



## Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!



**SPIRIT of CHRIST**  
Lutheran Church

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!

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December 14, 2025

*Third Sunday of Advent*

### Welcome

#### ***O Lord, How Shall I Meet You***

*LSB 334*

**1 O Lord, how shall I meet You,**

*(tune 660)*

**How welcome You aright?**

**Your people long to greet You,**

**My hope, my heart’s delight!**

**O kindle, Lord most holy,**

**Your lamp within my breast**

**To do in spirit lowly**

**All that may please You best.**

**4 Love caused Your incarnation;**

**Love brought You down to me.**

**Your thirst for my salvation**

**Procured my liberty.**

**Oh, love beyond all telling,**

**That led You to embrace**

**In love, all love excelling,**

**Our lost and fallen race.**

**5 Sin’s debt, that fearful burden,**

**Cannot His love erase;**

**Your guilt the Lord will pardon**

**And cover by His grace.**

**He comes, for you procuring**

**The peace of sin forgiv’n,**

**His children thus securing**

**Eternal life in heav’n.**

**6 He comes to judge the nations,  
A terror to His foes,  
A light of consolations  
And blessed hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing.  
O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth Your beams so cheering,  
And guide us safely home.**

*Stand*

### **Invocation**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**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)*

### **Kyrie**

*Spoken*

**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

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

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** 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.

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

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Amen.

## First Reading

The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, <sup>2</sup> it will burst into bloom;  
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;

they will see the glory of the LORD,  
the splendor of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the feeble hands,  
steady the knees that give way;

<sup>4</sup> say to those with fearful hearts,  
“Be strong, do not fear;

your God will come,  
he will come with vengeance;

with divine retribution  
he will come to save you.”

<sup>5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

<sup>6</sup> Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.

<sup>7</sup> The burning sand will become a pool,  
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

<sup>8</sup> And a highway will be there;  
it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it;  
wicked fools will not go about on it.

<sup>9</sup> No lion will be there,  
nor any ravenous beast;  
they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,

<sup>10</sup> and those the LORD has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

*James 5:7-10*

7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. 9 Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 11:2-11*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

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

2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

7 As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. 9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way before you.'<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

*Sit*

### ***The Night Will Soon Be Ending***

*LSB 337*

(tune 527)

- 1 The night will soon be ending;  
The dawn cannot be far.  
Let songs of praise ascending  
Now greet the Morning Star!  
All you whom darkness frightens  
With guilt or grief or pain,  
God's radiant Star now brightens  
And bids you sing again.
- 2 The One whom angels tended  
Comes near, a child, to serve;  
Thus God, the judge offended,  
Bears all our sins deserve.  
The guilty need not cower,  
For God has reconciled  
Through His redemptive power  
All those who trust this child.
- 3 The earth in sure rotation  
Will soon bring morning bright,  
So run where God's salvation  
Glows in a stable's light.  
As old as sin's perversion  
Is mercy's vast design:  
God brings a new creation—  
This child its seal and sign.
- 4 Yet nights will bring their sadness  
And rob our hearts of peace,  
And sin in all its madness  
Around us may increase.  
But now one Star is beaming

Whose rays have pierced the night:  
God comes for our redeeming  
From sin's oppressive might.

- 5 God dwells with us in darkness  
And makes the night as day;  
Yet we resist the brightness  
And turn from God away.  
But grace does not forsake us,  
However far we run.  
God claims us still as children  
Through Mary's infant Son.

## Homily

### Nicene Creed

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  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

## **Prayers of the Church**

### **Presentation of the Offering**

*Please sign the Friendship Register located on each pew and pass it to others seated with you so that we may have a record of all those who are worshiping and receiving communion with us today.*

*Stand*

### **Preface**

*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.

### **Sanctus**

*LSB 208*

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **Words of our Lord**

## **Agnus Dei**

*LSB 210*

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

## **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 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.*

## ***Savior of the Nations, Come***

*Bells*

## ***Christ Is Surely Coming***

*LSB 509*

**1 Christ is surely coming  
Bringing His reward,  
Alpha and Omega,  
First and Last and Lord:  
Root and Stem of David,  
Brilliant Morning Star;  
Meet your Judge and Savior,  
Nations near and far!**

**Christ is surely coming  
Bringing His reward,  
Alpha and Omega,  
First and Last and Lord:**

*Refrain*

2 See the holy city!  
There they enter in,  
All by Christ made holy,  
Washed from ev'ry sin:  
Thirsty ones, desiring  
All He loves to give,  
Come for living water,  
Freely drink, and live! *Refrain*

3 Grace be with God's people!  
Praise His holy name!  
Father, Son and Spirit,  
Evermore the same;  
Hear the certain promise  
From the \_eternal home:  
"Surely I come quickly!  
Come, Lord Jesus, come!" *Refrain*

*The Day Is Surely Drawing Near*

*LSB 508*  
(tune 596)

1 The day is surely drawing near  
When Jesus, God's anointed,  
In all His power shall appear  
As judge whom God appointed.  
Then fright shall banish idle mirth,  
And flames on flames shall ravage earth  
As Scripture long has warned us.

2 The final trumpet then shall sound  
And all the earth be shaken,  
And all who rest beneath the ground  
Shall from their sleep awaken.  
But all who live will in that hour,  
By God's almighty, boundless pow'r,  
Be changed at His commanding.

3 The books are opened then to all,  
A record truly telling  
What each has done, both great and small,  
When he on earth was dwelling,  
And ev'ry heart be clearly seen,  
And all be known as they have been

**In thoughts and words and actions.**

**4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord  
And sought but carnal pleasures,  
Who here despised His precious Word  
And loved their earthly treasures!  
With shame and trembling they will stand  
And at the judge's stern command  
To Satan be delivered.**

**5 My Savior paid the debt I owe  
And for my sin was smitten;  
Within the Book of Life I know  
My name has now been written.  
I will not doubt, for I am free,  
And Satan cannot threaten me;  
There is no condemnation!**

**6 May Christ our intercessor be  
And through His blood and merit  
Read from His book that we are free  
With all who life inherit.  
Then we shall see Him face to face,  
With all His saints in that blest place  
Which He has purchased for us.**

**7 O Jesus Christ, do not delay,  
But hasten our salvation;  
We often tremble on our way  
In fear and tribulation.  
O hear and grant our fervent plea:  
Come, mighty judge, and set us free  
From death and ev'ry evil.**

***The Advent of Our King***

*LSB 331*

**1 The advent of our King  
Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing  
In strains of holy joy.**

- 2** The everlasting Son  
Incarnate deigns to be,  
Himself a servant's form puts on  
To set His servants free.
- 3** O Zion's daughter, rise  
To meet your lowly King,  
Nor let your faithless heart despise  
The peace He comes to bring.
- 4** As judge, on clouds of light,  
He soon will come again  
And His true members all unite  
With Him in heav'n to reign.
- 5** Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.
- 6** All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

## Dismissal

*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.

## *Creator of the Stars of Night*

- 1** Creator of the stars of night,  
Thy people's everlasting Light:  
O Christ, Redeemer, save us all  
And hear Thy servants when they call.

*LSB 351*  
(tune 377)

- 2** Thou, grieving that the ancient curse  
Should doom to death a universe,  
Hast found the healing, full of grace,  
To cure and save our ruined race.
- 3** Thou cam'st the Bridegroom of the bride,  
As drew the world to eventide,  
The spotless Victim all divine  
Proceeding from a virgin shrine.
- 4** At whose dread name, majestic now,  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
All things celestial Thee shall own,  
And things terrestrial, Lord alone.
- 5** O Thou, whose coming is with dread  
To judge the living and the dead,  
Preserve us from the ancient foe  
While still we dwell on earth below.
- 6** To God the Father and the Son  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,  
Praise, honor, might, and glory be  
From age to age eternally. Amen.

## **Announcements**

### **Sending**

- P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

# **Serving in Worship**

December 14, 2025

## **Pastor**

Jason Neel

## **Usher**

Jan Fuerst

## **Elders**

Chuck Johnson  
Carl Schwanbeck

## **Reader**

Mike Voegele

## **Organist**

Karine Platt

## **Acolyte**

Evan Baker

## **In our prayers:**

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Jerry Berg 12/15, Shelby Parson 12/15, Sue Anderson 12/16, Luna Furman 12/17, and Dixie Kolk 12/18.

**Celebrating Baptisms:** Jerry Berg 12/15, Gwen Mikish 12/16, Rick Welle 12/16, Betty Meyers 12/17, Jude Miller 12/17, and Kyra Bellrichard 12/17.

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Charles & Dixie Kolk 12/18.

## **This Week at a Glance**

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Advent Soup Supper
	6:45 p.m.	Midweek Advent Service
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Music Sunday
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
	4:00 p.m.	Sunday School Program
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study

## **Notes of Information:**

**Music Sunday:** Next Sunday is Music Sunday. Come behold the beauty of the season.

**Sunday School Program:** Please join us on Sunday December 21st at 4:00 for the "Sunday School Kids Christmas Program". The kids will be sharing with you the Christmas Story and we all will be singing Christmas Carole's. Refreshments will be served following the program. Please support our Youth and join us on December 21st.

**Christmas Day Services:** Christmas Day Services will be held at 10:00am this year.

**Stewardship Messages:** *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works...”*  
(Ephesians 2:10)

**Silent Auction:** Thank you all for the success of the bake sale and silent auction. Thank you for bringing in baskets and stuff to put in baskets. Just in case you missed last Sunday. Today will be the drawing for the silent auction. There are still a few cookies left come and take a treat home and support the youth.

**2026 calendars:** The 2026 youth calendars are available for purchase in the narthex or church office. The calendars are \$10. All the proceeds from the calendars will be given to the youth to support mission trips.

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

There is NO Book Club in December

January 26 - The Women by Kristin Hannah

February 23 - James by Percival Everett

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mager

**Prayer Opportunity:** An Elder will be available weekly at the end of service at the Communion Rail for personal prayer support. If privacy is requested that it will be accommodated.

**NACE:** At this time NACE is **no longer** taking any clothes at this time. Food needs are canned Fruit, Sides and Peanut Butter. For more information, reach out to Toni Peterson.

**Carl’s Movie Minute:**

The Case for Miracles: The latest Lee Strobel documentary explores - you guessed it - Miracles. Are they really real? Dec. 15-18 at Emagine White Bear and AMC Coon Rapids.

David: One for the kid. An animated movie focusing on the story of David. Dec. 19-23 at AMC Mounds View, Emagine White Bear, and East Bethel.

Zero A.D. The story of events around Jesus' birth told as a dark thriller, focusing on the post-birth reactions of Herod and others (and the massacre that followed). Not exactly a light-hearted

Christmas movie, however it has a star-studded cast and covers the part of the story we'd prefer to forget but was significant. Opens 12/19 at locations TBD (but likely the usual ones).

Looking forward to '26 at least 9 Christian themed movie ready for '26 release beginning in late January.

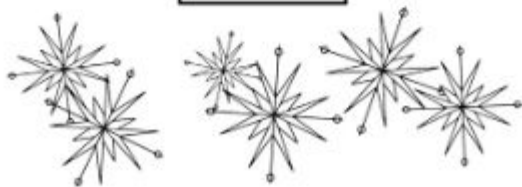
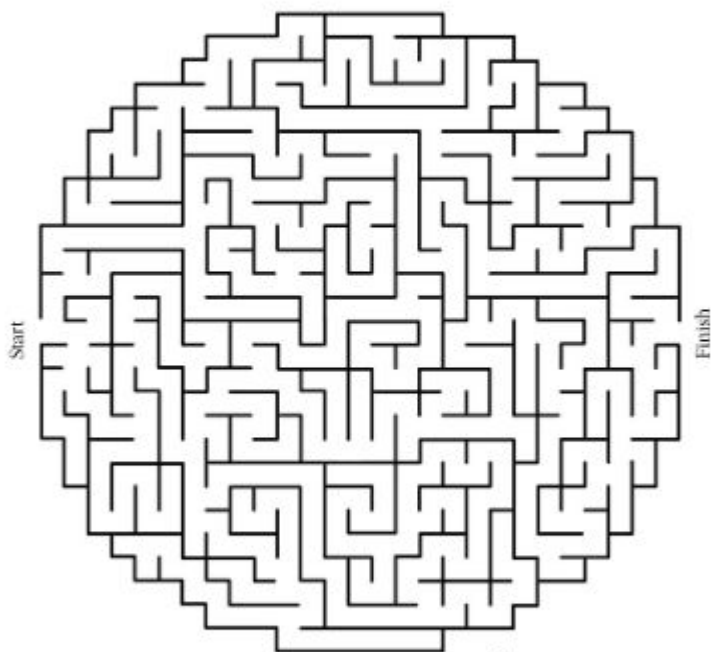
<i>Average Weekly Offering</i>	\$6,858
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	\$7,271

**Readings for next week:**

Isaiah 7:10-17, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

# Help Mary and Joseph Go to Nazareth

See if you can find two ways to  
complete the maze.





# The Birth of Jesus

CHRISTMAS

JESUS

MESSIAH

ANGEL

JOSEPH

MARY

SHEPHERDS

WISE MEN

SAVIOR

PROMISE

SALVATION

REJOICE

GIFTS

SHEEP

MANGER

BIRTH

BETHLEHEM

STAR

M S G M Q R E J O I C E L

K A F S C X G N E Z F B V

C V P D T P E E H S K G N

A I Q R M F B A U P U E O

M O Y E K V I N Q D N S I

E R D H J I O G Y F C Z T

H M G P O S G E Z N G K A

E P B E S W T L X W B Q V

L G A H E U M A W I Q N L

H Z D S P N E Z R S Z R A

T Y Z U H S A X W E J E S

E D X B I R T H Q M Y G P

B I U M H A I S S E M N G

A U O L Z C B K P N C A U

N R M G E Y R A M F V M Z

P C X I S A M T S I R H C



Luke 2:11

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is *Christ the Lord.*

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**SPIRIT of CHRIST**  
Lutheran Church

2749 NE Bunker Lake Blvd  
Ham Lake, MN 55304  
[www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org](http://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.

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