



LORD of LOVE
Lutheran Church

Third Sunday in Advent



Christ is Coming! Rejoice!



LORD of LOVE
Lutheran Church

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Office Secretary: Jen Olson, Office hours Tuesday - Friday

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod - ***Christ's Love, Our Calling.***

**“I rejoiced with those who said to me,
‘Let us go to the house of the LORD.’”
Psalm 122:1**



Lord of Love Lutheran Church

December 12, 2021

DIVINE SERVICE II

SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGING (Grades 4-8)

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

(Children sing vs. 1, 2, 4 & 6)



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

STAND

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Mark 10:47

Kyrie

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: **Amen.**

GLORY BE TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14

In the penitential season of Advent, the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted. On Christmas Day, we will once more sing this song which the angels sang on the day when Christ was born.



THE WORD

SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14-17

¹⁴Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. ¹⁵The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel's king, the LORD, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. ¹⁶In that day Jerusalem will be told, "Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. ¹⁷The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing."

**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.**

Refrain

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Look! I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10)

STAND

GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

⁷So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ⁹Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰The crowds began to ask him, “What should we do then?”

¹¹He answered them, “Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same.”

¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, “Teacher, what should we do?”

¹³To them he said, “Collect no more than what you were authorized to.”

¹⁴Soldiers were also asking him, “And what should we do?”

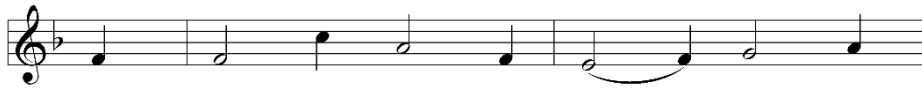
He told them, “Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John could be the Christ. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

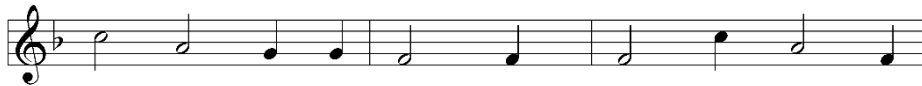
¹⁸Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people.

HYMN (CW 14)

Arise, O Christian People



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him; Pre -
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn



pare your - selves to - day. Pre - pare to greet the
 pare for him the best. Cast out what would of -
 rais - es up on high; Be - neath his feet in
 not from me a - side, And help me to re -



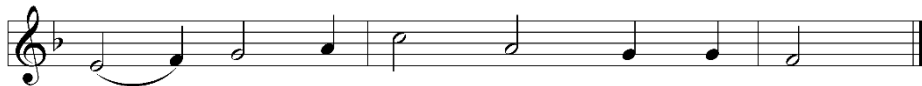
Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way. To
 fend him, This great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make
 ter - ror The haugh - ty soul shall lie. The
 ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From



us by grace a - lone The truth and
 straight, make plain the way: The low - ly
 heart sin - cere and right, That heeds God's
 stall and man - ger low Come now to



light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 dwell with - in me; I'll sing your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, alt.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 4, alt.

Tune: AUS MEINES HERZENS GRUNDE (76 76 67 76) *New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein*, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

SERMON

Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Christian's Key to Joy: Jesus

STAND

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

**who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Come, dear Savior. We long for your appearing!

Come to cheer us with your promises, as you once cheered your ancient people throughout their long night of waiting and watching.

Come to restore our hope. Rouse us from the slumber of despair; lift our hearts from petty, earthbound goals; and direct our eyes above, from where you will soon come to make all things right again.

Come and work in us a godly grief and a genuine sorrow over sin. Forgive us for the shameful way we have dishonored you and the shabby way we have dealt with one another. Through your mighty Word, stir up in us a ceaseless yearning to give ourselves to others, as you have given yourself to us.

Come also to rekindle our joy as we prepare to celebrate your first coming. Do not permit a frenzied busyness to rob us of your peace or to deprive us of times to ponder and to wonder at your Word. Set our hearts apart from the bustle and the clamor and the jostle of these days. Fill us with the quiet delight of finding you in the manger, and keep hearts and minds undisturbed by the great throng that streams by uncaring.

We pray also for those enduring great sorrow, for those undergoing spiritual trial, and for those whose restless hearts have no knowledge of your coming. Comfort, strengthen, and illumine them with the sweet peace born of your love, and keep them in the way of peace by your Holy Word.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Come quickly, dear Lord, and fill our longing eyes with the light of your coming! We wait, we keep watch, and in you we put our hope.

C: Amen.

*The recorded Service of the Word for members at home concludes here.
We continue with the Service of the Sacrament with those gathered in the sanctuary.*



THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who comes with his Father to make his home in human hearts, working repentance and faith by his Spirit until he comes again.

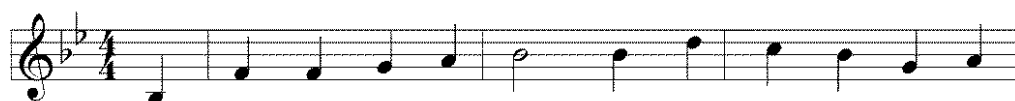
Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

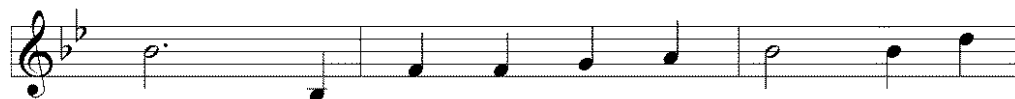
Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

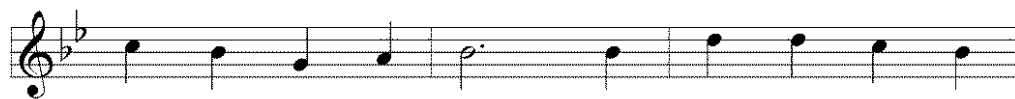
Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBER



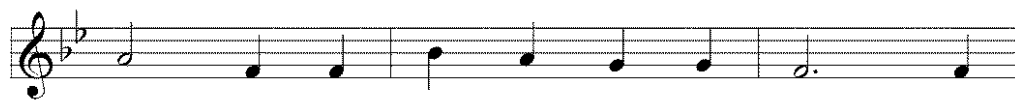
1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is



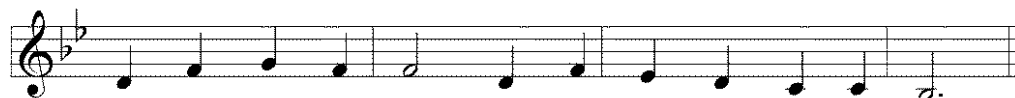
might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In
he Who in God's name is com - ing To



count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -



save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -



in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
liv - er us from bond - age—Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matthew 26:26-28
1 Corinthians 11:24,25

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

C: Amen.

HYMN (CW 27)

O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are

Agnus Dei



1 O Je - sus, Lamb of God, you are My com - fort
2 O Lord, my sin in - deed is great; I groan be -
3 Saint John the Bap - tist points to you And bids me
4 Help me to change my ways, O Lord, And glad - ly



and my guid - ing star; I come, a sin - ner,
neath the dread - ful weight. Be mer - ci - ful to
cast my sin on you, For you have left your
to o - bey your Word. While here I live, a -



trust - ing - ly And bring my man - y sins with me.
me, I pray; Take guilt and pun - ish - ment a - way.
throne on high To suf - fer for the world and die.
bide with me, Then take me home e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Bartholomäus Helder, 1585–1635; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: WEIMAR (LM) C. P. E. Bach, 1714–88.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

In accordance with the Scriptural practice of closed Communion, we invite to the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood the communicant members of this congregation. We invite also the communicant members of our sister congregations in our fellowship (the WELS and the ELS) who have made their intention known to one of our pastors. We ask other guests in attendance to refrain from taking the Sacrament with us today, and we invite you to speak with a pastor about how you may join our fellowship and commune with us in the future.



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, How wel - come
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; Love brought you
 3 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, Who sit in
 4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, Let not your
 5 He comes to judge the na - tions, A ter - ror



you a - right? Your peo - ple long to greet you,
 down to me. Your thirst for my sal - va - tion
 deep - est gloom, Who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed
 souls dis - tress; Your guilt the Lord will par - don
 to his foes, A light of con - so - la - tions,



My Hope, my heart's De - light. O Je - sus, let your
 Pro - cured my lib - er - ty. Oh, love be - yond all
 And trem - ble at your doom. De - spair not; he is
 And cov - er by his grace. He comes, for you pro -
 And bless - ed hope to those Who love the Lord's ap -



Word be A lamp to light my way, To show me
 tell - ing That led you to em - brace In love, all
 near you, He's stand - ing at the door Who best can
 cur - ing The peace of sin for - giv'n, His chil - dren
 pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come, Send forth your



how to please you, To guide me ev - 'ry day.
 love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race!
 help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.
 thus se - cur - ing A her - i - tage in heav'n.
 beams most cheer - ing, And guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN (76 76 D) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN (CW 311) Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness (v. 1, 3, 6-8)

**1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness;
Leave behind all gloom and sadness.
Come into the daylight's splendor;
There with joy your praises render
Unto him whose grace unbounded
Has this wondrous supper founded.
Though he reigns above most holy,
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.**

**3 He who craves a precious treasure
Neither cost nor pain will measure,
But the priceless gifts of heaven
God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,
Naught would buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven,
And his blood, for you once given.**

**6 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
You have left your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish
And to die in bitter anguish,
To forgo all joy and gladness
And to shed your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living,
Lord, I praise you with thanksgiving.**

**7 Jesus, Sun of life, my Splendor,
Jesus, Friend of friends most tender,
Jesus, Joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring—
At your feet I cry, my Maker:
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven
For our good, your glory, given.**

8 Jesus, Lord of life, I pray you,
 Let me gladly here obey you.
 By your love I am invited;
 Be your love with love requited.
 By this supper let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
 Through the gift of grace you give me
 As your guest in heav'n receive me.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4, alt.;
The Lutheran Hymnal, St. Louis, 1941, st. 3, 5-6, alt.

STAND

SONG OF SIMEON

Luke 2:29-32

Nunc Dimittis

Tune: ANGEL'S STORY

1 O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace,
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to
 as - sured: For I have seen your prom - ised In -
 the Son, All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For -
 car - nate, sav - ing Word— A Light that will en -
 ev - er three in one; For as in the be -
 light - en All gloom where Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant,
 gin - ning, Is now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une
 crown - ing glo - ry Of those in Is - ra - el!
 name re - sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN (CW 7)

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, And let your
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the
 3 You saints, who here in pa - tience Your cross and
 4 A - rise, De - sire of na - tions; O Je - sus,



lights ap - pear; The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing,
 Bride - groom near; Go forth, as he ap - proach - es,
 suf - f'ring bore, Shall live and reign for - ev - er
 now ap - pear, The Hope and Ex - pec - ta - tion



And dark - er night is near. The Bride - groom
 With al - le - lu - ias clear. The mar - riage
 When sor - row is no more. A - round the
 Of ev - 'ry Chris - tian here. With hearts and



is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh. Up,
 feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand. A -
 throne of glo - ry The Lamb you shall be - hold; In
 hands up - lift - ed We plead, O Lord, to see The



pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
 rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
 tri - umph lay be - fore him Your shin - ing crowns of gold.
 day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets your peo - ple free.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722, abr.; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.

Tune: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG (76 76 D) *Hymnal and Order of Service*, Rock Island, 1901.

Following the 8:00 service, all are invited to remain in (or return to) the sanctuary for the beginning of Adult Bible Class, Sunday School, and Teen Bible Study. Children may remain with their parents. All will begin together in the sanctuary at 9:15.

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Personal Prayers for Worship

Before Communion:

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

After Communion:

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

O living Bread from heaven, how richly you have fed your guest! The gifts you now have given have filled my heart with joy and rest. Lord, grant me that thus strengthened with heavenly food, while here my course on earth is lengthened, I serve with holy fear. And when you call my spirit to leave this world below, I enter through your merit where joys unmingled flow.

Sunday December 12: 3rd Sunday in Advent

Worship Services at 8:00 & 10:30 with Holy Communion

9:15 am: Adult Bible study, Teen Group and Sunday School

- Preaching Pastor: Michael Willitz • Presiding Pastor: Joel Jenswold
- Organist/Pianist: Kimberly Duve
- Councilman/Elder: Dave Olson (8:00) and Greg Zeman (10:30)
- Ushers 8:00 am: Sef Fox, Dave Olson and Ben Olson
- Ushers 10:30 am: Joshua Hodkiewicz and Greg Zeman
- Counters: Rose Marie Foley and *additional counter needed*
- Altar Guild: Sally Kaalberg • A/V & Recording: Julie Doyle

Wednesday December 15: Advent Worship 6:30 pm

- Pastor Joel Jenswold
- Pianist: Ava Wilson
- Ushers: Dave Olson and Ben Olson
- A/V & Recording: Jen Olson
- Altar Guild: Sally Kaalberg



Sunday December 19: 4th Sunday in Advent

Worship Services at 8:00 & 10:30 with Holy Communion

9:15 am: Adult Bible study, Teen Group and Sunday School

- Preaching Pastor: Joel Jenswold • Presiding Pastor: Michael Willitz
- Organist: Sharon Freund
- Councilman: Aaron Oughton (8:00) and Steve Kalscheuer (10:30)
- Ushers 8:00 am: Bob Degnan and Gene Freund
- Ushers 10:30 am: Mark Heath and Chad Heath
- Counters: Sharon Kalscheuer and Mike Wilson
- Altar Guild: Sally Kaalberg • A/V & Recording: Devin Anderson

Happy Birthday: We wish God's blessings to Kathy Brown (12/13), Cindy Nelson (12/13), Michael Willitz (12/13), Isla Saidler (12/15), Barbara Schade (12/15), David Willitz (12/15), Sara Benzel (12/16), Benjamin Marquardt (12/16), Barb Noltemeyer (12/17), Nolan Craney (12/18) and Nora Immel (12/18) who celebrate their birthdays this week.

Anniversary: We wish God's blessings to Mark & Nettie Beyer (12/12) who celebrate their anniversary today.

In Our Prayers: Fred Bakken, Joyce Hamburg (sister-in-law of Karen Tobison), Wyatt Kingsland, Roger LaGrange, Peter Leege, Marilyn Lund, Rose Lund, Barb Noltemeyer, Marge Ripp, Peg Schroeder and the Willitz family who are experiencing difficulties.

A special prayer for all of our men & women who are serving in the Armed Forces. Among them are Shannon & Matthew Garrett, Sara Goss and John J. Schueman (son of Bonnie & John Schueman).

Special Services

Children's Christmas Service 12/24, 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship, 6:30 pm - *Candlelight service*

Christmas Day Worship, 9:00 am - *with Holy Communion*

New Year's Eve Worship (12/31), 4:00 pm

Looking Ahead:

- **December 15: Advent Worship, 6:30 pm**
- **December 18:** Children's Christmas Service practice, 9:00 am
- **December 16:** Ladies Friendship Circle Christmas Outing at Rodeside Grill, 6 pm
- **December 19:** Poinsettia donations due to church, *can be brought later if needed.*
- **December 24: Children's Christmas Service, 4 pm**
- **December 24: Christmas Eve Worship, 6:30 pm**
- **December 25: Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion, 9:00 am**
- **December 31: New Year's Eve Worship, 4:00 pm**
- **Feb. 5, 2022: Seminar on Home Devotions at Lord of Love, 9 – 12 noon. (*Snow date is Feb. 12.*)**

