

**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**

**334 I Stand beside Your Manger Here**

**CW 334**

1 I stand beside your manger here,  
O Jesus, life from heaven.  
The gifts I bring as I draw near  
are what to me you've given:  
my spirit, courage, mind, and heart—  
take all I am, take ev'ry part;  
in mercy let it please you.

- 2 Before I ever came to be,  
or knew of you, my Savior,  
you'd chosen me, been born for me,  
that I might have your favor.  
Before you formed me by your hand  
in grace you had already planned  
how I would learn to love you.
- 3 Death held me in the deepest night  
till you, my sunshine beaming,  
brought joy and bliss and life and light,  
in love my soul redeeming.  
O Sun, your rays so warm and fair  
have made my darkness disappear—  
faith's precious light is shining.

*Please stand for the final stanza*

- 4 One thing I hope; my Savior, hear;  
bestow on me this blessing,  
that I may ever hold you near,  
you as my own possessing.  
So let my heart your manger be;  
come, holy Child, lie down in me  
with all your joyful treasures.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.; tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963

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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.

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*(Be seated)*

## First Reading

*Isaiah 63:7–9*

<sup>7</sup>I will tell about the LORD's mercies,  
about the praises of the LORD,  
about all that the LORD has done for us,  
about his great goodness to the house of Israel,  
which he performed for them according to his  
abundant compassion,  
and according to his great mercy.

<sup>8</sup>He said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely,"  
so he became their Savior.

<sup>9</sup>In all their anguish he felt anguish,  
and the Angel of his Presence saved them.

In his love and in his pity he himself redeemed them,  
and he took them up and carried them all the days of old.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **2 You Are My Son**

*Psalm 2*

*Refrain*

You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.

Why do the / nations rage?

Why do the peoples / plot in vain?

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers  
assemble a- / gainst the LORD

and against his A- / noointed One. *Refrain*

He who sits in / heaven laughs;

the Lord / scoffs at them.

Then he addresses them in his anger and frightens them  
with his fury, / saying,

“I have set my King on Zion, my / holy hill.” *Refrain*

I will declare the / LORD’s decree:

He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have be- /

gotten you.”

**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**

Text: translation

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## **Second Reading**

*Galatians 4:4–7*

<sup>4</sup>But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, “Abba, Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Stand)*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*Psalms 98:1*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing to the LORD a new song;

his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.



Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## **Gospel**

*Matthew 2:13–23*

<sup>13</sup>After the Wise Men were gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, because Herod will search for the child in order to kill him.”

<sup>14</sup>Joseph got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt. <sup>15</sup>He stayed there until the death of Herod. This happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

<sup>16</sup>When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Wise Men, he was furious. He issued orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding countryside, from two years old and under. This was in keeping with the exact time he had learned from the Wise Men. <sup>17</sup>Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup>A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children,  
and she refused to be comforted,  
because they are no more.

<sup>19</sup>After Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. The angel said, <sup>20</sup>“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to kill the child are dead.”

<sup>21</sup>Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus, Herod's son, had succeeded his father as ruler in Judea, he was afraid to go there. Since he had been warned in a dream, he went to the region of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>When he arrived there, he settled in a city called Nazareth. So what was spoken through the prophets was fulfilled: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Be seated)*

### **355 Let All Together Praise Our God**

CW 355

1     Let all together praise our God  
        before his highest throne;  
today he opens heav'n again  
        and gives us his own Son,  
        and gives us his own Son.

2     He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne,  
        is born an infant small,  
and in a manger, poor and lone,  
        lies in a humble stall,  
        lies in a humble stall.

3     He veils in flesh his pow'r divine  
        a servant's form to take,  
in want and lowliness must pine  
        who heav'n and earth did make,  
        who heav'n and earth did make.

4     He undertakes a great exchange,  
        puts on our human frame,  
and in return gives us his realm,  
        his glory, and his name,  
        his glory, and his name.

5     He serves that I a lord may be—  
        a great exchange indeed!  
Could Jesus' love do more for me  
        to help me in my need,  
        to help me in my need?

6     For us he opens wide the door  
        of paradise today.

The angel guards the gate no more;  
to God our thanks we pay,  
to God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561, abr.; (sts. 1-3, 5-6): tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, sts. 1-3, 5, 6, alt.; (st. 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001, st. 4

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## **Sermon**

Galatians 4:4-7

God's Christmas Gifts to You

I. The gift of his Son (4-5a)

II. The gift of being his son (5b-7)

*(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**

**978 All Hail! You Infant Martyr Flowers**

**CW 978**

**1 All hail! You infant martyr flow'rs,  
cut off in life's first dawning hours;  
like rosebuds, snapped in dreadful strife,  
when Herod sought our Savior's life.**

**2 With terror does the tyrant hear  
that God's own Son to us draws near.**

On David's throne he comes to dwell  
and reign as King of Israel.

- 3 King Herod rages at the Word:  
"Go, soldier, with your ruthless sword,  
to him, who stands where we have stood,  
and stain the Infant-crib with blood!"
- 4 Oh, what is gained from this offense?  
What profit comes from violence?  
The Savior-King survived the day,  
as Christ was safely whisked away!
- 5 A voice is heard in bitter pain  
as Rachel mourns the infants slain,  
refusing comfort—sacred lore—  
because her children are no more!
- 6 Of you, O little lambs, we sing,  
first victims slain for Christ our King:  
beneath the heav'nly altar's ray  
with martyr-palms and crowns you play!
- 7 To you, the virgin-born, we raise  
thanksgiving and eternal praise,

whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Aurelius C. Prudentius, 348–after 405; tr. Peter M. Prange, b. 1972

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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.**

## **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.**

## 332 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

CW 332

- 1 Let us all with gladsome voice  
praise the God of heaven,  
who, to bid our hearts rejoice,  
his own Son has given.
- 2 To this vale of tears he comes,  
here to serve in sadness,  
that with him in heav'n's fair homes  
we may reign in gladness.
- 3 We are rich, for he was poor;  
is not this a wonder?  
Therefore praise God evermore  
here on earth and yonder.
- 4 Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,  
bless us and be near us.  
Grant us now a glad new year.  
Amen, Jesus, hear us.

Text: German, 17th cent; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments  
Setting Two from Christian Worship  
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Sunday 12/28/2025.....9:00 AM Worship Service  
Monday 12/29/2025.....7:00 PM Worship Service  
Sunday 01/04/2026.....9:00 AM Communion Service



Monday 01/05/2026.....7:00 PM Communion Service

**Our Time to Our Lord**

**January Servers**

**Sundays** Paul and Silas Schultz, Eric Korthals

**Monday:** David Atkins

**Finance:** Gabe Fall

**Altar Guild:** Beth Solgat and Beth Arnold

**Organist:** Olivia Marker

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

**Snack Volunteers**

*January Sundays are next up, sign up today*

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**Our Treasures to Our Lord**  
Budgetary Gifts: \$4,019.00-*December*  
22, 2026

**Attendance**

Children's Service – 180

Christmas Eve – 173   Christmas Day - 73

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**Our Talents to Our Lord**

## A Heartfelt Thank You!!!



Operation J.O.Y. was a total success and provided many essentials to youth that were certainly in need.

God has blessed us richly!

### Game Nights Return!!!

What started out as only euchre has evolved into a variety of card and board games. Bring yourself, a snack to share if desired, and your game face!

January Dates:

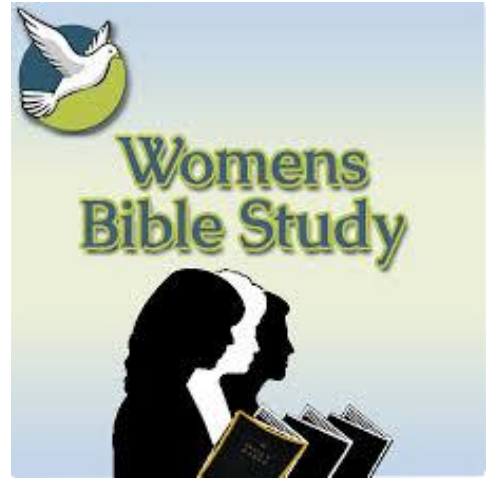
January 9<sup>th</sup> and January 23<sup>rd</sup>



**Poinsettias:** Thank you for the poinsettia donations to beautify our sanctuary this Christmas season. Poinsettias were given by Don & Sharon Thurston, Mary Rupprecht, Marsha Jobson, Diane Forbush, and Jim Zoellner. They were also given in memory of Dr. Fred Emling by Fran Emling, in memory of Bill Dudewicz and Roger & Dolly Gohs by Jeanette Dudewicz, and in memory of Hans and Sue Krause by their children.

## **Women's Bible Study Returns!!!**

Calling all Ladies: Beginning January 2026, all women are invited to join our **twice-monthly Women's Bible Studies!** We will meet on the **second Tuesday and the fourth Thursday of each**



**month**, with our first gathering on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026**. The first meeting each month will feature a short devotion followed by fellowship or a service project, while the second gathering will be a full Bible study lasting about an hour. Come grow in God's Word, build meaningful connections, and serve together. All women are welcome!

**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.



**Michigan Lutheran Seminary News**  
**Current Students of St. Luke's**

Scan to Give

**Braylin Zieroff, Phoebe Schultz, Piper Schultz**

**MLS Jr. CARDINAL POMS CLINIC:** The MLS Poms team invites girls in grades K-5 from WELS/ELS churches or schools to join the Jr. Cardinal Poms Clinic on January 25, 2026! Participants will learn a fun routine to perform at halftime of the MLS varsity basketball game on Friday night, January 30. Cost is \$20 (includes shirt and snack; optional poms and hair bows available). Registration closes January 13 at

midnight. For more details or to register, visit [www.mlsem.org](http://www.mlsem.org). Questions? Contact Michael Priebe at [mdp@mlsem.org](mailto:mdp@mlsem.org)

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**MLS IS HIRING:** MLS is seeking qualified candidates for the following open positions, interested individuals can see a position description and fill out an application by visiting [www.mlsem.org](http://www.mlsem.org).

**Library/Study Hall Supervisor (Part-Time):**

Michigan Lutheran Seminary is seeking a part-time Library/Study Hall Supervisor to oversee daily library operations, manage circulation, and monitor student study hall attendance and conduct. The role requires strong organizational skills, the ability to work with students and staff, proficiency in Google Suite, and the ability to lift up to 25 lbs. (occasionally up to 50 lbs.)

**Janitor (Nights - Part-Time):** Michigan Lutheran Seminary is seeking a part-time Janitor (Nights) to work approximately 20 hours per week during winter sports events. Responsibilities include cleaning and stocking bathrooms, handling spills and trash, maintaining classroom and piano lab tidiness, supervising students briefly during gym cleanup, and performing other duties such as shoveling and salting sidewalks when needed. Occasional weekend

work and coverage for the regular female janitor may be required. The ideal candidate is female, must have a valid driver's license, and be able to pass a background check.

**MLS CHILDREN'S THEATRE PRODUCTION: THE ENCHANTED BOOKSHOP:** Michigan Lutheran Seminary is pleased to present its 2026 children's theatre production, The Enchanted Bookshop by Todd Wallinger. Performances will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 14, and at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 15. This production is free and open to the public.