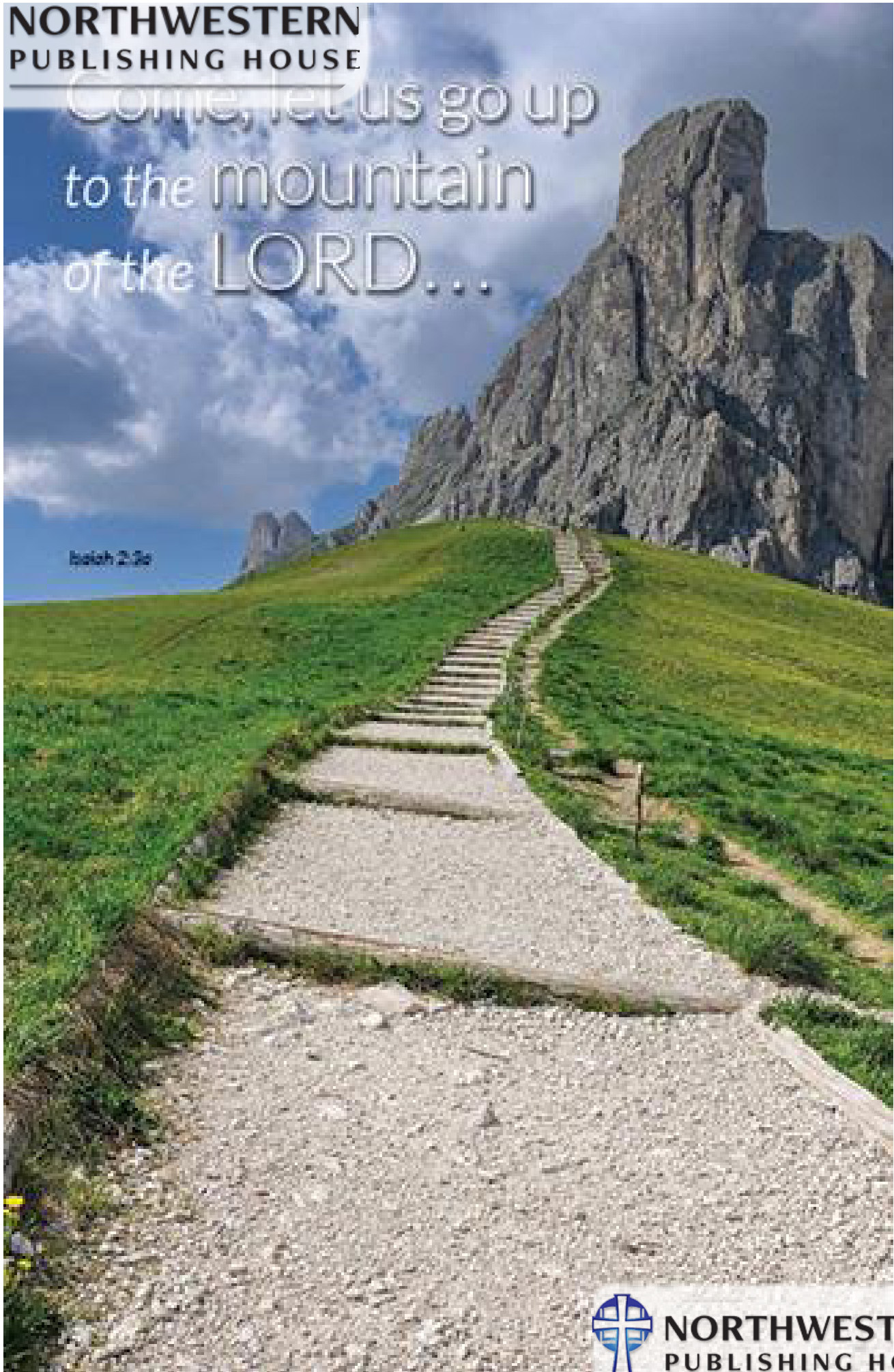




**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

Come, let us go up  
to the mountain  
of the LORD...

Isaiah 2:3



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



Star of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

4465 South Blosser Road  
Santa Maria, CA 93455  
Office: 805-937-0339  
[www.starlutheran.org](http://www.starlutheran.org)  
Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, November 27, 2022 10:00 a.m.*

### FIRST SUNDAY in ADVENT

**Theme of the day:** Keep watch! The unexpectedness of Christ's coming doesn't change its certainty. We know he is coming with judgment on the unbelieving world and grace and rescue for his people. We are filled with hope, with love, and with light. With anticipation in our hearts, we long for the fulfillment. "Come, Lord Jesus! Amen!"



## WELCOME

A warm welcome to our friends and visitors! Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is eager to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. If you are a new or long-time resident of the Central Coast looking for a church home, we invite you to meet with us at the close of this worship service or at your convenience. All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

**Families** are encouraged to worship together. If you need to step out with your children, the service can be seen and heard in the fellowship hall or narthex area. Feel free to enter and return at any time.

## OUR MISSION

Our congregation exists for the purpose of "HOLDING OUT THE WORD OF LIFE." This is accomplished by faithfully preserving and proclaiming all of God's inerrant word, and administering the Sacraments as they were instituted by Christ.

**OPENING HYMN: # 309 “The Advent of our King”**

♪ **The advent of our King our prayers must now employ,  
and we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.**

**The everlasting Son in flesh content to be,  
himself a servant’s form puts on to set his servants free.**

**O Zion’s Daughter, rise to meet your lowly King,  
nor let a faithless heart despise the peace he comes to bring.**

**As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come again  
and his true members all unite with him in heav’n to reign.**

**Before the dawning day let sin’s dark deeds be gone,  
the old self all be put away, the new self now put on.**

*Please stand for last verse:*

**All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free,  
with Father, Spirit, ever one through all eternity.**

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

Congregation: **And also with you.** (*spoken*)

M: Blessed are they whose transgression are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**C: Blessed are they whose sins the Lord does not count against them.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: Almighty and merciful Father,  
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.  
We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.  
We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.  
We have done those things that we should not have done, and  
we have not done those things that we should have done.  
Have mercy on us Lord!  
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,  
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

C: **Amen.** *(spoken)*

*Please be seated.*

## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING INTROIT

♪ **Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,  
and see what in the manger lies.  
Who is this child, so young and fair?  
It is the Christ Child lying there.**

M: The darkness of sin and unbelief are shattered by the light of the Gospel. The **Prophecy Candle** gives us the first flicker of hope as we watch for the coming of the Lord.

C: **Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.** *(Mark 13:33)*

*The Prophecy Candle is lit.*

♪ **Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,  
through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery  
that you might share your joy with me.**

M: May the light of this candle call to mind the glorious light of the Gospel, shining in the birth of our Savior. May his grace enlighten our lives, both now and forever.

♪ **Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
prepare a bed, soft, undefiled  
within my heart, made clean and new,  
a quiet chamber kept for you.**



## FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 2:1-5

This is the message that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>This will take place in the latter days:

The mountain of the LORD's house will be established  
as the chief of the mountains.

It will be raised above the hills,  
and all nations will stream to it like a river.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob.

Then he will instruct us about his ways,  
and we will walk in his paths.”

For from Zion the law will go out,  
and the LORD's word will go out from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He will judge between the nations,  
and he will mediate for many peoples.

Then they will beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into blades for trimming vines.

Nation will not lift up sword against nation,  
nor will they learn war anymore.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come,  
and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 18

### *Refrain*



The might-y Lord is with us; the God of Ja-cob is our for-tress.

### *Psalm tone*



The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;\*  
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

He reached down from on high and took hold of me;\*  
he rescued me from my powerful enemy.

He brought me out into a spacious place;\*  
he rescued me because he delighted in me.

**Refrain**

You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning;\*  
my God turns my darkness into light.

You save the humble\*  
but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

You give me your shield of victory,\*  
and your right hand sustains me.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*Refrain*

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. The one who testifies about these things says,  
“Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! Alleluia!  
*(Revelation 22:20)*

C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
These words are written that we may believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **SECOND LESSON: Romans 13:11-14**

<sup>11</sup>And do this since you understand the present time. It is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup>The night is almost over, and the day is drawing near. So let us put away the deeds of darkness and put on the weapons of light. <sup>13</sup>Let us walk decently as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual sin and wild living, not in strife and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not give any thought to satisfying the desires of your sinful flesh.

## **HYMN: # 318 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”**

**♪ Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!  
“Christ is near,” we hear it say.  
“Cast away the works of darkness;  
all you children of the day.”**

**See, 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,**

**So, when next he comes in glory  
and the world is wrapped in fear,  
he will shield us with his mercy  
and with words of love draw near.**

**Honor, glory, might, dominion  
to the Father and the Son  
with the everlasting Spirit  
while eternal ages run!**

## **SERMON: Matthew 24:36-44**

**<sup>36</sup>“No one knows when that day and hour will be, not the angels of heaven, not even the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>Just as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be when the Son of Man returns. <sup>38</sup>In fact, in the days before the flood people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the very day that Noah entered the ark. <sup>39</sup>And they did not realize what was coming until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man returns.**

**<sup>40</sup>“At that time two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>So be alert, because you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: If the master of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>You also need to be ready for this reason: The Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect him.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right  
hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **HYMN: # 488:1,5,6 "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"**

♪ **The day is surely drawing near when Jesus, God's anointed,  
shall with great majesty appear as judge of all appointed.  
All mirth and laughter then shall cease  
when flames on flames will still increase,  
as Scripture truly teaches.**

**My Savior paid the debt I owe and for my sin was smitten;  
within the Book of Life I know  
my name has now been written.  
I will not doubt, for I am free, and Satan cannot threaten me;  
there is no condemnation!**

**O Jesus Christ, do not delay, but hasten our salvation;  
we often tremble on our way in fear and tribulation.  
Your saints are waiting patiently;  
come soon, Redeemer; make us free  
from ev'ry evil. Amen.**

## *OFFERING*



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: # 522 “Beautiful Savior”**

♪ **Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I’d love thee, truly I’d serve thee,  
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,  
robed in flow’rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
he makes our sorr’wing spirit sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,  
bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels in the sky.**

**Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration  
now and forevermore be thine!**

**WELS CONNECTION**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FLOWERS** for today's service are given to the glory of God by the Evers on the occasion of Carl & Janetta's anniversary.

**PRAYERS:** Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Doris Scheuffele, Molly Webb (and brother, Jim), Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Linda Hill & Christina, Roberta Gowin, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, and Rylan Downs.

**STAR CHURCH DIRECTORY:** Please update your personal information as it changes (either online or blue sheets in narthex).

To view and use the directory online, go to:  
[members.instantchurchdirectory.com](http://members.instantchurchdirectory.com)

Follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now."

To view and use the directory on your smartphone:

download the App for "Instant Church Directory"

\*\*\* You will need to use your e-mail address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

## THIS WEEK

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>ESL (English as a Second Language), 6-7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.</b> <b>ESL, 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Worship, 10:00 a.m.</b>

## COMING UP

**Living Nativity, December 18, 4:00-6:00 p.m.**

**Las Posadas, 6:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve - Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Day - Festival Worship, 10:00 a.m.**

**... our salvation is nearer now  
than when we first believed.**



**- Romans 13:11**







