

Whitnall Park Lutheran Church

5847 Lilac Lane, Hales Corners, WI 53130

(414) 425-1169

Pastor Michael Fazio

Summer Worship Services:

Sun. 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Sunday School 9:30

Office hours: Mon-Thurs 8am-1pm

Email: assistant@wplchurch.org

Website: www.wplchurch.org

December, 2025



Christmas Week Services

Christmas Eve

Wed. 12/24 - 5 pm & 7pm

Christmas Day

Thurs. 9:30 am

A WORD FROM PASTOR FAZIO . . .

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Can you believe that the season of Advent is upon us already? As I get older, life seems to be moving faster and faster, especially with two teenage sons growing into men...when did this happen??? Now, with Christmas right around the corner, the world of sales and marketing is telling us that we need to become even busier than we already are so we don't miss out on the latest and greatest toy, game or sporting good item. It's all too easy to get caught up in the hype of the season and lose sight of why we're celebrating to begin with.

One way that we can slow ourselves down in the midst of the ensuing chaos is to simply focus on being present in the moment and pay attention to our surroundings. I've been noticing various changes going on in the stores around town; they're looking greener with the presence of Christmas trees and even smelling more like the holiday season with the scents of cinnamon and hot apple cider. Soon, our church too will take on a different appearance with the Advent season.

For me, seeing the Advent wreath, and all that it symbolizes to us as Christians, is an excellent reminder to slow down and pay attention. The Advent wreath, like most symbols, has an interesting history. It first developed in the pre-Christian practices of northern Europe. People of that region sought the return of the sun during the darkest time of the year (at the winter solstice) by lighting candles and fires. Then, as early as the Middle Ages, Christians adopted the use of candles and began using fire and light to represent Christ's coming into the world. Using this same symbolism, the Advent wreath developed a few centuries ago in Germany as a sign of the waiting and hopeful expectation of the glorious return of our Lord.

The wreath, a circle, came to represent the eternal victory over death through Christ, and the unending reign of God. The evergreens became a sign of the faithfulness of God to His people, even unto death, and the lighted candles were a reminder of the light of Christ that has come into the world. The wreath is outfitted with five candles; one being lit each week as a way of preparing for the coming of the Messiah. Week after week we will light one more candle as our anticipation of the mystery and wonder of Christmas grows. The four candles represent our hope, peace, love, and joy that are present in Christ, and at the center of the wreath stands the candle representing Jesus himself, which will be lit on Christmas Eve in commemoration of his miraculous birth in Bethlehem.

As we go about our daily lives this Advent season, we will surely from time to time get caught up in life's busyness. That's why we need to be encouraged all the more to take the time as often as possible to be still, realize the true nature of Advent and Christmas, and notice His wonderful presence in our midst. Life does move quickly; let's not fail to notice the miracle as we're planning our next events.

In Christ,

Pr. Michael

Seeds of Faith



*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace". - Isaiah 9:6*

Dear WPLC Families,

As we embrace the season of Advent and prepare our minds and hearts for Christmas, our Sunday School is abuzz with activity and excitement! December is a special time in our faith community, and we have many wonderful opportunities for families to connect, learn, and grow together. This month, we'll be connecting the stories in scripture to the birth of our Savior by physically practicing and performing our Christmas Pageant for our congregation at the second service on Dec. 14th.

Sunday School Important Dates: Sunday, Dec. 7th & 14th WPLC Pageant practice during class.

Youth Group Important Dates: Sunday, Dec. 14th @12-2p. House of Prayer and WPLC will join together immediately after the second service in the WPLC Fellowship Hall for our Gingerbread Decorating Competition. Lunch will be served. The curriculum for December includes:

December 7: Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12,

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10, Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

Key Verse: "Bear fruit worthy of repentance." – Matthew 3:8

The Point: God calls us to turn from our selfish ways and do God's work.

December 14: Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11,

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10 Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Key Verse: [John's disciples] said to [Jesus], "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" – Matthew 11:3

The Point: Jesus' powerful actions show that he is indeed the promised Messiah.

December 21: Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16, Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Key Verse: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." – Matthew 1:20

The Point: Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us.

Many thanks in advance to all the families including my own who are helping with making this important month in celebrating the birth of our wonderful Savior in our faith community a very joyful process! Merry Christmas to you and your beautiful families!

In Christ,

Kathy Fazio, DCE

262-352-9302

kathy.fazio@wplchurch.org



Sponsored by Ladies of WPLC and Dorcas Sewing Group

Let the holiday baking begin! We are looking forward to another great Cookie & Bake Sale this year. We need A LOT of bakers to make LOTS of Christmas cookies for the cookie boxes along with all the other favorite bakery items for the sale. Everyone looks forward to the delicious cookies and bakery every year. Won't you please consider joining in on the holiday baking fun; your help is always appreciated. Please have your cookies at church no later than 9 am Friday morning, Dec. 12th, so that we can include them in the cookie boxes.

If you would like to get in on MORE fun...consider joining us with packaging, wrapping and filling cookie boxes on the 12th at 9 AM! "*Many hands make light work*"... and great fun!

Questions? See sign-up sheets along with more information on bulletin board or call Pat Suderland 414-425-4647 or Sharon Hause 262-679-2161.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

November 30th and December 7th coffee hours will benefit the **Capuchin Community Services food pantry**.

Unity Lutheran Church is a warming center every night (7pm – 7am) through March to provide shelter for adults. Seasonal clothing and food donations are in need.

Clothing ministry: (*emphasis on:* hooded sweatshirts, men's gloves, new men's gym socks, backpacks) men's belts, men's jeans (waist size 34 inches and lower), quilts, blankets, new underwear, shoes, shirts, sweaters, coats, boots, hygiene items (deodorant, foot powder, lotion, body wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes).

Take-out meal ministry: first Wednesday of the month from 1–3 pm to prepare a hot meal of chili. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Food pantry: chicken soup (*a popular item*), white rice, canned pasta/chicken/tuna, Triscuits, canned fruit (apple sauce, peaches, pears), Knorr side dishes (rice/noodle), canned potatoes / pasta / mushrooms, olives (ripe/stuffed), condiments (ketchup/mustard / mayo). Food and clothing donations will be delivered on Tuesday, Dec. 16th .



CommUNITY meal: the next hot meal is Wednesday, Dec. 17th . Volunteer sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for meal prep, meal serve, fellowship and clean-up. There is a need for more clean-up volunteers in the 6:30 – 7:30 pm time slot.

Mt. Meru Premium Tanzanian Coffee

A new announcement for the upcoming coffee holiday sale will be posted in the yellow pages. All sales help improve the lives of coffee farmers, their families, and communities in the Mt. Meru Diocese of Tanzania.

Holiday/greeting cards are available for purchase for a nominal amount. They are on a stand next to the Mt. Meru coffee display. Proceeds support Social Ministry.

Spotlight on Capuchin Community Services

Their mission is to attend to spiritual and other basic human needs, especially to those experiencing poverty and disenfranchisement, promoting justice for all. The following services are provided:

- The House of Peace is a place of fellowship, health and wholeness through the food pantry, clothing closet, wellness center and legal clinic. All programs and services offered are free of charge.
- St. Ben's offer's a community meal five evenings a week. The Open-Door Ministry at St. Ben's offers showers, laundry, emergency clothing and hygiene items, social workers and is a warming center during the during the winter

Need a tasty gift for coworkers, friends, or family? Gift packs of delicious Mt. Meru Premium Tanzanian Coffee will be available for purchase between worship services on December 7, 14, and 21st. This year, we welcome back the popular **Christmas Traditions Blend (\$18 for 12 oz bag)**, which combines 100% Mt. Meru premium Arabica coffee beans with the rich flavors of cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla, and other spices. With an aroma that puts you in the Christmas mood, it's the perfect seasonal blend for drinking coffee with friends and family. Like previous years, we are also offering the versatile **holiday 4-pack (\$15) and 6-pack (\$20) samplers**. Bags of regular and decaf coffee (both flavored and unflavored) are also available for \$12. The Mt. Meru Coffee Project is celebrating a monumental 25th anniversary of ministry, a quarter-century of partnership with Tanzanian coffee farmers. Their commitment to fair trade has driven significant growth, now impacting the livelihoods of nearly 1,000 farmers and their communities in Tanzania.



Council Meeting

Was not held until November 25th, update will follow soon



YOUTH GROUP

GINGERBREAD HOUSE

Decorating Competition Party

Get into the holiday spirit with a Gingerbread House Decorating Competition Party! Gather your friends for a delightful evening of icing, candies, and creative confections. Lunch will be served!

14 DECEMBER 2025

12-2P

Location:

Whitnall Park Lutheran Church

5847 Lilac Lane

Hales Corners, WI 53130





Bradley Metzger, 12-02

Jerome Thome, 12-03

Ashley Cornell, 12-03

Kodye Shier, 12-07

Christina Sparacino, 12-08

Jennine Sonntag, 12-08

Henry Nickel, 12-08

Carla Alden, 12-09

Celia Stollenwerk, 12-10

Lydia Wiegert, 12-11

Valerie Lund, 12-13

Oscar Sorvick, 12-13

Laura Rakow, 12-14

Kathy Sonntag, 12-16

Jacob Peters, 12-17

Lyndsay Schaffner, 12-18

Carl Medeiros, 12-21

Patrick Casey, 12-21

Laurie Sorvick, 12-22

Robert Paneitz, 12-23

Carly Leon, 12-26

Matthew Fazio, 12-26

Wendi Brugger, 12-26

Sharon Kaempfer, 12-28

Melanie Strom, 12-28

Lynn Stanton, 12-29

Donna Winiarski, 12-30

Robert Horcos, 12-30

Gregg and Laurie Sorvick, 12-02

Don and Shirle Holt, 12-06



Jon and Janine King, 12-28

Sidney and Susan Arthur, 12-14

Connor and Jesslyn McMahon, 12-31

President: Adam Fiedler

Vice Pres: Connor McMahon

Treasurer & Finance:

Lisa Douglas

Secretary: Rachel Vick

Endowment: Matt Grubis

Council Member: Mitchell Rakow



Email: council@wplchurch.org

Fellowship: Rev. Michael Fazio

Property: Connor McMahon

Director of Christian Education

Kathy Fazio

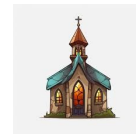
Worship & Music: Rev. Michael Fazio

WPLC Property Update

The meeting for November needed to be cancelled so there is not an update at this time. We will have something ready for January.

Thank you for your patience and to all who helped with repairs and decorating.

Larry Pfeil



Monday, December 8th, 2025, at 3:00 pm

Book Club & High Tea at Robin Brodie's house: 4845 Sycamore St., Greendale

RSVP to robinbrodie@yahoo.com

Book discussion: Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan



It is 1985 in a small Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man faces into his busiest season. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, Bill makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silences of a town controlled by the church.

We are in need of Assistant Ministers, Ushers and Acolytes. If you are interested, please call the church office or talk to Pastor Fazio for more information.

Thank you for considering trying something new.

God Bless!



Altar Flowers

Our 2026 flower calendar is posted on the bulletin board. Please select a date to place flowers on the altar in honor or memory of someone or a special event in your life. Please call the church office if you have any questions.



God Bless!

Worship Services

Services are live streamed on YouTube. Recorded services are also available on YouTube. Worship bulletins for the most current services can be found on our website: www.wplchurch.org ~ under the publications tab.

Sunday, December 7th		
*8:30 am	*10:30 am	Readings:
Assisting Minister ~ Linda Shea	Assisting Minister ~ Matt Grubis	Isaiah 11:1-10
Altar Guild ~ Pat Suderland	Altar Guild ~ Elaine Johnson	Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19
Ushers ~ Larry Pfeil	Ushers ~ Jerry Rakow	Romans 15:4-13
Acolyte ~ Mila Leon	Acolyte ~ Ethan LeHouillier	Matthew 3:1-12
Sunday, December 14th		
* 8:30 am	*10:30 am	Readings
Assisting Minister ~ Doug Winter	Assisting Minister ~ Matt Hampel	Isaiah 35:1-10
Altar Guild ~ Linda Shea	Altar Guild ~ Sandy Abraham	Psalms 146:5-10
Ushers ~ Noah Leon	Ushers ~ Greg & Dorothy Saari	James 5:7-10
Acolyte ~ Joe Leon	Acolyte ~ Volunteer Needed	Matthew 11:2-11
Sunday, December 21st		
*8:30 am	*10:30 am	Readings
Assisting Minister ~ Meg Sutton	Assisting Minister ~ Jennine Sonntag	Isaiah 7:10-16
Altar Guild ~ Barb Meyrose	Altar Guild ~ Pat Suderland	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
Ushers ~ Jeff Dietz	Ushers ~ Jerry Rakow	Romans 1:1-7
Acolyte ~ Zia Roe	Acolyte ~ Camille Sutton	Matthew 1:18-25
Sunday, December 24th		
*5:00 pm	<i>*Christmas Eve Worship*</i>	Readings
Assisting Minister ~ Doug Winter	Assisting Minister ~ Matt Hembrook	Isaiah 9:2-7
Altar Guild ~ Volunteer Needed	Altar Guild ~ Volunteer Needed	Psalms 96
Ushers ~ Jeff Girard & Connor M.	Ushers ~ Larry Pfeil & Ryan Peters	Titus 2:11-14
Acolyte ~ Lilian Cole	Acolyte ~ Volunteer Needed	Luke 2:1-20
Sunday, December 25th		
*9:30 am	<i>*Christmas Day Worship*</i>	Readings
Assisting Minister ~ Matt Hembrook		Isaiah 62:6-12
Altar Guild ~ Sandy Abraham		Psalms 97
Ushers ~ Jeff Dietz		Titus 3:4-7
Acolyte ~ Volunteer Needed		Luke 2:1-20
Sunday, December 28th		
*8:30 am	*10:30 am	Readings
Assisting Minister ~ Marjorie Pagel	Assisting Minister ~ Linda Shea	Isaiah 63:7-9
Altar Guild ~ Janel Oberheu	Altar Guild ~ Pat Suderland	Psalms 148
Ushers ~ Connor McMahon	Ushers ~ Ryan Peters	Hebrews 2:10-18
Acolyte ~ Volunteer Needed	Acolyte ~ Volunteer Needed	Matthew 2:13-23

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 1ST**

10:00 am & 6:30 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Dartball (*home*)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

9:00 am Dorcas

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

6:30 pm Choir practice

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

6:30 pm AA Meeting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

Pastor off/Office closed

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH**

8:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

3:00 pm Book Club

7:00 pm Dartball (*away*)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

9:00 am Dorcas

7:00 pm Property Meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

6:30 pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

6:30 pm AA Meeting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

Pastor off/Office closed

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH**

Christmas Bake Sale

8 am-12:30 pm

8:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

**Children's Christmas program
during 10:30 service*

Noon Youth Group Gingerbread
House Event

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

10:00 am & 6:30 pm Bible Study

7:00 pm Dartball (*home*)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

6:30 pm Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

6:30 pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

6:30 pm AA Meeting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

Pastor off/Office closed

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST**

8:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

No Dartball (off)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH**

Christmas Eve Worship

5:00 pm Worship

7:00 pm Worship (Choir)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

Christmas Day Worship

9:30 am Worship

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

Pastor off/Office closed

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27TH**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH**

8:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

**No Dartball **

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30TH**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST**