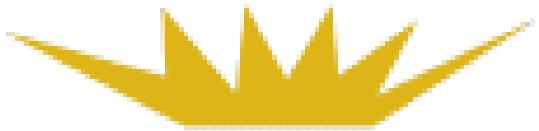


BSunday, January 4, 2026



We have seen his **glory**,
the **glory** of the
one & only **Són**
who came from the
Father,
full of
grace &
truth.

John 1:14

*Christ's Lutheran Church
Murrysville, Pennsylvania*

"A Place to Believe, Belong, and Become"



Christ's Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered and welcoming, Christian community committed to encouraging faith-filled living, deepening friendships, and life-changing discipleship.

Welcome! If you are new to worship in a Lutheran church, this introduction will help guide you through our worship service. The prayers, responses, and service music are printed in this bulletin. You will need to use the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnals to sing the hymns. Our Sunday morning service is livestreamed on YouTube and your image may appear.

Communion - All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the gift of Holy Communion. Children who haven't received Holy Communion may also come forward for a blessing. You can either kneel or remain standing when you come to the altar. We offer both wheat and gluten-free wafers, and both wine and grape juice. If you would like to receive grape juice, please take a glass from the tray that has already been filled when you come forward. If you would like to receive a gluten-free wafer, please let Pastor Wayne know when he gives you the bread.

Children are always welcome! Please feel free to walk around in the rear area of our worship space if your child becomes restless. Rest rooms (with diaper decks) are located in the hallway to the right of the entryway. You can find cloth bags containing activities for children aged 3 and older in the back of our worship space. We ask you to please return the cloth bags and their contents (minus any artwork your child creates while you are worshiping) at the end of today's service.

CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

5330 Old Logan Ferry Road, Murrysville, PA 15668

Office: 412-795-1212

Church Office email: office@christsmurrysville.org

Website: www.christsmurrysville.org

App: Christ's Lutheran (ELCA)

The Second Sunday After Christmas

(Please silence your electronic devices)

PRELUDE

Instrumental

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHARING OF CONCERNS

CONFESsION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \ddagger one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C: Amen.

L: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

L: Reconciling God,

C: **we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

L: God's grace upon grace flows over you. \ddagger Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"Angels, From the Realms of Glory"

ELW #275

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

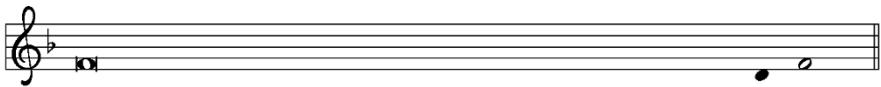
C: And also with you.

KYRIE



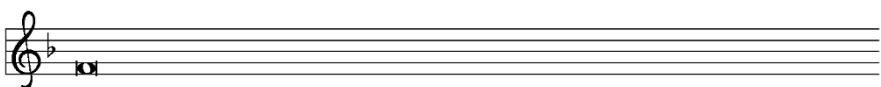
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - ey.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

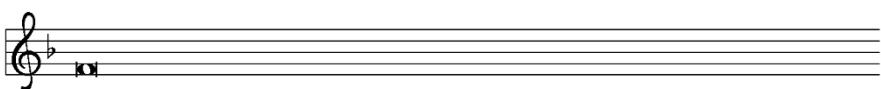
Lord, have mer - ey.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - ey.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - ey.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A** - **men.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

All

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Father: re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 31:7-14

This is what the LORD says: "Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your praises heard, and say, 'LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.' See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labor; a great throng will return. They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel's father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son. "Hear the word of the LORD, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.' For the LORD will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD—the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty," declares the LORD.

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 1:3-14

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the

riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet

to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' ") Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Christine Weller

(please be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Oh Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!"

ELW #308

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly.
Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace.
Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

**TODAY, WE ARE INCLUDING
THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

Lindsey Boyer, Nancy Fydler, Larry Karl, Marlene Karl,
Derwood Montgomery, Lonnie Shurnia



**PRAYING FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS AND
FRIENDS:**

Sandi Shaffer & Kate Hall

Cindy Shaner

Randy & Denise Shaner

Randy, Nicole, Britney & Sidney Shaner

**PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN
YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:**

Joann Hauger, Peggy Henry, Evan Pavloff, Betty Reagan,
Paul Rizzo, Ron Spagna, Marianne Trainor and Sue Werner



L: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The congregation greets one another in the name of the Lord.

OFFERING

To Support God's Work in Our Church and Beyond

This is a time in our service that we use to remember that all that we are, all that we have, and all that we do, is an offering to God.

You can place your offering in the offering plate that is passed at this time in our service,

You can scan this QR code to our online giving page,

You can use our app to send your offering,

*or mail your offering to the church: Christ's Lutheran Church
5330 Old Logan Ferry Road Murrysville, PA 15668*



OFFERTORY

Instrumental

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

L: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. By water and the word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Let us pray: Merciful God, we thank you for those who are gathered here – people whom you have made your own by water and the word in Baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in this community of faith. Uphold us in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite our hearts in love and service. We ask this in the name of Christ.

C: Amen

L: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: I renounce them.

L: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: I renounce them.

L: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

L: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day, he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

L: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

**L: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?**

C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

L: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in all of your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

THE BLESSING

L: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,  bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"As With Gladness Men of Old"

ELW #302

THE DISMISSAL

A: Glory to God in the highest!

C: And peace to God's people on earth!

A: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Instrumental

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Steven J. Myers

Organist

Joshua Beck

Pianist

Nancy Finke Sheehan

Parish Administrator

Laura Vincenti

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Linda Theophilus *is providing pastoral services to CLC members who request them.*



To reach out to Pastor Linda, contact the church office at (412) 795-1212 or office@christsmurrysville.org

Sunday
February 15, 2026
11:00 am

homemade soups, breads
and cookies will be served

contact the office at office@christsmurrysville.org if you'd like to provide any of the above

Create a Lasting Legacy

Are you considering a special gift or an estate gift to Christ's Lutheran Church?

Gift planning services are available at no cost to you through the services of the ELCA Foundation and our Regional Gift Planner, Ryan Ebner.

Ryan can assist you with establishing a comprehensive estate plan that provides for your family and the ministries you care about.

See the "Legacy and Special Gifts" brochure in the rack outside of the office for more information. You can contact Ryan at (814)-823-3285 or ryan.ebner@elca.org.

enable hope **BLESSINGS**
Legacy transform **HOPE**
vision future estate legacy
tomorrow blessing intentional
legacy commitment transform tomorrow enable
GOD'S MISSION, OUR GIFTS

MAKE NOISE FOR MISSION WEEKEND!!! January 3rd & 4th



We celebrate the first weekend of each month with the donation of your loose change to benefit **our sister church**, Trinity Lutheran on the North Side. Collection cans will be located on the offering table and up front by the baptismal font.

So gather up your change and let's all make some **NOISE!!!**

New Prayer Circle Coordinator

Audrey Ferris Matz has so generously served as CLC's Prayer List Coordinator for many years. We are so grateful for the blessings of her time and dedication to communicating with our prayer chain and with the office to ensure our prayer lists are up to date.

Audrey is "retiring" and we're pleased to welcome Ann Rockette as our new Prayer Circle Coordinator. You can reach Ann by email: annrockett@aol.com (*please indicate on the subject line that it relates to the prayer circle*), through CLC's website or app (*click on Connect on the top menu and scroll down to Prayer Request*) or phone Ann at 412-334-9607.



2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

2026 offering envelopes are arranged alphabetically on the card table in the Entryway ready for pick up.

If your envelope box is not there, or you'd like to request 2026 envelopes, please contact the church office.

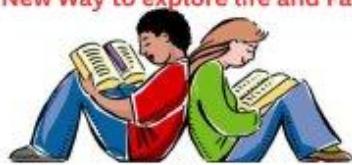
office@christsmurrysville.org 412-795-1212



Confirmation Class

Teen Talk

New Way to explore life and Faith



6:00 pm First Sunday of each month. Starting January 4th.

Sunday,
January 4th

Weekend Worship Team

A Big Thank you to our worship assistants, greeters, ushers, all who set up and clean up for the services, reconcilers, and the tech team who offer their time and talents to make our worship services go smoothly.



We are looking for a few more Helpers for our weekend services. If you would like more information, please contact the office, or talk to one of our faithful helpers for information on how to get started.

Thank you to all who help to make our worship services possible!

The next Caring Hearts and Hands meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 8, 2025**, in the downstairs fellowship hall. We will gather at 9:30 AM for an organizational meeting to plan for the next Box Lunch.

After our meeting, we all go to brunch at a local restaurant. We invite you to join us for either one or both events that morning.

For any questions concerning our mission or our January 8th gathering, contact Romaine Miller at 412-996-4915.



Men, join us on the second Saturday of each month at 8:30 am for a traditional breakfast and fellowship.

Our next breakfast will be held on **Saturday, January 10th** at 8:30 am in the downstairs social hall.

Come hungry for food and fellowship!

Ladies Brunch

Saturday, January 24th 11:00 – 1:00

Ladies of the church - Please join us for food & sistership on the **4th Saturday of each month** for all of us to enjoy our time together.



Any tasty treat you'd like to share is appreciated.

Kindly register so we know how many to prepare for. You can register on our **website or app** (click on calendar of events and scroll to the event) or **sign-up on the sheet** in the entryway

We look forward to seeing you!

CHRIST'S LITTLE PANTRY Weekend January 10th & 11th

Are you, or someone you know, experiencing food insecurity?

If you need food, "Take what you need."

If you have extra food to share, please "Leave what you can."

THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU ... to everyone who has been contributing to the success of our Little Pantry. We're so grateful to all who continue to donate. The food in the pantry goes quickly. We have been attempting to replenish the pantry daily.

As food insecurity continues, variety is important in choosing the items that people can find in the Little Pantry. We are asking you to focus on cereal and other breakfast items, complete pancake

mixes (made with water), syrup, peanut butter, jelly, soup, tuna & other canned meats, fruit (canned or in individual packs), lunchbox foods and baby food. Please remember, when you bring your donations to the church, you can put your items directly into the Little Pantry or leave them in the grocery cart in our entryway.

You can also support the Little Pantry with a cash donation that's clearly marked, "Little Pantry."

NOTE: We recently learned that we need to have special permits from the State and Health Department if we want to put any type

of fresh food (fruit, veggies, eggs, potatoes, etc.) into the pantry. Your generous gifts of canned and boxed items continue to change the lives of individuals and families in our community. Thank you!

Please remember that our Little Pantry may provide the only food a family has to meet its needs — protein is very important.

Please continue to support this ministry, knowing that your generosity will help families right here in the Plum & Murrysville area.

Let's work together to keep our Little Pantry full every week!

The deadline for our weekly bulletin is:

End of the day on Wednesdays

Email your article to office@christsmurrysville.org or drop off at the office.



Stitched With Love

If you enjoy knitting and crocheting, or would like to learn, our stitching group meets Tuesdays from 9 to 11 am in the downstairs social hall.



We make hats for cancer patients, baby blankets, prayer shawls, and other needed items. Or bring your own project to work on. It's a time to be creative & enjoy one another's fellowship. For information, contact Leslie Sill at nonnasill@comcast.net.



We're collecting aluminum tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Working with a local recycler, pop tabs from soda cans, soup cans, pet food, and other canned goods are turned into money to support RMHC's mission.

That money helps RMHC provide comfort, care and support for families with children who are sick. You can help by depositing tabs you collect in the container in the church Entryway.



Scent Work for Dogs

CLC is hosting an AKC Scent Work certification on Saturday, January 17th starting at 1 pm.

Dogs searching for odors (scent work) for sport is a positive, challenging activity that allows dogs the opportunity to use their strongest natural sense in a way that's fun.

Anyone interested in learning about scent work, or to just watch the trials, is welcome. For information, about Scent Work, contact Joyce Perrone at JPerrone.JP@gmail.com or 412-849-7750.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD's)

Did you know those over age 70 1/2 can withdraw funds federally tax free from retirement accounts, such as IRAs, through a Qualified Charitable Distribution.



The withdrawal is made payable directly to the qualified charity by the IRA custodian and counts toward any federal annual Required Minimum Distribution. Contributions made through QCD's are an available vehicle to support Christ's Lutheran Church's mission while reducing personal income subject to federal taxes. Talk with your financial planner to learn more.

THANK YOU for continuing to recycle your plastic bags!

Through your good work, we now have two NexTrek benches. Since we've been so successful, we are collecting plastic bags for our sister congregation, Trinity Lutheran on the Northside so that they can receive their own bench. It is **fantastic** that we are doing our part to be good stewards by keeping plastic out of the landfills.



As a reminder, here is a chart of acceptable **clean and dry** plastic bags (no plastic containers): All plastic must be clean, dry, and free of food residue.



 **Staying
Safe
Together**

REMINDER:

Our church's exterior doors are locked at the beginning of services.



Our church office is open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm *and* 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm. Please call before coming to the church to be sure someone is available to help.

office@christsmurrysville.org 412-795-1212

WEEKLY CALENDAR

January 4th – January 11th, 2026

Keep our Ministry and Community in Your Prayers Each Day This Week

Sunday 1/4

9:00 am
9:00 am
10:00 am
6:00 pm
7:30 pm

Kim Boyer, with thanks as she takes on the leadership of CLC's Congregational Council

Sunday School
Birthday Party for Jesus
Sunday Morning Worship
Teen Talk
Narcotics Anonymous

Monday 1/5

5:00 pm
8:00 pm

All teachers and students, as classes resume after winter break

Kindermusik
Alcoholics Anonymous

Tuesday 1/6

9:00 am
9:30 pm
5:00 pm

Our ministry of outreach to our community

Stitched With Love
Kindermusik
Kindermusik

Wednesday 1/7

9:00 am
10:00 am

The safety of the volunteers who perform the repairs and maintenance tasks in our church building and on our property

Property Team Meeting
Kindermusik

Thursday 1/8

9:00 am
9:30 am

Students and faculty at our colleges, universities and trade schools

Kindermusik
Caring Hearts and Hands

Friday 1/9

6:30 pm

Our Congregational Council as they plan for our church's upcoming year

Council Retreat

Saturday 1/10

8:30 am
6:00 pm

All of the ministries providing food to people in need in our community

Men's Breakfast
Saturday Evening Worship

Sunday 1/11

9:00 am
10:00 am
7:30 pm

Pastor Melissa Stoller, our Synod Bishop

Sunday School
Sunday Morning Worship
Narcotics Anonymous