



Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

December 3, 2023

First Sunday in Advent

Welcome

The Church’s One Foundation

LSB 644)

- 1 **The Church’s one foundation
 Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
 She is his new creation
 By water and the Word.
 From heav’n he came and sought her
 To be his holy bride;
 With his own blood he bought her,
 And for her life he died.**

- 2 **Elect from ev’ry nation,
 Yet one o’er all the earth;
 Her charter of salvation:
 One Lord, one faith, one birth.
 One holy name she blesses,
 Partakes one holy food,
 And to one hope she presses
 With ev’ry grace endued.**

- 3 **Though with a scornful wonder
 The world sees her oppressed,
 By schisms rent asunder,
 By heresies distressed,
 Yet saints their watch are keeping;
 Their cry goes up, “How long?”
 And soon the night of weeping
 Shall be the morn of song.**

4 Through toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union
With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace
That we, like saints before us,
May see you face to face.

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

Invocation

- P** We begin our worship in the name of the Father, of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**
- P** 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.

Kyrie

Sung LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

P 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.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Amen.

This is the Feast

LSB 155

C This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever.
Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

P We share Christ's peace with one another.

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

Nursery care for small children is offered from this point in the service through Holy Communion. Children may meet their caregivers in the back of the sanctuary.

Sit

First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹ Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!

² As when fire sets twigs ablaze
and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!

³ For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

⁴ Since ancient times no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,

who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

⁵ You come to the help of those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways.

But when we continued to sin against them,
you were angry.

How then can we be saved?

⁶ All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

⁷ No one calls on your name
or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have given us over to our sins.

⁸ Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD;
do not remember our sins forever.

Oh, look on us, we pray,
for we are all your people.
them. I the LORD have spoken.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

I Corinthians 1:3-9

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.

⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

C Alleluia.

**Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴ “But in those days, following that distress,
““the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;

²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky,

and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

²⁶ “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸ “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.

³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us

LSB 514 (tune 660)

1 The Bridegroom soon will call us,

“Come to the wedding feast.”

May slumber not befall us

Nor watchfulness decrease.

May all our lamps be burning

With oil enough and more

That we, with him returning,

May find an open door!

2 There shall we see in glory

Our dear Redeemer’s face;

The long-awaited story

Of heav’nly joy takes place:

The patriarchs shall meet us,

The prophets’ holy band;

Apostles, martyrs greet us

In that celestial land.

3 **There God shall from all evil
 Forever make us free,
From sin and from the devil,
 From all adversity,
From sickness, pain, and sadness,
 From troubles, cares, and fears,
And grant us heav'nly gladness
 And wipe away our tears.**

4 **In that fair home shall never
 Be silent music's voice;
With hearts and lips forever
 We shall in God rejoice,
While angel hosts are raising
 With saints from great to least
A mighty hymn for praising
 The Giver of the feast.**

Homily

Stand

Nicene Creed

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

**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,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**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 catholic 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.**

Sit

Prayers of the Church

Presentation of the Offering

Stand

Preface

LSB 160

- 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.**

Sanctus

LSB 158

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Words of Our Lord

Lord's Prayer

Agnus Dei

LSB 158

- C** Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

We believe that as we partake of the bread and wine in Holy Communion, Jesus the Messiah is feeding us with his own true body and blood. In eating his body and drinking his blood we receive the promise that our sins are forgiven, and that we will therefore live eternally with God. We also believe that this eating and drinking is a confession of our faith. If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and if you share our understanding of Christ's Real Presence in this meal, you are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood for your benefit. If you do not confess the understanding of the Christian Faith as expressed by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, you may still come to the altar to receive a blessing. Please fold your hands to indicate that you will not be receiving the sacrament.

On Galilee's High Mountain

LSB 835

- 1 On Galilee's high mountain
Christ gave the great command
In words of strength and promise
Which all can understand:
"All pow'r to Me is given
To do what I shall choose;
Therefore I send My children,
Their witness I will use."
- 2 The Lord who, born of Mary,
Came down as man and died,
Who preached to all who listened,
For us was crucified—
This Lord, our living brother,
In pow'r at God's right hand,
Has chosen us to carry
His truth to ev'ry land.
- 4 And not alone to nations
In faraway retreats,
But ev'rywhere I broadcast
His love through crowded streets:
The lives that my life touches,

However great or small—
Let them through me see Jesus,
Who served and saved us all.

- 5 That ev'ryone he chooses,
For reasons of his own,
Will find in Christ his calling
To live His love alone.
His presence always leads us
Till time no more shall be;
Christ's strength, his love, his comfort
Give us his victory.

Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

LSB 625 (tune 596)

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,
May I in grace possess you.
Let me with holy food be fed,
In hunger I address you.
Prepare me well for you, O Lord,
And, humbly by my prayer implored,
Give me your grace and mercy.
- 2 To pastures green, Lord, safely guide,
To restful waters lead me;
Your table well for me provide,
Your wounded hand now feed me.
Though weary, sinful, sick, and weak,
Refuge in you alone I seek,
To share your cup of healing.
- 3 O bread of heav'n, my soul's delight,
For full and free remission
I come with prayer before your sight
In sorrow and contrition.
Your righteousness, Lord, cover me
That I receive you worthily,
Assured of your full pardon.
- 4 I do not merit favor, Lord,
My weight of sin would break me;
In all my guilty heart's discord,
O Lord, do not forsake me.
In my distress this comforts me

That you receive me graciously,
O Christ, my Lord of mercy!

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
“Christ is near,” we hear it say.
“Cast away the works of darkness,
All you children of the day!”
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heav’n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiv’n;
- 4 So, when next he comes in glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with his mercy
And with words of love draw near.
- 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion
To the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit
While eternal ages run!

Beautiful Savior

LSB 537

- 1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I’d love thee,
Truly I’d serve thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow’rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr’wing spirit sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be thine!

Stand

Benediction

- P** 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.

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

LSB 348 (tune 349)

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.
- 2 Not as of old a little child,
To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.
- 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death
Despite the rage of foes.
- 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see his face.
- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.

**Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!**

Announcements

Sending

Serving in worship today

December 3, 2023

Pastor

Jason Neel

Elders

Phil Hagel
Carl Schwanbeck

Reader

Gretchen Lynn

Acolyte

Sophia Lease

Organist

Karine Platt

In our prayers

Celebrating Birthdays: Georgia Kedrowski 12/3, Betty Meyers 12/4, Deb Parson 12/4, Steve Johnson 12/4, Monica Lux 12/6, and Jeff Parson 12/7.

Celebrating Baptismal Birthdays: Ally Brynteson 12/5, Ben Johnson 12/5, Breanna Whipps 12/5, and Olivia Eastlund 12/6.

Celebrating Anniversaries: Art and Elaine Hayden 12/9

This Week at a Glance

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
Wednesday	12:15 p.m.	Congregational Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	Soup Supper
	6:45 p.m.	Advent Service
Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Saturday	10 a.m.	Youth Baking Session
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:15 a.m.	Bake Sale
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study

Notes of Information:

Youth Bake Sale: Next Sunday is the annual Bake Sale held by the Middle School and High School Youth Groups. We will be set up and ready for you following worship service. The prices are free will offering and proceeds will be used to fund our upcoming service projects and our trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans Louisiana in July of 2025. Your generosity is appreciated.

Youth Fundraising Calendars and Christmas Greeting Cards: 2024 calendars, Christmas greeting cards and magnetic notepads are here. Cost of Calendars is \$10, cost for cards is \$10, and cost for magnetic note pads \$5. Items will be available in the Narthex following service.

Life By Design Adopt a Family: We will be sponsoring households and individuals from Life by Design to bring them a bit of Christmas cheer! There are wish list items on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you would like to help fill wish lists, please take a star and return the items on the list wrapped and labeled by Wednesday December 20th.

NACE: North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf needs new socks in all sizes. They are also now accepting summer clothing items. You can leave nonperishable food and other donations in the box in the Narthex. Thank you for your donations. For more information reach out to Toni Peterson at 763-434-5665

Women's Bible Study: meets Tuesday Dec. 5th. at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The lesson is entitled, "Come Unto Me, Ye Weary". We will explore what it means when Jesus tells us to "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me". Come for a time of fellowship, and rest in Jesus. All women are welcome!

Women's Coffee Group: Please join us on Wednesday, December 20th at 10 am for an incredibly special performance by our very own Todd Anderson.

Hope for Youth: Every Christmas the youth that use the facilities at Hope 4 Youth can ask for items for themselves and family for the Christmas Season. If you would like to donate any of these items, please drop them off in the box located in the narthex labeled "H4Y". These are the items they ask for: Small tool kits, silverware sets, emergency car kits, Adult art supplies (paint, brushes, sketch books) board games, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent pods, toilet paper packs, lotions, body washes, towels, pillows, warm hats and gloves, gift cards for Target, Walmart, Gas stations. If you have any questions contact Beth Gerard 763-228-2077

Stewardship notes of Thanksgiving: The Dwelling Place- We are grateful for

your heart to help families fleeing abuse heal and find a new hope. We thank God for you all in our prayers. Food for the Poor- As vessels of God's help, your kindness enables us to nurture hope, heal hearts, and strengthen communities in need. Trinity First Lutheran School- We thank God for you! Your faithfulness in honoring God by sharing your gifts with us is humbling and encouraging. We seek to serve Jesus each day, Equipping Learners, Sharing Hope.

Prayer Cards/Prayer Box- Please find in the narthex blue prayer request cards, and a small slotted black box for your requests. A need for continuing prayers for healing of body, mind, and spirit, was identified at our recent Women's Wellness Day. A Prayer Partner will privately and confidentially pray for you, and those in your life in need of healing. Names are optional. You may write on the back of the card if needed. Jesus promises that those who ask will receive, those who seek will find, and to those who knock, the door will be opened. Come with confidence to the prayer box.

Year End Giving: Phase I of the 2023 Building Project raised \$65,000. Our approved loan amount of \$325,000 was lowered to \$260,000 resulting in a sizable long-term savings. Phase II will run until the end of 2023. Any additional offerings would cover overages or unforeseen costs. If there are no overages, the additional offerings will be used per the resolution passed at a Special Congregational Meeting on April 16, 2023. The resolution states, "If the project comes in under budget, we will either pay down our mortgage, or use these funds for Capital Improvements, to be decided by the congregation."

Phase II of this process continues! If you feel led to gift to the 2023 Building Project you may do so through your giving envelope or Vanco.

Change in Sunday worship on December 24: Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year, please note that there will **NOT** be Sunday morning worship on December 24th. We look forward to worshipping with you on Christmas Eve at our 4 pm or 9 pm services.

Volunteer Opportunities at Hope4Youth: HOPE 4 Youth provides meaningful one-time and long-term volunteer opportunities that allow you to make a difference in the lives of the young people we serve. We welcome your help with donating meals, sorting supplies, mentoring and more. For more information on volunteering at HOPE 4 Youth please visit www.hope4youthmn.org/volunteer-3/ or contact Beth Gerard at 763-228-2077 or rgberard@comcast.net

Spirit of Christ Book Club: Spirit of Christ Book Club will meet in the fellowship hall at 7 p.m. Dates and books are:

November 27 *Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grissom
December The book club does not meet.
January 22 – *Zorro: A Novel* by Isabel Allende

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mager at 763-434-9652.

Sermons and bulletins posted online: Audio and video recordings of worship sermons and digital bulletins are posted weekly. Bulletins and past sermons can be found at www.spiritofchristhamlake.org.

Offerings via Give+: Online giving is easy to do, one-time gifts and recurring donations are accepted. Visit the link at soclc.org to sign up or learn more.

Average Weekly Offering	\$5953
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	\$6662

Readings for next week:

Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8



Advent Season begins Sunday December 3rd. Midweek Advent Worship will begin at 6:45 pm on Wednesday nights. Soup Supper will be held at 6pm. We hope you will join us for fellowship before service.

December 6, 2023, at 6:45 p.m.
December 13, 2023, at 6:45 p.m.
December 20, 2023, at 6:45 p.m



SPIRIT of CHRIST
Lutheran Church

2749 NE Bunker Lake Blvd
Ham Lake, MN 55304
www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org

Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another reaching out to all people,
proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.

Church Office: 763-755-7234

Pastor Jason Neel: soclcpastor@gmail.com

Ministers: All Members

Music Director

John Peterson: carsinger@aol.com

Office e-mail: secretary@soclc.org

Prayer Chain (Sue Hurst): Sd_hurst@yahoo.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SpiritofChristLutheran.LCMS>