

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Second Sunday of Christmas

January 4, 2026

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –10:00AM

***Congregation Standing**

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

WELCOME

Announcements

Prelude

*** Call to Worship**

P: To the darkness of our world there came a great Light!

C: The Light came as a child, the Son of God.

P: He is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

**C: May this glorious Light shine in our darkness as we offer him
worship and praise.**

*** Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \dagger one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

**C: we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.**

**We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.**

**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.**

**We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.**

**Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.**

Amen.

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you. \dagger Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: Amen.

* Gathering Hymn 283

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

* Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

* Glory Be To God

(Setting 10 – page 204)



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.

2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:

Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;

Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.

Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.

For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

* Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Lesson: *Jeremiah 31:7-14*

⁷ Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
 and over the young of the flock and the herd;
 their life shall become like a watered garden,
 and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
 and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy;
 I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
 and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
 says the LORD. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: *Psalm 147:12-20*

¹² Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem;
 praise your | God, O Zion,

¹³ **who has strengthened the bars | of your gates**
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.

¹⁴ God has established peace | on your borders
 and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.

¹⁵ **God sends out a command | to the earth,**
a word that runs | very swiftly.

¹⁶ God gives | snow like wool,
 scattering | frost like ashes.

¹⁷ **God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.**
Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?

¹⁸ The LORD sends forth the | word and melts them;
 the wind blows, and the | waters flow.

¹⁹ **God declares the | word to Jacob,**
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.

²⁰ The LORD has not done so to any | other nation;
 they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah!

Second Lesson: *Ephesians 1:3-14*

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

* Gospel Acclamation

(Setting 10 – Page 205)

S 205a

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Daniel Swanson

Hymn 292**“Love Has Come”***** The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty.
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

The Prayer of the Church

* Sharing of the Peace of the Lord

We Offer Our Gifts to the Lord
“Light of the Word”

Duet Anna Stewart and Rae Ann Smith

Organ Voluntary
Cash & Bergthold

Accompanied by LeaAnn Alter

* Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

* The Offertory

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (Verse 2)

Hymn 288

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

* Offertory Prayer

L: God of glory,
great are your wonders among us
and many are the blessings you bestow.
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,
through Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

* The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed rightand join their unending hymn:

* (Holy, Holy Holy)

(Setting 10, page 207)

5207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

* The Words of Institution

* The 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.

* P: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

The Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*)

(Setting 10, Page 208)

5208

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a-way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a-way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a-way;
 you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Distribution of the Sacrament

* Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

* The Prayer after Communion

L: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.

May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts
the mystery of your presence.

Move us to discover the wonders of your love
in the everyday moments of our lives,
through Christ born in us.

C: Amen

* Blessing

P: The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C: Amen.

*** Sending Hymn 270**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

* Dismissal

L: Glory to God in the highest!

C: And peace to God's people on earth!

L: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: Thanks be to God.

* Postlude

In Bread and Wine our Lord Jesus meets us and we receive His Body and Blood given and shed for our forgiveness. It is a meal of love, forgiveness and renewal. If you are visiting with us today and are a baptized Christian and desire to commune, please do come to the table of the Lord. Children and youth who have not received instruction in the meaning of the Sacrament are cordially invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please come toward as directed by ushers by the center aisle and return by the side aisles.

Lectors for our Services

This Sunday, January 4 – Gary Llewellyn

This Wednesday, January 7 – Lydia Martin

Next Sunday, January 11 – Devon Swanson

Next Wednesday, January 14 – Debbie Fornwalt

Ushers – Fred Powell, Bill Bingman

Organist – Rae Ann Smith

A/V – Kathy, Dave, Joyce

We have a hearing assistance system in the sanctuary. If you are having problems hearing our service, please ask the usher for a receiver.

Hope that you have picked up your name tags from the board in the main entrance. They are in alphabetical order. Please return to the board when leaving. Thanks

This week –

This Sunday –Worship 10:00am, followed by Adult SCS in the upper kitchen

Monday – Executive – 6:30pm

Tuesday - Strategic Planning Committee – 6:30pm

Wednesday – Healing Service – 6:30pm

Chancel Choir – 7:30pm

Thursday – Bible Study – 10:30am

Friday – Diane’s Music classes – 10:00am

Crafts in the upper kitchen – 11-3:00pm

Ladybirds – 11:00am

Next Sunday, Worship – 10:00am, followed by Adult SCS in the upper kitchen

Fellowship Use in afternoon – Barbara Simmons

The Executive Council has designed **our Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas offering to be sent to the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) and earmarked for flood disaster relief in Allegany and Garrett Counties.**



**THE POINSETTIAS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE
GLORY OF GOD BY:**

Phillip & Carolyn Bush –

In memory of Clyde & Elizabeth Bush

In memory of Jared Bush

Mark Lathrop – *In memory of Parents, James & Patricia Lathrop,*

Brother, Robert Lathrop

Sonya Cooper Lathrop – *In honor of Mom, Jackie Cooper*

In memory of Dad and Brother John Westly Cooper III & IV

Barbara Martin – *In memory of Deceased Family Members*

Linda McCagh – *In memory of Father, John Boone*

In honor of mother, Marion Boone

David & Linda McCagh – *In memory of parents, Ed and Martha McCagh*

Fred & Kathy Powell – *In honor of our daughter, Abby*
In memory of our son, Joshua

Elaine Reuschlein – *In memory of John Reuschlein,*
Harry & Arlene Foreback and George & Alice Reuschlein

Jeff & Rae Ann Smith – *In honor of our grandchildren: Jacob, Eva,*
Emma, Ian and Harrison
In memory of our parents, John & Cynthia Smith
Cecil & Helen Brenneman
In memory of Rae Ann's sisters, Betty Kroll, Marilyn Adam

Jim & Shirley Smith – *In honor of our children: Kelli, Amy, and James*
In honor of our grandchildren: Zachary, Jacob, JJ,
Ayden, Cain, Cambri, Colby and Piper
In memory of our daughter, Christina
In memory of our Parents: James & Jean Smith
John & Emma Meese

*OUR THANKS to all who gave poinsettia plants
to beautify our Sanctuary. Your plant/plants may be taken home
after Service today.*

LAST WEEK'S REPORT – December 28, 2025

Attendance	In-Person 10:00am =	39	Christmas Eve -	91
	Zoom 10:00am =	11	Zoom	6

BUDGET OFFERINGS FOR 2025
Received = 6,218.00
Needed weekly = 4,044.04
2,173.96

BUDGETED ACCOUNTS – JAN-NOV 2025
Actual Income = \$185,750.87
Actual Expenses = (196,628.93)
(\$ 10,878.06)

PRAYER LIST FOR JANUARY 4, 2026

PRAYER RECIPIENT - MEMBERS

Charlotte Luy
Bill & MarySue Crawford
Jack Zealand
Laura Murray
Pam Mulligan
Beverly Lang
Anna Bruck
Jane Miller
Ed Havens
Gail Dawson
Mitzie & Jerry Robinette
Patty Wilson
Clem Dawson
Dave & Lisa Ahern
Kim Shoemaker
Fay Crawford
David LaBuda
Rosey & Becky McIntyre
Jonathan and Danielle Ahern
Tammy Faulkner
Pam & Dave Judy
David Tibbets
Joyce DeMonbrun
Kathy Powell
Sharon McKenzie
Mary Lou Rowles

PRAYER RECIPIENT

Christina Puffinburger
Brad & Gregg Dawson, Stephen Overtoom
Barbara Williams
Joe Kunsman, Linda Nines, Ellen Hill
Brittney Meyers, Talot Omar, Terry Baker
Nathan Winters
Charlotte & Ed Troutman, Arlene Simmons, Amy, Jacie Fairall
Carl Chiarenza, Karen Mackert
Elise & Henry Jack Balber
Cheryl Trusler
Cheri Bielen
Baby Whetzel, Kevin Mistretta, Carolyn Farr, Kendra Morriss, Paula Rose Dian
Dan Moore, Graham Tower, Lisa Storm, Jaime Pletcher, Karen Ford Diane K
Richard Clark, Zachary Sutterfield, Alexis Smith Anne DeVaughn
Diane Davis, Nancy Smith, James Flynn Antoinette Royster
Joy Kroeger-Mappes Carmen and Lance Jackson Antoinette Royster
Susie Spiker, Joan Beal Shirley & Jim Smith
Gretchen Burke Val & Gary Llewellyn
Sally, Roger, James Tibbets Dave Tibbets
Andy Cocco John Cocco
Marie Turnbull, Steven Suzindlak, Taylor Neumann Lita Havens
Dan Carr, Matt Doman Steven Hansrote
Michele Jones, Lois Shunk Sherry T
Don Ringer, Stephanie Georgiane Kristan Fazenbaker
Mary Lou Dorsey Trina Firey
Vic Werner Barbara Martin
Belinda Keller Linda McCagh
Barbara Blough Janice & Dave LaBuda
Galen Dean Krepps Lisa Ahern
Jared McGensie, Chris Twigg Patty Wilson and Rosey
Breanna Brown Debbie Fornwalt
Kamryn Rice Corinna Hilderbrand
Candy Heverly Charlotte Luy
Elizabeth Ororke, Brooks Chamers, Barbara Fridengu L. Marchini
Erin Morrissey Terri McCagh
Luke Smith Lydia Martin

Please keep us updated

-all people affected by the wildfires and other disasters
-all people of the Ukraine and all affected by the war
-all elected officials
-those who serve in our nation's armed forces including Rick Rounds, Tom Forrest



Second Sunday of Christmas

January 4, 2026