



There is
therefore now
NO CONDEMNATION
for those who are
IN CHRIST JESUS.

ROMANS 8:1

ADVENT FOUR

Luther Memorial Church December 21, 2025

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

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



Christmas Practice. 9am

Worship. 10am

Andrew A. Schaller, Pastor

Church: (920) 922-7421

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ADVENT FOUR

December 21, 2025

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:

PSALM: 93 (TLH Pg. 143);

PRAYERS: 74 (Pg. 109); 73 (Pg. 109).

HYMNS: 62 61 372 364:1-4

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN: 62 -*"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"*

A SERVICE OF THE WORD

(Worship Supplement Pg. 22)

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

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Congregation: **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

P: Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We stand forgiven. With boldness and confidence, we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE

OT LESSON:

¹⁵ “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶ just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷ And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. *

EPISTLE:

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. *

THE ANGEL CANDLE

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-19

1 JOHN 1:1-4

GOSPEL:**JOHN 1:15-18**

¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*

CONFESSION OF FAITH:**APOSTLES CREED****HYMN: 61** - *"Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"***THE SERMON:****ROMANS 8:33**

³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.*

THE SILENCE OF SATAN

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**(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**HYMN: 372** - *"Through Jesus' Blood and Merit"*

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

CLOSING HYMN:

364:1-4 - "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

Welcome to all of our guests and visitors this morning in Jesus' name. 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 21, 2025

THIS WEEK

Monday: Christmas Caroling 1pm

Wednesday: Children's Christmas Eve Service 6pm

Thursday: Christmas Day Service 10am

Sunday: Worship 10am

GENERAL BUDGET

The 2025 General Budget was set in our Annual Meeting at \$130,000.00. We have thus far received: \$126,432.25 toward that budget.

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 \$ 9,335.00 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.

SPECIAL SERVICES UPCOMING

The Holiday Season is on the horizon whether we like it or not. Our Thanksgiving Eve Worship is scheduled to take place in just over 2 weeks on Wednesday November 26th at 6pm. Midweek Advent Services will follow, as will our annual Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services and New Year's Eve Worship.

- † **Wednesday December 24th** -Christmas Eve Children's Service, 6pm
- † **Thursday December 25th** – Christmas Day Worship 10am
- † **Sunday December 28th** – Sunday After Christmas
- † **Wednesday December 31st** – New Year's Eve Worship, 6pm

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Our Annual Christmas Caroling is scheduled for this Monday December 22nd. Singers are asked to meet at the church at 1pm. The tentative 2025 Christmas Caroling Schedule is as follows: 1:15pm Shirley Hornung; 1:45pm Rathman; 2:15pm Gescheidle; 2:45pm Woodlands 87 (Bernice Rademann); 3:15pm Woodlands 77; 3:45pm Bonnie Steffen; 4:35pm Larry and Georgine Stubbs. If you are on this schedule and the approximate time doesn't work for you, please speak with Pastor Schaller ASAP. Thank you. We will retire to the Seibel Home (183 Sheboygan) afterward for sustenance and libations.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING/BOWLING OUTING

Our Annual Bowling Outing is scheduled for Friday January 9th at 6:30pm at Ledgeview Lanes here in Fond du Lac. All are welcome.

MISSION BREAKFAST -- JANUARY

The next Mission Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday January 17th at 9am. Bring a breakfast item and join us!

IT'S ALMOST CHILI TIME

Our Annual Chili Cookoff is in the planning stages, keep an eye on the bulletin and newsletter for more information.

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 Emeritus Michael Eichstadt has accepted the call to serve as Vacancy Pastor at Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church in Phoenix AZ

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 12/17/25 | Amount Remaining | Approximate per Sunday (30) |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| \$22,000 | \$9,335.00 | \$12,665.00 | \$422.00 |

The Offerings of Thankful Hearts – 12/17/2025

Attendance: 12/14 -71; 12/17 -36

| General Fund (Budgetary) | General Missions (CBP) | MDF (Missions) | Kinship (Missions) |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| \$2,215.00* | \$670.00 | \$135.00 | \$10.00 |
| LM Student Aid (Non-Budgetary) | Poinsettias (Non-Budgetary) | | |
| \$20.00 | \$43.99 | | |
| Total Offerings: \$3,093.99 | | | |
| *\$200 in Memory of Wilton Eikhoff and Gilbert Abler | | | |

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 12/17/25 | Amount Remaining | Approximate Amount (2 Sundays) |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| \$130,000.00 | \$126,432.25 | \$3,567.75 | \$1,784.00 |

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READINGS FOR DEVOTIONS DECEMBER 22-27, 2025

Monday – John 1:19-28 John the Baptizer turns aside all renown from himself, that it may go instead to the One far greater “whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie” (v27). To Him must go the praise!

Tuesday – Philippians 4:4-7 Joy in the Lord goes together with gentleness toward others, for our hearts are not guarded by sharp words and weapons, but by the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding (v7).

Wednesday – Luke 2:1-14 On the night before Christmas, we remember how the Christ came quietly to Bethlehem, and was announced to unnamed shepherds at night. But the angels already knew, and rejoiced!

Thursday – John 1:16-18 “Grace upon grace” describes our God. And His grace and truth came to us through Jesus Christ. Through the only-begotten Son we learn to know the Father!

Friday – Titus 2:11-14 It is the grace of God that brings salvation to all people. This grace also trains us to say “No” to ungodliness, since He gave Himself to redeem us from all lawlessness, and to be His own people.

Saturday – Isaiah 9:2-7 Joy, light, and freedom are encompassed in the promised child (v6). There will be no end to the peace that He brings, for He will be everything that His names imply!



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 93

The Lord reigns; he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. ²Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. ³The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring. ⁴Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty! ⁵Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore. *

PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP

FOR PEACE

O God, you are the author of peace. Defend us, your humble servants, against every assault of our enemies, that we, surely trusting in Your defense, may not fear the power of any adversary; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR THE BLESSEDNESS OF HEAVEN

Almighty, Everlasting God, who gave Your only Son to be a High Priest of good things to come, hereafter grant to us, Your unworthy servants, to have our share in the company of the blessed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

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.

HYMN

COMFORT, COMFORT, YE MY PEOPLE

1. Comfort, comfort, ye My people, Speak ye peace, thus saith our God; Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load. Speak ye to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her sins I cover And her warfare now is over.

2. Yea, her sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed; All that well deserved His anger He no more will see or heed. She hath suffered many a day, Now her griefs have passed away; God will change her pining sadness Into ever-springing gladness.

3. Hark, the Herald's voice is crying In the desert far and near, Bidding all men to repentance Since the Kingdom now is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way; Let the valleys rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.

4. Make ye straight what long was crooked, Make the rougher places plain; Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits His holy reign. For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad, And all flesh shall see the token That His Word is never broken.

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

THROUGH JESUS' BLOOD AND MERIT

1. Through Jesus' blood and merit I am at peace with God; What, then, can daunt my spirit, However dark my road? My courage shall not fail me, For God is on my side; Though hell itself assail me, Its rage I may deride.

2. There's naught that me can sever From the great love of God;
No want, no pain, whatever, No famine, peril, flood. Though
thousand foes surround me, For slaughter mark Thy sheep, They
never shall confound me, The victory I shall reap.

3. Yea, neither life's temptation Nor death's so trying hour, Nor
angels of high station, Nor any other power, Nor things that now
are present, Nor things that are to come, Nor height, however
pleasant, Nor depths of deepest gloom.

4. Nor any creature ever Shall from the love of God This wretched
sinner sever; For in my Savior's blood This love its fountain taketh;
He hears my faithful prayer And nevermore forsaketh His own
dear child and heir.

HYMN HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS SOUNDS

1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear! It
soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, And drives away his fear.

2. It makes the wounded spirit whole And calms the troubled
breast; 'Tis manna to the hungry soul And to the weary, rest.

3. Dear name! The Rock on which I build, My Shield and Hiding-
place; My never-failing Treasury filled With boundless stores of
grace.

4. By Thee my prayers acceptance gain Although with sin defiled.
Satan accuses me in vain, And I am owned a child. Amen.