

The Advent Wreath: "The Outside Candles"



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 7:1-3: *"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"*

- 1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
At midnight comes the cry.**
- 2. The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth, as he approaches,
With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
The Bridegroom is at hand.**

**3. You saints who here in patience
Your cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever
When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
The Lamb you shall behold;
In triumph lay before him
Your shining crowns of gold.**

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 89 (on page 98 in the front of the red hymnal)

**C: (*sing*) REFRAIN: At the works of your hands,
O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.**

**I will sing of the Lord's great love for'ever;*
I will make your faithfulness known through all
gener'ations.**

**I will declare that your love stands firm for'ever,*
that you established your faithfulness in
heav'en itself.**

**The heavens praise your won'ders, O Lord,*
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the
'holy ones.**

**REFRAIN: At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift
up my voice in song; I sing for joy.**

O Lord God Almighty, who 'is like you?*
**You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness
sur'rounds you.**

**Blessed are those who have learned to ac'claim
you,*
who walk in the light of your pres'ence, O Lord.**

They rejoice in your name 'all day long;*
they exult in your 'righteousness.

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: At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift
up my voice in song; I sing for joy.**

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 9:6-7

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his
shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty

God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government
and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this. (NIV)

SEASONAL RESPONSE

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

HYMN 24:1-3: *"The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came"*

- 1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary,
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!**

**2. "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree:
A blessed virgin mother you shall be.
Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!**

**3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!**

SERMON LESSON

Luke 2:25-38

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have
promised,
you now dismiss your servant in
peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your

salvation,
³¹ which you have prepared in the
sight of all people,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people
Israel."

³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was
said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to
Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling
and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be
spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will
be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of
Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived
with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then
was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the
temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.
³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks
to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking
forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. (NIV)

"The Outside Candles"

Please stand

HYMN 274:3,4: *"My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord"*

- 3. His mercy is on all who fear,
Who trust in him from age to age.
His arm of strength to all is near;
The proud he scatters, though they rage.**

- 4. He brings down rulers from their seat
And raises those of low degree.
He fills the hungry souls with meat;
The rich depart in poverty.**

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 9:1-3: *"Jesus, Your Church With Longing Eyes"*

- 1. Jesus, your Church with longing eyes
For your expected coming waits.
When will the promised light arise
And glory beam from heaven's gates?**

2. **E'en now, when tempests round us fall
And wintry clouds o'ercast the sky,
Your words with pleasure we recall
And know that our redemption's nigh.**

3. **Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew,
Our sins forgive, our foes suppress,
Our rooted enmity subdue,
And crown your gospel with success.**

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 Dan Heckmann (C), Russ Stensrud, Tim Scharenbroch, Chase Spiller, and our altar committee Nona Lione and Sandra Beimborn.

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.

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: individual tissue packets, gripper footed socks, hard candy, sample size lotion, body wash, shampoo, and conditioner. Any money donated will be used to purchase items for the 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. Do not put it back because of COVID-19

Used Items. On the table in the fellowship hall are electronic items that Cross of Christ no longer needs. They include a Google Chromecast, a color 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.