



... A  
*star*  
SHALL COME  
OUT OF JACOB,  
AND A  
*scepter*  
SHALL RISE  
OUT OF ISRAEL ...

NUMBERS 24:17

## **SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

Luther Memorial Church . . . . . December 28, 2025

# LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession  
134 21<sup>st</sup> Street • Fond du Lac, Wisconsin • [fdllutheran.com](http://fdllutheran.com)



**Divine Worship. . . . . 10am**

Andrew A. Schaller, Pastor

Church: (920) 922-7421

Cell: (605) 880-7886

## SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 28, 2025

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:

**PSALM: 70** (TLH Pg. 138);

**PRAYERS: 45** (Pg. 106); **51** (Pg. 107).

**HYMNS: 87 712 98 713**

### OPENING PRAYER

**OPENING HYMN: 87** - *“Joy to the World, the Lord is Come”*

### A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

(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.” **“Amen.”**

**OT LESSON:**

**ISAIAH 63:7-16**

<sup>7</sup> I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup> For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.” And he became their Savior. <sup>9</sup> In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. <sup>10</sup> But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

<sup>11</sup> Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, <sup>12</sup> who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, <sup>13</sup> who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble.

<sup>14</sup> Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the Lord gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

<sup>15</sup> Look down from heaven and see, from your holy and beautiful habitation. Where are your zeal and your might? The stirring of your inner parts and your compassion are held back from me.

<sup>16</sup> For you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name. \*

**EPISTLE LESSON:**

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-9**

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup>if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

<sup>6</sup>So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. \*

**GOSPEL LESSON:**

**LUKE 2:25-32**

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

29 “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;  
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation  
31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your  
people Israel.” \*

### **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 CHRISTMAS CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, who sent His Son to be my Savior.

And I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, my Lord, the long-promised Messiah, who came as foretold, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshipped by the shepherds, adored by the Wise Men, who lived to suffer die, and rise again, to free me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who has brought me to faith in my Savior, and by whose work in my heart I rejoice in my salvation, walk in Christ, show forth His praises, and will one day live and reign with Him in all eternity. Amen.

**HYMN: 712** - *“What Child is This?”*

### **THE SERMON:**

### **NUMBERS 24:10-17**

<sup>10</sup>Then Balak’s anger was aroused against Balaam, and he struck his hands together; and Balak said to Balaam, “I called you to curse my enemies, and look, you have bountifully blessed them these three times! <sup>11</sup>Now therefore, flee to your place. I said I would greatly honor you, but in fact, the LORD has kept you back from honor.”

<sup>12</sup> So Balaam said to Balak, “Did I not also speak to your messengers whom you sent to me, saying, <sup>13</sup> ‘If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD, to do good or bad of my own will. What the LORD says, that I must speak’? <sup>14</sup> And now, indeed, I am going to my people. Come, I will advise you what this people will do to your people in the latter days.” <sup>15</sup> So he took up his oracle and said: “The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, And the utterance of the man whose eyes are opened; <sup>16</sup> The utterance of him who hears the words of God, And has the knowledge of the Most High, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Who falls down, with eyes wide open:

<sup>17</sup> “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near;

A Star shall come out of Jacob;  
A Scepter shall rise out of Israel,  
And batter the brow of Moab,  
And destroy all the sons of tumult.

## **A CHRISTMAS PROMISE...** **FROM AN UNBELIEVER?**

### **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**

**(LSB 397:1-2,4)**

♪ As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold; As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright; So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.

♪ As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare, So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin’s alloy, All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav’nly King.

♪ Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way; And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

**PRAYER(S) THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN: 98** - *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

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

**CLOSING HYMN: 713** - *"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We"*

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 28, 2025

**THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday:** New Year's Eve Communion Service 6pm

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL/BIBLE STUDY**

*Please note that Sunday School and Bible Study resume next Sunday January 4<sup>th</sup> at the usual time of 9am.*

**LUTHER MEMORIAL ANNUAL MEETING**

*The 2026 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 18<sup>th</sup> following worship. The Annual Report will be available by then.*

**GENERAL BUDGET**

*The 2025 General Budget was set in our Annual Meeting at \$130,000.00. We have thus far received: \$ 131,593.25 toward that budget.*

**COOPERATIVE BUDGET PLEDGE**

*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 \$ 11,780.00 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](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org).*

## **SPECIAL SERVICE UPCOMING**

*Our Annual New Year's Eve Worship with Holy Communion is this week:*

† **Wednesday December 31<sup>st</sup>** – New Year's Eve Worship, 6pm

## **BOWLING OUTING**

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

## **CHRISTMAS un-DECORATING**

*The Christmas Un-Decorating (including the Christmas Trees) will take place next Sunday January 11<sup>th</sup> after Worship. Please stick around and help un-decorate.*

## **YEAR END STATEMENTS**

*If you would like a year end statement speak with the Secretary Barb Haengen. If you do not request one, it will not be printed.*

## **REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT**

*Those who are preparing reports for the upcoming 2025 Annual Report, please get them to Pastor Schaller ASAP so that the Report can be assembled and printed before the Annual Meeting on Sunday January 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.*

## **CLC CALL NEWS**

*Pastor Cory Drehle has returned the call of Living Hope Lutheran in Appleton WI. • Pastor Ben Libby has returned the call of Messiah Lutheran Church of Eau Claire, Wisconsin • Mr. Peter Reim has been called to serve as Vacancy Pastor of Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church in Red Wing, MN • Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran in Saginaw, MI, has been called to serve part-time at Our Redeemers Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. • Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato, MN has been called to serve Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, Phoenix AZ.*

### **Missions/Cooperative Budget Plan Pledge 2025-26**

*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.*

<b>Amount Pledged 2025</b>	<b>Received as of 12/21/25</b>	<b>Amount Remaining</b>	<b>Approximate per Sunday (29)</b>
\$22,000	\$11,780.00	\$10,220.00	\$352.00

### **The Offerings of Thankful Hearts – LM Offerings 12/21/25**

*Attendance: 12/21 - 78*

<b>General Fund (Budgetary)</b>	<b>General Missions (CBP)</b>	<b>MDF (Missions)</b>	<b>Kinship (Missions)</b>	<b>School Fund (School)</b>
\$5161.00	\$2,445.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00
<b>Total Offerings: \$7,806.00</b>				

### **Luther Memorial General Budget 2025**

*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, 2025 – December 31, 2025.*

<b>General Budget</b>	<b>Received as of 12/21/25</b>	<b>Amount Remaining</b>	<b>Remaining Amount (1 Sunday)</b>
\$130,000.00	\$131,593.25	\$	\$

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## **DEVOTIONS FOR DECEMBER 29, 2025-JANUARY 3, 2026**

**Monday – Luke 2:33-40** Joseph and Mary are amazed to hear Simeon talking about the saving mission of the baby Jesus. Not all accept Him, but He brings thankful joy to all who are waiting for the Lord's redemption.

**Tuesday – Galatians 4:1-7** As a child even the heir is like a slave under the law, but God sent His Son to redeem all mankind, that they might be adopted as heirs of God through Christ. Why would we want to go back?

**Wednesday – Isaiah 63:7-18** The believer remembers all the undeserved mercies of God in the past and how He rescued His people of old. Thus, as we face the future, let us entrust ourselves to His powerful hands.

**Thursday – Isaiah 11:1-5** As we enter a new year, we commit ourselves to the shoot from the stump of Jesse, the Messiah. In Him we find wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, righteousness and faithfulness!

**Friday – Psalm 111** Truly the LORD is worthy of all praise! His works from A to Z show forth His glory. His words proclaim His redemption and impart wisdom and understanding. "His praise stands forever" (v10).

**Saturday – Psalm 121** In their daily walk the people of God need help. And help is what we receive from the LORD. Day or night, in sunshine or shadow, the LORD promises to watch over our going and coming. Hallelujah!

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



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# HYMN SHEET

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

## PSALM 70

<sup>1</sup> Make haste, O God, to deliver me! O Lord, make haste to help me!

<sup>2</sup> Let them be put to shame and confusion who seek my life! Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt! <sup>3</sup> Let them turn back because of their shame who say, "Aha, Aha!" <sup>4</sup> May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" <sup>5</sup> But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay! \*

## PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP

### **THANKSGIVING**

Glory be to You, O God most holy. Glory be to You, O God most high. Glory be to You, O King of heaven and earth, who, as a father pities his children, pities us. Fill us with joy and gladness in the Holy Ghost that, when You render to every man according to his works, we may be found acceptable before You; through Him who has redeemed us from the shame and curse of sin, even Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

### **SPIRITUAL RENEWAL**

Almighty God, who has given us Your only begotten Son to take our nature upon Himself, grant that we, being born again and made Your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by the Holy Spirit; through the same Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

## HYMN

## JOY TO THE WORLD

**1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room And heaven and nature sing.**

**2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy.**

**3. No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found.**

**4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love.**

## HYMN:

## WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

1. What child is this who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet While shepherds watch  
are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard  
and angels sing. Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe the Son  
of Mary!

2. Why lies He in such mean estate Where oxen now are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here The silent Word is  
pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce Him through; The cross He'll  
bear for me, for you. Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the  
Son of Mary!

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king to  
own Him. The King of kings Salvation brings; Let loving hearts  
enthroned Him. Raise, raise the song on high; The virgin sings her  
lullaby. Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the Son of Mary!

## THE OFFERING HYMN

(LSB 397:1-2,4)

♪ As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold; As  
with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright; So,  
most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.

♪ As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy, All our  
costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

♪ Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way; And when  
earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last Where  
they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

## HYMN:

## OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

1. Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be, He is  
Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He, Of the things  
that are, that have been, And that future years shall see Evermore  
and evermore.

2. Oh, that birth forever blessed When the Virgin, full of grace, By  
the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bare the Savior of our race, And the  
Babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.

3. O ye heights of heaven, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing;  
Powers, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Every voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.

4. This is He whom Heaven-taught singers Sang of old with one  
accord; Whom the Scriptures of the prophets Promised in their  
faithful word. Now He shines, the Long-expected; Let creation  
praise its Lord Evermore and evermore.

5. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory Evermore and  
evermore.

**HYMN                      YOUR LITTLE ONES, DEAR LORD, ARE WE**

1. Your little ones, dear Lord, are we And come Your lowly bed to  
see; Enlighten ev'ry soul and mind That we the way to You may  
find.

2. With songs we hasten You to greet And humbly fall before Your  
feet. Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night That gave You birth, our  
souls' delight.

3. Oh, draw us wholly to You, Lord, To us Your constant grace  
accord; True faith and love to us impart That we may hold You in  
our heart,

4. Until at last we, too, proclaim, With all Your saints, Your glorious  
name; In paradise our songs renew And praise You as the angels  
do.