

Saturday, December 21 and Sunday, December 22



# St. John's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**Worship Services:** Saturdays at 5:00pm • Sundays at 9:45am

**Parish Education:** Sunday School - Grades Pre-K to 6th - 8:30am • Adult Forum - 8:30am  
Confirmation - Grades 7 & 8 - Wednesdays 6:30pm

**Church Office Hours:** Tues-Thurs 9am-2pm • Fri 9am-12pm

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

for the week of  
December 22 – 29

Sunday	8:30am Sunday School & Adult Forum 9:45am Worship
Tuesday	4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship
Saturday	5:00pm Worship
Sunday	9:45am Worship



Join us for a night of  
fun and fellowship

Saturday,  
January 4th

After worship



Be sure to sign the  
giant Christmas card  
in the Welcome  
Center, and spread  
greetings to our  
church family!



Offering 12/14 & 12/15	Received	Received YTD
General Fund	\$4,132.00	\$198,624.50
Capital Fund	\$187.50	\$13,657.89
Cusco Lutheran Churches	\$248.13	\$1,915.73
Jim Schoon Memorial	\$25.00	\$25.00
Safe Passage	\$320.08	\$340.08

## Prayer Requests

Marilyn Abbott	Mary Ann Hulon	Larry Rogers
Mary Bark	Jen	Doris Rogers & family
Lance Davenport	Judy	Shelly
Lee Gehrke	Karen	Lynn Skryzpiec
Gianna	Rhea Lumsden	Lynn Skryzpiec's great-nephew, Oakley
Sharon Goode	Linda Martin	Jack Smith
Pastor Grafe	James Moris	Jackie Wendland
Family of Chuck	Lonnie Murray	Susan White
Hoepé's sister, Carol	Sharon Rhea's son, Jeff	

Dates to Remember		
Month	Date	Occasion
JANUARY	4	CHILI SUPPER
JANUARY	19	ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY	11	COMMUNITY FEAST @ ST. JOHNS

## Prelude

### Welcome & Announcements

*Please stand as you are able.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** God of mercy,

**C:** **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

**P:** God of might,

**C:** **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

**P:** God in our midst,

**C:** **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

**P:** A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ☩ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

**C:** **Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn ELW 279 O Little Town of Bethlehem

#### Greeting

**P:** 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

**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:      **C** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*

**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

#### Prayer of the Day

**P:** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

**C:** **With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

#### We Light the Fourth Candle of the Advent Wreath

**A:** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin.

**P:** Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

**Advent Song** – ELW #240 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

*(Assisting Minister lights 4 Advent candles)*

- 1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.
- 2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.
- 3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.
- 4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

A: The **First Reading** for this Fourth weekend of Advent comes from the Book of Micah Chapter 5 verses 2-5

**A:** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**A:** Our **Psalm** today comes from Luke's Gospel Chapter 1 verses 46-55

<sup>46b</sup> My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup> you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup> **You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup> You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup> **casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup> You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> **You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup> the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

**A:** The **Second Reading** comes from Hebrews Chapter 10 verses 5-10

**A:** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter

**C:** **Glory to you O Lord.**

**Gospel: Luke 1:39-45**

**P:** The Gospel of our Lord.

**C:** **Praise to you O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day** ELW 282 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

**Apostle's Creed**

**P:** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.**



**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.**

### Prayers of Intercession

**P:** As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

**C:** receive our prayer.

**P:** Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C:** Amen.

### The Peace

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

### Offering

*Please stand as you are able.*

### Offering Prayer

**P:** Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

### Dialogue

**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 our thanks and praise.

**P:** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer

**P:** Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh....

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**P:** Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**C:** **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

**P:** God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

*Please be seated. The usher will direct you when to come forward for Holy Communion.*

## Holy Communion is served

**Communion Hymns** ELW 300 The First Noel

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Prayer after Communion

**A:** Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

**C:** **Amen.**

## Blessing

**P:** God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✝ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn** ELW 296 What Child is This

## Dismissal

**A:** Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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