Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

### **Greeting**

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

### **Prayer of the Day**

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Reading:** Philippians 1:3-11

**Special Music:** *Free Us, Emmanuel!* – Words and Music by Pepper Choplin

*Come, O come, Emmanuel! Come, and set us free! Come, O come, Emmanuel, and set your people free!*

*Free us from the heavy chains of our sin and our sadness and body of pain. Free us, O Emmanuel, from the sorrow and suffering of where we dwell.*

*Lord, we are calling, how long do we wait before the glory of the kingdom we can celebrate? Lord we are calling will you answer please? Hear the cries of the people calling, Lord hear your people calling, "Free us from the heavy chains of our sin and our sadness and body of pain. Free us! Come, Emmanuel, break the bars, tear them down from humanity's cell."*

*Your light shall break as the morning. Your health shall surely spring up. For when You call the Lord of all, He will say, "Here am I."*

*We are calling, Lord, we are calling: "Free us from the heavy chains of our sin and our sadness and body of pain. Free us! Come, Emmanuel, throw the doors open wide from humanity's cell." Come, Emmanuel, and free us. Free us Emmanuel!*

**Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6

**Sermon**

**Hymn:** *ELW 536 - God Be with You Till We Meet Again, verses 1 & 2*

**Prayers of the People**

Petition Response: Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**Offering**

**Offering Prayer**

**God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us this day, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

**Communion - Words of Institution**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Table Blessing/Prayer**

**Litany of Farewell to Pastor Meredith** (see page 5)

**Postlude**

**Worship Participants**

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Preaching Today: Pastor Meredith McGrath

Presiding Minister: Pastor Sarah Henrich

Organist/Pianist: Brian Voss

Reader: Lynne Moratzka

Special Music: Elim Adult Choir, Janet Beckman, Director

## Litany of Farewell to Pastor Meredith

Congregational Representative: Pastor Meredith on May 18, 2013, we called you to be our pastor: to proclaim God's Word, to baptize new members into the Church of Jesus Christ, to announce God's forgiveness to us, and to preside at our celebration of the Lord's Supper.

With the gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you and your family have been important to our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ and in our service to this community.

You have served our congregation faithfully for nearly eight years. You are now leaving our midst. As your fellow members of this congregation we wish to honor your ministry among us and bid you farewell and Godspeed in your new endeavor, bringing closure to your ministry at Elim Lutheran Church

Pastor Meredith: I thank the members of Elim Lutheran Church for the love, the kindness, and the support shown to me and my family during my active ministry among you. I ask forgiveness for the ways I have sinned against you. I am grateful for the ways my ministry has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**Congregation: We receive your thankfulness. We offer you our forgiveness and accept that you now leave to resume your ministry in new ways. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask forgiveness for the ways we have sinned against you. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.**

Pastor Meredith: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

Pastor Sarah: Do you, members of Elim congregation, release her from the duties as pastor? **We do, with God's help.**

Pastor Sarah: Do you offer encouragement for her ministry as it continues to unfold? **We do, with God's help.**

Pastor Sarah: Do you, Pastor McGrath, release Elim from turning to you and depending on you?

Meredith: I do, with God's help.

Pastor Sarah: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here?

Meredith: I do, with God's help.

Pastor Sarah: On behalf of the Saint Paul Area Synod I witness to the words spoken here: words of thankfulness and release. We will hold you in our prayers as you discern and continue your life in ministry. We pledge our support and love to you and wish you God's blessing.

Congregational Representative: Let us pray: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. We give you thanks for the countless ways our lives have been woven together in the tapestry of your church. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories, but move us in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pastor Sarah: Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Sarah: The Lord bless us, defend us from evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

### **Schedule for the Week**

Today	12/5	8:00 a.m. Communion Worship 8:45 Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Communion Worship
Mon.	12/6	7:00 p.m. AA
Tue.	12/7	9:30 a.m. Advent Bible Study - via Zoom
Wed.	12/8	12:00 p.m. - Advent Noon Prayer Service 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir
Thur.	12/9	9:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. Parsonage Work Day
Sat.	12/11	1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Meet and Greet with Pastor Christian Muellerleile (Call the office to sign up for a time slot.)
Sun.	12/12	8:00 a.m. Worship 8:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship

**Attendance for November 28**

8:00 a.m. – 17

9:30 a.m. – 105

Online Views - 25

**Announcements****BAKE SALE****Preschool Bake Sale – TODAY!**

Looking for some baked goodies? Please help support the Preschool program through our Bake Sale on **Sunday, December 5**. Treats will be on sale after the 8:30 service outside the Fellowship Hall and in the Narthex following the 9:30 service.

**Advent Festival**

The choir will be signing three pieces of music on December 19th. That's the fourth Sunday of Advent and traditionally when the music department has held "Advent Festival".

Please consider joining choir for the month of December. Even if you can't commit to entire choir season, we'd love to have your help to make Advent musically memorable. Music and part recordings are available to help you rehearse on your own. Drop me a line or just show up for Wednesday rehearsals from 7:00 - 8:00 if you would like to join us.

Janet Beckman ([janet.beckman@elimscandia.org](mailto:janet.beckman@elimscandia.org); 612-244-9197)

**Parsonage Work Day – Thursday, December 9  
(9:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m.)**

Please come to the Parsonage for another work day – either in the morning or late afternoon. There is a variety of tasks that need attention, and in most cases, no special skills are required.

## **Meet Pastor Christian Muellerleile**

There will be two opportunities to meet Pastor Christian Muellerleile, who is the candidate recommended by the Call Committee and approved by the Council. Please call the office to reserve a time slot (651-433-2723).

- Saturday, December 11 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 15 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Pastor Christian Muellerleile is coming to our call process with experience at two previous congregations. From 2006 - 2009 he served as an Associate Pastor for Christ Lutheran Parish in Ironwood, MI. From there Pastor Christian was called to Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield, MN. where he currently serves as a Co-Pastor. As Co-Pastor he has been involved in all aspects of ministry, including worship leadership, music and worship arts, social ministry, and youth and children's ministry. Prior to his ministry at Christ Lutheran and Zion Lutheran he had many educational experiences that helped form his faith and led him to receive his formal education at Gustavus Adolphus College where he received a BA in Religion and Religious Studies, and Luther Seminary where he received his Masters of Divinity.

Pastor Christian's passion for ministry is connecting people and their stories to God's great story of love for us revealed in the persons and relationships of the Holy Trinity. He enjoys coaxing and coaching people to share their stories in spaces where they can risk telling the narratives of their lives lived in the light of God's redeeming and reconciling love. He believes that God's story of love embodied by Jesus and given breath by the Spirit is best spoken, sung, played, enacted and lived in collaborative and engaging ways that move and have their being beyond the church property.

If the congregation votes to call Pastor Christian Muellerleile he and his wife, Kateri, and their two middle school age children will be moving into the parsonage. They are excited to become part of the Scandia and surrounding communities. The congregational vote to extend the call will happen as part of the Annual Meeting Part I on Sunday, December 19 - following the 9:30 worship service.

**Come, join us for  
Advent and Christmas Worship at Elim Church  
All Are Welcome!!**

<b>Sunday Advent Worship - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.</b>	
November 28	First Sunday of Advent 8:00 and 9:30
December 5	Second Sunday of Advent (Farewell to Pastor Meredith)
December 12	St. Lucia Day (Lucia Breakfast/Program - Scandia Community Center from 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)
December 19	Fourth Sunday of Advent - Advent Festival (Annual Meeting Part I and Vote on Pastoral Candidate)
<b>Wednesday Advent Noon Prayer - 12:00 p.m.</b>	
December 1	We Long for Peace
December 8	We Long for Strength and Wisdom
December 15	We Long for Healing
December 22	We Long for Love
<b>Christmas Worship</b>	
Friday, December 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas Eve Family Worship at 3:00 p.m.</li> <li>• Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 10:00 p.m.</li> </ul>
Sunday, December 26	Service of Lessons and Carols at 9:30

	<p>We could use more ushers and greeters for our regular worship services and also for the two Christmas Eve services (3:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.). If you can help out, call the church office (651-433-2723).</p>
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## Go Tail It on the Mountain!

Wait, what!? Look for the Advent Giving Trees beginning November 28. They will be located in the coatroom entrance and at the end of the office hallway. Choose an ELCA Good Gifts ornament from the tree and make a gift to fight hunger, transform lives, and grow the church! Any amount can improve lives around the world.

Here's how to do it:

1. Choose your gift ornament from one of our Advent Trees near the coat room or at the end of the office hallway.
2. Donate in one of four ways, whatever works for you:
  - Online: [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts)
  - By Phone: 1-800-638-3522
  - Drop of your check, **made payable to the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America***, and ornament in the church office or with Pastor Sarah
  - Mail an order form\* with payment to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

\*Order forms will be available on the shelves outside the office, beginning November 28.

**Deadline for submitting payments through Elim:  
Sunday, December 26.**

**Cocoa & Carols: Kick-off Fundraising Event – TODAY!**  
**Lakes Area Feed My Starving Children MobilePack**

- Date: Sunday, December 5, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:00 p.m.)
- Location: Hosanna Lutheran Church, Garden Chapel
- 12 Days of Christmas Prizes, Hot Cocoa Bar, and more!
- ALL proceeds will benefit the 2022 Lakes Area FMSC MobilePack
- Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door.
- Contact Arnie (651-245-3877) or Debbie Wright (651-402-0259) for ticket information.

**Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart**

**The Elim Foundation** welcomes your gifts to grow the Foundation, and we invite you to **“Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”** to meet and surpass a \$5,000 matching challenge from a donor between November 1- December 31, 2021. The total amount raised by this challenge will be revealed at worship on Sunday, January 9, 2022, Epiphany Sunday (and Foundation Sunday), along with those Christian ministries receiving gifts/grants from your Elim Foundation.

Gifts to the Foundation can be made by check (made payable to Elim Foundation), cash (designate for Elim Foundation), or a gift of stock (see Elim Foundation webpage for directions). They can be mailed to Elim Church or placed in the offering plate on Sunday morning. ([www.elimscandia.org](http://www.elimscandia.org) → Ministries → Foundation)

Do you have an announcement you would like included in the bulletin?  
Email or call Joan with the information no later than the Wednesday  
before the Sunday it needs to be included.

joan.detzler@elimscandia.org  
651-433-2723

**Elim Lutheran Church**

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Website: [www.elimscandia.org](http://www.elimscandia.org)Email: [info@elimscandia.org](mailto:info@elimscandia.org)**Office Hours**

Monday – Friday

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

<b>Elim Staff</b>	<b>Elim Church Council</b>
Sarah Henrich, Interim Pastor	Alan Bakke, President
Meredith McGrath, Associate Pastor	Sylvia Mills, Vice President
Joan Detzler, Office Administrator	Doug Thomas, Secretary
Ruth Dunn, Financial Secretary	Colleen Nora, Treasurer
Lisa Weigel, Treasurer	Kyle Dahlheimer
Brian Voss, Organist	Laurie Carlson
Janet Beckman, Music	Jeff Garritsen
Coordinator/Choir Director	Bonnie Olsen
Joan Detzler, Bell Choir Director	Warren Zenk
	Sandy Zenk