



Communion Notice Today we celebrate Holy Communion in which we joyfully receive Christ’s own body and blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. Because we believe that participation in this sacrament is also a public confession of unity in the faith we invite communicant members of congregations in fellowship with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod to receive the sacrament.

We welcome our fellow Christians who wish to come forward but do not share all our beliefs to fold their arms in front of them and receive a blessing. We pray that our common baptism and the continued work of the Holy Spirit will draw us closer to one another and dispel the sad divisions that separate us. We pray that as we are led into all truth from God’s Word such divisions will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ’s prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). Let us all express in our hearts a prayerful desire for such unity of faith to be achieved.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to our guests. We are glad you have joined us in worshipping our Lord and Savior. We trust you will draw strength, peace, and hope as together we hear God's Word spoken here today. So that we may serve you better, we ask that you fill out an attendance card located on the back of the pew, including your address and noting that you are a visitor.

ETERNAL CANDLE The eternal candle glows to the glory of God from Larry and Sharon Ripka.

ALTAR FLOWERS The flower bouquet that adorns the Altar is from Karen Schmidt.

FOOD PANTRY We would like to say a huge and heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone for all of the donations we have received! We are so blessed with a congregation that supports our mission to help feed the hungry in our community! For December, we will be collecting items for a Christmas dinner: casserole ingredients, sides, etc.

BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES: Trauma, emotional distress, depression, anxiety, or family conflict negatively impact many people, including those within our church fellowship today. When it does, we are often left searching for answers without knowing where to find help, especially help that will share and incorporate the important tenants of our Lutheran Christian faith. Lutheran Family Service offers professional mental health counseling with master’s prepared and licensed therapists who share your faith and world view, now available to all regardless of location through telehealth. Call us...it’s why we’re here! **Lutheran Family Service** www.LutheranFamilyService.org

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY *Matthew 3:1–2 – “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”* John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus’ ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out His disciples to preach “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 24:47). We never outgrow the need for repentance — for examining our lives, turning away from our sins and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive his forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness.

POINSETTIAS Altar guild will be ordering poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. The cost is \$10 per plant. Please use the envelopes and box located at the sign-up station to place your order.

CHURCH DECORATING Many hands make light work! Please join us on Sunday, December 14th after Bible study and Sunday school to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas.

2ND FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP Christmas Party: Dec. 12th at 6:30pm Join us for fun Friday night sharing terrific treats, fun fellowship and some Christmas-themed games including Christmas Trivia, Christmas Pictionary, and Bingo. If you are able, bring a treat to share. Beverages will be provided

VOTER’S MEETING December 14th at 1:30pm We will begin with our regular agendas for December, and then move into a special Pastoral Call Voter’s Assembly. We will be voting on a candidate to extend a call.

PUZZLE TOURNAMENT Save the Date! January 18th, the fellowship committee invites you to take part in our first ever puzzle tournament. Cost is \$5 per person; 2 person teams; there will be prizes and treats! Sign up at the sign-up station.

FELLOWSHIP CALLERS Charlie Britton is looking for anyone interested in being a fellowship caller in 2026. It’s very easy, and you only are ‘on duty’ one weekend a month. Please see Charlie if you have questions or would like to join the team.

LCMS FOUNDATION We can face competing priorities when we think about planning our estates someday. As we wrap up this year long consideration, we must ponder whether we see our estate plan as an expression of our Christian faith or just giving up on life. For many years, we focus on building and accumulating. Eventually, however, we must pass on financial assets to others, primarily family or ministries. If done correctly, this “passing on” is a plan for continuing the use of God’s gifts, conveying His blessings. This isn’t giving up at all, as we look to inherit our eternal inheritance. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you gain this perspective. Contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or scott.radden@lfnd.org

THANK YOU The church passed out eight Thanksgiving boxes based on nominations from the members. Thanks to everyone that made a special donation for this purpose we help eight families have the opportunity to have a great Thanksgiving meal.

**December 6th & 7th, 2025
Second Sunday in Advent
Divine Service Setting IV**

Prelude		
Preparation		
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(Sun.) Pastor Anderson “Road Work”		
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Distribution		
<i>Cherub Chimers “O Sing a Song....”</i>		
<i>Arr. by: Chris D. Burton</i>		
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The Lord's Week

Sunday, December 7th

9:00am– Worship w/ Communion
10:30am– Bible Study/Sunday school
10:30am– Confirmation Instruction

Monday, December 8th

1:30pm– Activities room
6:00pm– Cherub Chimers rehearsal
6:30pm– Heavenly Ringers rehearsal

Tuesday, December 9th

10:00am– Food Pantry
6:30pm– Guitar Jam

Wednesday, December 10th

9:00am– TOPS
10:00am– Women's Bible study
5:30pm– Advent supper– walking tacos
6:30pm– Advent worship

Thursday, December 11th

6:30pm– Parish Planning Meeting

Friday, December 12th

6:30pm– 2nd Friday Fellowship– Christmas party

Saturday, December 13th

8:00am– Men's Bible study
9:30am– Choir Rehearsal
5:00pm– Worship
(Pastor Nerud)

Sunday, December 14th

9:00am– Worship
10:30am– Bible Study/Sunday school
10:30am– Confirmation Instruction
11:30am– Church decorating

ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKLETS

Annie has printed out the Advent devotionals from Lutheran Hour Ministries. They are on the Information table for you to take.

Bible Study Opportunities

Sundays, 10:15am

Join Pastor Anderson in the Janssen rooms following worship- we are studying the Acts of the Apostles, looking at the beginnings of the Christian Church, and how the Church two millennia later still bears the imprint of that first Church.

Holy Land Geography, Customs & History

Join Clark Stojan in the Keyl room, as he leads us to explore the world of the Bible along with select events recorded in Scripture.

Coffee with Christ– Myth or Faith?

Wednesdays, 10am

Great Women of the Bible

In this Bible study series, we will look at the lives of only the most familiar women in God's Word. From Eve, the first woman, to those women who helped Jesus' apostles, participants will see God's grace in action as He calls and leads these women in their daily lives. Through their God-given faith and their faith-filled deeds, you will be inspired by these great women of the Bible.

Saturdays, 8am

Men's Bible study

We are doing a chronological study of the Gospel.

Serving the Lord this Week:

Organist: Christine Engebrecht

Greeters: *(Sat.)*

(Sun.) Churchill Family

Ushers: *(Sat.)* Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon & Larry Ripka

(Sun.) Brian Nielsen and The Strike Team

Communion Assistants: Kevin McAnally & Jonathan Schmidt

Altar Guild: Diana Lackey & Marsha Boarts

Acolyte: Briella Churchill

The church confesses to Christ, “You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). The church is encouraged to “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ...” (Col. 3:16). Psalm 1 teaches us to meditate on God's Word day and night. It is our great opportunity and joy to read and study God's Word. One beneficial practice is to memorize the Scriptures and, in so doing, to meditate on it. The LCMS invites everyone to memorize a verse together each week.

Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.



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Introit

P In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

C **Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually!**

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

**O offspring of Abraham, his servant,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**

He is the Lord our God;

his judgments are in all the earth.

He remembers his covenant forever,

the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

**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.**

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

P The Old Testament reading is from Isaiah, the eleventh chapter.

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. *(Is. 11:1-10)*

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Epistle reading is from Romans, the fifteenth chapter.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. *(Rom. 15:4-13)*

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'" *(Matt. 3:1-12)*

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

ST. JOHN’S PRAYER CARD
December 6th and 7th, 2025
Please remember the following in your prayers this week...

Anniversaries
Bob & Janice Coon (57)

Sister Congregation
Rev. William Jensen
Illinois State University
Wittenberg Student Center
Normal, IL

Members
Larry & Sharon Ripka
Daniel & Theresa Roberson
RC & Denise Rogers
David & Michelle Rogers

Missionaries Serving
Rev. Ted & Rebecca Krey-
Dominican Republic

Military Chaplains
LT Joseph Seifert

Ill & Hospitalized
Joan Britton– double bypass
surgery
George Fellows– shoulder surgery
Kevin Green– cancer diagnosis
Peter Hipple

Deepest Sympathies
To the family of Katy Hill, daughter
of Jerry Hill and granddaughter
of Carole Vrbn, at her passing
To the family of Shirley Gillies, at
her passing

Prolonged Illness & Special Needs:
Joan Britton
Bev Brokaw
Chuck Brokaw
Kodie Esparza
Nic Fellows
Steve Fors
Duane Gosa
Nancy Gosa
Kathy Herron
Jerry Hill
Chris Hoehn (Janet Newlon’s
nephew, aplastic anemia)
Kay Iwen (broken neck)
Dale Johnson
Merle Loete
Reid McDonald
Jean Morrical
RaeJean Murphy
Tom Nielsen
Robin Passman
Brenda Roggendorf
Karen Schmidt– broken
collarbone
Kathleen Schmidt
David Sountris
Alivia Voelkers
Ken Weidenbach
Cora Whipple

Homebound:
Nancy Bonow
Ann Bowman
Don, Wanda, and Jason Cass
Darlene Dopson
Mary Ann Eckert
Rick & Sylvia Fauser
Angie Fischer
Peg Heitzman
Christopher Higgins
Carole Hodshire
Ingrid Hodshire
Barbara Honert
Lori Hopkins
Judy Kirklin
Mary McGee
Nancy Smart
Terry Tipsword
Barbara Veskauf