

The Advent Wreath: "The Wreath"



Where You Meet Your Savior And Find A Friend

Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Monday Worship – 7:00 p.m.

Church (608) 742-5609

Pastor Scott Schultz (608) 617-8409

www.portagelutheranchurch.org

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Welcome

Here is some helpful information to guide your stay with us.

1. **Enjoy.** We feel blessed you came to Cross of Christ. Our worship service lasts about 60 minutes. Participate as much as you feel comfortable with.
2. **Restrooms.** We have one restroom in the back of church and a men's and women's restroom downstairs.
3. **Children.** Your children are welcome to worship with us regardless of their age. If you feel they are being too disruptive, we do have a **Parents Area** available downstairs with a television where you can watch the worship service.
4. **Offering.** You are welcome to give an offering, but you do not need to feel obligated to do so.

About Cross Of Christ

Cross of Christ is a Bible based church, which exists to give thanks to God for Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection by which God forgave all people of their sins and gives eternal life to all who believe in him. We do this by believing in the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and sharing his Word with our community and the world.

Sermon Series: **The Advent Wreath**

Many Christian churches decorate their church with an Advent Wreath during the Advent and Christmas seasons. In this sermon series we will learn about the history of the Advent Wreath, what it symbolizes, and how it prepares us to celebrate our Savior Jesus' birth on Christmas. The different parts of the Advent Wreath are:

December 2: **The Wreath**

December 9: The Outside Candles

December 16: The Christ Child Candle

Order Of Service

HYMN 15:1-3: *"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"*

- 1. Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding;
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness;
You are children of the day."**
- 2. Lo, the Lamb, so long-expected,
Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiv'n,**
- 3. That, when next he comes with glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He may shield us with his mercy
And with words of love draw near.**

Please stand

M: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening.

C: **and the day is almost over.**

M: Be our light and scatter the darkness.

C: **and hear our evening hymn of praise.**

M: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated

PSALM 8 (on page 67 in the front of the red hymnal)

C: ***(sing)* REFRAIN: I will praise your name forever, my King and my God.**

**O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name
in 'all the earth!***

You have set your glory above the 'heavens.

**When I consider your 'heavens,*
the work of your 'fingers,**

**what is man that you are mind'ful of him,*
the Son of Man that you 'care for him?**

REFRAIN: I will praise your name forever, my King and my God.

You made him a little lower than the heavenly 'beings*

and crowned him with glory and 'honor.

You made him ruler over the works 'of your hands;*

you put everything un'der his feet.

Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son*

and to the Holy 'Spirit,

as it was in the be'ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.

REFRAIN: I will praise your name forever, my King and my God.

PSALM PRAYER

M: Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may live for you here and hereafter; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 51:6-8

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
look at the earth beneath;
the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a
garment
and its inhabitants die like
flies.

But my salvation will last forever,
my righteousness will never
fail.

⁷ "Hear me, you who know what is
right,
you people who have my law in
your hearts:

Do not fear the reproach of men
or be terrified by their insults.

⁸ For the moth will eat them up like a
garment;
the worm will devour them like
wool.

But my righteousness will last
forever,
my salvation through all
generations." (NIV)

SEASONAL RESPONSE

M: The Lord will come again in glory. The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

HYMN 22:1-3: *"O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"*

- 1. O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down;
Unbar the way to heaven's crown.**
- 2. O Morning Star, O radiant Dawn,
When will we sing your morning song?
Come, Son of God! Without your light
We grope in dread and gloom of night.**
- 3. Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
Oh, come, lead us with mighty hand
From exile to our promised land.**

SERMON LESSON

2 Timothy 1:9c-10

^{9c} This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed

death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (NIV)

“The Wreath”

Please stand

HYMN 274:1,2: *“My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”*

- 1. My soul now magnifies the Lord;
My spirit shall in God rejoice.
My humble state he did regard,
Exalting me by gracious choice.**
- 2. Henceforth shall people call me blest,
For great things he has done for me.
The mighty God is now my guest;
The Holy One has set me free.**

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

HYMN 27:1-3: "O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are"

- 1. O Jesus, Lamb of God, you are
My comfort and my guiding star;
I come, a sinner, trustingly
And bring my many sins with me.**
- 2. O Lord, my sin indeed is great;
I groan beneath the dreadful weight.
Be merciful to me, I pray;
Take guilt and punishment away.**
- 3. Saint John the Baptist points to you
And bids me cast my sin on you,
For you have left your throne on high
To suffer for the world and die. Amen.**

Be seated

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Take The Next Step

We are so glad you took a big step and joined us for worship. You may be wondering what your next step is for connecting to Cross of Christ. Here are some options:



Come back for worship next week. Attending worship services is very important for people to grow in their faith in Jesus.



Set up a time to meet. Call or email the church office. We would be happy to set up a time to answer your questions and to share more about Cross of Christ's ministry with you.



Enroll in "Starting Point". This is a class environment designed for every guest to discover (or rediscover) the foundational teachings of the Bible and how they apply to their lives. Talk to the pastor if you are interested in attending.



Stay Connected. Stay connected with us online at www.portagelutheranchurch.org, on Facebook, on Instagram, and on Twitter.

Announcements

Special Thanks. A special thanks to our hymnsoft player Dave Kreklow, our ushers John Nate Newman, Henry Newman, Don Graham, and our altar committee Nona Lione and Tasha Buchholz.

Midweek Advent Services. There will be special midweek Advent Services on Wednesday, December 2, 9, & 16 at 7:00 p.m. The sermon series theme is "The Advent Wreath". Everyone is invited to attend!

Camp Philip Supper. The Camp Philip Chili Supper has been canceled due to COVID-19. Instead, a collection will be taken after the three midweek Advent services on Wednesday, December 2, 9, & 16.

Church Decorating. We will decorate the church for the Christmas season on Sunday, December 6 after the Bible Study. Please consider staying to help.

Children's Christmas Service. The Sunday School Children's Christmas service will be on Thursday, December 24 at 6:00 p.m. and Friday, December 25 at 9:00 a.m. The service theme is "The Greatest Gift". Invite your family and friends to attend one of these two services or to watch it on Facebook Live.

Poinsettias. If you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia to beautify church for the Christmas season, please sign up on the table in the back of church. You can purchase red, pink, and white poinsettias for \$7.00. Please pay Tracy McCluskey when you place your order, otherwise your poinsettia will not be ordered. The deadline for placing orders is Wednesday, December 16.

Gift Bags. The Cross of Christ Ladies will be giving Christmas gift bags to Cross of Christ's shut-in members and the residents of Hamilton Park Place. They are collecting the following items for the gift bags: money, individual tissue packets, gripper footed socks, large print puzzle books, hard candy, sample size lotion, body wash, shampoo, and conditioner, and gift bags. The gift bags will be assembled at the December 17 gathering and will be delivered to the church's shut-in members and Hamilton Park Place residents. Please bring the items to church by December 13.

Cross of Christ Mission Statement Committee. At the November 1 Quarterly Voters' meeting, it was decided to create a committee to develop a Mission Statement for the church. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, contact Pastor Schultz.

Canceled Fellowship Activities. Due to COVID-19, the Fellowship Committee decided to cancel the following activities in December:

- Snacks after Sunday worship services
- Fellowship meal
- Midweek Advent meals
- Christmas caroling
- Christmas party

10 For 10 Notes. Please place your 10 For 10 commitment cards in the offering plates as you walk into church. These cards will not be opened. They will be placed on the altar for ten weeks and then returned to you unopened for your prayerful reflection. Please also fill out the new Time and Talent surveys you were given and place them in Bonnie Dorniak's mailbox at church.

Bulletins. Please take your bulletin home with you after church and do not put it back because of COVID-19.

Used Items. On the credenza in the fellowship hall are electronic items that Cross of Christ no longer needs. They include a Google Chromecast, a colored printer, a black and white printer, a mouse and keyboard. Anyone may take these items. A freewill donation is appreciated.

Advent Devotion Booklet. We have received "Christ is the World's Light, an Advent Devotion booklet from Martin Luther College. Please take one to follow day by day through the month of December until Christmas.

Forward in Christ and Meditations. You can pick up the new Meditations and Forward in Christ in the back of church.