

**Welcome!** We are happy to share God's peace with everyone. Visitors are invited to sign our guest book in the entryway. If you have any questions, the ushers are ready to help. Feel free to visit after the service.

- Aids to assist with hearing (Williams Sound System) are available from the ushers.
- Large Print Hymnal Binders are available on the tract desk for those with vision difficulties.
- Personal prayers for use before church or during the week are printed on p. 255-258 in the hymnal.

**Please note: the Sunday service is being recorded and streamed on YouTube.**

**[www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar](http://www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar)**

**Setting 2: pg. 172**

The **third candle** that we light today is called the **Shepherds' Candle** (sometimes also called the Joy Candle). This rose-colored candle symbolizes the coming of the Savior into the hearts and lives of believers. It pictures the joy that the shepherds had after seeing their newborn Savior, a joy that we share today.

## 305 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

CW 305

- 1 Lift up your heads, you mighty gates!  
Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation he will bring;  
therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise  
your joyful songs of praise.
- 2 The King is born in poverty,  
his chariot is humility,  
his kingly crown is holiness,  
his scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe he brings;  
therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise  
your grateful hymns of praise.
- 3 How blest the land, the city blest,  
where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes  
to whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless sun of joy is he  
who comes to set his people free.  
To God the Spirit raise  
your happy shouts of praise.

4 Fling wide the gates; prepare your heart  
to be a temple set apart  
from earthly use for heav'n's employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sov'reign enter in  
and new and nobler life begin.  
To God alone be praise  
for word and deed and grace!

*Please stand for the final stanza*

5 Redeemer, come! I open wide  
my heart to you; here, Lord, abide!  
O enter with your saving grace;  
show me your kind and friendly face.  
Your Holy Spirit guide us on  
until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame  
we offer to your name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Text: Public domain

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the  
Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Confession

CW 173

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count  
against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and  
desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your  
holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not  
have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we  
should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*(Silence for meditation and reflection)*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection

from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Lord, Have Mercy**

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

**Glory to God in the Highest**

CW 176

***Refrain:* Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God,  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have  
mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the  
Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy  
Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen.

*Refrain*

## **THE WORD**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the  
good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the  
darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for  
you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**(Be seated)**

## First Reading

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>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 Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



# 146 I Will Praise the Lord All My Life

Psalm 146

*Refrain*

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

I will praise the LORD / all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long / as I live.

Do not put your trust in / princes,

in human beings, who / cannot save.

Blessed are those whose help is the God of / Jacob,

whose hope is in the / LORD their God. *Refrain*

He upholds the cause of / the oppressed

and gives food to the / hungry.

The LORD sets / pris'ners free,

the LORD gives sight / to the blind.

The LORD reigns for- / ever,

your God, O Zion, for all generations. / Praise the

LORD.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son**

**and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- / ginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

## **Second Reading**

*James 5:7–11*

<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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Stand)*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*Matthew 11:10*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## Gospel

Matthew 11:2–11

<sup>2</sup>While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples <sup>3</sup>to ask him, “Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?”

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go, report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. <sup>6</sup>Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup>Amen I tell you: Among those born of women there has not appeared anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*(Be seated)*

## 324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

CW 324

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you,  
how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you,  
my hope, my heart's delight.  
O Jesus, let your Word be  
a lamp to light my way,  
to show me how to please you,  
to guide me ev'ry day.
- 2 Love caused your incarnation;  
love brought you down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation  
procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling  
that led you to embrace  
in love, all love excelling,  
our lost and fallen race!
- 3 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,  
who sit in deepest gloom,  
who mourn o'er joys departed  
and tremble at your doom.  
Despair not; he is near you,  
he's standing at the door  
who best can help and cheer you  
and bids you weep no more.

- 4 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
let not your souls distress;  
your guilt the Lord will pardon  
and cover by his grace.  
He comes, for you procuring  
the peace of sin forgiv'n,  
his children thus securing  
eternal life in heav'n.
- 5 He comes to judge the nations,  
a terror to his foes,  
a light of consolation  
and blessèd hope to those  
who love the Lord's appearing.  
O glorious Sun, now come,  
send forth your beams most cheering,  
and guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, D. M. Luther's ... Geistliche Lieder, Berlin, 1653, abr.; tr. composite  
Text: Public domain

## **Sermon**

**(Stand)**

## **Apostles' Creed**

**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 is seated 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.**

***(Be seated)***

# Prayer of the Church

## Offering

### 326 O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort

CW 326

1 O Jesus, grant me hope and comfort;  
O let me ne'er in sorrow pine.  
My heart, my soul, yea, all my being,  
O Jesus, trust alone in thee.  
Thou Prince of Peace, thou Pearl from heaven,  
true God, true man, my Morning Star! (Refrain)

**Ref O come, thou precious Sun most radiant,  
thy beams illumine my heart, my soul.  
O come, thou precious Sun most radiant,  
thy beams illumine my heart, my soul.**

2 O Jesus, with thy advent quiet  
my restless soul and anxious mind.  
In true humility I welcome  
thee, Jesus Christ, my joy divine.  
My thoughts, desires, and all my longings  
I dedicate, O Christ, to thee. (Refrain)

Text: Wilhelm Osterwald, 1820–1887; tr. Walter E. Buszin, 1899–1973

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**(Stand)**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

***(Be seated)***

## **Blessing**

**The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to  
you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
Amen.**



### 303 O Bride of Christ, Rejoice

- 1 O bride of Christ, rejoice!  
Exultant raise your voice  
to hail the day of glory  
foretold in sacred story.  
Hosanna! Now adore him;  
with praises bow before him!
- 2 Let shouts of gladness rise  
triumphant to the skies.  
Now comes the King most glorious  
to reign o'er all victorious.  
Hosanna! Now adore him;  
with praises bow before him!
- 3 A humble beast he rides,  
yet as a king presides;  
tho' not arrayed in splendor,  
he makes the grave surrender.  
Hosanna! Now adore him;  
with praises bow before him!
- 4 The weak and timid find  
how meek he is and kind;  
to them he gives a treasure  
of bliss beyond all measure.  
Hosanna! Now adore him;  
with praises bow before him!

5 Then go your Lord to meet,  
strew palm leaves at his feet,  
your garments spread before him,  
and honor and adore him.

Hosanna! Sing the story  
of Christ, the King of glory!

Text: Danish, c. 1600; tr. Victor O. Petersen, 1864–1929, alt.

Text: Public domain

#### Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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## Upcoming Events

Sunday 12/14/2025.....9:00 AM Worship Service  
.....Noon-6:00 PM Hubbard Fellowship Hall  
Monday 12/15/2025.....10:00 AM Pastors' Study  
.....7:00 PM Worship Service  
Saturday 12/20/2.....10:00 AM Children's Service Practice  
Sunday 12/21/2025.....9:00 AM Children's Service  
..... Cookie Crunch/Christmas Caroling  
Monday 12/22/2025.....NO MONDAY SERVICE

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## Attendance

Sunday Attendance: 93 Communed: 84  
Monday Service: 23 Communed: 23  
Midweek Advent: 43, Soup Supper: 39  
Sunday School: 8 Bible Class: 35

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**Our Time to Our Lord**  
**December Servers**

**Sundays** John Solgat, Nate Rupprecht, Mike Hecht,  
Grant Barnes

**Monday:** Barry Mays

**Midweek Advent Service Dec. 10:** Brandon Frank &  
Jacob Zieroff

**Finance:** Jeremy LaPratt, Nick Hubbard, Ed Newsome

**Altar Guild:** Marian Whitney, Teenia Rose, Pat  
Mecham

**Organist:** Olivia Marker

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**Sunday Morning Bible Class: History of the WELS**  
**Snack Volunteers**

Mecham

*January Sundays are next up, sign up today*

**Our Talents to Our Lord**

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**Christmas Caroling:** What a delight. **Calling all adults and children-**Christmas Caroling has returned to St. Luke's!!! **Following the Cookie Crunch on December 21<sup>st</sup>** we will leave the church and head over to the Timber Ridge condos. We have several members there as well as neighbors who may want to hear our angelic

voices! Song sheets are prepared and ready (thank you Vickie R). Share your joy!

**Thank You!!!** Thank you to Women Serving Christ for funding the treats handed out at the Children's Service. Also, thank you to Jeanette and Theresa for preparing them

**Beverage Container Collection:** The LES children are collecting returnable bottles and cans to raise money for items needed at their school. Further information is on the bulletin board.



Scan to Give

**Our Treasures to Our Lord**

Budgetary Gifts: \$8,217.00

Sunday School: \$8.00

Special Gift Missions: \$100.00

Memorial Gift for Sharon Gardy: \$25.00

Concordia Publishing House (reimbursement): \$42.79

*These gifts reflect services: December 7 & 8*

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# **Michigan Lutheran Seminary News**

Scan to Give

***Current Students of St. Luke's***

**Braylin Zieroff, Phoebe**

**Schultz, Pip Schultz**

**MLS Christmas Concert:** Michigan Lutheran Seminary invites you to attend the annual Christmas concert **THIS Friday, December 19 at 7 pm.** Under the theme "Christe, lux mundi," the choirs and band will perform carols such as "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," "Silent Night," "Before the Marvel of This Night," and "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming." Doors will open at 6:30 pm.

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## **EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Book Fair-December 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>**

**Children's Christmas Service Practice-December 20<sup>th</sup>**  
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

**Children's Christmas Service-9:00 AM December 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Cookie Crunch/Christmas Caroling-December 21<sup>st</sup>**  
(Following the Children's Service)

**Christmas Eve Song Service-6:30 PM**

**Christmas Day Communion Service-9**

**“OPERATION J.O.Y.”  
(Jesus. Others. Yourself.)**

Each year, St. Luke's CEO hosts a special program entitled  
“OPERATION J.O.Y. ”

This year we have decided to provide much n

eeded supplies to **Ennis Center for Children**, a facility that assists  
in transitioning children from their homes to foster care. A Wish  
Tree is set up in the narthex **December 1st until December 19th**  
where you can select a tag or tags of items you would like to donate,  
these can then be returned back to the tree any time before the 19th.  
Or you may bring your donations to the school (a drop box will be  
in the school office), no tag required. Your help will make the  
difficult transition a little more comfortable for those children, big  
and small.

**Any questions can be directed to Paula Walker at (989)239-8445.**

**FELLOWSHIP HALL DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> – 15<sup>TH</sup>**

***Just in Time for Christmas  
Shopping Season!!!***



***You will find many, many books to choose from. Books  
suitable for all ages.***

***There is also gift items available to purchase.***

***NOTE: Proceeds from the book fair will allow teachers to purchase new books  
for their classroom libraries!***