



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 28, 2025

First Sunday of Christmas

Welcome

What Child Is This

LSB 370

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!**

- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!**

- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.**

**Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!**

Invocation

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

C Amen.

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

Confession & Absolution

P Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C **who made heaven and earth.** (*Psalm 124:8*)

P If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with you there is forgiveness, therefore you are feared.**
(*Psalm 130:3-4*)

P 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 own 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.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

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

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.

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).

C Amen.

Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O Lord God, you know that we cannot place trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 63:7-14

⁷ I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,
the deeds for which he is to be praised,
according to all the LORD has done for us—
yes, the many good things
he has done for Israel,
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.

⁸ He said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will be true to me";
and so he became their Savior.

⁹ In all their distress he too was distressed,
and the angel of his presence saved them.
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them
all the days of old.

¹⁰ Yet they rebelled
and grieved his Holy Spirit.

So he turned and became their enemy
and he himself fought against them.

¹¹ Then his people recalled the days of old,
the days of Moses and his people—
where is he who brought them through the sea,
with the shepherd of his flock?

Where is he who set
his Holy Spirit among them,
¹² who sent his glorious arm of power
to be at Moses' right hand,
who divided the waters before them,
to gain for himself everlasting renown,
¹³ who led them through the depths?

Like a horse in open country,
they did not stumble;
¹⁴ like cattle that go down to the plain,
they were given rest by the Spirit of the LORD.

This is how you guided your people
to make for yourself a glorious name.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba, Father.*” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13-23

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.”

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of

Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

LSB 353

(tune 793)

**1 Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption,
Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Came in deep humility.**

**2 Jesus comes again in mercy
When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer
To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comes to save us from despair.**

**3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness,
Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hope to all the world is giv'n.**

**4 Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,
Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us,
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comforts us in failing years.**

Homily

Stand

Nicene Creed

Prayers of the Church

Following each petition:

P Let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

Sit

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 worshipping 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

**Holy, holy, holy LORD God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your
name.**

**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.**

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 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.

Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367

**1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. *Refrain***

**Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Refrain

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. *Refrain*

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. *Refrain*

4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. *Refrain*

5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the_ eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the_ angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” *Refrain*

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Refrain

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*

3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

LSB 386

1 Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!

2 Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee!
Draw me unto Thee!

3 Now through His Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
Death was reigning o'er us
Through sin and vanity

Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.
May we praise Him there!
May we praise Him there!

4 Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there!

A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383

1 A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant
With virgin honor pure! *Refrain*

Proclaim the Savior's birth:
"To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!"

Refrain

2 The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky. *Refrain*

3 While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
And oceans, clap your hands. *Refrain*

4 Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The infant born in Bethl'em,
The Savior and the Lord. *Refrain*

**5 All idols then shall perish
And Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter,
Decreeing endless peace. *Refrain***

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.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

LSB 366

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav'n's all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.**
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.**
- 3 All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,**

**The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.**

**4 For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.**

Announcements

Sending

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship

December 28, 2025

Pastor

Jason Neel

Usher

Art Hayden

Elders

Phil Marquardt

Chuck Johnson

Readers

Phil Marquardt

Organist

Karine Platt

Acolyte

Eli Voegele

In our prayers:

Celebrating Birthdays: Skylar Dean 12/28, Christopher Elhardt 12/29, and Larry Waterman 12/31.

Baptismal Birthdays: Ralph Fuerst 12/31, Teresa Schieffer 12/31, Breanna Smith 1/1, Georgia Kedrowski 1/1, Jason Baker 1/1, Richard Gerald 1/1 and Leona Stockwell 1/3.

This Week at a Glance

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	No Bible study
Thursday		Happy New Year!
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study

Notes of Information:

LWML: Growing Together to Share Braille and Large Print

Lutheran Braille Workers, U.S. \$100,000

Millions of people around the world are blind or visually impaired and are seeking to strengthen their Christian faith but find it difficult to access scripture-based reading materials. Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) is committed to providing Christian materials in braille and specialized large print worldwide at no cost. With a part of the grant funds, LBW will establish five new Ministry Production Centers in the United States. LBW will hold five related servant events at LWML conventions, Lutheran universities and schools, and district youth gatherings. Service opportunities provide young people with the chance to grow in their God-given gifts and share the Gospel. This grant will allow LBW to produce and freely distribute approximately 10,000 additional volumes of Bibles and other Christian materials. This grant will be used to purchase specialized paper, card stock, braille plates and equipment, and for training and shipping costs.

Evangelism: Please join the Board of Evangelism on Saturday January 10, 2026, at 10 a.m. to continue the discussion of the survey results. We look forward to your input for the future of witnessing and outreach at Spirit of Christ. Thank you.

Stewardship Messages: *Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity... ”(Ephesians 5: 15-16)*

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:

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:

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:

1 Kings 3:4-15, Ephesians 1:3-14, Luke 2:40-52

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

V D V P R U T H G J
D J H F J L U K E O
E Z R A O P A B J H
G C U D B H U T E N
X V H J H O S E A T
L S U X B F G D C J
O J O N A H W N T M
D H Q Q R W W H S A
M D A N I E L W F R
N A O N T Z I F M K



WORD LIST

ACTS	JOHN
DANIEL	JONAH
EZRA	LUKE
HOSEA	MARK
JOB	RUTH

Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY



SPiRiT of CHRiST
Lutheran Church

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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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