

## In the Bleak Midwinter

Song by Christina Rossetti and  
Gustav Holst

In the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan;  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter  
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain,  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty –  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom Cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk  
And a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom Angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

Angels and Archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air;  
But only His Mother  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a Shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man  
I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give Him,  
Give my heart.

## Pastor's Page

❖ **John 1:14:** "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of Grace and Truth"

❖ **Philippians 2:7:** "[he] emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men"

❖ **1 John 4:2:** "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God"

❖ **1 John 3:2** "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is".

"In the Bleak Midwinter," is a beautiful combination of poetry and music. My sister-in-law loved this song. She was an English teacher, and the poetry as well as the music were appealing to her, we remember her whenever we hear it. It is simple, quiet and powerful. Even if you have nothing else, were poor as the poet of the song, you can give your heart, your life, and a gift to the God who has become like you, in order to make you like Him. The bleak, harsh hardness of the world yields to the one who cannot be held by heaven and it is in a humble manger where he begins to conquest of sin and death by his own humble simplicity. We seek God in weak and lowly places was what Martin Luther liked to say.

It is the lowly, the creatures who welcome him even as the angels praise him, his nature as God and his humble human flesh borne by his mother who greets him with a kiss are the stuff of Christmas, both nostalgic and powerful. The tune in our hymnal, written by Gustav Holst, is also simple and more subdued than many of the songs we sing at Christmas and bears the words to our ears and hearts, seeking to move us to giving them up to this Son of God, lying in a manger. (There is another tune by Harold Darke that is also quite wonderful.)

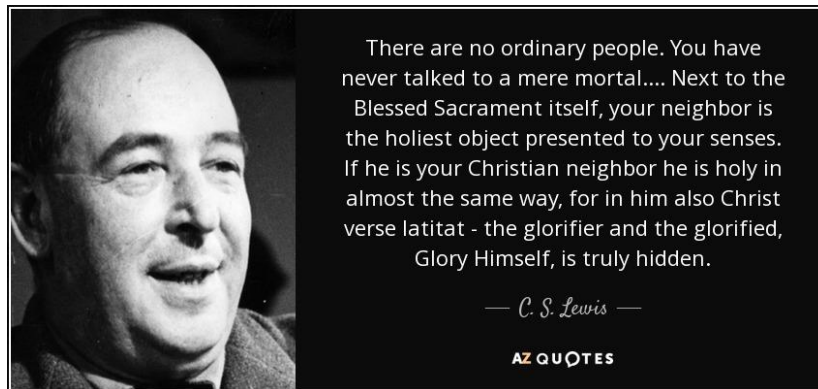
"This carol doesn't shout from the rooftops or the mountains about Christmas cheer; instead, it focuses on the simplest yet truest gift of all, love." Love doesn't always announce itself in gaudy displays, but takes on flesh and lives itself out among us in often humble and hidden ways. This is the story that begins at Christmas, God fulfills the promises whose fulfillment often seemed hidden from the eyes of God's people, but they do literally become visible in God's Son Jesus Christ, so that we may believe in the God who we have not seen. Having seen with our own eyes, we can point others to the God we know, rather than the hidden and unknown God for which many in the world are hoping for, searching for, crying out to in hope of answers.

We point them to this child whose life and ways teach us that his Father can be trusted to rescue us and give us new life. We can look at his life with faith and hope, that he might form us in love. It expresses that while believers are currently God's children, their future glorious state has not

been fully revealed, but we know with confidence that when it does come, we will be like the one who was born in a stable so long ago. Christmas is a light that shines in the darkness and cannot be overcome.



The birth of Jesus reminds us of the dignity and value of each life made in the image of God, for he is the firstborn, the image of God and in him God is restoring us to our intended status as children of God. C.S. Lewis says it well:



*Verse latitat* is a Latin phrase that translates to "the verse lies hidden" or "the verse lurks," often used in a religious context to mean that Christ is truly hidden within one's Christian neighbor. The word "latitat" means "to hide oneself," "to remain in hiding," or "to lurk".

11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.  
Titus 2:11-14

## Worship Notes for December

### December 7 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Readings:** Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12;

**Theme:** Sometimes the quickest way to get back on the right track is to

turn around. John the Baptist comes calling for repentance.

Where are

you going? Our promise is that we are headed toward God and God's future, but we are often lost and need to turn back and discover the way, the truth and the life that shapes our journey.

### December 14 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Readings:** Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11;

**Theme:** We human beings tend to see what we are looking for, which is why we are herd animals, hanging out with the like-minded. Jesus invites us to see as he sees, that we might discover the work of God

### December 21 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Readings:** Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

**Theme:** A child whose name is God with us. It is the promise which keeps us focused on our celebration this week, a promise fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ. This promise is God's answer to the cries of all creation for rescue.

### December 24 – Christmas Eve

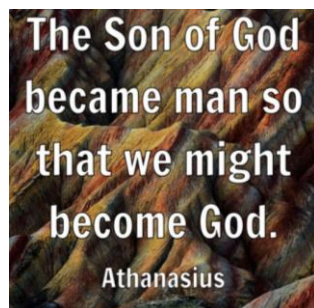
**Readings:** Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

**Theme:** Join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord on this Christmas Eve. Services are at 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

### December 28 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

**Readings:** Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Heb. 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

**Theme:** God's Word of Life and Truth brings out resistance among those who are dependent on the lies and half-truths upon which our sinful world is built. Herod's answer was the same as the Pharaoh in the time of Moses, death and slaughter. We live in a world that is still resistant to the good news of God's presence among us.



### Christmas Program

Christmas Program is on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

### Christmas Eve Schedule

Services are at 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

## Advent: A Season of Repentance

**“We all want progress. But progress means getting nearer to the place where you want to be. And if you have taken a wrong turning then to go forward does not get you any nearer. If you are on the wrong road progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man. There is nothing progressive about being pig-headed and refusing to admit a mistake. And I think if you look at the present state of the world it's pretty plain that humanity has been making some big mistake. We're on the wrong road. And if that is so we must go back. Going back is the quickest way on.”**

— C.S. Lewis, The Case for Christianity

## **Adult Education: Studies for Men and Women or Anyone Interested**

### **Women's Study: The Biblical Roots of Luther's Small Catechism**

Join the women as they finish up their study of Luther's Catechism. We meet on Mondays at 3:00 p.m.

### **Men's Study: The Story of the Bible**

We continue the study through Christmas and begin a new study in January. We meet on Saturdays at 8:00 a.m.

## **Changes to the Bible Studies for coming up in January**

### **Women's Study: Women of the Bible**

We meet on Mondays at 3:00 p.m.

### **Men's Study: The Parables of Jesus**

The men meet on Saturdays at 8:00.

**The Monday Evening Bible Study:** The Parables of Jesus begins Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

## **Confirmation Classes continue in December, break for Christmas and Resume January 7<sup>th</sup>**

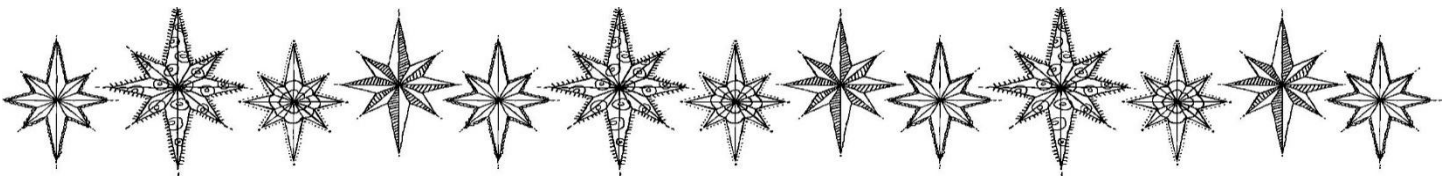
December 3	Lesson 10 Persecution/Stephen, the First Martyr
December 10	Quiz/Test Jesus and First Christians
December 17	Christmas Party
December 24	Christmas Eve
December 31	Christmas Break
January 7	Lesson 11 Paul (Saul): Proclamation to the Gentiles and Prisoner in Rome
	Lesson 12, Paul's Letter to the Ephesians: Adopted in Christ







*Christmas Eve Services will be at  
4:00pm, with the Candlelight  
Service at 8:00pm*



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*God came to earth in the Christmas birth of a tiny baby boy,  
Whose life and death are redeeming us yet with blessings, grace and joy.*

*Our minds may know this history but stand in awe at mystery.  
So faith becomes the way to make our hearts like "manger hearts"  
where Christ can dwell, and God imparts his wondrous love each day. -Peggy Ferrell*

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**Ceramics Painting Party - Christmas Ornaments!** Let's get together and paint on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm to 3:00pm! There will a selection of ornaments to choose from, with all supplies furnished. Cost will range from \$12 to \$20 depending on the ornament chosen. It will be tons of fun! Email or call Mary at 507-354-4672 for more details and to RSVP!



Would you like to bring joy to those who are on Christ the King's Carelist during the Christmas season? The simple and loving sending of a card would let them know we at Christ the King are thinking of them and holding them in our hearts and prayers! We have the Carelist and addresses in the office. THANK YOU!



***Thank you for the donations of candles, toilet paper and paper towel cardboard for Emily Austvold. On Dec 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> after services the product made from those items, Firestarters, will be available to purchase. They will make great stocking stuffers and gifts for Christmas.***

POINSETTIAS



You are invited to bring poinsettias to worship to place around the Advent Candles & Wreath. If you would like to donate in "honor of" or "in memory of" please let the office know by December 17<sup>th</sup> and the flowers can be brought in anytime. You may take them home after the last service on Christmas Eve.



Families are needed to volunteer to light the Advent Wreath both Saturday and Sunday for the month of December. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the nursery or you can call or email Church Office if you would like to participate.



Thanks from Char Klocke for the beautiful prayer shawl!

Thanks to Patty Eveslage and Marion Klimmek for making and donating cards to send to our Carelist members.

**Thanks from Kim Werner of the Socktober Campaign for our support. The collection overall will warm almost 1700 feet!**

Thanks to the Directory Committee for organizing and publishing our 2025 Church Directory?

Thanks from the United States Women of Today Organization for donating our Fellowship Hall to hold their meetings and events by presenting The Friendship Award! The Award is on display on the Narthex Bulletin board.



Please consider a donation to the Little Pantry and thanks so much to everyone who has already donated! We continue to be a welcome service for those in need.



### Stewardship Creed

*I believe in the gifts of God and feel gratitude for all I have been given, These gifts are not mine to have, but mine to share.*

*When they are shared, my gifts will make a difference for others. And I believe the act of giving is more important than the gift itself. I will make giving a priority.*

*I will give to others because so much of what I have comes from others.*

*I will give of who I am, what I do, and what I have.*

### Pantry Items Needed

Macaroni and Cheese  
Pasta, Tuna & Cream of Mushroom Soup  
Pasta & Spaghetti Sauce  
Canned vegetables  
Canned fruit  
Canned pasta such as Ravioli or Spaghetti Os  
Boxed meals such as Tuna Helper, can of tuna  
Cake Mixes  
Pancake Mix & Syrup  
Cereal  
Baby Food  
Toilet paper  
Paper towels  
Cleaning supplies  
Personal Hygiene products  
Diapers & Wipes



**Sign up for Subsplash Giving online and set up a one time or recurring gift and giving will be easier than ever!** Follow this link: <https://subsplash.com/u/christ-the-king-lutheran/give> or scan this QR code.

# IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Beth and Tyler Zambino on the passing of Beth's father, Bob Johnson  
Paul Wojahn currently hospitalized at New Ulm Medical Center  
Carl Zeidler recovering from knee replacement surgery  
Kyle Howk undergoing surgery and chemotherapy  
Stephanie Born, daughter-in-law of Dennis and Kathie Born as she has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

Pam Klossner and Family on the loss of her mother, Joni Mehlhop.  
Cindy Klingler recovering from hip surgery  
Sharon Brennan suffering from shingles and leg spasms  
Diane Bode recovering from surgery  
Brian Kloos recovering from foot surgery  
Sheila Friske recovering from foot surgery  
Joanne Cherrington and Family upon the passing of Roger Cherrington  
Gayle O'Connor undergoing chemo treatments and experiencing discomfort  
Dave Schauman is recovering at home from a traumatic brain injury  
Char Klocke is now residing at Valley View Home in Lamberton

**\*\*There is a new Care List available in the office for those who would like to send cards\*\***

Let us know if you would like to be on the email Prayer Chain for notifications about those members in need of prayer.

## **Carelist Cards**



***There is an updated CareList in the office for anyone who wishes to send cards or call those members who are struggling. The Holidays are a time when receiving a card or a call can brighten a person's day immeasurably! Call Mary and she will send a CareList to you by mail or email.***



**Caregiver Coffee Hour** - The Caregiver Coffee Hour started in March and we have had a great response – so many folks out there caring for others and it's great to know that there is support available, even if it's just a shoulder to lean on! This group will meet the first and third Thursday of each month.

December dates are the 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at Christ the King Lutheran Church at 1:00pm. Coffee and snacks will be served.

If you are a caregiver to a loved one and would like to get out and socialize with others that are in the same type of situation, this is the group for you! If your loved one can't be left alone, you can bring them along, and we will have some activities that they can participate in as well, while you have some time to yourself to recharge.





## CHRISTMAS DINNERS FOR FAMILIES

Please consider making a donation to our Christmas Baskets Fund to provide Holiday Baskets of Food for those in need them or consider purchasing food items to fill baskets. We need donations by December 14<sup>th</sup> so that our volunteers have time shop for the food items.

And please consider volunteering to coordinate this effort – any help would be gratefully appreciated.

If you know of someone who would benefit please let the church office know. Contribution envelopes will be made available.

If you are interested, please contact the church office, 507-354-4672.

### ***Suggested Food Items***

#### **Turkey Dinner**

Turkey  
Potatoes  
Gravy  
Cranberry Sauce  
Box Stuffing  
Corn or Green Beans  
Dinner Rolls  
Pie or Dessert

#### **Ham Dinner**

Ham  
Box Scalloped or Au Gratin Potatoes  
Green Beans or Corn  
Corn Bread Mix or Dinner Rolls  
Pie or Dessert

**Putri★Interni**

## HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled

CODE:



Answers: snow, hot, mild, tropical heat, gusty winds, breezy



# Youth News



- December 5<sup>th</sup> – Movie Night 6:30pm
- December 7 – Glory and Goodies Christmas Brunch
- December 14 – Children's Christmas Program 10:15am
- December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> – Bake Sale Douglas G. Larsen Scholarship Committee

**Club 1515 has started** - 3rd-6th graders are invited to come after school on Wednesdays from 3:30-5pm throughout the year. We meet at Washington School and walk up to church. This year we are having a snack, devotion, and then trying to focus on Service projects in the community. Come and check it out!



**Movie Night December 5<sup>th</sup>** - Join us for a good movie and great snacks! (Feature to be announced.)

## **The Douglas G. Larsen Scholarship Fund Christmas Bake Sale!**



**Saturday, December 13th and Sunday, December 14th**

We're asking all families with children ages pre-K to 12th grade to donate your favorite holiday treats for the sale!

Money raised supports post-secondary scholarships for our congregation's youth!

Specifics:

- Please donate 1-2 plates of your family's favorite Christmas cookies or other holiday treat traditions!
- DECORATE your donations, make it a gift to the buyers!
- No need to mark a price, this will be a "free-will" offering!
- Donation should be dropped off at the church kitchen by 2 p.m. Saturday the 13th!

**THANK YOU on behalf of the Scholarship Committee and the Scholarship Recipients!**

**Join in the fun**  
**for Christmas**  
**Glory and**  
**Goodies!!**



*Glory & Goodies*

*Christmas*  
**BRUNCH**

**December 7, 2025**

**During coffee fellowship  
10-Noon**

Bring a breakfast/brunch item such  
as cinnamon rolls, egg bake,  
breakfast burrito, juice and enjoy  
some fellowship and make some  
Christmas crafts.





# DECEMBER

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 1:30pm Prayer Shawl 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Youth Ministry 6:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>2</b> 9:00am Staff Mtg 10:00am Worship TV, Public Access 3:45pm Personnel Comm Mtg	<b>3</b> 5:00pm Worship TV 6:00pm Confirmation Meal 6:30pm Confirmation Class 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 1:00pm Caregiver's Group	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 1:00pm Ceramics Painting 5:33pm Worship
<b>7</b> 9:00am Sunday Worship 2 <sup>nd</sup> Advent 10:15 Sunday School 10:30am Glory and Goodies	<b>8</b> 1:30pm Parkinson's Group 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Grief Support 7:00pm Women of Today	<b>9</b> 9:00am Staff Mtg 10:00am Worship TV, Public Access 4:30pm United Players	<b>10</b> 5:00pm Worship TV 6:00pm Confirmation Meal 6:30pm Confirmation Class 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am League of Women's Voters 5:33pm Worship Bake Sale
<b>14</b> 9:00am Sunday Worship 3 <sup>rd</sup> Advent 10:30 Children's Christmas Prog. Bake Sale	<b>15</b> 1:30pm Prayer Shawl 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>16</b> 9:00am Staff Mtg 10:00am Worship TV, Public Access 3:00pm STAY Grp 6:15 pm Finance 6:30pm Council Mtg	<b>17</b> 4:00pm Oak Hills Worship 5:00pm Worship TV 6:00pm Confirmation Meal 6:30pm Confirmation Class 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 1:00pm Caregiver's Group	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 5:33pm Worship
<b>21</b> 9:00am Sunday Worship 4 <sup>th</sup> Advent 10:15 Sunday School	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Adoption Meeting	<b>23</b> 9:00am Staff Mtg 10:00am Worship TV, Public Access	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve  Services at 4:00pm and 8:00pm	<b>25</b> Christmas Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 5:33pm Worship
<b>28</b> 9:00am Sunday Worship 10:15 Sunday School	<b>29</b> 3:00pm Women's Bible Study	<b>30</b> 9:00am Staff Mtg 10:00am Worship TV, Public Access	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve			





## CtK's Helping Hands Fund

### For October

Given - \$	1,761.00
Utilities - \$	1,424.29
Housing - \$	2,219.96
Car Repairs - \$	.00
Gas Cards - \$	513.00
Groceries - \$	475.00
Misc - \$	938.44

### Financial Report for October

Given - \$	20,769.09
Budgeted - \$	28,784.26
Given YTD - \$	276,927.65
Budgeted YTD - \$	304,571.79

#### Christ the King Council Members

**President:**  
Kurt Johnson

**Vice President:**  
Josh Walth

**Secretary:**  
Amy Johnson

**Treasurer:**  
Beth Zambino

**Members:**  
Elmer Rettig  
Bill Steinke  
Pat Novak  
Lauren Buckentine  
Miriam Waldner  
Ryan Meyer

#### Staff

**Pastor**  
Timothy Anderson

**Finance Manager:**  
Jen Kapolczynski

**Administrative  
Assistant:**  
Mary Lammers

**Visitation Ministry  
Coordinator:**  
Helen Christenson

**Youth Education  
& Youth Ministry  
Coordinator:**  
Geri Groebner

**Custodian:**  
Cindy Fahey

**Music  
Coordinator:**  
Connie Jacobs

**Choir Director:**  
Anne-Lise Johnson

## CtK's Council Minutes

### Minutes of the October Meeting

**Mission Statement of our Congregation:** "A Family of Christians welcoming all as we journey with God to teach, love, and serve others."

**Highlights from past month** – 3 year olds and 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders received their Bibles; The choir has been up and running. There was a pottery event this past Saturday; Bible studies have been going well. confirmation, Club 1515 and Sunday school are going; Pancake breakfast brought in around \$775 and there's a need to reestablish the scholarship committee; Caregivers Support group has been going well.

#### **Pastor's Report –**

**Sound issues and streaming needs.** Muska Electric is working on some solutions that we hope will help some of our sound issues and improve our streaming. Improvements include adding a second camera, raising the microphones, adding a screen to the narthex to improve the sound for people who worship in that area. One of their sub-contractors is working on reducing our echo in the sanctuary while Muska is putting together a bid for improvements on the system.

#### **Thanksgiving service will be Wednesday evening at Our**

**Savior's.** Pastor Kathy asked that it be at Our Savior's since it is easier to plan a service at your own church. We will need to find some lay people to assist with the service. We shall start first with council members. The choir will sing.

**Coat drive and Auction for Helping Hands are getting organized for November.** We've received some coats for the drive and auction items.

#### **Youth Ministry Report:**

Trunk or Treat will be Friday night at Prairie Senior Cottages and Saturday afternoon with ECFE.; Jr High Youth Gathering will have 8-9 youth attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in November.

**Personnel Committee** – Personnel Committee – Protecting against sexual abuse policy and training and will align with the synod and insurance policy. Discussed insurance policy and we now have United Health which will cover the youth coordinator. Last year's cost was \$1072.81 and this year's will be \$1078.74 per month. Bill moved to approve the agenda and seconded by Miriam; motion carried.

**Constitutional Committee** - Will be meeting next week and the document will be ready for and introduced at the annual meeting. We are not changing the constitution but adding what has been added to the synod's constitution.

***Christ the King  
Lutheran Church***  
1515 North Garden Street  
New Ulm, MN 56073

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## ***December 2025***

***Worship  
Services***

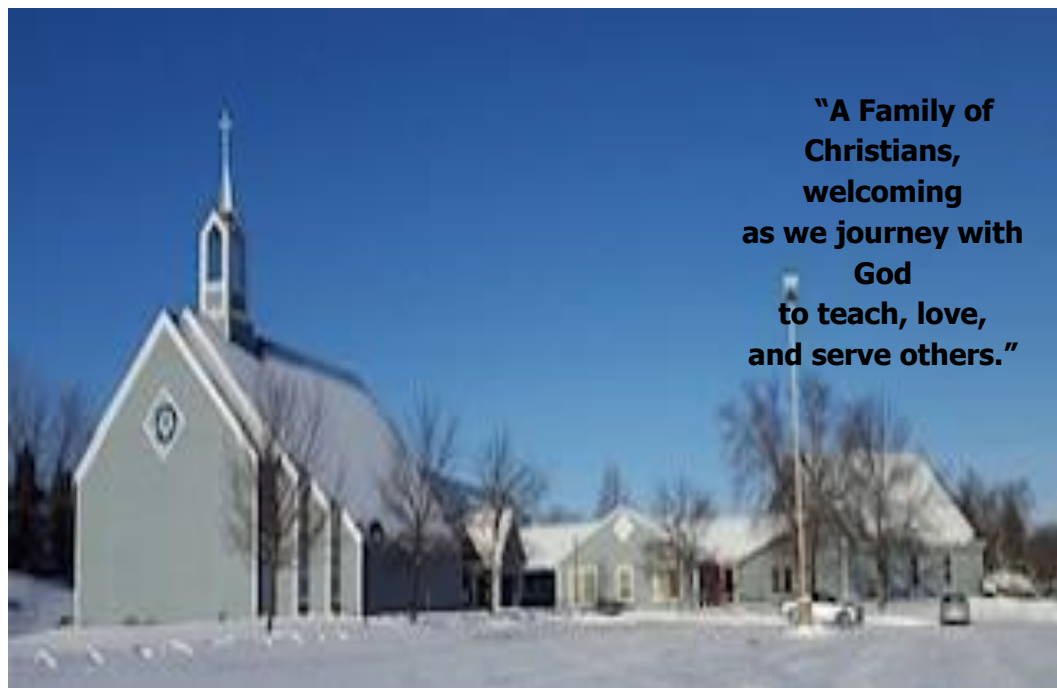
***Saturday  
5:33pm***

***Sunday  
9:00am***

***Streamed on  
Facebook Live  
and***

***Available on  
Public Access  
Television***

***Tuesdays 10am  
Wednesdays  
5pm***



**"A Family of  
Christians,  
welcoming  
as we journey with  
God  
to teach, love,  
and serve others."**