

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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Our Mission Statement

Bring people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ by

- † reaching up to God in worship and prayer,
- † reaching in to be empowered by God's Word as members of His family &
- † reaching out at every opportunity with the Gospel of Christ.

A Prayer before Worship

We are weak and sick, O Father, and the temptations of the flesh and the world are great and many. O Father, keep us, and let us not fall again into temptation and sin. Give us grace that we may remain steadfast and fight bravely to the end. Without your grace and help we can do nothing, Amen.

(M. Luther, 1483-1546)

Large Print Bulletin and Children's Bulletin

Copies of today's bulletin are available in LARGE PRINT. Children's Activity Bulletins are also available. Please ask an usher if you would like to use either of these options.

Nursery/Cry Room

The nursery is available for families with young children ages 2 and under in Room 109. It will not be staffed until further notice. Or, if you prefer, Room 100 also is available as a cry room and/or a room for nursing mothers. Please ask an usher if you need assistance or directions.

For Those Desiring Holy Communion, Please Read:

"Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself." 1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Being admonished to receive Christ's Body and Blood in a worthy manner, let us prepare our hearts for reception of this sacrament by privately answering the following:

- 1. Do I believe that I am a sinful person without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ?
- 2. Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my Savior?
- 3. Do I believe that He is present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion with His Body and Blood?
- 4. Do I hope by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a godly life?

AS YOU COME TO THE LORD'S SUPPER you are affirming with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord, that you believe His Body and Blood are present, and that you desire to serve Him as a disciple in the fellowship of His church. If you are not an active member of an LCMS congregation, please speak with the Pastor before communing.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2023 10:00 AM Divine Service IV – *LSB 203*

Prelude

Stand

Entrance Hymn

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

LSB 338



- 1 Come, Thou long ex pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free; 2 Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!

From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee. Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art, By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart. By Thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

Invocation, Confession, and Absolution

LSB 203

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Matthew 28-19b, [18:20]

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Psalm 124:8

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 130:3-4

- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **B**ut with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

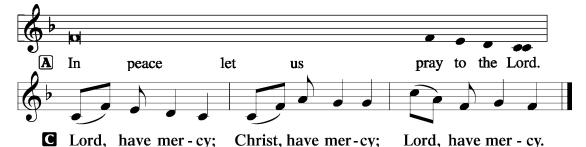
- Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

[John 20:19-23]

- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

+++Service of the Word+++

Mark 10:47; LSB 204



- **P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- - C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.
- 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-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

P Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22; LSB 205

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- Let us pray.

 Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people

Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 89:1–5 (antiphon: v. 8)



O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, | O LORD,* with your faithfulness all a- | round you?

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, for- | ever;* with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all gener- | ations.

For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up for- | ever;* in the heavens you will establish your | faithfulness."

You have said, "I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;*
I have sworn to David my | servant:

'I will establish your offspring for- | ever,* and build your throne for all gener- | ations.' "

Let the heavens praise your wonders, | O LORD,* your faithfulness in the assembly of the | holy ones!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, | O LORD,* with your faithfulness all a- | round you?

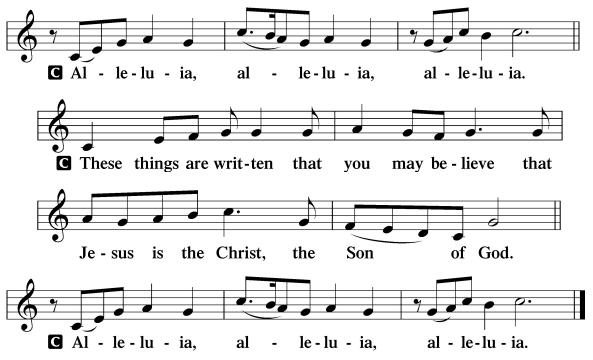
Epistle Romans 16:25–27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse LSB 205



Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26–38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.



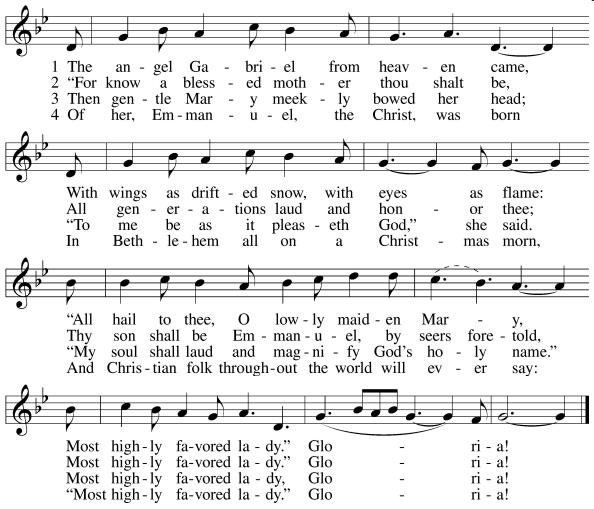
Nicene Creed LSB 206

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

whose kingdom will have no end.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man: and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ± of the world to come. Amen.



Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924 Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Sit

(Traditionally, this is the time to collect offerings, instead there is an offering plate at the rear of the sanctuary. Other giving options are through the mail or online from our website's "Giving" link. This QR code points there.)



Stand

+++Service of the Sacrament+++

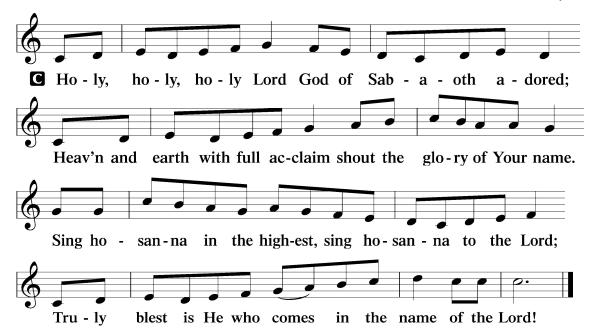


Preface

2 Timothy 4:22, [Colossians 3:1], [Psalm 136]; LSB 208

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9



P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

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 Words of Our Lord

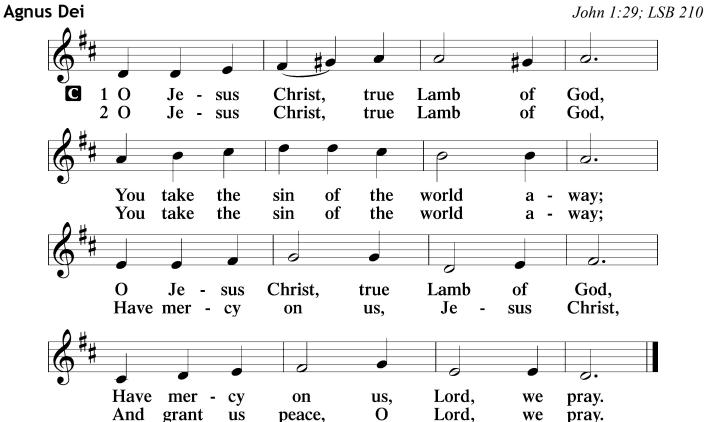
Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

- Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini John 20:19

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.





Distribution

Communicants are asked to hold forth their open hand to receive the bread so the elder may discern who is confirmed. Gluten-free wafers are available. Non-alcoholic wine is offered in the center circle of individual cups for those who prefer it.

Distribution Hymns

The Lutheran Service Book is located in the basket underneath the chair in front of you.

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 334

LSB 359



SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis ~ Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32; LSB 211

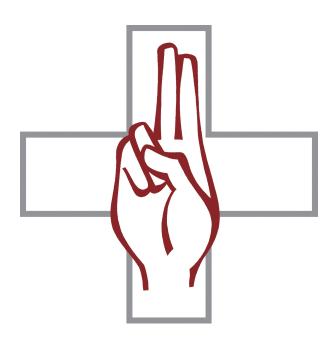


Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



Benedicamus [Psalm 103:1]

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction Numbers 6:24–26

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and

→ give you peace.

C Amen.



- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind; Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent.

Announcements

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

An offering may be placed in the offering plate as you exit.

A Prayer after Worship

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Sunday School & Bible Class

With one worship service at 10:00 AM, there will be no class today or next Sunday. Classes will resume in the New Year. Enjoy this time with your family. Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Please join us tonight for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. It will be at 6:00 PM. Tomorrow morning, start your day off with our Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion at 10:00 AM. The nursery will not be professionally staffed during these services.

Women's Tuesday Bible Study

We will start a new study on January 9th, 2024, at noon. *Be Still and Know: A Study of Rest and Refuge*, by Deb Burma. Workbooks are about \$20, available from Charis or order your own. Bring your lunch and study God's word with friends. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or let Charis Bennett know if you plan to attend.

2024 Flower Chart Available

The 2024 pages for the flower chart have been added to the sign-up book located on the table in the narthex. Each monthly page has the date for each Sunday with a space for your name and the occasion you wish to recognize. Flower arrangements are \$40.00 each. You may pay for them when the occasion is near by placing a check in the offering plate with a "flowers" notation. After the late service, you may take your arrangement home with you.

Portals of Prayer/Lutheran Witness

If you would like to make a donation to cover your cost of the <u>Portals of Prayer</u> and the <u>Lutheran Witness</u>, please place a check for \$25 in the offering plate with the notation "Lutheran Witness".

Community Rewards

If you shop Kroger regularly, link your Kroger Plus Card to Lord of Life (**BW594**) in their Community Rewards program, then your purchases will benefit Lord of Life Lutheran Church. This selection **must be renewed every August** (*www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards*) or it is dropped from your Kroger Plus Card – check your receipts if you're not sure where your rewards

are going. We received \$59.36 from 24 households with Kroger purchases between August 27, 2023 and November 25, 2023! Thank you!

THRIVENT MEMBERS: 2023 Choice Dollars Expire on March 31, 2024

Lord of Life has received thousands of Thrivent Choice Dollars from our Thrivent members over the years. These funds, unless directed otherwise, are deposited into our Endowment Fund. The deadline is approaching for directing your 2021 dollars. Once again, there are two ways to direct your dollars to Lord of Life: 1) On-line at www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or 2) by phone at www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or 3 has a way at a supplementary of their choice. At Lord of Life, th

A Life Thought in the Church Year

Almighty God has profound interest and investment in childbearing and childrearing (2 Samuel 7:12; Luke 1:31). He has made this relationship and vocation central to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every mother and father, every son or daughter embodies the love of the Lord for humankind. While abortion attempts to conceal the realities, our sanctity-of-life advocacy gets to reveal this delightful mystery (Romans 16:25).

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org

Enjoy the Twelve Days of Christmas on KFUO Radio, with special Christmas music, Scripture, and greetings until January 6. Blessed Christmas! Christ is born! Hear your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org and the KFUO Radio app.

Salvation Outline

The following seven points summarize the basic information about the human condition and God's saving grace. You may want to memorize these points so that you may share them with someone who does not yet believe in Jesus as his or her Savior.

- 1. *God loves you!* "For God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (**John 3:16**).
- 2. You are a sinner. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).
- 3. God punishes sin. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).
- 4. *Jesus took our punishment*. "But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (**Rom. 5:8**).
- 5. Jesus rose from the dead. "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:3–4).
- 6. Jesus offers forgiveness of sins and eternal life to those who believe in Him. "Then he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household" (Acts 16:30–31).
- 7. Salvation is free—a gift from God. "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (**Eph. 2:8–9**).

Thank you to the following people

who dedicated poinsettias this Christmas Season:

Rose Moore in memory of Randy Moore The Hite Family in memory of Alec Hite Mike and Sandy Paradise in memory of Michael The Klein Family in thanksgiving for our family The Jackson Family in memory of Nancy Pennington The Plagens Family in thanksgiving for family Scott Peters in thanksgiving for family Dave Peters in thanksgiving for family Arlene Munden in memory of her mother, Lillian Leffler The Bunger Family in thanksgiving for family, friends & Christmas season Scarth family in memory of Uncle Larry Scarth family in thanksgiving for family Jack and Nelda Schrank in memory of their daughter, Kay Al and Norma Martin in memory of parents and siblings Jerry & Winona Parish in memory of parents Jerry & Winona Parish in thanksgiving for family Brooks and Joanna Smith in memory of Patricia Montablo, John & Jeannine Smith Brooks and Joanna Smith in memory of their grandparents Mark and Susan Knowles in thanksgiving for family Mark and Susan Knowles in thanksgiving for our church, Lord of Life Shelby Lund in thanksgiving for Earl, Karen, Bailey & Brandon Alyson Wood in memory of her grandparents & uncles Alyson Wood in thanksgiving for family Pat Greer in thanksgiving for family Clarice Lundquist in thanksgiving for family & God's blessings Duffy and Cindy Carter in thanksgiving for our children, Samson and Jonah Duffy and Cindy Carter in memory of our children, David, Eve and Daniel

Serving Our Worship Today:

Pastor:
Organist:
Altar Guild:
Elder:

Greeter:

Ushers: Sound:

Rev. Joel Shaltanis Victoria Frinsko, Sebastian Shaltanis Clarice Lundquist, Joanna Smith Greg Moudy Phaedra Shaltanis Marty Buckmeier, Mark Ziegelbein

Brian Wolf

This Week at Lord of Life-Today, Dec. 24, 2023

10:00 am One Worship Service

6:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service of

Lessons and Carols

Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day 10:00 am One Worship Service

Next Sunday, December 31 – New Year's Eve 10:00 am One Worship Service



Next Sunday's Readings December 31, 2023

Old Testament: Is. 61:10–62:3

Epistle: Gal. 4:4–7

Gospel: Luke 2:22–40



The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Marty & Angie Buckmeier in celebration of their 35th wedding anniversary; and by the elders.



About the Cover: From heaven to earth, Gabriel came bearing the news of the Christ Child. Conceived by the Holy Spirit, Jesus is God and man in one. He is where heaven and earth meet, bringing abundant blessing, peace, and joy in His presence. Likewise, the Lord is with us, bringing heaven and earth together at the Lord's Supper, where His very body and blood is given and shed for us.