Service of Holy Communion
First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026



INTRODUCTION

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
The Congregation stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who calls out to the weary, whose word endures forever. **Amen.**

P. A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Make straight they way of the Lord!" We are called to confess our sin and turn back toward God's love.

The congregation sits or kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.

Comforting God, **we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name. We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways. We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us. We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins, like the wind, take us away. Restore us as your people. Cleanse us from our sin, and clothe us in your righteousness. Amen.**

"Comfort, comfort my people" says your God, who has clothed you with the garments of salvation and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness. God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. In the name of ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven:
Rejoice in the Lord!
Rejoice in the Lord!
Amen. Thanks be to God!

GATHERING HYMN Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715

THE 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.

KYRIE

A. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

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

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. 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.

C. Lord, have mercy.

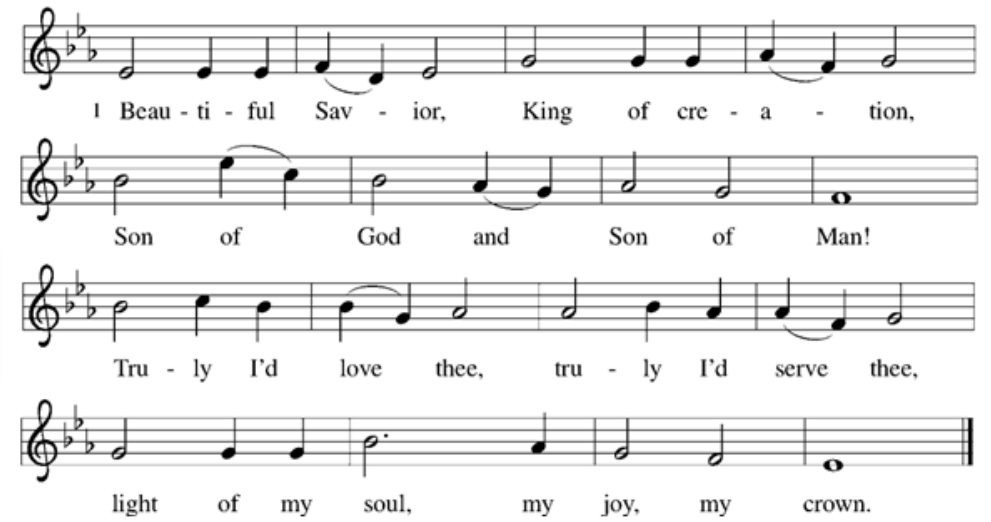
A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

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

C. Amen

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Stir up your power, Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Congregation is seated

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH *(read responsively)*

Debbie Lennon

Blessed are you, God of Hope,
who will bring justice to the poor,
who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor,
who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.
As we light this candle,
turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance,
transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another,
and fix our eyes on, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.
O people of hope, come,
Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

A. Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 *(read responsively)*

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
4 **O LORD God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
17 **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
19 **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: Corinthians 1:3-9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of
God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you
have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every
kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened
among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait
for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen
you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our
Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into
the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

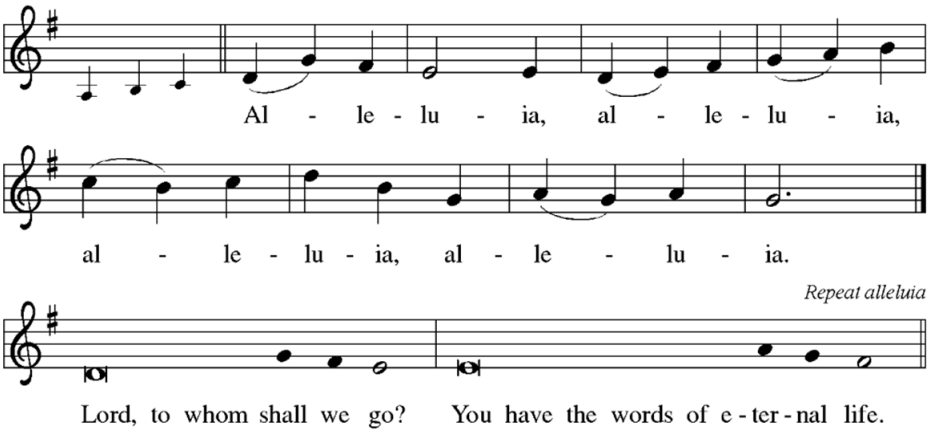
A. Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

Children & Youth are invited forward for a special sermon time with Pastor Peggy.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

P. The holy gospel according to Mark. **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great
power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather
the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the
ends of heaven.
28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch
becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer
is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you
know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this
generation will not pass away until all these things have taken
place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not
pass away.
32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels
in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert,
for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man
going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in
charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be
on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know
when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at
midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you
asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to
all: Keep awake."

P. The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation is seated

SERMON God of Hope

Congregation stands

PRAYER STATIONS

There are 5 prayer stations throughout the sanctuary you can move to during this time. The 6th option is to stay seated while meditating, praying, and listening to the music. The prayer stations are the same each week, except for the art piece changing weekly. The intention is that you take in 1 or 2 stations each week, visiting each station at least once by the end of Advent. We will spend about 5 minutes at the prayer stations before entering into our Hymn of the Day.

HYMN OF THE DAY All Earth Is Hopeful ELW 266

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
A. In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A. Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

A. Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**
A. Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

A. Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry. We pray especially for… those we name aloud… and those we hold in our hearts... God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A. Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

A. Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

P. We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

Congregation is seated

CHOIR ANTHEM The Time Is Near *Mary Kay Beall*

MEAL

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Scan to give via Venmo

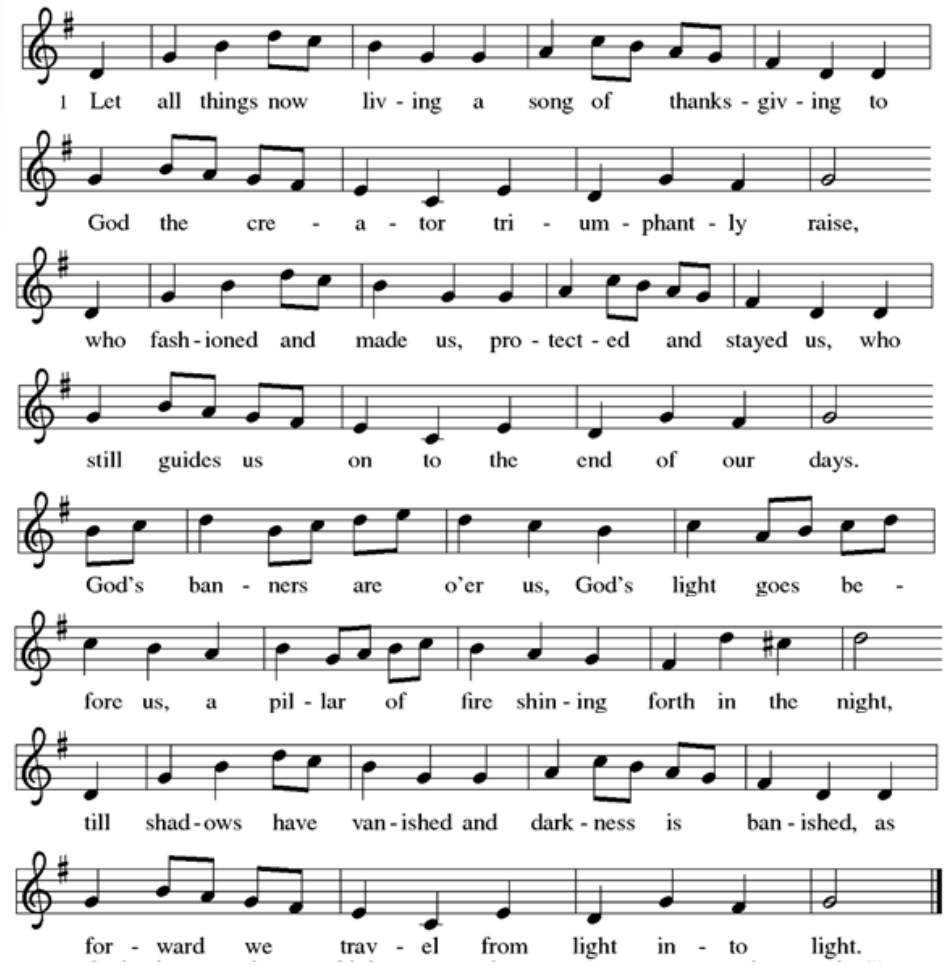
Offering can be given by putting it in the offering plate when it is passed, online directly via the QR codes for Tithely or Venmo, or by requesting your bank to send a check to the church. Find more details on our website.

Thank you for your generous gifts!

Scan to give via Tithely

Congregation stands

OFFERTORY SONG



OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray…Holy Creator, we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts, shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

DIALOGUE & PREFACE OF THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

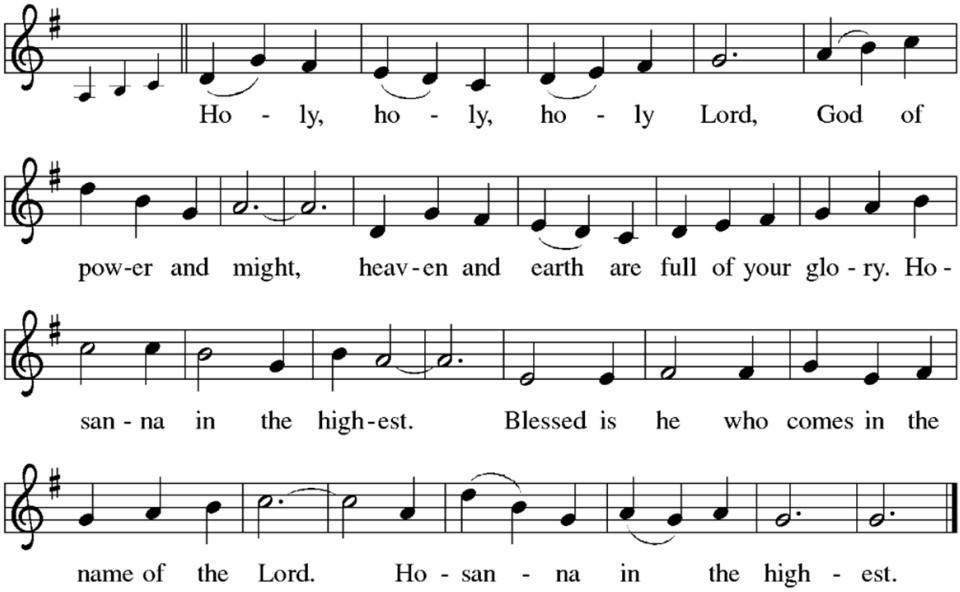
C. And also with you.

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 our thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Congregation sits or kneels

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE
P. Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen!**

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

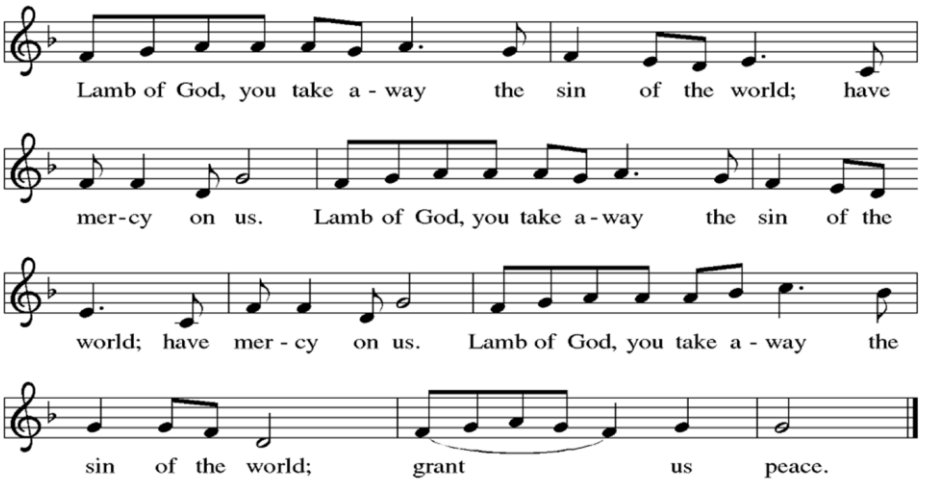
Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to Communion this morning. Please come forward, guided by the Ushers, to receive the

bread and wine. Children are invited to the table for a blessing.

Gluten free and traditional wafers are available, please note this to Pastor Peggy when you come up. The bread is dairy and egg free. Grape juice is available in the second communion plate. As you return to your seat via the side aisles you can place your empty cup in the baskets on either side.

P. The glory of the Lord is revealed!
Come and taste God's presence.

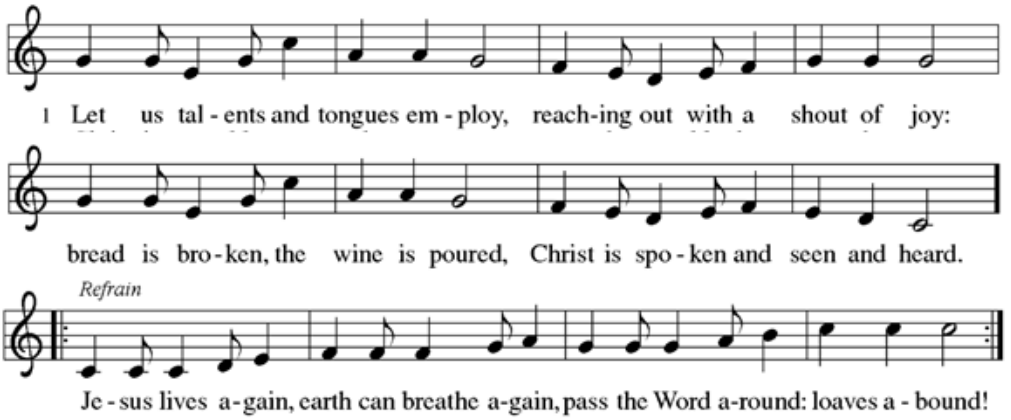
COMMUNION SONG



DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION
After all have received Communion the congregation stands.

TABLE BLESSING
P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray...Providing God, you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P. God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen**.

SENDING HYMN Soon & Very Soon ELW 439

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted.

C. Thanks be to God.

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Announcements for November 29, 2026

Welcome *to Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. May you experience the joy of God's presence in our worship!*

If today is your ***first time*** *worshiping at Holy Counselor, please be sure to fill out the "Guest Book" on the table in the narthex and* ***take a welcome bag****. Please ask our ushers any questions you may have regarding worship this morning.* ***Large print bulletins*** *are available.*

The ***Pray-ground*** *is a special place to help* ***support kids and families*** *in worshiping. We love the sound of kids in worship! God made kids wiggly and curious, and we celebrate that here.* ***Tips:*** *explain, participate, and move around together. Need to leave? No problem, but please come back!*

Worship is live streamed *to our church Facebook page, but the camera is pointed away during Communion and is not on the children when they come forward during A Time for the Child in Us All.* ***Anyone on the altar is on camera.***

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THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

Sunday, November 29: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am
Worship w/Communion, Advent, 9:30am
Food Drive pick-up after worship
Choir Rehearsal following worship
Wednesday, December 1: Advent Adult Ed, Zoom, 10am & 7pm
Saturday, December 5: Sisters in Prayer, Zoom, 8:30am
Cheeses for Jesus!, Wine Knot?, 2-4pm
Sunday, December 6: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am
Worship w/Communion, New Member Sunday, 9:30am
Choir Rehearsal following worship

Poinsettia Orders: **Orders are due today** for our annual poinsettia sale which will help beautify the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve Worship. Following worship, you get to take them home. Note "poinsettias" with your payment via check, cash, or Venmo. **Order forms** can be **placed** in the offering plate or turned into the church office.

New Member Sunday: We will be welcoming new members during worship **NEXT Sunday, December 6th**! If you are interested in being a member but couldn't attend the inquiry session connect with Pastor Peggy!

Wine & Cheese Fundraiser—This Saturday: Come enjoy **'Cheeses for Jesus! Wine Not?'** for a fun pre-dinner tasting **THIS Saturday, December 5th from 2-4pm**. Wine will be paired with cheeses and chocolates. Tickets are **$25 per person**. We encourage **signing up in advance**, so we have enough wine for everyone! Email the church office ASAP to register.

HCLC Lunch Bunch: The next lunch date is **NEXT Tuesday, December 8th at 12:30pm** at Wesselhoff Farms in Lafayette. Please RSVP to Debbie by December 6th. Hope to see you there!

Reverse Advent Calendar: Try a new way to count 'up' to Christmas! Each day you **add an item from the list** to a box/basket/bag and on Christmas Eve or the end of December you **donate the contents to our Food Pantry**. See the list on the bulletin board, email, or social media.

The Nurture Committee: Is thrilled to report that **we have enough usher volunteers for a 5 week rotation!!** Thank you so much. Next, we would like to have a group of Communion assistants as well. If you are interested or need more information, please speak to Kathy Heeren or Fred Schoenagel or fill out the form in the narthex. Again, thank you.

Spending Plan Q&A: **Following worship on Sunday, December 13th we will have our spending plan Q&A.** This is the time to ask questions about the proposed spending plan for 2027. This allows us to have a smooth annual meeting in January.

Angels & Stars: Would you like to add a Christmas Angel or Star to our beautiful Christmas tree? **Please fill out the form in the narthex and return to the office by Sunday, December 13th.** The Angels and Stars are added to our decorations to celebrate and remember anyone you would like this holiday season.

Pastor's Community Office Hours-December: Pastor Peggy will be at **Café Dolci** in Warwick**, Tuesday, December 8th and 15th from 12:30-2:30pm** for Community Office Hours. All are welcome to visit as she is present in the community.

Raise Right Holiday Earnings Challenge: Make the season of giving more rewarding**! Complete the Holiday Earning Challenge** by December 25th to get a $10 eGift card and enter to win one of five $500 grand prizes. **Participants need to register** by adding their email address in the app. You can ask John Heeren for assistance.

RaiseRight Gift Cards for Shopping/Gifts/Holidays: As you are preparing gifts for the upcoming holidays, we want to remind you of our ongoing program RaiseRight! You can **purchase gift cards** to be sent to others **as gifts or** you can get gifts cards **for the places you are buying from** during this season. As well as for anytime you shop all year long!

There are **2 ways to get cards:** You can do this **via the RaiseRight app** on your phone or via the order forms with a selection of cards that can be ordered through HCLC. The **Raiseright book is in the Narthex**. Share the forms with your family and friends too. **It works by** simply buying gift cards to stores where you already shop, you get the full value, and then the church gets a percentage back. **Download the RaiseRight app** & link to the church with **enrollment code:** 53EB2E841L3275 – our RaiseRight ID number. Speak with John Heeren for more information.

Food Pantry: **Food items to help restock:** 4-pack toilet paper, canned tuna, canned chili, canned corn, canned soup, canned green beans, canned fruit, canned pasta, boxed potatoes, tuna helper, pasta sauce, brownie mix, jelly, children's juice boxes or pouches, kid's snacks, toothpaste, body wash. You can always bring donations of canned goods, paper goods, and hygiene products. All donations can be **placed in the blue bin** by the sanctuary doors. Thank you!

Holy Counselor
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Contact Information
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www.hc-lutheranchurch.org

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Director of Music: June Tarantino: music@hc-lutheranchurch.org
Office Administrator: Cathy Nemecek: office@hc-lutheranchurch.org
Bookkeeper: Wynn White: accounts@hc-lutheranchurch.org

MISSION STATEMENT
As Children of God, we are called to share and serve Christ's love and bring God's word to all.

CHURCH COUNCIL
Pastor Rev. Peggy Ludlow
President Nancy Knecht
Vice President Frank Urbaniak
Treasurer Claire Speroni
Recording Secretary Dawn McCormick
Financial Secretary John Heeren
Outreach Coordinator Francine Vince
Nurture Coordinator Fred Schoenagel
Administration Coordinator Diane Rossi

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Aileen Donovan
Debbie Lennon
Doug Vince
Kristina Heeren
Pam Kucks

***Land Acknowledgement**: Holy Counselor is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.*

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
RECONCILING IN CHRIST