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December 14, 2025

Advent 3

*Do not be afraid, for behold, I  
bring you good tidings of great  
joy which will be to all people.  
For there is born to you this day  
in the city of David a Savior, who  
is Christ the Lord.*

Luke 2:10-11

*advent*



**We Welcome Our Visitors** who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday. Please sign our guestbook in the entry.

If you would like more information about our church, please contact the pastor.

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† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 146 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**Greeting and prayer:** (Pastor)

**Advent Candle Lighting - #3 JOY**

We light this candle to remember that Christ is the bringer of true and everlasting JOY.

God wants us all to have this JOY that is not dependent on our circumstances or our feelings, but by our status as His loved and forgiven children in Christ! We light this candle to remind us to spread this joyful good news far and wide.



**Opening Hymn: 375 *Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising***

LSB 375

**THE INVOCATION**

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

*(Adapted from TLH, p. 5)*

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

**C**

**THE CONFESSION OF SINS**

*We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**C**

Musical notation for the response 'R: Who made heaven and earth.' The notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music includes various note values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The lyrics 'R: Who made heaven and earth.' are written below the notes.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

**C**

Musical notation for the response 'R: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.' The notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music includes various note values and rests. The lyrics 'R: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.' are written below the notes.

**P** Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**C**

Musical notation for the response 'A. - - - men.' The notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music includes various note values and rests. The lyrics 'A. - - - men.' are written below the notes.

## THE GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory to the Father" (TLH, p. 6)

C



Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

## THE KYRIE

Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life. (TLH, p. 7)



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



## THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

In Latin "Gloria in excelsis Deo" means "Glory to God in the highest." We rejoice In our Lord who came to earth to bring us His peace. (TLH, p. 7)



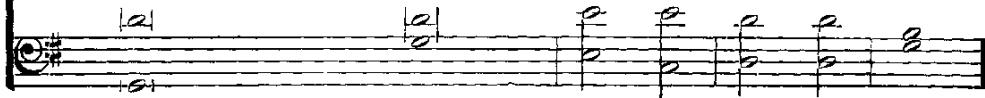
V: Glory be to God on high: R: And on earth peace, good will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

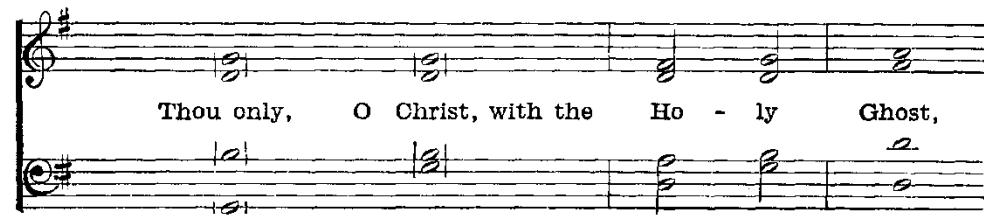
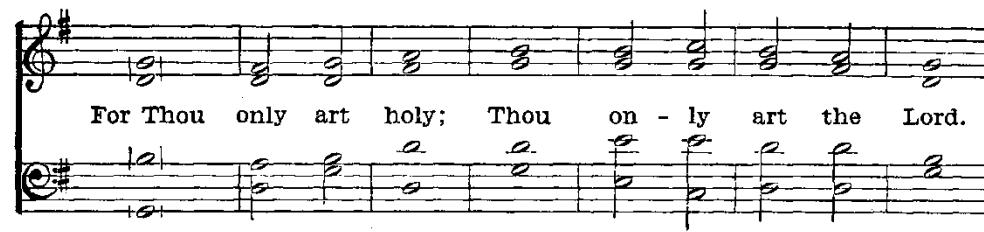
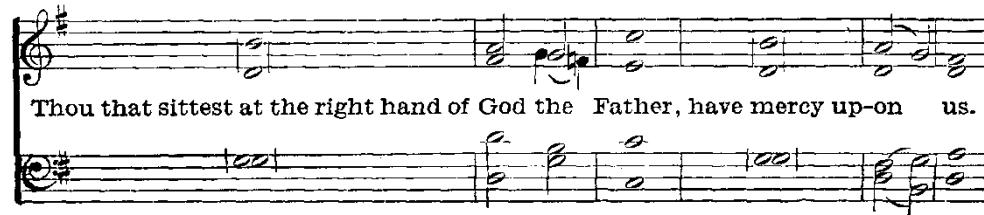
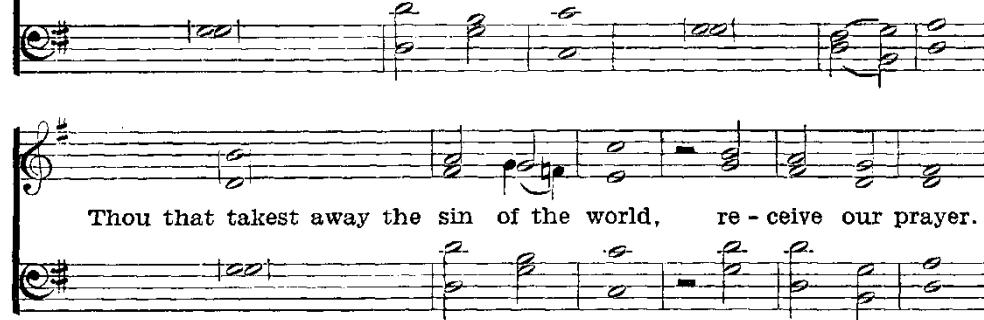


O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;





art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

### **THE SALUTATION (Greeting)**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C**

R: And with thy spir - it.

### **THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY**

*The main thoughts for the day are “collected” together in this prayer.*

**P** We pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C**

R: A - - - - men.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*God speaks to us.*

### **First Reading**

***Isaiah 35:1-10 (EHV)***

The wilderness and the desert will be glad.

The wasteland of the Arabah will rejoice and blossom like a crocus.

<sup>2</sup> It will bloom lavishly, and there will be great joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it.

It will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon.

They will see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make the shaky knees steady.

<sup>4</sup> Tell those who have a fearful heart:

Be strong.

Do not be afraid.

Look! Your God will come with vengeance.

With God's own retribution, he will come and save you.

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged.

<sup>6</sup> The crippled will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.

Waters will flow in the wilderness, and streams in the wasteland.

<sup>7</sup> The burning sand will become a pool,

and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water.

There will be grass, reeds, and rushes where the haunts of jackals once lay.

<sup>8</sup> A highway will be there, a road that will be called the holy way.

The impure will not walk there.

It will be reserved for those who walk in that holy way.

Wicked fools will not wander onto it.

<sup>9</sup> No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious animal go up on it.

They will not be found there, but only the redeemed will walk there.

<sup>10</sup> Then those ransomed by the LORD will return.

They will enter Zion with a joyful shout,

and everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Happiness and joy will overtake them,

and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

## THE GRADUAL

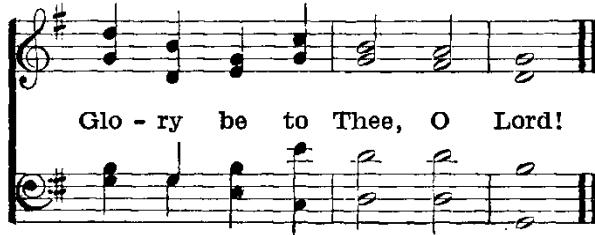
When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing "Hallelujah!"—meaning "Praise the Lord!"  
(TLH p. 10)

**P** Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it. Hallelujah!



**P** The second reading is from 1 Corinthians 2:1-10.

**C**



### Second Reading

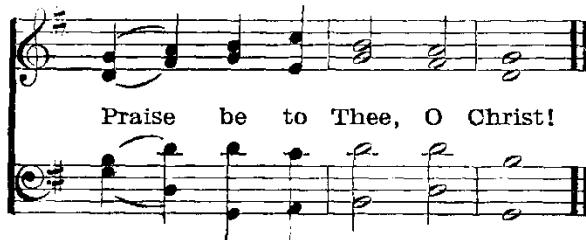
**James 5:7-11 (EHV)**

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain. <sup>8</sup> You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near.

<sup>9</sup> Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look! The Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering with patient endurance. <sup>11</sup> See, we consider those who endured to be blessed. You have heard of the patient endurance of Job and have seen what the Lord did in the end, because the Lord is especially compassionate and merciful.

**P** Here ends our second reading.

**C**



Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

*We boldly confess what we believe. (W.S. p. 15)*

**C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn of the Day: 340 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

*LSB 340*

**Sermon Text: Luke 2:10-11 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them [the shepherds], "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**Sermon Theme: "The Gifts of Christmas" - Joy**

- † Why is Christmastime not always the most **joyful** time of the year?
- † Why is Christmas definitely a **joy**-filled time? (**Luke 2:10-11; Phil. 4:4**)

"In Christ...

Application: What are some ways you can spread the true **joy** of Christmas during this Christmas season? (**see Luke 2:15-16**)

### **THE OFFERTORY**

(TLH p. 12-13)

Cre-a-te in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
 spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from Thy pres- ence;  
 and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store un-to me the  
 joy of Thy sal-va-tion; and up-hold me with Thy free Spir-it. A-men.

### **THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS**

*In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

### **THE GENERAL PRAYER**

(Pastor)

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**C** 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 BENEDICTION**

*The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26). (TLH p. 14)*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

**Closing Hymn: 360 *All My Heart Again Rejoices*** (please remain standing)

LSB 360



### **Announcements**

**Welcome!** We welcome all our visitors this morning. Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again soon.

Today: **Choir – 8am**  
12/14/25 **Worship – 9am**  
**Children's Christmas Program Practice & Bible Class – 10:15am**

This Week: **Wednesday–Messiah School Children's Program @ The Villa (Greenfield)-10am**  
**Wed. Advent Worship #3 – 6:30pm**  
**Thursday - Messiah School Children's Program @ New Perspective (Franklin)-11am**  
**Church Council Meeting – 6pm**  
**Friday – Noon Dismissal at Messiah Lutheran School (Christmas Break Begins)**

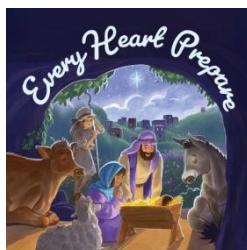
**Church Cleaning:** Team #8 (12/13-12/19); Team #9 (12/20-12/26)

Next Sunday: **Choir – 8am**  
12/21/25 **Worship – 9am**  
**Children's Christmas Program Practice & Bible Class – 10:15am**  
**Lunch & Children's Gift Exchange / Final Christmas Program Practice – 11am**



**Private Communion After the Worship Service – Meet in Pastor's Office –**

For communicant members who would like to receive the Lord's Supper today, please meet with Pastor Luke in his office after the worship service this morning.



**Wed. Advent Worship 12/17 @ 6:30pm** – Please join us for our final Wednesday Advent Worship Service on **Wed. Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**. Our series this year is entitled: "Every Heart Prepare." Advent is the church's season of preparation for Christmas, for the coming of the Lord. This Advent season, as part of our preparation, we reflect upon three common Christmas decorations and how they help us see Christ and prepare for His coming: evergreens, lights, and the nativity scene.

**Sunday School Teachers' Meeting @ 10:15am on Sun. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday School teachers are asked to meet after the worship service on **Sun. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>** for our Sunday School Teachers' meeting. (NOTE: There is no Sunday School or Bible Class that Sunday).

**ILC Professor Christmas Gifts** – One way by which we praise God and express our thanks for the gift of His Son is through our gifts of love to others. With that in mind, we would like to gather a gift for the professors who serve our church body at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary in Eau Claire. Monetary gifts may be placed in the box on the hall counter. Make checks out to "Messiah." The deadline is **Sunday, Dec. 28th**.

**CLC News** - Pastor Emeritus David Schierenbeck has **accepted** the call to serve as Assistant to the Pastor at Berea Ev. Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, MN, after he concludes serving as vacancy pastor of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN, at the end of January. <> Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD, has **received** the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has **returned** the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. Pastor Libby is still considering the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Dave Naumann of St. John's Lutheran Church, Clarkston, WA, and Peace Lutheran Church, Orofino, ID, has **returned** the call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Pastor Terrel Kesterson of Ascension Lutheran Church, Batavia, IL, has **returned** the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Emeritus Michael Eichstadt has **accepted** the vacancy call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ.

**INSTALLATION** Pastor Michael Gurath will be installed as pastor of Peace Thru Christ, Middleton, WI at a special 10am service next Sunday, December 21. There will be a meal to follow.

**Immanuel Christmas Concert – Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm** - The choirs of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will be presenting "Light Born From Light" (O Nata Lux de Lumine) on **Friday, December 19, 2025** at **Messiah Lutheran Church, 2015 N Hastings Way, Eau Claire, WI 54703**. The evening will begin at **7:00 p.m.**, with the strings, band, and flute choir presenting several songs prior to the choral service. It is open to the public and admission is free. The service will also be streaming live at <http://www.youtube.com/@ilcvideos>

**Nominations for ILC Professor and ILC President** - The Board of Regents announces the following nominations to fill the professorship vacated by the resignation of Professor David Schaller prior to the 2025-26 academic year: Paul Krause, David Reim, David Schaller, Dan Sullivan, and David Ude. In addition, the following and only person has been nominated for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College: Daniel Schierenbeck. The term of the ILC President's call is for two years, extending to the end of Academic Year 2028. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight January 17, 2026 (letters postmarked January 7, 2025) to: **Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com**.

#### **Christmas Season Worship Schedule 2025**

**Wed. Advent Worship Services – Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, & 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**

**Christmas Eve – Wed. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – 6pm** – Christmas Eve Worship Service  
& Children's Program

**Christmas Day – Thurs. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – 10:30am** - Christmas Day Worship Service



## CLC Financial Report - November 2025

Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2025	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 5 Months	Balance 11/30/2025
General Fund	0	512,908	513,520	527,125	(612)
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	776,540	683,796	739,600	92,744
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	99,143	15,737	30,499		84,381
ILC Building Projects	2,066,713	320,493	340		2,386,866
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	148,402	109,952	125,132		133,222
Kinship	169,472	67,821	94,661		142,632
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	2,503,796	255,935	518,129		2,241,602
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	101,689	107,744	102,652		106,781
EduK8 Fund	70,311	44,666	20,000		94,977
Reserve Fund	103,629	1,678	0		105,307
<b>Auxiliary Funds Totals</b>	<b>\$5,263,155</b>	<b>\$924,026</b>	<b>\$891,413</b>		<b>\$5,295,768</b>

**General Fund** – With a large dollar amount of contributions received in November, the deficit in the fund has almost been eliminated! Praise be to our Lord for moving the hearts of His people.

**ILC Operations** – Although revenues were less than disbursements in the month of November, we are still ahead of last year at this time with a balance of about \$92,000.

**Church Extension Fund** – Year to date revenue consists of payments received of about \$132,000 from congregations on the loans they owe the CLC, and almost \$124,000 from increases in the market value of the investments. Disbursements include just over \$485,000 loaned to a member congregation for their building project.

**Other Auxiliary Funds** – The activity in the other funds in the table above is similar to the activity in the same period a year ago.

Stephen R. Lentz, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

## Bible Readings:

12/14	Judges 1:22-2:5 Psalm 137 Acts 10:9-23
12/15	Judges 2:6-23 Psalm 138 Acts 10:24-33
12/16	Judges 3 Psalm 139 Acts 10:34-48
12/17	Judges 4 Psalm 140 Acts 11:1-18
12/18	Judges 5:1-15 Psalm 141 Acts 11:19-30
12/19	Judges 5:16-31 Psalm 142 Acts 12:1-17
12/20	Judges 6:1-18 Psalm 143 Acts 12:18-25

## December Ushers

## Cleaning Team

12/20-12/26

Joel Gerbitz

Team 9

David Hein

B/L Blue

Richard Davis

O. Docter

## December Slideshow

Dave Albrecht

Fruits of Faith	Last Week:	To Date:
Budgetary	\$6,096.50	\$174,368.62
Budgetary Needs:	\$8,642.65	\$198,780.95
Over (Under)	(\$2,546.15)	(\$24,412.33)
Missions:	\$200.00	\$1,435.00
Kinship:	\$300.00	\$1,376.56
ILC Building Fund:	\$35.00	\$909.99
MSAF:	\$25.00	\$425.00
IIF:	\$100.00	\$750.00

**Attendance Last Week (12/7): 107**

**Wed. Advent Services (12/3): 71 (12/10): 75**



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