



FOR GOD HAS
DESTINED US
NOT FOR WRATH
BUT FOR
OBTAINING SALVATION
THROUGH OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST ...

1 THESSALONIANS 5:9

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Luther Memorial Church January 4, 2026

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

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



As We Start the New Year

Bible Study/Sunday School. . . 9am

Divine Worship. . . 10am

Fellowship Hour. . . 11am

Andrew A. Schaller, Pastor

Church: (920) 922-7421

Cell: (605) 880-7886

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 4, 2026

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:

PSALM: 75 (TLH Pg. 139);

PRAYERS: 5 (Pg. 118); **6** (Pg. 118).

HYMNS: 98 138 139 123

OPENING PRAYER

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

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.**

OT LESSON

EXODUS 2:1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. ⁴And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. ⁵Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.

¹⁰ When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water." *

EPISTLE LESSON:

ROMANS 8:24-32

²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*

GOSPEL LESSON:

MATTHEW 16:1-4

And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. ² He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' ³ And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. ⁴ An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah." So he left them and departed.*

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:

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: 138 - *“Thou Light of Gentile Nations”*

THE SERMON:

LUKE 2:34-35

³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” **

POST CELEBRATION SOBRIETY

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.

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: 139 - *"In His Temple Now Behold Him"*

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God. For in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory, that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen; Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sa-ba-oth, adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

LAMB OF GOD

♪ O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose blood, once shed, true life restored, Impart Your joy, our faith increase. Sustain with Your mercy and grant us Your peace.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT:



Why doesn't our church pass the Sacrament out in the pews, as some churches do? Well, because we understand Communion very differently than others do. We understand the Lord's Supper to have just as great a potential for harm as it has for good. For that reason, we do not give it out until we have determined that it will work for your good and the good of the church. In fact, we do not even

commune our own children until they have been properly instructed. For this reason, we trust that those of other faiths will understand our practice of asking all who wish to commune to prepare with the pastor first. **The Lord's Supper will be received standing or seated in the pews. You are asked to dispose of the empties in one of the disposals near the front of the sanctuary.**

O LORD, NOW LET YOUR SERVANT

♪ O Lord, now let your servant Depart in heav'n-ly peace,
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

♪ All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three-in-One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

THANKSGIVING

♪ My heart has now become Your dwelling,
O blessed, holy Trinity.
With angels I, Your praises telling,
Shall live in joy eternally.
Lord, may Your body and Your blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

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

CLOSING HYMN: 123 - "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 4, 2026

THIS MORNING AFTER WORSHIP:

Family Fellowship Hour (Host: The Seibel Girls)

THIS WEEK

Monday: Lowell Boelk Victory Service, Noon

Tuesday: Ladies of Luther Memorial, 6pm

Friday: LM Bowling Outing 6:30pm

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

GENERAL BUDGET

The 2025 General Budget was set in our Annual Meeting at \$130,000.00. We have received: \$ 135,258.25 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 \$ 12,205.00 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.

LUTHER MEMORIAL ANNUAL MEETING

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

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS un-DECORATING

The Christmas Un-Decorating (including the Christmas Trees) will take place next Sunday January 11th 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 Haensgen. 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 18th. 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.

Amount Pledged 2025	Received as of 12/28/25	Amount Remaining	Approximate per Sunday (28)
\$22,000	\$12,205.00	\$9,795.00	\$350.00

The Offerings of Thankful Hearts – LM Offerings 12/28/25

Attendance: 12/28 -91

General Fund <i>(Budgetary)</i>	General Missions <i>(CBP)</i>	MDF <i>(Missions)</i>	LM Building <i>(Non-Budgetary)</i>	M & I <i>(Non-Budgetary)</i>
\$925.00	\$200.00	\$65.00	\$20.00	\$500.00
Kinship <i>(Missions)</i>				
\$10.00				

Total Offerings: \$1,720.00

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 12/28/25	Amount Remaining	Final Amount
\$130,000.00	\$135,258.25	\$0	\$

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HOME DEVOTIONS FOR JANUARY 5-10, 2026

Monday - 1 Peter 4:12-19 The work of the Savior who was sent for us involves suffering, and those who share in His suffering may rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed (v13), entrusting their souls to Him (v19).

Tuesday – Matthew 2:13-23 As the child Jesus' glory is seen in the wise men's worship, so also is it seen in God's protection from Herod's murderous plans. The hand of God is seen again in the return from Egypt.

Wednesday – Isaiah 42:1-98 The Lord God upholds and delights in His servant, placing His Spirit upon Him. And what blessings are found in this servant, who is appointed a covenant for the people, a light for the nations!

Thursday – Matthew 3:13-17 When Jesus' is baptized by John in the Jordan, the Father shows His delight in Him by a voice from the heavens, and the Spirit descends on Him like a dove. Thus we behold His glory!

Friday – Psalm 110 The LORD Jehovah decrees that King Messiah will triumph over His enemies, and that He will also be a priest forever. The reconciliation that He brings about will have no end!

Saturday – Psalm 85 The LORD has graciously redeemed and forgiven us, so we can be confident that He will revive us in present distresses. He also remains our true hope for future righteousness and peace (v10).



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 75

¹ We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near. We recount your wondrous deeds.

² "At the set time that I appoint I will judge with equity. ³ When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants, it is I who keep steady its pillars. *Selah* ⁴ I say to the boastful, 'Do not boast,' and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horn; ⁵ do not lift up your horn on high, or speak with haughty neck.' "

⁶ For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up, ⁷ but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another. ⁸ For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.

⁹ But I will declare it forever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob. ¹⁰ All the horns of the wicked I will cut off, but the horns of the righteous shall be lifted up. *

PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP

PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT

Lord God, you do not desire the death of the sinner, but would have him turn from his evil way and live. I come to you confessing that I have sinned and deserve only Your anger and punishment. But I cling to Your mercy in Christ Jesus, my Lord, who gave himself for my redemption. Lord, grant that I may always believe this and never doubt. Grant that in this faith I may go to Your altar and receive the body and blood which Your Son has given for my salvation, and praise, laud and honor Your love and mercy all the days of my life. Hear me for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Redeemer and Savior. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT

I give you thanks and praise, Almighty, everlasting god, heavenly Father, for this your divine love that has again enabled me to receive the body and blood of Your only Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord. I humbly ask that you would fill me with the power of the Holy Spirit that through this Sacrament which I have received with both mouth and by faith that I may always retain and possess the treasures of Your grace, even the forgiveness of sins and unity with Christ and eternal life.

4. Let us, O Lord, be faithful Like Simeon to the end, So that his prayer exultant May from our hearts ascend: "O Lord, now let Thy servant Depart in peace, I pray, Since I have seen my Savior And here beheld His day."

5. My Savior, I behold Thee With faith's enlightened eye; Of Thee no foe can rob me, His threats I can defy. Within Thy heart abiding, As Thou, O Lord, in me, Death can no longer frighten Nor part my soul from Thee.

6. Lord, here on earth Thou seemest At times to frown on me, And through my tears I often Can scarce distinguish Thee; But in the heavenly mansions Shall nothing dim my sight; There shall I see Thy glory In never-changing light.

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

IN HIS TEMPLE NOW BEHOLD HIM

1. In His Temple now behold Him, See the long-expected Lord; Ancient prophets had foretold Him, -- God has now fulfilled His word. Now, to praise Him, His redeemed Shall break forth with one accord.

2. In the arms of her who bore Him, Virgin pure, behold Him lie, While His aged saints adore Him Ere in faith and hope they die. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Lo! the incarnate God most high.

3. Jesus, by Thy presentation, Thou, who didst for us endure, Make us see our great salvation, Seal us with Thy promise sure, And present us in Thy glory To Thy Father, cleansed and pure.

4. Prince and Author of salvation, Be Thy boundless love our theme! Jesus, praise to Thee be given By the world Thou didst redeem, With the Father and the Spirit, Lord of majesty supreme!

HYMN

OUR GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

1. Our God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal Home!
2. Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone, Short as
the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.
5. Thy word commands our flesh to dust: "Return ye sons of
men!" All nations rose from earth at first And turn to earth again.
6. Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears all its sons away; They
fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the opening day.
7. Like flowery fields the nations stand, Pleased with the morning
light; The flowers beneath the mower's hand Lie withering ere 'tis
night.
8. Our God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come, Be
Thou our Guard while troubles last And our eternal Home! Amen.