



CHRIST
has set us
FREE

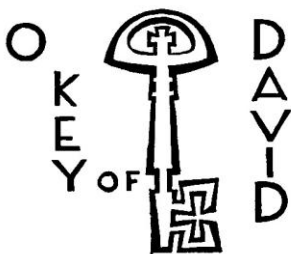
Galatians 5:1, NRSV

ADVENT FOUR

Luther Memorial Church December 22, 2024

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession
134 21st Street • Fond du Lac, Wisconsin • fdllutheran.com



Christmas Eve Practice. 9am

Worship. 10am

Andrew A. Schaller, Pastor

Church: (920) 922-7421

Cell: (605) 880-7886

ADVENT FOUR

December 22, 2024

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:

PSALM: 145 (TLH Pg. 155);

PRAYERS: 52 (Pg. 107); 53 (Pg. 107).

HYMNS: 710 62 331 95

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN: 710 *“Once in Royal David’s City”*

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT (Setting 2, WS Pg. 12)

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.

C: ♪ Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.

♪ Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.

♪ Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God's right hand in majesty most high:
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
With all the heav'n-ly host we glorify.

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

ADVENT CANDLE:

ANGEL CANDLE

OT LESSON:

MICAH 5:2-5A

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he shall be their peace. *

EPISTLE LESSON:

HEBREWS 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.' "

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. *

GOSPEL LESSON:

LUKE 1:39-55

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations
will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,

55 in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” *

THE ALLELUIA:

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

Congregation:

♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

THE APOSTLES CREED

HYMN: 62 *“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”*

THE SERMON:

ISAIAH 22:22

²² I will place the key of the house of David on his shoulder. Whatever he opens, no one will shut. Whatever he shuts, no one will open. **

LOCKED OUT? JESUS IS THE KEY

...what He unlocks no one locks.

...what He locks no one unlocks.

THE OFFERTORY

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

THE OFFERINGS OF THANKFUL HEARTS

We express our thanksgiving for what the Savior Jesus has done for us by supporting His Work with our time, talents and gifts. Should you wish to leave a gift, there are offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary. As our gifts are brought forward to His Altar, we sing His Praise.

THE OFFERING HYMN

(TLH 73:1-2,5)

♪ Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of Glory waits; The King of kings is drawing near, The Savior of the world is here. Life and salvation He doth bring, Wherefore rejoice and gladly sing: We praise Thee, Father, now, Creator, wise art Thou!

♪ A Helper just He comes to thee, His chariot is humility, His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress, The end of all our woe He brings; Wherefore the earth is glad and sings: We praise Thee, Savior, now, Mighty in deed art Thou!

♪ Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide! Let me Thy inner presence feel, Thy grace and love in me reveal; Thy Holy Spirit guides us on Until our glorious goal is won. Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

PRAYER(S) THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: 331 *"Yea, as I Live, Jehovah Saith"*

THE BENEDICTION: (Pastor) **CONGREGATION:** "Amen."

CLOSING HYMN: 95 *"Savior of the Nations, Come"*

Welcome to all of our guests and visitors this morning in Jesus' name. We are glad that you have come to worship with us this morning, and hope that you will return and join us again. If you have any questions about our church or are interested in learning more about the Scriptures, please either speak with the pastor or with an usher on the way out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 22, 2024

THIS AFTERNOON

Interested in Christmas Caroling to a few of our members? Join us here at the church at 1pm. After caroling we will meet at the Seibel residence for supper.

THIS WEEK

Monday: LM Elders Meeting 6pm

Sunday: Bible Study/Sunday School 9am; Worship 10am

COOPERATIVE BUDGET PLEDGE

Please keep our Cooperative Budget Pledge needs in mind when giving thanks to the Savior for all of His gifts to you. We have pledged to send \$22,000 to support the work of the LORD in our church body, the Church of the Lutheran Confession in 2024-25. Thus far we have received \$8,255.00 toward that pledge.

GENERAL BUDGET

Please keep our General Budget needs in mind when giving thanks to the Savior for all of His gifts to you. On Sunday October 20th, at the suggestion of the Council the amount was adjusted: \$152,600.00. Thus far we have received \$134,980.87 toward that pledge.

LM FAMILY BOWLING OUTING

The January 2025 Family Game Night will be a bowling outing to Ledgeview Lanes on Friday January 10th from 6:30-7:30pm. The cost is \$3.00 per game + \$4.50 per adult and \$4.00 per child.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS MEETING

The Sunday School Teachers met after worship last Sunday (September 29th) and are scheduled to meet again on Sunday October 27th following worship.

NEW WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter was sent out this past week to those who have subscribed to it. This may be done at the bottom of the first page of the website: www.fdllutheran.com. Note that you will need to confirm your subscription by clicking a link you will receive (check the spam or junk box) after subscribing to receive the newsletter.

2025 CLC MISSION HELPER TRIP TO NEPAL

Applications are now being accepted for the 2025 Mission Helper Trip to Nepal. Space is limited for this trip, so please apply early. Find more information at: <https://mht.lutheranmissions.org/>

LOOKING AHEAD...

- † **Sunday December 22nd** – Christmas Practice 9am
- † **Sunday December 22nd** – Christmas Caroling
- † **Tuesday December 24th** – Christmas Eve Service 6pm
- † **Wednesday December 25th** – Christmas Day Service 10am
- † **Sunday December 29th** – Sunday after Christmas 10am
- † **Tuesday December 31st** – New Year's Eve Communion Service 6pm

CHRIST EXPLORER'S CAMP

Young Adult Retreat: Well, our camp is growing up just like the majority of our youth in our church at Holy Trinity. So.... this year, we have decided to host a more "grown up" camp for our older youth. This will actually become a Young Adult Retreat! We are inviting young adults entering grades 9 and up and our young college youth to join us in Bryson City, NC, for a young adult retreat! Please save the date for Christ's Explorers Retreat - Thursday, June 19 - Sunday, June 22. Questions, please contact Sara Kloke (runsforfun@aol.com), Karen Howell (kdhowell32@gmail.com), or Julie Levandoski (levandoskidressage@gmail.com).

LUTHERAN SPOKESMAN SUBSCRIPTION RATE INCREASE

Beginning next July in the CLC's fiscal new year, there will be a \$5 subscription increase. Individual subscriptions for one year; \$23. Bulk subscriptions to congregations; \$20. Send address or payment question requests to: lutheranspokesman@ilc.edu

GIFT CARDS FOR ILC PROFESSORS

*In the past \$25 gift cards were bought from Festival Foods for the Immanuel professors. There is a gift box for the ILC Professors in the back of the sanctuary for those who would like to give to pay for this. There is also a box for our called worker gift. **Today is the last day that offerings will be received for this cause. Please place any gifts in the small boxes in the rear of the sanctuary by the bulletins.***

ADVENT CANDLE SUMMARY

Someone asked for a copy of each of the Advent Candle Summaries. A few copies have been made and are in the tract rack in the entryway.

FAMILY GAME NIGHTS

Family Game Nights in 2025 will be held from February to May, on the 2nd Friday of each month at 6:30pm.



In the 8th and 7th Century BC, members of the upper class of Jerusalem were buried in rock-cut caves in the area of the present-day village of Silvan opposite the city of David in Jerusalem. Above on grave was found the inscription, "This is [the grave of] Jahu, the Royal Steward. Here is no gold nor silver; only his bones and the bones of his female slave are buried alongside him. Cursed be the human who opens this." The Royal Steward was a minister in the royal cabinet. The grave reminds of the scene described in Isaiah 22:15-18.

¹⁵Thus says the Lord God of hosts, "Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him: ¹⁶What have you to do here, and whom have you here, that you have cut out here a tomb for yourself, you who cut out a tomb on the height and carve a dwelling for yourself in the rock? ¹⁷Behold,

the Lord will hurl you away violently, O you strong man. He will seize firm hold on you ¹⁸and whirl you around and around, and throw you like a ball into a wide land. There you shall die, and there shall be your glorious chariots, you shame of your master's house."

This image is taken from [1000 Bible Images](#), collected by the German Bible society and taken from Logos Bible Software.

CLC CALL NEWS

Pastor Drew Naumann has returned the call of Faith Lutheran Church of Manchester (St. Louis) MO. • Pastor Del Maas of Gift of God Lutheran Church in Mapleton (Fargo) ND and St. Paul's Lutheran of Ponsford MN has been called by St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School in Mountain View, CA. • Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake, MN has been called by Faith Lutheran in Manchester (St Louis) MO.

Missions/Cooperative Budget Plan Pledge 2025

The Cooperative Budget Plan (CBP) is a pledge established by the Voters of Luther Memorial to participate in the work of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. This fiscal year runs from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

Amount Pledged 2024	Received as of 12/18/24	Amount Remaining	Approximate per Sunday (20)
\$22,000	\$8,255.00	\$13,745.00	\$687.25

The Offerings of Thankful Hearts – LM Offerings 12/15/24

Attendance: 12/15 -80, 12/18 -29

General Fund (Budgetary)	General Missions (CBP)	Kinship (Missions)		
\$1,015.00*	\$135.00	\$20.00		

Total Offerings: \$1,070.00*

**Includes \$100 in Memory of Herb and Caroline Rathman.*

Luther Memorial General Budget 2024

The Voters of Luther Memorial established the general budget at the Annual Meeting in January of 2024. All Budgetary offerings are applied to this budget. This fiscal year runs from January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.

General Budget	Received as of 12/18/24	Amount Remaining	Approximate Amount (2)
\$152,600.00	\$134,980.87	\$17,619.13	\$8,809.56

* Scripture quotations are from ESV® Bible copyright © 2001 by Crossway, Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved." ** Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2019 Wartburg Project, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DEVOTIONS FOR DECEMBER 23-28, 2024

Monday – Luke 1:57-66 Neighbors and relatives rejoice when God's promise is fulfilled. Elizabeth and Zechariah are united in using the name which Gabriel had given, and Zechariah's tongue is loosed to praise God.

Tuesday - Luke 1:67-80 Zechariah becomes a mouthpiece for the Holy Spirit, extolling God's goodness in bringing the promised salvation to pass. This shows the importance of this child, the fore-runner of the Savior.

Wed Luke 2:1-14 Christmas Day In the sending of His own Son, God exalts those of low degree. He gives the child to lowly parents in a lowly place. He announces it to unnamed shepherds. But all of this fills our songs with joy today.

Thursday – John 1:1-14 The Word by whom all things were made became flesh. He showed us His glory as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth, and it is He who brings us life!

Friday – Isaiah 9:2-7 The difference between darkness and a brilliant light, that is the difference that He makes, whose birth we celebrate these days. He comes to raise the human race from death to life!

Saturday – Isaiah 11:1-5 From the stump of a tree comes a little shoot, a Branch. But He will be great! He will be righteous! The Spirit of the LORD, of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the LORD will rest on Him. And we will be blessed!



These devotions are produced by Pastor/Professor Emeritus Paul Schaller and sent out on a weekly basis.

Graphics in the bulletin are taken from Church Art Online via a regular legal subscription.

HYMN SHEET

PSALM FOR WORSHIP

PSALM 145

¹ I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. ² Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

³ Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴ One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. ⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. ⁶ They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. ⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹ The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you! ¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, ¹² to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. [The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.] ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. ¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. ¹⁶ You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. ¹⁷ The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. ¹⁸ The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. ¹⁹ He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. ²⁰ The Lord preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP

FOR PENITENCE

Merciful Father, grant us grace that we may never purposely sin, but if at any time we sin against you may we truly repent and sorrow over our sin and by a living faith in Christ obtain forgiveness of sins, solely through the virtues of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR PARDON

Hear, we pray, O Lord, the prayer of those who confess their sins to You and who trust in Your Son that they may find in Him pardon and peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

1. Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed; Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all, And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall; With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. But our eyes at last shall see Him through His own redeeming love, For that Child, so dear and gentle, Is our Lord in heav'n above, And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.

4. Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like stars His children crowned, All in white, His praise will sound.

ALLELUIA

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

Congregation (Sung): "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

HYMN

OH, COME, OH, COME, EMMANUEL

1. Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny; From depths of hell Thy people save And give them victory o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. Oh, come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night And death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come And open wide our heavenly home: Make safe the way that leads on high And close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

OFFERING

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES

♪ Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of Glory waits; The King of kings is drawing near, The Savior of the world is here. Life and salvation He doth bring, Wherefore rejoice and gladly sing: We praise Thee, Father, now, Creator, wise art Thou!

♪ A Helper just He comes to thee, His chariot is humility, His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress, The end of all our woe He brings; Wherefore the earth is glad and sings: We praise Thee, Savior, now, Mighty in deed art Thou!.

♪ Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide! Let me Thy inner presence feel, Thy grace and love in me reveal; Thy Holy Spirit guides us on Until our glorious goal is won. Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

HYMN

YEA, AS I LIVE, JEHOVAH SAITH

1. Yea, as I live, Jehovah saith, I would not have the sinner's death, But that he turn from error's ways, Repent, and live through endless days.

2. To us therefore Christ gave command: "Go forth and preach in every land; Bestow on all My pardoning grace Who will repent and mend their ways.

3. "All those whose sins ye thus remit I truly pardon and acquit, And those whose sins ye do retain Condemned and guilty shall remain.

4. "What ye shall bind, that bound shall be: What ye shall loose, that shall be free; Unto My Church the keys are given To ope and close the gates of heaven."

5. The words which absolution give Are His who died that we might live; The minister whom Christ has sent Is but His humble instrument.

6. When ministers lay on their hands, Absolved by Christ the sinner stands; He who by grace the Word believes The purchase of His blood receives.

7. All praise, eternal Son, to Thee For absolution full and free, In which Thou showest forth Thy grace; From false indulgence guard our race.

8. Praise God the Father and the Son And Holy Spirit, Three in One, As 'twas, is now, and so shall be World without end, eternally!

HYMN

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

1. Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Thy home! Marvel now, O heaven and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

2. Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh-- Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.

3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child Of the Virgin undefiled! Though by all the world disowned, Still to be in heaven enthroned.

4. From the Father forth He came And returneth to the same, Captive leading death and hell-- High the song of triumph swell!

5. Thou, the Father's only Son, Hast o'er sin the victory won. Boundless shall Thy kingdom be; When shall we its glories see?

6. Brightly doth Thy manger shine, Glorious is its light divine. Let not sin o'ercloud this light; Ever be our faith thus bright.

7. Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King, Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally. Amen.