



**All who heard him
were amazed...**

Luke 2:47, NRSV

ADVENT THREE

Luther Memorial Church December 14, 2025

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

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



Sunday School/Bible Study. . . . 9am

Worship. . . . 10am

Andrew A. Schaller, Pastor

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ADVENT THREE

December 14, 2025

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:

PSALM: 22 (TLH Pg. 127);

PRAYERS: 77 (Pg. 109); **70** (Pg. 109).

HYMNS: 95 97 375:1-4 375:5

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN: 95 - *“Savior of the Nations, Come”*

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT (Setting One, WS. Pg. 1-11)

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

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: Beloved of God: Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Congregation: **Almighty God, our maker and Redeemer: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: ♪ Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to all people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
We worship You, we give You thanks,
we praise You for Your glory.**

**♪ Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God:
You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

ADVENT CANDLE

OT LESSON:

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

THE SHEPHERD CANDLE

ISAIAH 40:1-8

- ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the Lord blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
- ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever. *

EPISTLE LESSON:

2 TIMOTHY 4:5-8

⁵As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

⁶For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. *

GOSPEL LESSON:

MATTHEW 3:1-11

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

¹⁰ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. *

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 NICENE CREED (WS. Pg. 5)

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 worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead And the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN: 97 - *"Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"*

THE SERMON:

LUKE 2:39-52

³⁹ So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. ⁴¹ His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. ⁴³ When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; ⁴⁴ but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. ⁴⁵ So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. ⁴⁶ Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. ⁴⁸ So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." ⁴⁹ And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. ⁵¹ Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.**

THE SILENCE OF THE CHILD JESUS

THE OFFERTORY

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, 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 me with Your free Spirit.

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. These gifts are NOT collected during worship but placed in the rear of the sanctuary at the beginning of worship.

THE OFFERING HYMN

(WS 788)

♪ Lord, You love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand Blesses freely, as a river That refreshes all the land. Grant us, then, the grace of giving With a spirit large and true That our life and all our living We may consecrate to You.

♪ We are yours – Your mercy sought us, Found us in death’s dreadful way, To the fold in safety brought us, Nevermore from You to stray. Your own life was freely given As an off-ring on the cross For each sinner, now forgiven From eternal shame and loss.

♪ Blessed by You with gifts and graces, May we heed Your Spirit’s call, Gladly in all times and places Give to You who gives us all. You have bought us; now no longer Can we claim to be our own; Ever free and ever stronger We shall serve You, Lord, a-lone.

PRAYER (S)/THE LORD’S PRAYER

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: 375:1-4 - *“If Thy Beloved Son, O God”*

THE BENEDICTION: CONGREGATION: (Spoken) "Amen."

CLOSING HYMN: 375:5 - *“If Thy Beloved Son, O God”*

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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. It is our prayer that your faith will be strengthened by the preaching of our Lord’s Word. If you have any questions about our church or are interested in learning more about the Scriptures, please either speak with an usher on the way out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 14, 2025

THIS WEEK

Tuesday: LM Mission Committee, 6:00pm

Thursday: LM Elders, 6:00pm

Sunday: Final Christmas Practice 9am; Worship 10am

GENERAL BUDGET

The 2025 General Budget was set in our Annual Meeting at \$130,000.00. We have thus far received: \$124,217.25

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 2025-26. Thus far we have received \$ 8,665.00 toward that pledge.

SOUTHEAST WOMEN'S RETREAT

The Southeast Women's Retreat will be February 13-15, 2026 at Camp Dogwood on Lake Norman in Sherrills Ford in North Carolina. Theme is Ephesians 4:3 - Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

2026 CLC MISSION HELPER TRIP

The CLC Mission Helper Program is making preparations for another Mission Trip to Africa for the summer of 2026. The main focus of this trip will be presenting the Gospel, through a series of child evangelism lessons, to member and non-member children in village congregations. Possible areas of evangelism include the CLC-Tanzania, CLC-Kenya, CLC-Zambia, and CLC-Uganda. CLC members are welcome and encouraged to apply. For more information and to apply, visit www.mht.lutheranmissions.org.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING/BOWLING OUTING

Our Annual Christmas Caroling is scheduled for Monday December 22nd and our Bowling Outing is scheduled for Friday January 9th at 6:30pm at Ledgeview Lanes here in Fond du Lac.

SPECIAL SERVICES UPCOMING

The Holiday Season is in full swing. Our Midweek Advent Services will be concluded this week and our Annual Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve Worship is quickly approaching.

- † **Wednesday December 17th** – Midweek Advent Worship #3, 6pm
- † **Wednesday December 24th** -Christmas Eve Children's Service, 6pm
- † **Thursday December 25th** – Christmas Day Worship 10am
- † **Wednesday December 31st** – New Year's Eve Worship, 6pm

NOTES FOR HOME STUDY --

CLC CALL NEWS

Pastor David Naumann has returned the call of Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church in Spokane, WA. • Living Hope Lutheran in Appleton WI has called Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD. • Messiah Lutheran Church of Eau Claire, Wisconsin has called Pastor Ben Libby to serve as their 3rd Full-time pastor. • Pastor Terrell Kesterson has returned the call of Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church in Red Wing, MN to serve part-time. • Pastor Emeritus Michael Eichstadt has accepted the call to serve as Vacancy Pastor at Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church in Phoenix AZ. • Pastor Ben Libby has returned the call of Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church in Phoenix AZ. • Pastor Emeritus David Schierenbeck has accepted the call to serve as Assistant to the Pastor at Berea Ev. Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, MN after he concludes serving as Vacancy Pastor of Our Redeemer’s Lutheran in Red Wing, MN, at the end of January.

Missions/Cooperative Budget Plan Pledge 2026

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, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

Amount Pledged 2025	Received as of 12/10/25	Amount Remaining	Approximate per Sunday (31)
\$22,000	\$8,665.00	\$13,335.00	\$430.00

The Offerings of Thankful Hearts – LM Offerings 12/7, 12/10/25

Attendance: 12/7 – ; 12/10 -

General Fund (Budgetary)	General Missions (CBP)	MDF (Missions)	Kinship (Missions)	M & I (Non-Budgetary)
\$3,598.00	\$390.00	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$60.00

Total Offerings: \$4,158.00

Luther Memorial General Budget 2025

The Voters of Luther Memorial established the general budget at the Annual Meeting on January 19, 2024. All Budgetary offerings are applied to this budget. This fiscal year runs from January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.

General Budget	Received as of 12/10/25	Amount Remaining	Approximate Amount (3 Sundays)
\$130,000.00	\$124,217.25	\$5,782.75	\$1,928.00

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HOME DEVOTIONS FOR DECEMBER 15-20, 2025

Monday – Matthew 11:2-10 When John sends disciples to ask Jesus to confirm His Messiah-ship, He points to the prophecies which He has fulfilled. He then turns and extols John's role in the coming Kingdom of God.

Tuesday – Romans 10:9-15 It is with heart and mouth that Jesus is honored and salvation is enjoyed by both Jew and non-Jew. The Lord our righteousness provides preachers of the gospel to speak to the heart.

Wednesday – Matthew 1:18-23 The Lord appears to Joseph in a dream to let him know that Mary has not been unfaithful to her promise. This miracle of God-with-us is not something Joseph or we would have thought up.

Thursday – Isaiah 60:1-5 The coming of the LORD means the coming of light in darkness and nations will be drawn to that light. As John also writes: "In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind" (John 1:4).

Friday - Psalm 98 Although Jesus' coming in Bethlehem was without earthly fanfare, His coming to judge the earth will be reason for shouting and singing and sounding of trumpets. Joy to the world, the LORD is come!

Saturday – Psalm 4 God's children may have troubles, but they know that all blessings come from the LORD. To Him they will look and from Him receive greater joys than worldly prosperity can bring (v7).



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

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PSALM 22

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? ² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

³ Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. ⁴ In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. ⁵ To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶ But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. ⁷ All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; ⁸ "He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

⁹ Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. ¹⁰ On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God. ¹¹ Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

¹² Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me; ¹³ they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; ¹⁵ my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. ¹⁶ For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet— ¹⁷ I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me; ¹⁸ they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

¹⁹ But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid! ²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog! ²¹ Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

²² I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: ²³ You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴ For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him. ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

²⁶ The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord! May your hearts live forever! ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. ²⁸ For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive. ³⁰ Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; ³¹ they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it. *

PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP

FOR AN ANSWER TO PRAYER

Almighty God, you have promised to hear the prayers of those who ask in Your Son's name, so we ask you to listen to those who have now made prayers and supplications to You; and grant that those things asked in faith according to Your will may be given that we may find relief in our necessity and in return glorify Your name, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord. Amen.

FOR HUMILITY

O God, you resist the proud and give grace to the humble. Grant to us true humility, like that of Your Son Jesus Christ, that we may never be lifted up in pride and provoke Your anger, but in all lowliness be made partakers of the gifts of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

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.

HYMN

LET US ALL WITH GLADSOME VOICE

1. Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven, Who,
to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.
2. To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness, That
with Him in heaven's fair homes We may reign in gladness.
3. We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder? Therefore
praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.
4. O Lord Christ, our Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us. Grant us
now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us!

THE OFFERING HYMN

(WS 788)

♪ Lord, You love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and
hand Blesses freely, as a river That refreshes all the land. Grant
us, then, the grace of giving With a spirit large and true That our
life and all our living We may consecrate to You.

♪ We are yours – Your mercy sought us, Found us in death's
dreadful way, To the fold in safety brought us, Nevermore from
You to stray. Your own life was freely given As an off-ring on the
cross For each sinner, now forgiven From eternal shame and loss.

♪ Blessed by You with gifts and graces, May we heed Your Spirit's
call, Gladly in all times and places Give to You who gives us all.
You have bought us; now no longer Can we claim to be our own;
Ever free and ever stronger We shall serve You, Lord, a-lone.

HYMN

IF THY BELOVED SON, O GOD

1. If Thy beloved Son, O God, Had not to earth descended And in
our mortal flesh and blood Had not sin's power ended, Then this
poor, wretched soul of mine In hell eternally would pine Because
of its transgression.

2. But now I find sweet peace and rest, Despair no more reigns o'er me; No more am I by sin opprest, For Christ has borne sin for me. Upon the cross for me He died That, reconciled, I might abide With Thee, my God, forever.

3. I trust in Him with all my heart; Now all my sorrow ceases; His words abiding peace impart, His blood from guilt releases. Free grace through Him I now obtain; He washes me from every stain, And pure I stand before Him.

4. All righteousness by works is vain, The Law brings condemnation; True righteousness by faith I gain, Christ's work is my salvation. His death, that perfect sacrifice, Has paid the all-sufficient price; In Him my hope is anchored.

HYMN

IF THY BELOVED SON, O GOD

5. My guilt, O Father, Thou hast laid On Christ, Thy Son, my Savior. Lord Jesus, Thou my debt hast paid And gained for me God's favor. O Holy Ghost, Thou Fount of grace, The good in me to Thee I trace; In faith do Thou preserve me. Amen.