

# Luther Memorial Church & School

CHURCH OF THE

LUTHERAN CONFESSION



**December 18, 2011**

**Advent 4**

*Paraments are purple; the color of royalty, Christ is coming as King of kings and Lord of lords.*

**Welcome to all! This week's focus:**

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## **THE BEST COMFORT ~ "ONCE & FOR ALL!"**

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*Today's order of service and hymns: Tan Worship Supplement pg. 12*

**61 ♦ 647 ♦ 712 ♦ 79**

Bells – Opening Prayer

**Opening Hymn: #61 [Red Hymnal]**

### **THE INVOCATION & CONFESSION OF SINS/ABSOLUTION**

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*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

Pastor: We begin our Savior's divine worship service, in the  
Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation (speaks): Amen.**

Pastor: We have come into the presence of God, who created us  
to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have  
disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment.  
Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

**Congregation: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful  
from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do  
not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my**

**Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

Pastor: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

**Congregation (speaks): Amen.**

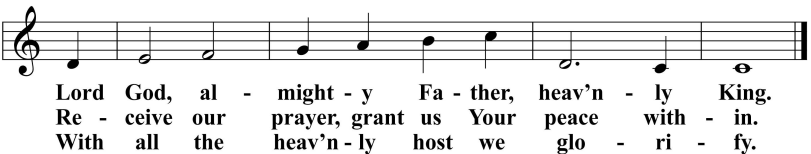
**LORD, HAVE MERCY** *KYRIE*

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**GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST** *GLORIA IN EXCELSIS*

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**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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P: Let us pray . . . through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation (speaks): Amen.**

**1<sup>ST</sup> SCRIPTURE LESSON ~ RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 92**

*(SELECTED)*

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*In the **Psalm**, the Psalmist calls upon earth to rejoice in the coming of the Lord. He is worthy of our praise!*

P: It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name,  
O Most High,

**C: To proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night,**

P: How great are your works,

**C: O LORD, how profound your thoughts!**

P: The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,

**C: They will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God.**

P: They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming,

**C: "The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him." Amen.**

**2<sup>ND</sup> SCRIPTURE LESSON ~ LUKE 1:39-55**

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*The **Gospel**, we have the account of the visit of Mary to Elizabeth, and the Magnificat. We rejoice along with Mary in the need and fulfillment of a Savior.*

39 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."

**Pastor:** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## R CONFESSION OF FAITH ~ THE APOSTLES' CREED

*The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles. We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.*

**I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'* ~Matthew 19:14

## SERMON

*Jesus said, "...Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" ~Luke 11:28*

**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.

**Theme:** Your "Better" Sacrifice.

## THE OFFERTORY

*In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.*



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me



not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly



Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of



Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

**SERMON HYMN: #712:1-3 [Tan Supplement]**

**OUR OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS TO THE LORD**

*"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." ~ 2 Corinthians 9:7*

**WE GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD: [Red hymnal #441:1,2]**

**We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.  
May we Thy bounties thus, As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!**

SPECIAL PRAYERS ~ GENERAL PRAYER ~ LORD'S PRAYER

**BENEDICTION**

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

P: The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

**C: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: #79 [Red Hymnal]**

~ Silent Prayer ~

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Welcome to all! Guests, please sign our guest book in entryway and we hope you will come and join us again! Questions? (920) 922-7421*

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE** *"If the LORD wills, we will do this or that." James 4:15*

- Today:** 9am Study/Sunday School; 10am Worship (WS)  
CHIMERS & Youth/Adult CHOIR– practice after service  
NO Chimers tonight (Miss Meyer is out of town)
- Tues:** 6:30pm Elders/Stewardship
- Wed:** **NO Midweek Advent** Worship Services (concludes 25<sup>th</sup>)
- Fri:** LMS Christmas Party (begins break, resumes Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Two different types of services,  
BOTH worth hearing God's  
promised truths!

**CHRISTMAS EVE** Service (Sat)

**CHRISTMAS DAY** Service (Sun)

10am!

- Sun:** **NO** Study/Sunday School (or New Years) 10am Worship  
CHIMERS & Youth/Adult CHOIR– practice after service  
Family Christmas Caroling! Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> (meet at LM

**TODAY!**  
@ 1pm)

**CHURCH CLEANERS NEEDED!** The 2012 church cleaner's calendar is up in the entryway on the bulletin board. Please take a look and see what month would work for you to volunteer. Let's keep God's house looking sharp and ready to use for our worship of Christ our Savior!

**CHURCH COUNCIL WORK**

Dear Friends and members of Luther Memorial congregation,  
I wanted to inform you of the actions that the Church Council took last Tuesday eve. With the membership surveys in hand we reached at great length the decision to recommend to the voters at our Annual meeting that for the 2012/2013 school we should go to 2 ½ teachers. We did not make any recommendations as to which teachers should stay full time and who should go or be asked to go part time. We also have decided that Pastor's family should find insurance thru Badger care and Mr. Bernthal's to go on his wife's insurance for 2012. We estimate these savings to amount to near \$30,000 to \$35,000 for the fiscal year of 2012. This is a way that we can reduce our costs and still maintain our outstanding staff of called workers!

Jim Fillmore, LM Chairman

\*NOTE: Council minutes for December are on the entryway table.

**CLC CALL NEWS:** Pastor Delwyn Maas of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Phoenix has returned the call to Rock of Ages Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, MI. Teacher Erin Libby of St. John's Lutheran, Okabena MN, has returned the call to Holy Trinity School, West Columbia SC.

**LM CHRISTMAS CARD BOXES –** Need Christmas cards? Bernice Mueller has a number of boxes of a dozen of nice Christmas cards at a very good price of \$3-4.00 dollars per box. Please speak with her if you are interested and hurry, she has a limited supply!

**USED CHRISTMAS CARDS** can be recycled in the red bin in the entryway. The cards are sent overseas and are happily used there!

**LM CALLED WORKERS** Christmas donation boxes are in the back of the church until December 21<sup>st</sup>.

***Witnessing idea for the week:***

**Lord, grant to Your servants that with all boldness we may speak Your word. (Acts 4:29)**

***Christmas cards...***

*We may not think of it as it comes up, but all the cards and Christmas letters we right to others is a perfect opportunity to spread and share the Christmas joy and cheer of our faith and hope in the promised Savior.*

**What do I say or write?**

*Share what you believe. Share the Word of God.*

***“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”***

***Galatians 4:4-5***

**THIS SUNDAY** Usher Team 3 = Lowell Boelk, Reuel Dins, John Herzberg, Tim Johannes, Steve Seibel

**Organist: Mr. Hay**

**NEXT SUNDAY** Usher Team 4 = Wayne Wischneski, Alan Kottke, Chris Sabel, Ron Haensgen, Mark King

**Organist: Mrs. Eserhut**