

**Apostles Evangelical Lutheran
Church and School**

3140 Broadwater Avenue • Billings, Montana 59102

Church Phone: (406) 656-7141

Jay Bickelhaupt, Pastor

Church Fax: (406) 656-7425

Phone: 656-2613

*Mission Statement of
Apostles Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod*

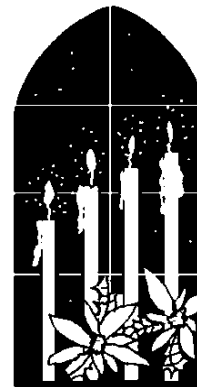
*As God's disciples, we the men, women and children of Apostles,
are united in the preaching, teaching and sharing of God's Word
in its truth and purity. By God's grace, we will nurture believers
and joyfully spread the Word of God in our community and
throughout the world, all to His glory.*



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 18, 2005

Prayer before worship:



Most High God, you sent your Son to be lowly in my place. The King of Kings took my sin – for that you deserve eternal praise. Look on me, as a child of that forgiveness and be with me as I worship this day. Strengthen me by the power of your Word; comfort me with the Annunciation of my Savior from sin; and keep me in your undeserved love until I come home to you. Amen.

God bless your worship.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN: "Savior of the Nations, Come" CW 2

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM Page 12
Welcome into membership Amanda and Robbie Connolly

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT Page 27

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST LESSON 2 Samuel 7:8-16

God reminds King David that he took him from the flocks of sheep and made him a great king. God also promises that he will set up a lasting kingdom for David and the people of Israel. Although David would not build a house for the Lord, the Lord would build a house for him-an everlasting kingdom on whose throne King Jesus would sit.

SECOND LESSON Romans 16:25-27

Paul praises God, who revealed Jesus Christ as the Savior that all might believe. The gospel message is "the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed."

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia.

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel announces the birth of the Savior to the Virgin Mary. The angel tells Mary that God would give her Son the throne of his father David, and Mary humbly accedes to the Lord's will.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" CW 23

SERMON TEXT Luke 1:26-38

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD!

- I. The highest serves the lowest**
- II. So that the lowest might serve too**

NICENE CREED Page 31

OFFERING

Guests and visitors, please do not feel that we expect an offering from you; but we thank you if you wish to assist us in our efforts to carry out our ministry of the gospel.

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

LORD'S PRAYER Page 32

THE SACRAMENT Page 33

COMMUNION HYMNS:

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" CW 19

"Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" CW 377

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: "The Advent of Our King" CW 1 vv. 5,6

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE – *Guests and visitors* – It will interest you to know that we do not seek to impose our practice of Holy Communion upon you. In fact, Scripture tells us that Communion is intended only for those who have been made familiar with the essence of the Sacrament (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), and who have previously expressed their agreement with a group of believers (1 Corinthians 10:17). Since Communion is the highest expression of unity among Christians, we believe that we should be truly united before we commune together. God tells us that true unity comes when Christians believe and confess the same truths according to His Word (Romans 15:5-6). If you haven't had the opportunity to express doctrinal agreement with us, we ask that you please observe our Communion service today, and then speak to pastor afterwards or during the week if you desire to receive the Sacrament in the future.



Holy Communion