

ALL O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PASTOR Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

CONGR. (sing) Amen. *(congregation is seated)*

THE INTROIT

Having received the Lord's forgiveness, we are glad to enter into His courts with praise and thanksgiving. This entrance is made in the Introit with the Lord's own Word, often from the Psalms.

P: Drop down, you heavens, from above:

C: **And let the skies pour down righteousness.**

P: Let the earth open:

C: **And bring forth salvation.**

P: The heavens declare the glory of God:

C: **And the firmament shows His handiwork.**

THE GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory to the Father" (Hymnal, page 6)

CONGR. (sing) *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

THE KYRIE

Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life. (Hymnal page 7 - sing)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

"Glory to God in the highest" (Hymnal page 7 - sing)

Glory be to God on high: And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world. Receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE SALUTATION *(Greeting)*

PASTOR The Lord be with you.

CONGR. (sing) *And with thy spirit.*

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The main thoughts for the day are "collected" together in this prayer.

PASTOR Let us pray.

CONGR. (sing) *Amen.*

THE BIBLE LESSONS

God speaks to us.

The Old Testament Reading:

Micah 5:2-4 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting." 3 Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel. 4 And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth;

PASTOR Here ends the Old Testament Reading. We continue with the responsive reading of:

THE GRADUAL

The Gradual is a "Bridge of praise" that links the Old Testament with the New Testament.

P: The Lord is near to all those who call upon Him.

C: To all who call upon Him in truth.

P: My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord:

C: And let all flesh praise His holy name.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: You are my Help and my Deliverer:

C: Answer in Your time, O my God. Hallelujah!

CONGR. (sing) Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

PASTOR The New Testament Reading comes from Hebrews chapter 10, beginning there in the 5th verse.

CONGR. (sing) Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

The New Testament Reading:

Hebrews 10:5-10 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come; In the volume of the book it is written of Me; To do Your will, O God.'" 8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

PASTOR Here ends the New Testament Reading.

CONGR. (sing) Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

Congregation stands for:

THE APOSTLES' CREED

We boldly confess what we believe. (Hymnal, page 12)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn

LEISE RIESELT DER SCHNEE

Words and arrangement by Gerhardt Mueller 1964

1. Fields are peaceful and white,
Christmas shines through the night,
Snowflakes like jewels appear,
Joyfully, Jesus is here!
2. Carols echo on high,
Clear as stars in the sky,
Angels from heaven appear,
Joyfully, Jesus is here!
3. Sin's dread curse now is gone,
Peace with God through His Son,
Freed from all sadness and fear
Joyfully, Jesus is here!
4. Sing and let us rejoice,
Join with glad heart and voice
Come, with the shepherds draw near,
Joyfully, Jesus is here!

THE SERMON

Luke 1:39-55 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 "But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 "For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 "Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord." 46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. 49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. 50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. 54 He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever."

Theme: "MARY'S TO-DO-LIST FOR CHRISTMAS"

- I. Share the Wonder with family (39-45)
- II. Give all glory to God (46-49)
- III. Praise His acts of mercy (50-53)
- IV. Rejoice in His salvation (54-55)

THE OFFERTORY

*In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.
(Hymnal, pages 12-13) (sing)*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him. While the ushers present our offerings at the Lord's Altar, we stand and sing the offering hymn 108:1&6:

**1. We sing, Immanuel, Thy praise,
Thou Prince of Life and Fount of grace,
Thou Flower of heaven and Star of morn,
Thou Lord of lords, Thou Virgin-born. Hallelujah!
6. I have the will, the power is weak;
Yet, Lord, my humble offering take
And graciously the love receive
Which my poor heart to Thee can give. Hallelujah!**

A MEMORIAL

JOHN CLAYTON DAUTERMAN

Today we commemorate Christ's victory for our brother in Christ, John Dauterman. The LORD in His mercy called this servant to his eternal reward on Saturday December 12th. His earthly remains have been cremated and laid to rest at Rienzi Cemetery.

A Message from God's Word

**"Let me die the death of the righteous,
And let my end be like his!"
Numbers 23:10**

Theme: "JOHN'S CERTAIN HOPE OF EVERLASTING LIFE"

PRAYERS - (Pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER - (All)

Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever, Amen.

Hymn 200:1-2, 7-8

Congregation stands for:

THE BENEDICTION

The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

PASTOR:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

CONGR. (sing) Amen, Amen, Amen.

The Closing Hymn 341:2 (standing)

*** *Silent Prayer* ***

Verbal Announcements --- Ushers dismiss by row

A n n o u n c e m e n t s

"If the LORD wills, we will do this or that." James 4:15

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

**Sunday School and Bible Class are in recess the next two Sundays

Thursday, 5:30 pm Children's Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 25, 10:00 am Christmas Day Service

Dec. 31, 7:00 pm New Year's Eve Communion Service

Jan. 1, 10:00 am New Year's Day Song Service. (favorites)

TV CHURCH – Today's Service 'replayed on Cable TV Channel 21

Tuesday at noon, Wednesday at 4:00 pm

CAROLING TODAY Please join us for our annual Christmas Caroling beginning at 2:00 pm. Once again this year we plan on singing some Christmas favorites to our shut-ins. All are welcome, young and old, just bring your voice! Bring the whole family and make some blessed memories for your children. The Schedule:

2:15 pm Lutheran home - Annette Gurath
244 N. Macy Street #321

2:45 pm Dorothy Miller - at her room
345 E. 1st Street Apt. 201

3:30 pm Manor Care - Bonnie Martin, Bernice Mielke
265 S. National Ave.

4:00 pm Lakeview Assisted - Leah Wirkus
517 Luco Rd Apt. #112

4:30 pm Della Wischnefski
365 Mason Street

Following that the Steve and Jodimae Seibel family have invited all carolers to an after-caroling dinner at their home – "All Things Mexican!" Please join voices with us in praises to our King!

THURSDAY NIGHT: CHRISTMAS EVE Our children will present for us in song and verse the marvel of God's love -- the account of the birth of His Son and our Savior Jesus Christ. The theme is: "O Key of David". Parents are asked to have their children here 30 minutes before service at 5:30 pm. Those involved with pre-service music should be here by 5:20 pm. Pre-service music and instrumentals begin at 5:30 pm. If you know anyone who doesn't have a church to go to this Christmas invite them along with you!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS EVE If you can play the piano, organ, or other instrument and would like to play some Christmas music before our Christmas Eve service, please sign up at the South bulletin board. This would be a nice gift for your Savior Jesus. Also, your musical talents will be greatly appreciated by the congregation!

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN COLLEGE PROFESSOR GIFTS Twelve gift bags of Christmas goodies for the Professors at ILC were assembled, filled and delivered as gifts from Luther Memorial Church. Thank you to all!

LAST DAY FOR LUTHER MEMORIAL CALLED WORKER GIFTS
Donations can be put in the box in back of church.

LAST DAY FOR THE FOREIGN MISSIONARY CHRISTMAS GIFT
Donations can be put in the box in back of church.

SERVING THE LORD The Church Council is seeking eligible and willing men of the congregation to be nominated for the Church Council in the new year. Please consider if you are capable of serving the LORD in this capacity. May the LORD give you the same willing heart as Samuel: "**Speak LORD, for Your servant hears!**" Please talk to President Jim Fillmore. (922-1774)

LAST MINUTE STOCKING STUFFER IDEAS In the hallway: copies of the Luther Memorial Cook Books (\$6); the Hymnal Supplement 2000 (\$15); Also, there the Mission Calendars are available for \$3. Please put payment in the nearby envelopes/containers. Checks should be made out to Luther Memorial Church.

GYM NIGHT This year we are renting Theisen Gym for one hour, 7:00 – 8:00 pm Fridays on the following dates. January 8, 15, 22 and 29. Our young people will be practicing for the upcoming Grade School Basketball tournament next March. There is usually an adult volley ball game going on. The whole congregation is invited. As always, a basket for donations will be set out to help cover the rental fee. Please bring balls, Frisbees, and anything else with which kids (and adults) of all sizes can have fun and exercise! We are blessed with both of these:

“For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.” 1 Timothy 4:8

THANK YOU! There are many tasks that must be done here on the church grounds that are done by “silent” volunteers. Even though you do these things out of love for your LORD Jesus, we want you to know that you are appreciated and noticed by your fellow members!
"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'" Matthew 25:40

FUNDS TO REMEMBER WITH YOUR PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS

General Budget; Missions, LM 50th Anniversary Sign Fund, LM Building Fund; Student Aid Fund; Academic Center Fund (ILC). Other synod and local funds are listed on the bulletin board. Envelopes are available on the registry table.

CHALLENGED BY OUR CURRENT DEFICIT The Church Council would like to bring to the attention of the congregation our budget deficit. With just a week and a half left to go in our fiscal year, the spending deficit (what was spent in excess of what was collected) for the year is \$30,152. The loan balance that the budgetary account owes the bank is currently \$34,000. The LORD has gotten us all through a difficult recession this past year. Let us give thanks to Him!

Malachi 3:10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

May the LORD move our hearts with a cheerful response as we ponder anew the gift of His Son Jesus Christ our Savior.

CLC NEWS <> Morning Star Lutheran, Fairchild WI, has called the Rev. Michael Gurath, assistant pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran, Phoenix AZ, to be its pastor.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM INDIA Please read the posted greetings and pictures on the bulletin boards from our fellow believers in India who having recently suffered severe flooding are very thankful the help they received.

SERVICE TODAY Ushers: Team 3 Gordon Krause, Reuel Dins, John Herzberg, Tim Johannes, Steve Seibel. Organist Adrienne Fillmore

CHRISTMAS EVE: Available Ushers: Organist Rhoda Eserhut

CHRISTMAS DAY: Available Ushers: Organist Adrienne Fillmore

NEXT SUNDAY Usher Team 4 Wayne Wischneski, Alan Kottke, Ron Haensgen, Mark King. Organist Adrienne Fillmore

GIVEN TO THE LORD – MIDWEEK & DEC 13 Attendance 67 & 16; 157
(This is an unofficial summary. For the official summary, speak to the Financial Secretary)

Budgetary weekly (\$4,334 needed) For the fiscal year

Received	\$2,814		\$183,381
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Non-budgetary

Maintenance & Improvement	\$27	balance	\$2,648
Debt Retirement Fund	\$0	balance	\$637
LM Building Fund	\$0	mortgage	\$23,771
50 th Anniversary Fund – New Sign	\$45		

Missions (CLC fiscal year is July 1 to June 30)

Budgetary	weekly	year to date
Received	\$722	\$21,329

(\$5 given in memory of Robert Ohlmann)

Non-budgetary

India Orphanage Fund	\$0
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WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” Matthew 1:23

The Old Testament Reading:

Micah 5:2-4 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting." 3 Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel. 4 And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth;

THE GRADUAL

P: The Lord is near to all those who call upon Him.

C: To all who call upon Him in truth.

P: My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord:

C: And let all flesh praise His holy name.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: You are my Help and my Deliverer:

C: Answer in Your time, O my God. Hallelujah!

The New Testament Reading:

Hebrews 10:5-10 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come; In the volume of the book it is written of Me; To do Your will, O God.'" 8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Old Testament Reading for 4th Sunday in Advent

Micah 5:2-4

Here the prophet Micah's words proclaim the very birth place of the promised Messiah 400 years before He was born. He also tells us of the benefits for us, the Church – the Flock of the Good and Great Shepherd. We read...

The New Testament Reading:

Hebrews 10:5-10

The main mission of the Christ-Child is here spelled out – He was to be the sacrifice necessary to pay for all our sins. You and I are now and once and for all sanctified, holy, through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ our Savior. We read...