

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEARLY
DEPARTED

December 29, 2024



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS

*Welcoming all to walk together
toward abundant life in Christ.*

2024 THEME: JOY COMES IN THE MORNING

*For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. Psalm 30:5 (ESV)*

A WORD TO OUR FRIENDS ABOUT COMMUNION:

As members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we believe that the body and blood of Christ are truly present “in, with, and under” the bread and wine when we receive the Sacrament. We do *not* believe that the bread and wine somehow mystically “change” into something other than bread and wine, *nor* do we believe that the bread and wine merely “represents” Christ’s body and blood; rather, we are bound by the words of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, when He said “Take eat, this is my body” and “Take drink, this is my blood.” We believe and teach that when we receive the bread and wine, we are also truly receiving the body and blood of Christ (because of His divine Word.) We also believe that the Sacrament of Holy Communion is more than just a memorial, we believe it is Christ truly coming to us and offering His body and his blood in an outward sign of His love for us and as an outward assurance of the forgiveness He won for us by His death on the cross. This is our belief and confession regarding the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and if you have any questions or concerns about our Communion practices and desire to partake of Holy Communion, will you please consult with the pastor beforehand. *Gluten free communion wafers are available* by taking one from the paten (plate) that is sitting separately in a white container. *Non-alcoholic wine* (clear liquid) *is available* in the center of the tray containing individual cups of regular wine (red liquid). Having read this Communion Statement and prayerfully considered what you believe and confess, please complete the Pew Card found in the pew rack. After you place your tithes and gifts in the offering plate, please pass your Pew Card to the center aisle and the ushers will pick them up. May God truly bless our Communion Service this day.

COMMUNION OPTIONS FOR THOSE WITH ALLERGIES:

- *Gluten-free communion wafers* are available by taking one from the paten (plate) that is sitting separately in a white container.
- *Grape Juice* (clear liquid) is available in the center of the tray containing individual cups of regular wine (red liquid).

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

The TOLLING OF THE BELLS





1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His
 2 God spoke by the proph - ets long a - go, His prom - ise on
 3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, His
 4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -



vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,
 oath re - call - ing— To A - bra - ham made in for - mer years:
 way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,
 lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death



Ac - com - pish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a
 Of van - quish - ing foes ap - pall - ing, That those He de -
 His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich mer - cy and
 And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our



might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!
 liv - ered from their fears Might glad - ly and tru - ly serve Him.
 grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.
 foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Exodus 13:14; Isaiah 9:6a; Hebrews 8:12; Psalm 111:4a

P By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

C **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.**

P For I will be merciful, . . . and I will remember their sins no more.

C **He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Genesis 3:19; Isaiah 43:25

P God our Creator said to Adam and to us all to remember that “you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” But now He calls all to repentance of sin and faith in His Son, who is the remembrance of God’s mercy and who came to destroy sin and death and restore us to life. Before the newborn Redeemer of the world, let us repent and receive His forgiveness.

C **O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, remember not our sins of thought, word, and deed, the sins of our youth or of our old age. Because we often forget Your mercy toward us, we ask for Your forgiveness. Remember Your gracious will that whoever calls on Your name will be saved. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us always to remember Your mercy and Your steadfast love that we may live as Your own children, now and forever. Amen.**

P Thus says the Lord, “I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.” Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED: A RESPONSIVE READING

P As the people of God, we are a community of memory. We remember not only the gracious acts of God throughout the ages, but we commemorate those people who were mightily used by God for the benefit of His bride, the Church. Today, as we await the return of the heavenly Bridegroom, we thank God for those blessed saints who have departed to be with the Lord this past year and who are now the “host arrayed in white.”

† **Joseph “Dick” Hagey** †

December 30, 2023

P The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

C **But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.** (*1 Corinthians 15:56-57*)

† **Evelyn Walberg** †

January 12, 2024

P For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,

C **That whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.**
(*John 3:16*)

† Darold Wegner †

March 26, 2024

P It is written, “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.

C **Because we know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in His presence.**

(2 Corinthians 4:13–14)

† Walter Rothenberger †

May 18, 2024

P He shall feed His flock like a shepherd;

C **He shall gather the lambs with His arm and carry them in His bosom and shall gently lead those that are with young.** *(Isaiah 40:11)*

† Doris Duebel †

June 13, 2024

P I know that my Redeemer lives and that in the end He will stand upon the earth.

C **And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.**

(Job 19:25-26)

† Lois Kooistra †

September 29, 2024

P Teach us to number our days aright.

C **That we may gain a heart of wisdom.** *(Psalm 90:12)*

† Dolores “Dee” Maris †

October 14, 2024

P I tell you the truth, whoever hears My Word and believes in Him Who sent Me has eternal life.

C **And will not be condemned: He has crossed over from death to life.** *(John 5:24)*

† Philip Miller †

November 1, 2024

P I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

C **Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness.** *(II Timothy 4:7-8)*

† **Ronald McCormick** †

November 2, 2024

P For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we belong to the Lord.

C **So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.** (*Romans 14:7-8*)

† **Brenda Hanak** †

November 18, 2024

P He will swallow up death forever.

C **The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces.** (*Isaiah 25:8*)

† **Ann Curley-La Fave** †

December 1, 2024

P Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”

C **Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise.”** (*Luke 23:42–43*)

P For those who have gone before us to be with you in heaven,

C **we laud and magnify your name, O Lord.**

P For those who now sing your praises with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven,

C **we laud and magnify your name, O Lord.**

P For those who showed us what it means to trust in you,

C **we laud and magnify your name, O Lord.**

P For those who shared with us your Holy Scriptures while they were on this earth,

C **we laud and magnify your name, O Lord.**

P For those who made your love known to us in word and deed,

C **we laud and magnify your name, O Lord.**

P For those who eagerly await our arrival in heaven with you,

C **we laud and magnify your name, O Lord, both now and forever. Amen.**

⌈ Service of the Word ⌋

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15

¹The LORD said to Moses, ²“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

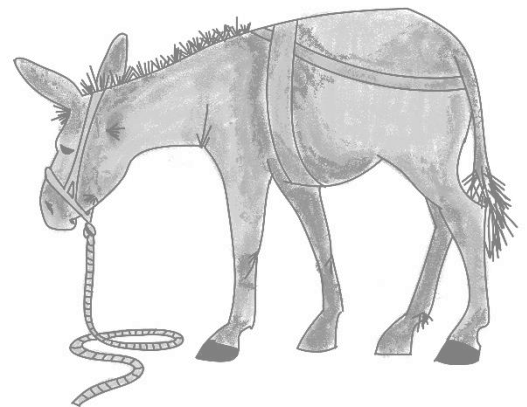
³Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. .

¹¹“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’s. ¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals.

Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



EPISTLE

Colossians 3:12–17

¹²Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22–40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now 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. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And 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, ²⁸he 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;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and for glory to your people Israel.”



32_a

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.



P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY Oh Light of Gentile Nations

(Sung to All Glory, Laud, and Honor - LSB 442)

Oh Light of Gentile nations, Oh Savior from above,
Drawn by Your Spirit's leading, we come with joy and love
Into Your holy temple and wait with earnest mind,
As Simeon once waited His God and Lord to find.

Yes, Lord, Your servants meet You in ev'ry holy place
Where Your true Word was promised that we should see Your face.
Today you still do grant us who gather 'round You here
In arms of faith to bear You as did that ancient seer.

Oh be our Joy and Brightness, our Cheer in pain and loss,
Our Sun in darkest terror, the Glory 'round our cross.
A Star for sinking spirits, a Beacon in distress,
Physician. Friend, in sickness, in death our Happiness.

Help us, Lord, remain faithful like Simeon to the end,
So that his prayer exultant may from our hearts ascend:
“O Lord. now let Your servants depart in peace, we pray,
Since we have seen our Savior and here beheld His day.”

Text: Public Domain

NICENE CREED

C 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 worshiped 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.

OFFERING *For those worshipping online, please visit www.lccross.org to find links to our Give+ secured online giving portal and our online Pew Card which is called a Connect Card. Or to fill out the card directly go to <https://forms.gle/X46ym1HuZ9DCsq9s6>*

For those worshipping in-person, please indicate your attendance and any requests on the Pew Card.



1. Be still, my soul, before the Lord,
For God is always near.
Before your mind is moved to pray,
God listens and will hear.
2. You need not multiply your words
Nor pray with practiced art.
Beyond all speech, God understands
The hunger of your heart.
3. Wait, then, in quiet confidence,
Your anxious thoughts at rest.
God knows your needs before you ask
And works for what is best.
4. Be still, my soul, before the Lord;
On God in patience wait.
God's love, unseen, surrounds your life;
God's help will not be late.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, great are Your works of the creation of all things. Greater still is Your mighty work of the redemption of the world from the ravages of sin and death brought on by the rebellion of those created in Your own likeness. We praise You for all Your promises of salvation fulfilled in the sending of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Remember Your promise of love that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant Your strength and blessing to Your whole church as we live, pray, and work in the remembrance of Your grace and gifts. Bless all pastors and workers in Your church never to forget their calling to faithfully proclaim Your Word and will to a world still struggling against the darkness of sin and unbelief. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Remember in Your mercy all leaders and servants in government that they may be
endued with a love of peace and the way of justice and righteousness for all people.
Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Remember in Your mercy all Your people in their various vocations and stations in
life, that they may prosper in their lives motivated by Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Remember in Your mercy all who are sick or injured, the homebound and the infirm
[*especially...Lisa DePalma (friend of Bob & Barb Hilgendorf), Mack Gonzalez, Ann
Hagey*]. Grant Your peace, rest, and healing, keeping them in constant faith in Your
promises. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant peace, we pray, in mercy, Lord, to all who mourn the death of loved ones. Grant
that our remembrance of their faith causes us to remain closer to You in the sure and
certain hope of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Lord, in
Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us; through Jesus Christ, Your
Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.
C **Amen.**

⌣ Service of the Sacrament ⌣

PREFACE

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**



LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Mathew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

(Only by the almighty creative Word of God are we able to believe that the blessed sacrament delivers what God promises, the forgiveness for our sins. Mt. 26:28)

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is My T blood in the new testament which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

LSB pg. 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

*(Be seated)***DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

LSB 624

1. The infant Priest was holy born For us unholy and forlorn;
From fleshly temple forth came He, Anointed from eternity.
2. This great High Priest in human flesh Was icon of God's righteousness.
His hallowed touch brought sanctity; His hand removed impurity.
3. The holy Lamb undaunted came To God's own altar lit with flame;
While weeping angels hid their eyes, This Priest became a sacrifice.
4. But death would not the victor be Of Him who hung upon the tree.
He leads us to the Holy Place Within the veil, before God's face.
5. The veil is torn, our Priest we see, As at the rail on bended knee
Our hungry mouths from Him receive The bread of immortality.
6. The body of God's Lamb we eat, A priestly food and priestly meat;
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours His quenching blood that life restores.
7. With cherubim and seraphim Our voices join the endless hymn,
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970

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1 In His tem - ple now be - hold Him, See the long - ex -
 2 In the arms of her who bore Him, Vir - gin pure, be -
 3 Je - sus, by Your pre - sen - ta - tion, When they blessed You,



pect - ed Lord; An - cient proph - ets had fore - told Him,
 hold Him lie While His a - ged saints a - dore Him
 weak and poor, Make us see Your great sal - va - tion,



God has now ful - filled His word. Now to praise Him,
 Ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia,
 Seal us with Your prom - ise sure; And pre - sent us



His re - deem - ed Shall break forth with one ac - cord.
 al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!
 in Your glo - ry To Your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.

Text: Henry J. Pye, c. 1825–1903, alt.

Tune: Henry Purcell, 1659–95, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain



1 The God of A - br'ham praise, Who reigns en - throned a - bove;
 2 The God of A - br'ham praise, At whose su - preme com - mand
 3 The God of A - br'ham praise, Whose all - suf - fi - cient grace
 4 He by Him - self has sworn; I on His oath de - pend.



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days And God of love.
 From earth I rise and seek the joys At His right hand.
 Shall guide me all my pil - grim days In all my ways.
 I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, To heav'n as - cend.



Je - ho - vah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n con - fessed;
 I all on earth for - sake, Its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r,
 He deigns to call me friend; He calls Him - self my God.
 I shall be - hold His face; I shall His pow'r a - dore



I bow and bless the sa - cred name For - ev - er blest.
 And Him my on - ly por - tion make, My shield and tow'r.
 And He shall save me to the end Through Je - sus' blood.
 And sing the won - ders of His grace For - ev - er - more.

5. Though nature's strength decay, And earth and hell withstand,
 To Canaan's bounds I urge my way At His command.
 The wat'ry deep I pass, With Jesus in my view,
 And through the howling wilderness My way pursue.
6. The goodly land I see, With peace and plenty blest:
 A land of sacred liberty And endless rest.
 There milk and honey flow, And oil and wine abound,
 And trees of life forever grow With mercy crowned.

[continued]

7. There dwells the Lord our king, The Lord our righteousness,
Triumphant o'er the world and sin, The Prince of Peace.
On Zion's sacred height His kingdom He maintains
And glorious with His saints in light Forever reigns.

8. The God who reigns on high The great archangels sing,
And "Holy, holy, holy!" cry, "Almighty King!
Who was and is the same And evermore shall be:
Jehovah, Father, great I AM! We worship Thee!"

9. The whole triumphant host Give thanks to God on high.
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" They ever cry.
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine! I join the heav'nly lays:
All might and majesty are Thine And endless praise!

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–99, alt.

Tune: Hebrew

Text and tune: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Psalm 103:1–5, 20–22

P Let us pray.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Bless the LORD, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, obeying the voice of His word! Bless the LORD, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will! Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
 2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
 heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5. Bruise for me the serpent's head
 That, set free from doubt and dread,
 I may cling to You in faith,
 Safely kept through life and death.
6. Then when You will come again
 As the glorious king to reign,
 I with joy will see Your face,
 Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Text: Public domain

DEPARTING PRAYER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

You have been a blessing to us! Please use this time to “check-in” with your Christian brothers and sisters around you. Coffee and donuts are being served for fellowship at 9:00am in the Fellowship & Ministry Center along with our Adult Bible Class. Please stop by and enjoy.



Acknowledgments

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*And whatever
you do, whether in
word or deed, do it all
in the name of the Lord
Jesus, giving thanks
to God the Father
through him.*

COLOSSIANS 3:17, NIV

Pastor: Rev. Dr. R. Brian Stolarczyk ~ Winter Assistant Pastor: Rev. Jerry Menk
Organist: Stephen Kopp III ~ Flute Soloist: Raymond Stolarczyk
Handbell Co-Directors: Bill & Ronna Trueman ~ Vocal Choir Director: Arnie Piering
Clarinet: Bill Trueman ~ Drums: Chris Wrightsman
Saxophone: Cheryl Domingo ~ Trombone: Arnie Piering

December 29, 2024

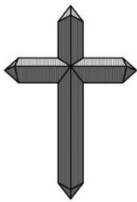
Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ

The **ETERNAL LIGHT** this month is provided to the Glory of God by
David Aiken in remembrance of
Robert & Corinda Aiken and Charles & Marilyn Gordon.

The **FLOWERS** on the altar this week are provided to the Glory of God by Robin Dym in
celebration of what would have been Doris Duebel's 100th birthday (12/28)
and by the Curley-LaFave family in honor of the birthday of Ann's daughter;
KarenAnn Harran (12/29).

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Bell Tollers	Wayn Nelson, Barb Powell
Elders on Duty	David Aiken, Mark Keck
Communion Assistants	Brian Daily, Jerry Kecken
Greeters/Ushers	Kay Helgerson, Richard & Judy Davis
Altar Servers	LCC Altar Guild Members
Safety Team	David Aiken, Mark Keck
Streaming Team	Nat Fiordimondo, Kay Helgerson, Wayn Nelson



OFFICE HOURS:

By Phone: Monday – Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm
(941) 627-6060 ~ Fax: (941) 627-5467

By email: secretary@lccross.org

Find us on the Web: www.lccross.org

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel or Like us on Facebook.

IF YOU HAVE any comments, questions or suggestions, please contact:

Parish Administrator	Jennifer Strefling:	941-627-6060
Head Elder	Jim McCabe:	847-471-1421

In case of Emergency you may reach	<u>Pastor Stolarczyk:</u>	<u>Cell: 941-979-7490</u>
	<u>Pastor Menk:</u>	<u>Cell: 941-327-9453</u>

IN OUR PRAYERS

Homebound Care:

John & Lois Arens, Laura Cox, Millie Cox, Dave & Gayle DeBraccio, Marv & Lil Fitzwater, Aida Florit, Bruce & Connie Frilstad, Janet Jackson, Cris & Linda Kelly, Dale Kuhn, Dale Sawicki, Millie Tyczka, Ken & Mary Werring

Strength, Healing, Guidance: *

Anne	Friend of LCC; recovery & healing
Chuck Anderson	Recovery & healing
Fran Boatwright	Recovery
Ann Hagey	Recovery & healing
Val Korman	Hospice Care
Ro Miller	Recovery & healing
Chris Sabin	Healing & recovery
Dale Sawicki	Peace & comfort
Beth Thompson Schall	Daughter of Susan Thompson; healing
Phil Woodruff	Recovery & healing

**Prayers will run for four consecutive weeks unless otherwise notified.*

Battling Cancer:

Adriana	Family Noel & Linda Hyde; diagnosed lymphoma
April	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Ivana	Friend of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; battling cancer
Jeanette	Sister of Augusto Vazquez; battling cancer
Kevin	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Mike	Son of Phil Woodruff; battling cancer
Rick Bausch	Son Barbara Durst; battling cancer
Cate Bocassi	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Dave DeBraccio	Battling with Leukemia, healing & strength
Lisa DePalma	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Lisa Anne Denofrio	Daughter Tom & Krystyna Johnson; palliative care
Bill Docherty	Brother-in-law Joy Hougan; battling cancer, surgery
Matt Doctor	Brother-in-law of Diane Barton; strength & peace
Mack Gonzales	Battling cancer
Robert Jeffery	Brother of Jean Wrightsman; battling leukemia
Todd Kliez	Battling cancer
Audrey Kowalski	Friend of Dorothy Christman; terminal cancer
Patricia Ruiz	Family of Fadely/Maestas family; battling cancer
Kathy Sanders	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Lisa Sayers	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Carmen Torres	Sister-in-law of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; cancer
Lori Truelove	Niece Joyce Schankin; cancer battle; strength, peace
Connie Warner	Friend of Mary Woodruff; diagnosed lymphoma

Military:

US Army SSG. Paul Behling	Son of Ron & Cohleen Nottingham; stationed FL
USAF TSGT David Cope Jr.	Son of David and Shelly Cope stationed in NM
US Army CSM Matt Hopkins	Grandson of Dave & Gayle DeBraccio; in Kuwait
USAF Sr. Airman Shawn Golembieski	Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in FL
US Navy ENS Joe Golembieski	Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in VA
US Navy Seaman Nick Golembieski	Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; Seabound
USCG SCPO Robert Kecken	Son Jerry & Meredith Kecken; stationed in CA
USAF A1C Riley Latarski	Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman in ND
Marines LCPL Jonathan Metz	Grandson of Jerry & Joyce Metz; in MD
Marines LCPL Kyle Spilker	Grandson in law Chuck Anderson; in CA
USAF TSGT Kalin McDonnell	Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman; in MA
US Army PFC Parker Woodruff	Grandson of Larry & Delila Woodruff; in Fort Bragg

Family Prayer: We remember all our **families** during times of personal and family **trial and tribulation.**

If you know of someone needing church prayers, please contact the church office at 941-627-6060. Be sure to have the name, relationship to the church family and what is the need for the prayer.

LCC ATTENDANCE REPORT & WEEKLY INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT 2024

Week Of: 12/15/24		
On-Site Attendance 44 / 143	Weekly Contributions	
	Income:	\$ 26,623*
	Expense:	\$ 13,846

**Includes Mid-Week Advent 12/11 service collection*

*These numbers reflect our previous week’s financial information. We will have updated information in the 01/05/25 worship copy. We apologize for any inconvenience.

SIGN UPS ARE OUT FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS!



Our **2025 Church Directory** will be rolling out soon! To make sure we see all of our members bright and smiling faces in the 2025 copy... **pictures will be offered on Sunday, January 12th & the 19th from 9:00am-9:30am and again immediately following the late services.** Please be sure to sign up for a time slot soon and get ready to smile big for the new directory!

Our next planned Potluck Luncheon will be – January 26th – we will be welcoming in our newest members with a Bring Your Own Dish Potluck! Sign up on the sheet located in the Narthex and be sure to notate your planned dish on the sign up. If you are unsure of what to bring, please reach out to Pat Siegmann at 941-408-3539 and she can certainly help! However, a dish is NOT required to attend this lunch!



FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY:

We currently have no one signed up for flowers on **January 19th and January 26th**. The cost of flowers is \$30.00 per week. If you are interested please complete a flower request card which can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If paying by a check please make payable to Ladies Parish Guild. If you have any questions about requesting flowers or the eternal light, please call the church office at (941) 627-6060.


Rummage & Bake Sale

At

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
2300 LUTHER RD.
OFF RAMPART IN DEEP CREEK

FRIDAY Feb. 7 7:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

SATURDAY Feb. 8 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.



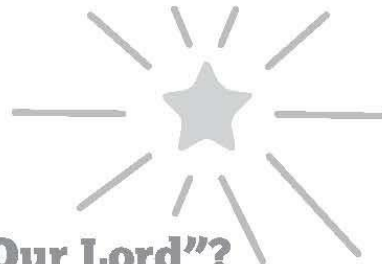
Sponsored by
LWML LADIES PARISH GUILD
This event works to support the LCC Parish Guild's worthy charities!

Items being collected for the sale include (but not limited to):
Shoes Purses Jewelry Bedding Knick Knacks
Plants Toys Lamps Small Appliances Books
Collectibles

No Clothing, Large Furniture, or Magazines Please

***** FRIDAY ONLY *****
Light lunch available for purchase
~WHILE SUPPLIES LAST~

+ + +
**KIDS IN THE
DIVINE SERVICE**
+ + +



What is “The Epiphany of Our Lord”?

The word “epiphany” (pronounced ee-PIF-uh-nee) comes from the Greek word meaning “manifestation.” Jesus was made known to all people simply by being born. If we had been alive back then, we could have actually reached out and touched Jesus! He was real, and the evidence was in His birth!

Why do we celebrate Epiphany?

Epiphany is the third part of the Christmas season. During this special season in the Church Year, we remember the visit of the Wise Men. Traditionally, this visit is celebrated on Jan. 6.



Epiphany also brings to mind many other important events in Jesus’ life. For example, we remember Jesus’ Baptism, the star that guided the Wise Men, and most importantly, His birth! Wow! There sure is a lot happening after Christmas!



Parents: “God in flesh made manifest” is a hard statement for children to understand. Be sure to remind them that Jesus is real, alive and once walked on the earth for all to see. When Holy Communion is offered, be sure to let your children attend with you. Instruct them that this is where Christ manifests and gives His true body and blood for us.



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UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

<u>Wed. Jan 1</u>	<i>Church Office will be closed in observance of the New Year holiday</i>
<u>Thurs, Jan 2</u>	Altar Guild Communion Set Up @ 9:00am – Sacristy/Sanctuary
<u>Mon. Jan 6</u>	Christmas Décor Removal @ 9:00am – Sanctuary
<u>Tues. Jan 7</u>	Church Council By-Law Meeting @ 2:00pm – OFH
<u>Wed. Jan 8</u>	Board of Elders Meeting @ 3:30pm – OFH
<u>Thurs. Jan 9</u>	Shepherding Leaders Meeting @ 9:00am – FMC <i>*correction*</i> LWML Ladies Parish Guild Meeting @ 1:00pm – FMC
<u>Sat. Jan 11</u>	Removal & Storage of LCC Nativity @ TBD Stephen Minister Supervision Meeting @ 9:00am- FMC
<u>Sun. Jan 12</u>	Baptism of Our Lord Sunday Directory Picture Day – see sign up for times – OFH
<u>Tues. Jan 14</u>	Board of Christian Education Meeting @ 3:30pm – FMC
<u>Mon Jan. 20</u>	<i>Church Office will be closed in observance of holiday</i> New Member Orientation Night @ 6:00pm – Sanctuary
<u>Tues. Jan 21</u>	Church Council Meeting @ 6:00pm – OFH
<u>Thurs. Jan 23</u>	Charlotte County Tennis Association Meeting @ 2:00pm – FMC
<u>Sun. Jan 26</u>	New Member Welcome Sunday! New Member Welcome Potluck following the late service - FMC

WEEKLY RE-OCCURRING CAMPUS EVENTS:

- † **AA Meetings:** Meets weekly in the FMC @ 7:00pm
Monday (Women Only)
Tuesday & Wednesday (Open to all)
- † **Christian Education & Fellowship:** Every Sunday in the FMC @ 9:00am
- † **LifeLight Bible Class:** Life of David meets Thursday in the FMC @ 10:00am
- † **Handbell Choir Rehearsal:** Meets every Thursday in the Sanctuary @ 4:30pm
- † **LCC Garden Committee:** Meets every Wednesday in the Prayer Park @ 9:30am
- † **Raise Right Fundraising Team:** Meets every Sunday in the FMC
Operates at 9:00am & following the 10:30am services
- † **SON-Seekers Bible Study:** Meets every Monday in the FMC @ 11:30am
- † **Vocal Choir Rehearsal:** Meets every Thursday in the Sanctuary @ 5:45pm
- † **Youth Confirmation Class:** Meets Tuesdays in Pastor's Study @ 6:30pm