



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 in honor of Parker Meyer’s baptismal birthday.

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

FOOD PANTRY For December, we will be collecting items for a Christmas dinner: casserole ingredients, sides, etc.

BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES: : Here’s a simple yet challenging Christmas week question for your contemplation: How has the fact that Jesus was born over 2000 years ago impacted the life you’re living today? Read aloud the Luke 2 Christmas story together, ponder this question, and encourage your family members to share their answers. From the funny response of a pre-schooler, the shoulder shrug of a teenager, or the wise words shared by an older person, it will be interesting to see how each individual family member answers. Remember, even those who don’t answer are still listening! *“She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21* A Blessed Celebration of Jesus’ Birth to you from your partners at **Lutheran Family Service!**
www.LutheranFamilyService.org

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY *Matthew 1:21 – “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”* What our good works could never do, Jesus has done: He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God’s Law could not do — truly motivate us to truly good works — Jesus’ love has done!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING DECEMBER 21st All are invited to lend your voices as we visit some of our homebound members at care facilities. We will meet at church at 11:30; carpooling will be available.

POINSETTIAS Altar guild has about 10 more plants to left to sell. The cost is \$10 each. If you would like to purchase one, please use the envelopes and sign-up sheet at the sign up station.

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

MEMORIAL TREE The Memorial Tree is up. It looks a little different than the tree of the past, but we hope this new tree will last longer than the previous all white trees that turned yellow after a time. Your loved one's ornaments have been put out on the table for you to add to a branch. Feel free to bring your ornaments from home as well. If you would like one made, please see Carrie Homann.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES If you are using envelopes for your offerings, there is a table set up in the hallway by the gym to pick up your 2026 box. If you don’t see your name, please let Kay Iwen or Margie Schaefer know and they can assign you one. If you would like to switch to Simply Giving (automatic bank transfer) please stop in the office and Annie will get you the form to sign up. Please remember, DO NOT start using your new envelopes until January– you may have a different number than last year!

CALLING A FRIEND If you took an index card with you to call on a member, please return it to the box in the hallway. It is ok if you were unable to make contact.

December 20th and 21st, 2025
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Divine Service Setting I

Prelude– Saxophone Trio
“Savior of the Nations, Come”
By: Rudy Davenport

Preparation
“Joyful, Joyful...” 803
Invocation and Confession 151

Service of the Word
Introit (See Cream Insert)
Kyrie 152-153
Gloria is omitted
Salutation and Collect 156

Readings (See Cream Insert)
Alleluia Verse 156
Holy Gospel (See Cream Insert)
The Angel Gabriel...” 356

Sermon:
(Sat.) Pastor Mueller
(Sun.) Pastor Anderson

Nicene Creed—Offertory 158-159

Service of the Sacrament
Preface – Agnus Dei 160-163
Distribution
(Sun.) *Heavenly Ringers accompanied by Easton Antolik on trumpet and Cristina Braddy on clarinet*
“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” Arr. by: Sandra Tucker
“What Child is This” 370
“Lift Up Your Heads...” 340
“Gently Mary Laid...” 374

Post Communion Canticle 165
“Song of Simeon”
Collect & Benediction 166
“Lo, How a Rose...” 359

Postlude

The Lord's Week

Sunday, December 21st

9:00am– Worship w/Communion
10:30am– Bible Study/Sunday school
10:30am– Confirmation Instruction
11:30am– Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 22nd

1:30pm– Activities room
6:30pm– Heavenly Ringers rehearsal

Tuesday, December 23rd

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

Wednesday, December 24th

9:00am– TOPS
10:00am– Women's Bible study
7:30pm– Pre-service music
8:00pm– Candlelight Christmas Eve worship w/
Communion

Thursday, December 25th

9:00am– Christmas worship w/Communion

Saturday, December 27th

8:00am– Men's Bible study
12:00pm– Stone party
5:00pm– Worship w/Communion
(Pastor Astrowski)

Sunday, December 28th

9:00am– Worship w/Communion
10:30am– Bible Study/Sunday school
1:30pm– Ahrens party

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.)

Ushers: (Sat.) Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon & Larry Ripka
(Sun.) Brian Nielsen and The Strike Team

Altar Guild: Flo Moore & Margie Schaefer

Communion Assistants: Kevin McAnally & Glen McMillin

Acolyte: Nolan Johnson

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.

John 1:4

In him was life, and the life was the light of men.



ATTENTION!!!

There will
NOT

be a New Year's Eve service this year.



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[illegible]

Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,*
that the mountains might quake at your | presence.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart

C ¹  Praise to You, O Christ.

ST. JOHN’S PRAYER CARD
December 20th and 21st, 2025
Please remember the following in your prayers this week...

Sister Congregation
Rev. Martin Kaufmann
Trinity Lutheran Church
Auburn, IL

Members
Tanner Rusk
Tyler Rusk
Michael, Jill, Jacob, Noah,
& Matthew Ryan

Missionaries Serving
Rachel Krause-Germany

Military Chaplains
CPT Gregory Lutz
Maj Sol Grosskopf

Ill & Hospitalized
Norm Antolik– knee
replacement
Joan Britton– double bypass
surgery
Kevin Green– cancer diagnosis
Peter Hipple
Carole Hodshire

**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