

# Our Savior Lutheran Church

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## Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025

# Service of Prayer and Preaching

## Prayer Before Worship

*O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.*

## Opening Hymn

## “The Advent of Our King”

LSB 331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.

△6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.  
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Opening Versicles

LSB 260

**L** This is the day which the Lord has made;  
**C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.  
**L** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.  
**C** Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.

**L** Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C** Make His paths straight.

**L** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

**C** Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.

**L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## Old Testament Canticle

LSB 261

*Refrain*

**C** The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
With joy will you draw wa - ter from the

wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that

day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,

make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -

claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

*Refrain*  
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done

glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the

earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -

hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the



Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.



*Refrain*

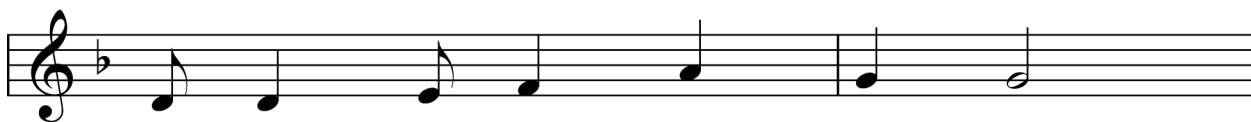
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son



and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will



be for - ev - er. A - men.



*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

## Introit

*Psalm 71:14-18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will say, | Rejoice.

**I will hope con- | tinually\***  
**and will praise you yet | more and more.**

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation | all the  
day,\*  
for their number is past my | knowledge.

**With the mighty deeds of the Lord God | I will come;\***  
**I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.**

O God, from my youth you have | taught me,\*  
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.

**So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me,\***  
**until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to**  
**all | those to come.**

**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.**

Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will say, | Rejoice.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

**[L]** A reading from Isaiah, the thirty-fifth chapter.

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

<sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

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

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,

with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle Reading

*James 5:7-11*

**L** A reading from James, chapter 5.

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those

blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Reading

*Matthew 11:2-15*

**L** A reading from Matthew, chapter 11.

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

<sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

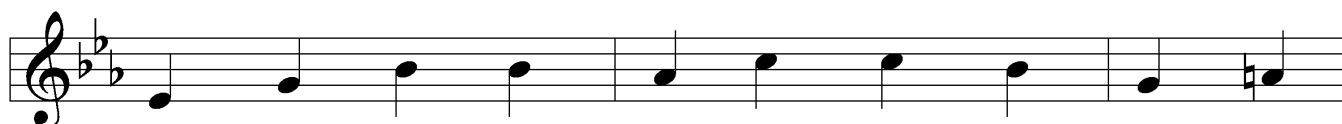


- L** Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.
- C** This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.
- L** He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- C** This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.
- L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C** This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

## Hymn of the Day

## “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

LSB 345



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is  
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
 △ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the  
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
 par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with  
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”  
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n;  
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.  
 Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Ten Commandments

*LSB 264*

- C** You shall have no other gods.
- You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
- Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
- Honor your father and your mother.
- You shall not murder.
- You shall not commit adultery.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maid-servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

## Apostles' Creed

*LSB 264*

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

And 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 thence 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.

**☩ 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.**

Catechism Reading: The Second Article

*Redemption*

**And 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 thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

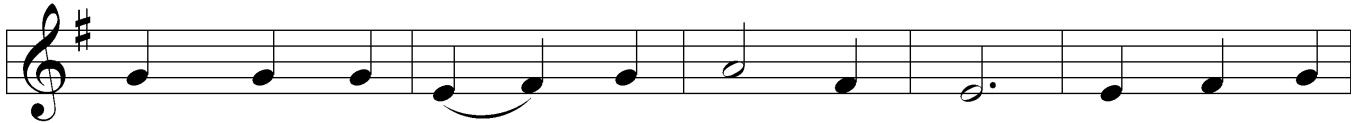
*What does this mean?*

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

Sermon Hymn

“Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain”

*LSB 865*



1 Lord, help us ev - er to re - tain The Cat - e -  
 2 Help us Your ho - ly Law to learn, To mourn our  
 3 Hear us, dear Fa - ther, when we pray For need - ed  
 4 Lord, when we fall or go a - stray, Ab - solve and



chism's — doc - trine plain As Lu - ther taught the  
 sin and from it turn In faith to You and  
 help from day to day That as Your chil - dren  
 lift us up, we pray; And through the Sac - ra -



Word of truth In sim - ple style to ten - der youth.  
 to Your Son And Ho - ly Spir - it, Three in One.  
 we may live, Whom You bap - tized and so re - ceived.  
 ment in - crease Our faith till we de - part in peace.

Text: Ludwig Helmbold, 1532–98; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.  
 Tune: As hymnodus sacer, 1625, Leipzig  
 Text and tune: Public domain

Offering and Prayer

Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

## Collect of the Day

**L** . . . one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Collect for the Word

**L** Blessed Lord . . . who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Morning Prayer

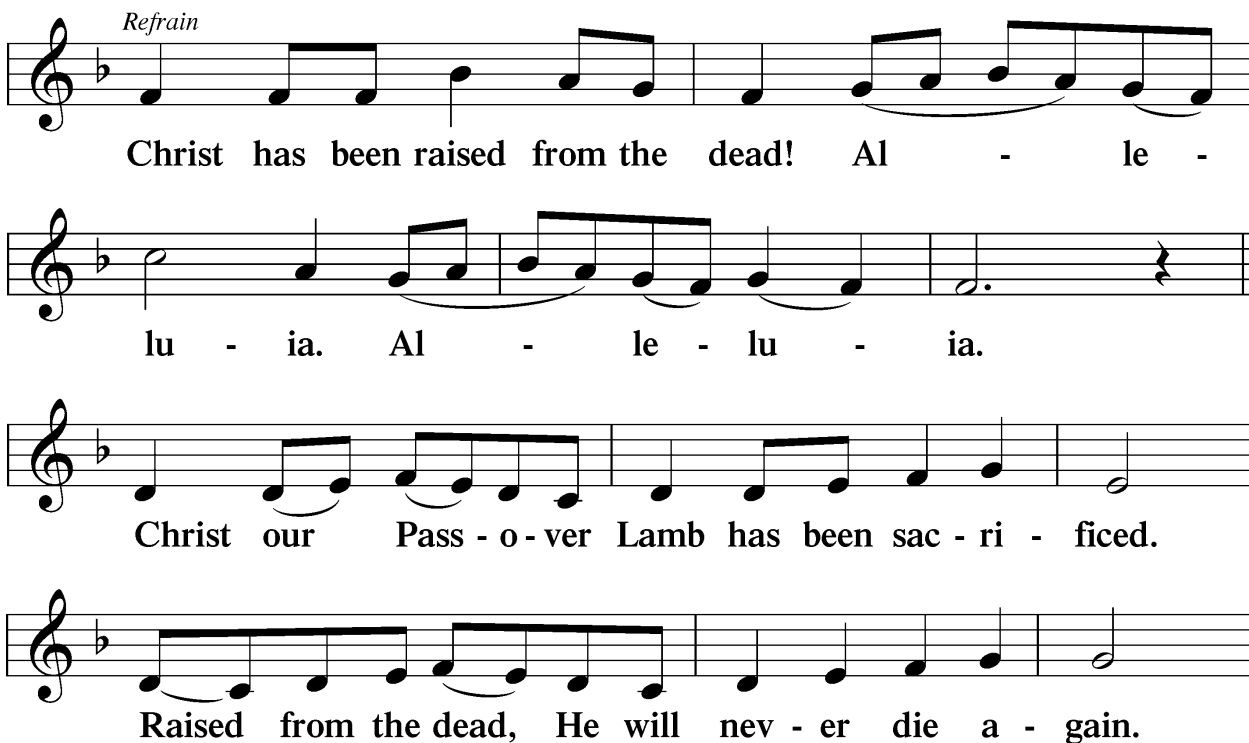
*LSB 266*

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## New Testament Cantic

*LSB 266*

*Refrain*

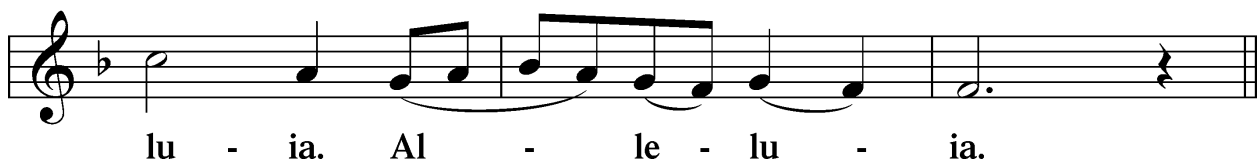
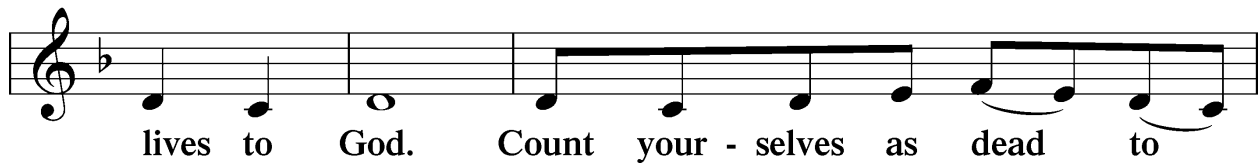
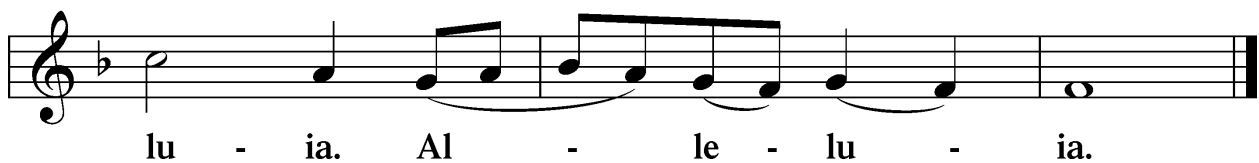


Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.

Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.



**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

**C** Amen.

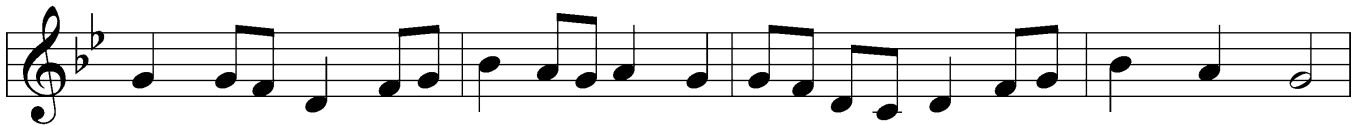
## Closing Hymn

## “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

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## EVENTS THIS WEEK

**Today:** Worship at OSLC, 9am, Christian Education, 10:15am  
**Today:** Worship at Good Shepherd, 11:30am  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study, 10am; *Bulletin Deadline, 10am*  
**Wednesday:** Confirmation, 3:15pm  
**Wednesday:** Advent Meal, 5:45pm; Hymn Sing, 6:45pm  
**Wednesday:** Advent Service, 7pm  
**Saturday:** Worship at Immanuel, 6pm

## Those Serving at OSLC

	12/14/25	12/17/25	12/21/25
<b>Elder</b>	Jim Winder	Jim Winder	Rich Rieches
<b>Organist</b>	Linda Kellerhals	Linda Kellerhals	Benny Verswijver
<b>Radio Monitors</b>	Neil and Courtney Rieches		Chris Schroeder Marilyn Reeves
<b>Sound Board</b>	Dean Lingley	Dean Lingley	Neil Rieches
<b>Greeters</b>	Jake and Olivia Harms		Phil and Cindy Raddatz
<b>Acolyte</b>	Jaylin Lavicka	Jaylin Lavicka	Sophia Billingsley
<b>Head Usher</b>	Elders	Elders	Elders
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Sheila Selk Patty Bruens	Sheila Selk Patty Bruens	Sheila Selk Patty Bruens



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WOMEN'S CARE CLINIC OF DANVILLE:** As you shop this holiday season, prayerfully consider turning your purchases into PURPOSE by helping support families that are choosing life. You can purchase baby items from their Amazon Wish List to fill their Baby Market with essentials that moms can earn by completing their educational goals. Visit <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/W8GZQPHS8E9T> to view and make purchases.

Thank you for helping!

**THE ANGEL TREE** will be in the narthex during the Christmas season. Please feel free to take as many angels as you like. All presents need to be wrapped, with the angel attached, and back under the tree by **Sunday, December 21**. Brenna will be delivering the gifts to the family on Tuesday, December 23. If you would rather not shop for an item, but would still like to help, please see Brenna Schroeder.

**THANK YOU TO ALL** for the wonderful prayers following my cancer diagnosis. At this time, the cancer has been removed and is no longer appearing in the scans. In the future I will be following a maintenance program to identify any possible recurrence. Praise God for His healing powers and for dear friends. Theta and I are truly blessed. ~ John Lee

**2026 ALTAR GUILD:** Sign up list is in the Narthex. We are looking for a few more people to help with the "behind the scenes" necessities. This is a simple job and the commitment is minimal – just 1 or 2 months a year.

**2026 GREETERS LIST:** If you are currently on the Greeters List, you will stay on unless you talk to Renee TODAY. If you want to be added, please talk to Renee. It is a commitment of 2-3 Sundays a year. The 2026 schedule will be in your mailbox next Sunday, December 21.

**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES** have arrived and have been distributed. If you did not receive a set and would like one please talk to Gretchen B. or Renee M. by December 17.

**RADIO MONITOR AND SOUND BOARD** schedules for 2026 have finalized and are in your mailbox. If you need another copy, talk to Renee.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** will not meet in December. We will start again in January with a new study "A New Song: Save Me, O My God." This is a study of 6 Psalms - 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 10. In these Psalms your Savior will part the clouds of fear, calm the sea of distress, and give you a fresh breeze of hope in the light of His grace. Cost for this study is \$5. Talk to Renee to get your copy of the book.

**ADVENT MEALS and FELLOWSHIP** continue Wed, December 17, starting at 5:45pm. This week we will have a Hotdish (aka Casserole) night. Enjoy Tator Tot Hotdish, Chicken Pot Pie, and dessert. We will take a **free will donation** to benefit the **Radio Ministry**. Thank you for your support of this ministry for those in Milford and the surrounding communities!

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** will be next Sunday at 9am. "Symbols of Salvation" will teach us about how our Christmas decorations point to Jesus. All are encouraged to attend and support our SS Children.

**COOKIE RECEPTION:** After the Children's Christmas Program, we will have a cookie and juice reception for them in the fellowship hall. Come down and celebrate the young people in our congregation and enjoy a cookie. If you can donate juice, please talk to Patty B. or Renee M.

**LUTHERANS FOR LIFE QUOTE** "And every life matters to God. It is impossible to live—even for a few moments on this earth—and not influence somebody in one way or another. We are all always influencing somebody—either for good or for bad. Life matters. Your life matters. Lives of kings and lives of shepherds all matter. We all matter and are important to God." *Dennis D. Nelson, Lutheran CORE – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

## **PRAYER LIST**

### **Those celebrating a birthday:**

Matthew Lange	Today
Theta Lee	Today
Kevin Moore	Today
Sophia Billingsley	Monday
Kyle Brazel	Thursday
Cody Mowrey	Thursday
Brian Neukomm	Saturday

### **Those suffering from cancer:**

Linda Buhrmester  
Ethel Lucht  
Nancy Tobeck  
Joey, radio listener  
Dale Colvin, cousin of Jim Winder  
Janet Doyle, friend of Patty Bruens  
Tim Evans, brother in law of Bob Storm  
Lisa High, friend of Becky Hiles  
Kris Hines, daughter in law of Bonita Hines  
Kendra Howard, niece of Doug Benner  
Pamela Howard, sister of Doug Benner  
Joe Judd, brother in law of Dennis Selk  
Troy Schaumburg, friend of Connie Langellier  
Sue Schreier, friend of Renee Minton  
Fred Wright, brother of Marvin Wright

### **Those requesting your prayers:**

Dave Lucht, health issues  
Larry Tobeck, recovering from surgery

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** for John Lee as his scans are cancer free.

### **Those who mourn:**

Family and friends of Melvin Rieches, given Christian burial this past week.

## **Homebound Members**

Dianne Estes  
Delmer Henrichs  
Dorothy Knake  
Joann Sloan  
Brenda St. Peter

**Those serving in our Armed Forces and our local Law Enforcement, especially those connected to the OSLC family:**

### ***Armed Forces***

Karl Gibbs - serving as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy  
Justin McGahan - Milford community member, serving in the U.S. Army  
Corey Moore - OSLC Member and son of Kevin and Kasey Moore, serving in the U.S. Marine Reserves  
Timothy Raddatz - nephew of Phil and Cindy Raddatz, serving in the U.S. Coast Guard

### ***Law Enforcement***

Wyatt Alt - Iroquois County Sheriff Department

**Central Illinois District Congregations:** St John in Secor and Michael Peters her pastor.

**Iroquois Circuit Congregations:** Calvary in Watseka and Aaron Uphoff her pastor.

### **Those studying at the Seminary:**

Seminarian Simon Niemtschk, Concordia Seminary, St Louis, MO.  
Vicar Jacob Bergstedt, Redeemer Lutheran, Gresham, OR.

### **Those serving in the Mission Field:**

Rev. Jordan Andreasen, his wife Alison, and children, Abigail, Bethany, Benjamin, Aaron, and Ethan, our international missionary, currently serving in Romania. Rev. Andreasen works with the Confessional Lutheran Church in Romania and in the surrounding Balkan-Mediterranean subregion.

