

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

9:30 AM

### The Congregation Gathers:

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements – *Mary Schilling*

Lighting the Advent Candles – *Chris & Jordan Kruse family*

Children's Bell Ringing Processional

### For Praise:

✠Songs of Praise #136 "The First Noel" (verses 1,2,6)

#128 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (verses 1,2,4)

✠Prayer of Confession (read in unison)

**If we look at our own lives, we must confess the mixture of giving and selfishness, our waiting on the Lord turned to an endless rush, our missing the mark of Advent. Lord, forgive our frantic ways and misplaced efforts. But we can also trust in God, who still brings us salvation, who still supplies us strength, who hears our songs of gratitude, who accepts our joyful praise. Let us all draw water from the wells of salvation. Let us shout it in church and in town: The Lord's great name will still be praised. His saving deeds support our lives. His greatness still astounds us. The Holy One of Israel is among us. Praise the Lord and sing for joy. Amen.**

✠Words of Assurance

✠Ascription of Praise #623 "Gloria Patri"

✠Passing of the Peace

Ministry in Music

### For Reflection:

Children's Message

Old Testament Lesson – Isaiah 9:2-7 (page 1072)

Response Psalm – Psalm 126 (page 967)

New Testament Lesson – Luke 1:26-38 (page 1588)

Message: "A Child is Born"

Prayer of Commitment

✠Hymn #123 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

### For Response:

Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

✠Offertory Response #625 "Doxology"

✠Presentation of our Gifts to God (read in unison)

**God of hope, you gave your Son to free a lost world. You give your Spirit to comfort and encourage. You give us hope for a future free of pain, sorrow, and tears. You promise us a future with you. In gratitude, we bring you our time, talents, and tithes. May our gifts be used so that many others will taste and see the goodness of knowing you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Church Family Ties

Congregational Prayer and "The Lord's Prayer"

✠Benediction

✠Closing Song #132 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Postlude

✠Please stand during these acts of worship.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The scripture and message will be posted on Facebook. You may view the worship service live in the kitchen, the Family Life Center, and the nursery.

Children may leave during the closing song for Sunday School classes. Classes will not meet next Sunday, December 28. Classes resume January 4.

Place **unwrapped angel tree gifts under the tree today**, so that they may be delivered. Contact Marilyn Ebright or Jill Buckneberg with questions.

January newsletter information is due in the office by 9:00 AM this Monday, December 22.

Kristi Rops will not be in the office on Wednesday this week.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship is at 5:00 PM on Dec 24 with the Lord's Supper served. The offering will go to Inspiration Hills and the Union Gospel Mission. If you would like to be in the candlelight processional, line-up at 4:45 PM. You may bring your own candle or candles will be provided.

We need a delegate for the Union Gospel Mission Lamplighters. They meet every third Friday of the month except July and August at various churches in the area for a short sermon, business meeting, and update of the UGM. Let Kristi Rops know if you would do this.

Lists for 2026 are in your mailboxes. Contact Kristi Rops with any changes or concerns. Thank you for serving!

Updated phone numbers and addresses are needed for the 2026 church directory.

Our church's adverse weather policy states that if school is canceled or dismissed early due to weather conditions; there will be no evening activities at the church. In the event of adverse weather on Sunday morning, cancellations will be announced through the email group.

Advent Greetings to you from Love INC! As Mary and Joseph found themselves turned away from shelter and warmth at the Inn, so do many of the individuals and families that we assist at Love In the Name of Christ. Shelter costs and food assistance are the two resources that people ask for the most assistance with. In November alone we received a total of 26 requests for assistance. We held a Food Giveaway in partnership with Faith Presbyterian Church on November 16th, giving food to over 50 individuals/families as well as also giving away 9 Thanksgiving Dinner Meals for the holiday. If you would like to know more about what we do please check out our website for our newsletter and/or sign up for future newsletters at [www.loveinclennox.org](http://www.loveinclennox.org).

*Michelle Paulson*

A Longest Night or Blue Christmas service is meant to acknowledge the grief and sadness that may keep us from feeling the joy of the season. We are invited to Prosper Country Warehouse on December 21 to share in a time of

comfort, hope and healing. Gather from 4:00-5:00 PM. A memorial service will be held at 5:00 PM followed by fellowship.

Go to [www.secondreformed.com](http://www.secondreformed.com) to join our email prayer chain group. Click "services" at the top of the page, scroll down and click the "join" button in the prayer chain section. Contact Jerod Zimmer or Kristi Rops for assistance. **You may also participate in a phone prayer chain group.** Contact Kristi Rops or Joann Muller to be added to a phone group.

Contact Kent DeJong, Jerod Zimmer, or Shellene Smidt if you would like to give offerings by automatic bank withdrawals.

Last week we received \$1,627 for the general fund (\$3,307 needed weekly to meet the general fund budget) and \$333 for the special offering for the Lennox Area Ministerial Association.

#### **TODAY:**

Welcome to Second Reformed Church! We invite all visitors to sign the guest book and to join us for fellowship following worship.

Music: Denise Snoozy

Greeters: Paul & Laurie Kruse

Coffee: Jerry & Mary Schilling, Lois Klinger, and Linda Olmstead

8:55-9:25 AM – Koffee Kiosk (bring your own covered mug)

9:30 AM – Worship Service

10:25 AM – Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School

10:30 AM – Coffee/Fellowship time

10:40 AM – Youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades meet in the chapel

11:15 AM – Classes dismiss

#### **THIS WEEK:**

Monday – January newsletter information due by 9:00 AM

Tuesday – "Sewing for Others" at 1:00 PM

Wednesday – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:00 PM

Friday – Bulletin information due by 9:00 AM

#### **NEXT SUNDAY:**

Koffee Kiosk from 8:55-9:25 AM; Worship Service at 9:30 AM; Music – Diana Smit; Greeters & Special Music Coordinators – Keith & Leanne Lefers; Coffee/Cookie Servers – Dustin & Steffy Thoms and Nathan & Molly Townsend; Fellowship/ Coffee at 10:30 AM; No Sunday School classes

#### **PRAYERS:**

Pray for hearts to be open to Christ and for the Gospel message to be shared and believed during this season of Advent.

A new letter from the mission family we support in Europe is available by our mailboxes. Ministry includes the need for a car, an impromptu worship night, setting up a website, starting a non-profit group, and campus visits with their oldest son. They remind us to be alert, stand firm in the faith, be men and women of courage, not cease meeting together, and to spur one another on to love and good deeds with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

*Glorify God*

*Renew Through Christ's Resurrection*

*Affirm the Gifts of the Holy Spirit*

*Commit to Compassion*

*Evangelize All the Earth*



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