



ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ONEONTA, NY

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
HARTWICK SEMINARY, NY

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LAURENS, NY

The Rev. Paul R. Messner, S.T.S., Pastor  
The Rev. Robert Mansbach, Pastor Emeritus

+Third Sunday in Advent+  
LBW Service of the Word  
December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



[18] as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

[19] I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.  
And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

[20] At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalmody: Isaiah 12:2-6** or LBW #28

Surely God is / my salvation;\*

I will trust, and will not / be afraid,

**for the Lord God is my strength / and my might;\***  
**he has become / my salvation.**

With joy you will draw water from the wells / of salvation.\*

And you will say / in that day:

**Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;**  
**make known his deeds / among the nations;\***  
**proclaim that his name / is exalted.**

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done / gloriously;\*

let this be known in / all the earth.

**Shout aloud and sing for joy, O / royal Zion,\***

**for great in your midst is the Holy One of / Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and / to the Son,\* and to the / Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the begin- / ning, is now,\* and will be forev- / er.**

**Amen.**

**Second Lesson: Philip. 4:4-7** A lesson from Philippians:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. [5] Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. [6] Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

\* **Gospel Acclamation**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

LBW #30 (st. 1)

**Holy Gospel: Luke 3:7-18 Glory to you, O Lord.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? [8] Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. [9] Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." [10] And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" [11] In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." [12] Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" [13] He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." [14] Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

[15] As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, [16] John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. [17] His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

[18] So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

\* **Gospel Response** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* LBW #30 (st. 2)

Children's Sermon/Homily Pr. Paul Messner (St. M/ A)  
Deacon Todd Eames (St. J/ Ev)

\* **Hymn of the Day** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* LBW #29

**RESPONSE**

\* **Sharing of the Peace of the Lord**

**Offering** (plates are at the door)

**Musical Offering** (A)

\* **Offertory** *Take My Life, That I May Be* LBW #406 (st. 1,4,6)

\* **Offertory Prayer:** pg. 87-88

Heavenly Father, accept the humble offerings we have brought / to honor the age-old promise you have kept. Because you came in Jesus Christ to show your will of love and peace, free us by him to serve you in his name. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**First Intercession:**

Eternal Lord, we worship you for the patient love by which you brought us to your light. Through the ages you kept faith in your promises, also for our benefit who yet knew nothing of your good will. Mercifully you overcome our fear and our weakness to love. Accept the praise of our lives as you inspire, the offerings of hearts made generous and compassionate, and our holy intentions for service in the coming year.

**Lord's Prayer**

pg. 130

**SENDING**

\* **Benediction**

pg. 130

\* **Recessional Hymn**

*Hark, the Glad Sound*

LBW #35

**Dismissal**

Go in Peace, Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**Pastors Pericope Paragraph 12/12**

(a "pericope" is a selected reading from scripture used as a lesson at worship)

Are you the One we've been waiting for since King David's time? People ask John, in hopeful expectation. No - but He is coming, he responds. He has come! He will come again (Gospel). Sing aloud! Shout! Rejoice! Do not fear: the Lord, your God, is in your midst! (1st Lesson). Rejoice! Always Rejoice! Because God's peace, surpassing all understanding, guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus! (2d lesson).

**Weekly Worship Practice:**

Note to parents and guardians- Please bring quiet, soft toys for our younger friends to use in the pews during worship. Some of our congregations have Children's Activity Bags available- feel free to use one any Sunday. Help us to keep them cleaned, re- stocked and placed back where they'll be ready for next Sunday. Thank you!

**In the OCLP We Practice The "Reserved Sacrament".** When laity "preside" at Holy Communion, they will use elements (bread and wine) previously consecrated by Pr. Paul at a prior worship service. Reserved elements are kept in an ambry for subsequent use in worship and distribution to the sick and shut-ins.

**All baptized Christians are welcome to God's Table of Grace.** All the baptized may commune in the OCLP with no age restriction. Those who commune in their home parishes are welcome to commune; those not yet communing of any age and for any reason may come forward to receive a verbal blessing. Indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest. Baptized children may

begin communing after parents have consulted with Pastor. The Lutheran Church believes, teaches and confesses that in, with and through the elements of bread and wine, Our Lord gives us His true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sin and the salvation of our lives. Anyone who has a legitimate impediment to receiving either element of the meal may receive in one kind only (bread or wine) and trust the Lord's grace that they are receiving full communion. Members, please fill out a "Voice From the Pew" folder to record your communion at least once a year. This is a constitutional requirement to determine our "Active" Voting membership roster. Thank You.

**+OCLP+**

We welcome Deacon Todd Eames to lead worship at Evangelical and St. John.

Next week we welcome ELCA Deacon Sandy Shear (Ret.) to lead worship at St. Matthew and Atonement

<b>Serving Today</b>	<b>Atonement</b>	<b>Evangelical</b>	<b>St. Matthew</b>
Comm. Asst.			
Asst. Minister	Chris Brown	Mark Howard	Dave Forbes
Lector	Chris Brown	Esther H	Rod Klafehn
Cantor	Chris Brown		
*Altar Care	Christine Brown	Carol B & Esther	
Ushers/Greeters	Dennis Sherrill	Lane	
Coffee Hour	Martha Messner		
Acolyte	Ethan Temming		
Sound System		Brunner	
Bell Ringer			
Church Cleaner			

**+ Readings Through This Week +**

See website: <https://www.otsegocountylutheranparish.com>

**+Prayers of the Church+**

(Please take this prayer list home and use with your personal devotion time)

**+Atonement+**

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: Joan Lambiaso, Richard Laitsch (John's brother), John Laitsch, Rebecca Pollack (Joan Carman), Juan Perez (D. Sherrill), Bridgette Shepardson (Thompson), Barbara Richardson (Denise), Patsy (H. Byrnes), Evelyn Hamilton (Lehenbauer), Rene Prins, Thomas Mendez, Heather Byrnes, Grace & Chuck Dietzman, Barbara Loitsch, Rita Nelson, Elizabeth Robinson (Messner), Thoranne Winkler,

Carmen Alvarez (Hopkins), Monica Koulis (Winkler)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Pr. Paul & Martha Messner

For young adult: Carly King

**+Evangelical+**

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: Kathi Yule (C. Butts), Yvonne Cornell, Dan Barrows (John and Pam Miller), Alex Reynolds (C. Butts), Marilyn Urbiss (Burda), Roz Winne (C. Butts), Janet Underwood (Burda), Gloria Hendricks, Susan Howard, John & Pam Miller, David Glynn, Esther Hughes, Tom Pritchard, Tad Mahoney, Bill Jacobson (D. Brown), Carl Hecker, Anthony Scarfuto (Boyd), Dwaine Sharett (Butts), Jim Desrocher (Boyd), Dick Woodhouse (Hazzard)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Gloria Hendricks

For Young Adult: Kristoff Jaeck

**+St. Matthew+**

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: Scott Forbes, Tina Keator, Sherrie Roy (Lawyer), Laura Emmet (Lawyer) , Peg Hughes (Janet B.), Lynn Benekin (Forbes), Barbara Gesile (Lapp), Gina Pywar, Erika Baker-Heinegg, Michele Tolen (T. Wood), Melissa McLaughlin (S. Eggers), Triston (Hahn), Cathy Walsh (Stevens), Ginny Ganio, Mary Hartmann (Nelson), Kent Hoyt Jr. (Ganio), Owen Basher (Marsh), Rennie Brown (Janet), Jason Hahn, Kathy & Rich Parsons, Karen Smith, Joe Hartmann, Patricia Psaltz (Sherry), Maureen McAndrew (Greenleaf), Mike McAndrew (Greenleaf), Cathy (Struckle), Bernie Sitts Jr. (Klafehn)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Sara Eggers

For Young Adult: Travis Marsh

**+Beyond the Parish+**

For healing in body, mind and spirit: Nancy Saxton Miller (Mansbach), Jackie Hesse (Lawyer), Rosemary Pepe (Eggers), Dorothy Fernandez, (Eggers), Dick Armstrong, Sue Haney, Rachel Fisher (Messner), Doug Dutcher (Crouthamel), Geoff Murphy (Walters), Helga Lange (Winkler), Elise Zayat, Kelsey Kohler (Mansbach), Judy Carnal (Dana), Gina Utter (Thompson), Cathy Deleski (Thompson), Alicia Biesler (Thompson), Margie Ortega (Thompson), Amy Cooper (Messner), Garth Swanson (Messner), Mike Quinn (Messner), Edee Cook (Rotolo)

**For those preparing for marriage:** Patrick Stevens & Taylor Johnson

**For those celebrating childbirth:** Jillian & Kyle Besemer on the birth of Scarlett Rae

**For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services:** The Hartwick Emergency Squad

**In the Foothills Conference:** Foothills Conference Dean Ken Simurro, Secretary William Hodgetts, the Cabinet and all pastors, rostered leaders, and congregations of our Foothills Conference

**National/ International Concerns:** all victims of religious, ethnic, and racial hatred, prejudice, genocide and slavery; the people of Afghanistan, Ethiopia; for those involved in the continuing crisis on our Southern border; for refugees & migrants; for those living in long term care facilities; for Catholic Charities and all who work with people in need; Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service (LICS)

**Natural and Man-Made Disasters:** Victims of the coronavirus, and those struggling with social isolation. For medical researchers, pharmaceutical companies, hospital workers, and all medical professionals. Victims of drought and famine.

**Foothills Conference Ordination Anniversary:**

For Pr. James Bresnahan, on the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination

For Pr. Elaine Berg, on the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her ordination

For Pr. Laura Daly, on the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her ordination

For Deacon Patsy Glista, on the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her commissioning

**+Blessed are the Dead+  
Who Die in the Lord**

+ Randy Jacob +  
(1951 – 2021)  
(Sally Messner’s father)

**+ Parish News and Notes +**

**+OCLP**

Please check your mailbox anytime you are in the building. Thanks!  
Remember to sign in for attendance and contact tracing. Thank you

**+A special welcome to all visitors, friends and guests.** Please fill out a Voice from the Pew folder and sign our Guest Book. Please include your complete mailing, e-mail address, and phone number. If you are new to the community or are looking for a Church Home, please let us know how we can be of service and consider our Christian family your own.

**Attendance & Offering Statistics**

Date	Atonement	Evangelical	St. Matthew
12/5	16/ 881 \$911	36/ 974	18/ 1008 \$1347
**	<b>(\$1,290)</b>	<b>(\$705)</b>	<b>(\$1,309)</b>
12/8	3/ 69	- / 63	8/ 337

**\*\* Needed to meet weekly expenses**

+ Attendance Goals

Help us break 1,000 in total attendance for 2021. St. Matthew, Evangelical, and Atonement are all closing in on that goal. Your presence is always a blessing!

**+ OCLP +**

+Evangelical

We have been blessed to receive a donation of handmade shawls. Shawls are crocheted by Linda Pokorny and Joyce Boyd.

Please help yourself to one for yourself, a family member, or anyone who might appreciate having one. Find them draped on the back pew.

+Atonement

**Flora on the Doors**

In the Advent and Christmas seasons, the four exterior doors of Atonement will, again this year, be graced with lovely wreaths ordered through Oneonta High School *Dollars for Scholars*. Should you wish to underwrite any of this greenery, each wreath costs \$25.00. Your check may be placed in the offering plate with "wreath" noted on the memo line.

Thank you for supporting our community academic achievers *and* helping to adorn church for the birthday of Jesus our King.

**+ Stewardship 2022 +**

Be on the lookout for your 2022 Stewardship Packets in your church mailbox or in the mail. Stewardship commitment Sunday will be on December 19<sup>th</sup> (postponed 1 week), Advent 4. Plan to return your pledge cards, time, and talent forms that day or as soon after as you can. Thank you for your support of God's Ministry in, through, and among us!

## + OCLP Current Projects +

### +Atonement

Our sanctuary windows are in increasing need of repair. There are some broken pieces, but the primary and pressing need is re-caulking. Estimates are around \$12,500 for all the work. To help with this capital project, use a special giving envelope and make checks payable to Atonement Lutheran Church (memo: stained glass window project) Thanks!

### +St. Matthew

Food donations to St. Matthew's food pantry are welcome. Please bring the items listed on the bulletin board; canned and boxed goods designed to provide our recipients with a week's worth of staples. We do not have the capacity to handle baked goods, produce, or other perishables. Please do not donate food items bearing lapsed expiration dates – for health and safety reasons we cannot distribute such items.

Cash donations are always welcome and appreciated. The food pantry is a totally volunteer operation – 100% of your donations go towards the purchase of food and personal care items.

Thanks for all of your support, which has enabled us to serve 40-60 families per month!  
For further questions and comments contact Patty & Rod Klafehn (607) 432-7883

### +Evangelical

Thanks to all who supported this summer and fall school supply and health care “kit” drives, and our recent rummage sales. Our current project is the Steeple Fund. Our estimate is \$15,000. We have been approved for an additional \$3,250 from the O'Connor Fund of Delhi in a dollar for dollar match. To donate, please designate “steeple fund” on your check memo or special giving envelope.

### + THIS WEEK +

(see Advent-Christmass-Epiphany schedule)

+Today Sunday 12/12: St. Lucia Coffee Hour @ St. Matthew; Stewardship Commitment Sunday

+Wednesday Services:

7:30am St. Matthew

Noon Evangelical

7:00pm Atonement

+Thursday 12/16: St. Matthew monthly food distribution, 4pm

+Thursday 12/16: OCLP Men's Dinner out @ Jay's Place, 3200 Chestnut St. Oneonta, 6:30pm

**+ COMING UP+**

- +Next Sunday 12/19: Advent 4; Atonement Council Meeting after worship
- +Wednesday 12/22: “Longest Night” service @ Christ Church, Cooperstown
- +Sunday 12/19: Christmass Caroling

+++

**+ Thought of the Week +**

Keeping Jesus the Focus of the Season:

1. Once a day during December, thank God for His Son, and his gift of eternal life.
2. Incorporate the simplicity and peace of the true Christmass Spirit into your holiday.
3. Begin one new tradition this year which incorporates the true meaning of Christmass.
4. Make a birthday cake out of breakfast breads. Serve it Christmass morning while everyone sings Happy Birthday to Jesus.
5. Take turns with your family members reading the Christmass story from the second chapter of Luke before opening gifts.

## **Otsego Country Lutheran Parish**

Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Oneonta, NY

Sunday Worship 10:30 am (Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays + festivals)

John Mushtare: President

Leslie Bauer: Organist

Barbara Loitsch: Choir Director

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hartwick Seminary, NY

Sunday Worship 9:30 am (Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays + festivals)

Joyce Boyd: President

Donna Brown: Organist

St. John Lutheran Church, West Burlington, NY

Sunday Worship 11:00 am (Holy Communion 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays + festivals)

Paul Hecker: President

Ethel Mills: Accompanist

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Laurens, NY

Sunday Worship 8:30 am (Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays + festivals)

Dave Forbes: President

Janet Brown: Organist

Parish Office: One Center Street, Oneonta, NY

Tel: 607-432-6852 E-mail: [OCLP\\_NY@outlook.com](mailto:OCLP_NY@outlook.com)

Office Manager: Kenneth Sliviak

Pastor: Paul R. Messner, 607-287-4534

[prpaul\\_theoinst@hotmail.com](mailto:prpaul_theoinst@hotmail.com)

(texting is often the most effective way to reach pastor)

Services of Healing are usually held on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of a month

<http://facebook.com/oclpny/>

<http://otsegocountylutheranparish.com>

Any news/ announcements/ or other information that you wish to have included in the weekly service bulletin must be received by the OCLP office no later than 9am on Thursday.

Items received after this time cannot be guaranteed to appear in that week's bulletin.

Items should be emailed to the OCLP office and appear exactly as you wish them to in the bulletin.