Welcome to Worship at

Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church

Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor
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www.joyfulharvest.org



November 29th, 2026	**First Sunday of Advent**

We worship in-person and on-line at 9:00 am. There is a link on our website to join the on-line Worship Service through Zoom!
Stay safe and God bless!

Gathering

Welcome/Greeting/Announcements

Call to Worship

P: Now, in this holy season of Advent, we wait.
C: For the faithful God is coming to us.
P: Now, in this season of waiting, we listen.
C: For the faithful Word speaks of good news to us.
P: Now, in the waiting and listening, we watch.
C: For the faithful Spirit is moving among us.

Opening Song: O Come, O Come Emanuel

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who calls out to the weary, whose word endures forever.
C: Amen.
P: A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord!" We are called to confess our sin and turn back toward God's love.
(silence is kept for reflection)
P: Comforting God,
C: we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name. We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways. We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us. We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins, like the wind, take us away. Restore us as your people. Cleanse us from our sin, and clothe us in your righteousness. Amen.
P: "Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God, who has clothed you with the garments of salvation and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness. God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. In the name of ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven: Rejoice in the Lord! Rejoice in the Lord!
C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

Faith Song: Song of Hope

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

[1] O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—[2] as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down;
the mountains quaked at your presence. 4 From ages past no one has
heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who
works for those who wait for him. 5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we
sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. 6 We have all become
like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand
of our iniquity. 8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you
are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Do not be exceedingly
angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we
are all your people.
A: Word of God, Word of Life
C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you
that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your**
strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
4 **O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people**
pray?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of
tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh**
us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be
saved.
17 **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have**
made so strong for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call
upon your name.
19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we
shall be saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that
has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been
enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the
testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are
not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

[8] He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: [Jesus said:] [24] "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be.....

P: This is the gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Children's Message — Tessa Ancona

Sermon — Pastor Ken Gibson

Hymn of the Day: In the Midst of Winter Darkness V1

Prayers of Intercession

A:"God, in your mercy",...**C: "Hear our prayer"**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering Invitation: Friends, an offering is an act of Worship, given freely to share God's love through this congregation. Please place your offering in the basket as it is passed around, you may come forward to put your gift in the offering plate, or send your gifts to the church at: **5050 N. Johnsburg Rd., Johnsburg, IL 60051 o**r give online at www.joyfulharvest.org

Offering Prayer

Lord's Supper

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has taught us:

C: 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.

Invitation to Communion: *Christ is truly present with us today, especially in the gifts of bread and wine. God's table is open; we invite you to join us at the Lord's Table! After the choir is served, come up the center aisle, from front to back. If you are unable to come forward, please let the pastor or another worship leader know, and we will bring communion to you. If you do not receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing, simply keep your hands folded. The dark colored liquid is wine, and the light-colored liquid is juice. Please let the pastor know if you need a gluten free wafer. All are welcome!*

Communion Songs: Amazing Grace (Auld Lange Syne)/Father, I Adore You

Prayer After Communion

Sending

COMMISSIONING

P: At Joyful Harvest Church,
C: our mission is growing together for Christ.
P: As disciples of Jesus Christ, we value:
C: Family Worship, Relying on Prayer, Unity in Christ, Instruction in the Word, Telling Others, and Service to God's Community.

SENDING

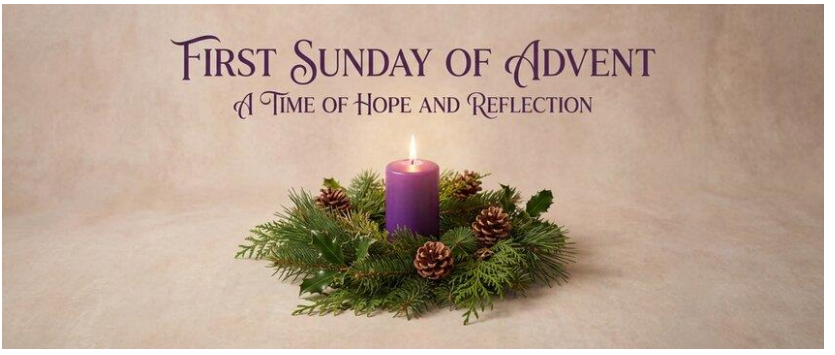
P: We do not know when Christ will return,
C: so we will wait, and in the waiting
we will share hope with everyone around us.
P: We do not know what the coming days will bring,
C: but we will be alert,
noticing all those who need the help we can provide.
P: We do not know the opportunities we will be given,
C: but we will keep our eyes open,
so we can welcome each person
as if they are the Christ.

Sending Song: God, You Reign

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
C: Amen
P: Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted.
C: Thanks be to God.

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Announcements

If you are looking for a place to worship with your family, join us any Sunday at 9:00 am! Thank you for worshipping with us today.

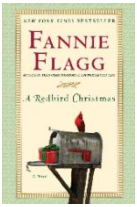


Poinsettias* – Order Yours *Now thru Dec 6th:

Only 1 more Sunday left to order! As we celebrate the birth of Christ, help us fill the Sanctuary with the beauty of Poinsettias. After Christmas, take it home or give it to a friend. See order forms on "Welcome" table!

Joyful Readers Book Club – Sat. Dec 5th @ 9:00 a.m.:

Do you like to read, are you looking for a way to connect with other women? Consider joining the ladies of Joyful Harvest as they embark in this fellowship opportunity. They're reading *"A Redbird Christmas"* by Fannie Flagg. Contact Kim DuBois for more info!





Cookie Exchange! Sat. Dec 19 @ 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Nothing's better than homemade cookies. This year we will be having our annual cookie exchange at the church. Bring 3 dozen *(or more if you're feeling ambitious)* to swap and share and a container to take home your selection. Men are welcome! Not a baker, bring an appetizer to share and join in the festivities!

Weekly Calendar

Mon-Thurs	**Daily Devotionals with Pr. Ken**	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Dec 01	**Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast**	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Dec 01	**Food Pantry Service Opportunity**	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Wed. Dec 02	**Holden Evening Prayer Service**	6:00 p.m.
Thur. Dec 03	**Food Pantry Service Opportunity**	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sat. Dec 05	**Joyful Readers**	9:00-10:00 a.m.
Sun. Dec 06	**Sunday Worship**	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Dec 06	**Faith Formation Class**	10:45 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Wed. Dec 09	**Holden Evening Prayer Service**	6:00 p.m.
Wed. Dec 16	**Holden Evening Prayer Service**	6:00 p.m.
Sat. Dec 19	**Annual Cookie Exchange @ JHC**	1:00-3:00 p.m.
Thur. Dec 24	**Christmas Eve Service**	6:00 p.m.

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

Jan 17 **– Annual Meeting**

NOVEMBER 29, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

taking faith home

Stay awake, for God is coming with power.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	**Mark 13:24-37**	**The day and hour unknown**
Monday	**Isaiah 64:1-9**	**A communal prayer for help**
Tuesday	**1 Corinthians 1:3-9**	**God is faithful**
Wednesday	**Revelation 22:12-21**	**Jesus is coming soon**
Thursday	**Micah 4:1-5**	**Peace and prosperity**
Friday	**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**	**Children of light**
Saturday	**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**	**Prayer for Israel's restoration**
Sunday	**Matthew 1:1-8**	**The beginning of the good news**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ***Mark 13:26 (NRSVUE)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
God, deliver us from harm. Let your loving face shine on us so that we may be safe in the arms of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, we thank you for this food; may it strengthen us as we wait for your arrival in the birth of your Son Jesus and for him to come again to make all things right. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May Jesus give you hope and peace.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you had a challenging or scary experience?
- How does faith in Jesus give us hope and help us to face scary times?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 13:24-37.

Advent begins with an awareness of life's frailty. We can protect ourselves with shelter and food, but there is always the threat of a sudden storm that can bring devastation, when the whole world seems to fall down around us. Everyone, young and old, experiences trials and sufferings. It happened to the Israelites returning from exile (Isaiah 64), it happened to Jesus' first followers, and, it happens around the world today. We need the God who promises to show up and make a difference. This Advent, we are reminded to be on the lookout for the same God who came into our world as Jesus. So, live life with joy, with courage, with hope! And stay awake, keep alert, and never give up. How does worshipping together, reading the Bible, and praying help you pay attention for when Jesus shows up in our lives?

Pray: **Almighty God, give us hope and confidence to await your coming into our lives, trusting in your healing and renewing power through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Advent is a reminder to diligently do the work God calls us to do, including serving others. What are some specific ways you can "stay awake" this Advent season by caring for the needs of others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The church year begins on the first Sunday in Advent. To launch this new year, gather all the Bibles in your home. If you have an Advent wreath, place the Bibles near the wreath. As you light the first candle, the candle of hope, use this prayer of blessing:

Pray: **God, we thank you for the Bible, and especially for the good news about Jesus our Lord. Make us into people who are strong in faith and full of love. Amen.**

Joyful HARVEST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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