

# LAKE OF THE ISLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

## ✠ THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ✠

DECEMBER 11, 2022

*A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.*



*Saint Lucia from the story of her life, Quirizio di Giovanni da Murano 1460-1478*

~~~~~  
*Inspired by Christ, living and growing in faith,  
we are a loving and open community of worship, witness,  
and service in God's world.*  
~~~~~



## Prelude

## Welcome

## Penitential Rite

*Please stand as  
you are able.*

## Confession

## Words of Absolution

# ✠ Gathering ✠

*Following the call of God's Spirit, the community of faith gathers, welcoming one another and praying for God's mercy to fill the church and the world.*

*We invite you to use prelude time to prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

## *Svensk Annas Vals*

*ASI Lillelag – Ingela Eilert, Director*



# ✠ Confession & Forgiveness ✠

P: Throughout the season of Advent we prepare ourselves to receive the King of glory anew. Therefore, let us come before God with open hearts.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn

Verse 1, All,  
2, Women,  
3, Men,  
4, All.



## Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW #264



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## Apostolic 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.

## Prayer of the Day

*Please be seated.*

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, **and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



## ☒ Word ☒

*The Word of God comes alive for the gathered community, as God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.*



### Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

On the First Sunday of Advent we lit the candle for Hope. Last Sunday we lit the candle for Peace. Today we light the third candle of Advent. This is the candle of Joy. As the coming of Jesus, our Savior, draws nearer, our joy builds with our anticipation of his birth. From the Book of Isaiah we read the words of our Lord:

***Isaiah 65:18***

**“But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.”**

Let us pray:

**We joyfully praise you, O Lord, for the fulfillment of your promise of a Savior and what that means in our lives. Thank you for the gift of salvation through the birth of your son, Jesus. Create us anew as we wait, and help us to see your glory as you fill our lives with your living Spirit. Amen.**

### Advent Song

*Dear Jesus lead us to your bed, In Bethlehem we pray.  
A candle we shall light, O Lord, To Guide us on our way.  
Our Father, you have sent your son From your unbounded grace.  
A second candle we now light To honor you with praise.  
O Mary, favored one of God, For us the Child you bore.  
With joyful light, we honor you, Blessed Mother of our Lord.*



## Lesson *Isaiah 35:1-10*

<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 are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. 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 the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall 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; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall 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 joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Sancta Lucia Processional



*Sancta Lucia is celebrated throughout Scandinavia on December 13. As late as the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, due to the continued use of the Julian calendar, this was the longest night of the year, coinciding with the Winter Solstice. In pre-Christian Sweden the night was known as Lussinatt, which was a night of particular fear and sacredness.*

*Songs were often sung to ward off the darkness.*

*Christian missionaries arriving in Scandinavia used this day to evangelize the local population, by transferring the commemoration of Sancta Lucia, Lucia of Syracuse, to this day. According to tradition, Lucia was engaged to a pagan man who turned her over to the authorities when she chose to give her dowry away to the poor.*

*She was martyred on December 13<sup>th</sup> in 304 AD.*

*In Sweden in the late 1700's, there were legends of a woman appearing in times of great famine distributing food to the starving. Perhaps because the name Lucia means light, and since her feast day falls in December, these stories were in turn attributed to the goodness and generosity of Sancta Lucia.*

## *Julotta*



### **Matthew 11:2-11**

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

## **Sancta Lucia**

*Sicilian Melody*

*Into our hearts she walks, telling her story,  
Candles in shining crown, lighting her glory.  
Symbol of Love sublime, moving o'er space and time,  
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia.*

*Now in the winter night Good folk are waiting.  
See now the maid of light, darkness abating.  
Into this winter night, come, maid of shining light,  
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia.*

*When on the earth she walked, bravely confessing,  
All to the poor she gave, all felt her blessing.  
Symbol of love sublime, moving o'er space and time,  
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia.*

## **Lucia**

*C. B Agnestig & Johnny Johansson*

*In darkest night of this midwinter's day,  
We welcome you, fairest Lucia.  
Draw near us with generous love for all,  
Draw near us with greetings of Christmas' peace,  
Draw near us with light in your crown.*

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <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 the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

R: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**  
*Please be seated.*

**Hymn of the Day**  
*Please stand  
as you are able.*



*Following the sermon, we will take a moment of silence to reflect on today's gospel message.*

***Rejoice, Rejoice Believers***

*ELW #244*



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907  
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

**Prayers of the  
Church**

P: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

A: Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church ...

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, God of abundant grace, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

**Greeting of Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*After the greeting, please share a word of peace with your neighbors.*



## ❖ Offering ❖

*Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church is supported through the generous gifts of time, talent and treasure of our friends and members. In order to fulfill our mission and ministry, we need to receive approximately \$6,000 in offerings each week.*

*We thank you for your support and partnership  
in the proclamation of the good news.*

### Anthem

*Please be seated.*

### *When Christmas Morn is Dawning*

*K. Lee Scott*

*When Christmas morn is dawning With joy beyond compare,  
Come to the lowly manger: Our Lord is lying there.*

*Blest are we, dear Jesus, To see your loving face;  
O ever keep us near you; May we your love embrace.*

*O gentle Child of Promise To us your peace impart; E'er guide us in the  
pathways And bear us near your heart.*

*When Christmas morn is dawning With joy beyond compare,  
Come to the lowly manger: Our Lord is lying there.*

### Offertory Response

*Please stand as  
you are able*



### *Create In Me a Clean Heart*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and  
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the  
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12  
Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

### Offertory Prayer

**A:** God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

**C: Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving



## Words of Institution

## Lord's Prayer

## Invitation to Communion

*Please be seated*

## ✠ Meal ✠

*We lift our hearts with praise and thanksgiving as the table is set, and we receive the bread and wine—the humble meal through which we are fed by the presence of Jesus the Christ and united as the body of Christ in the world.*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

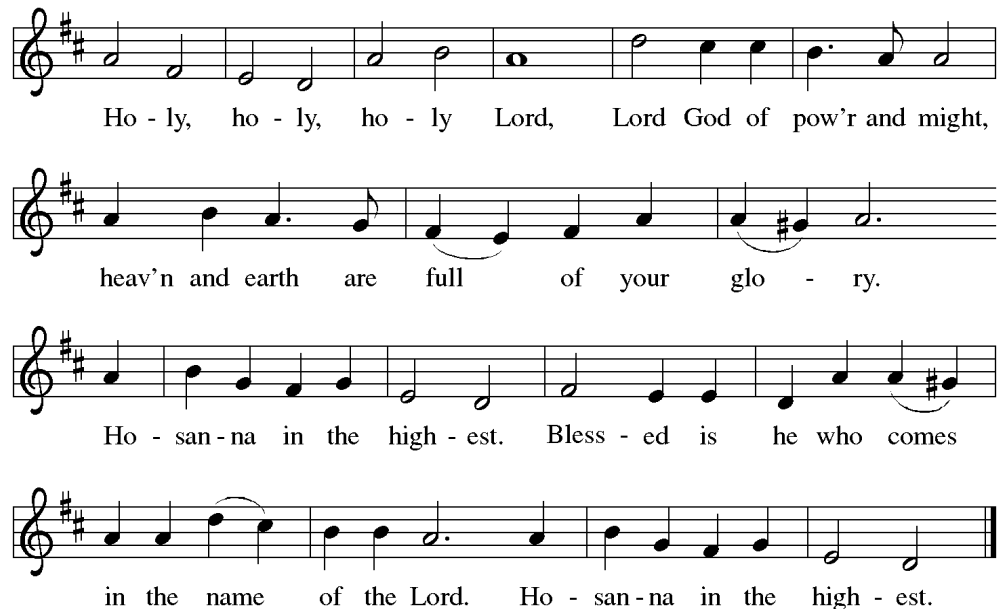
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

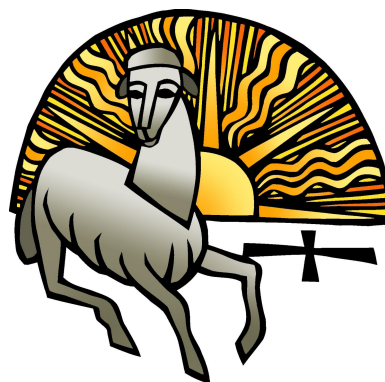
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn...



C: **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: Come to me all who are tired and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.  
The table has been prepared. All are welcome.



## Lamb of God

### *O Christ Thou Lamb of God*

*LBW #103*

O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,  
 have mer - cy up - on us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak -  
 est a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us!  
 O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a - way the sin of the world,  
 grant us thy peace! A - men

Text: German, 1528, based on the Agnus Dei; tr. unknown  
 Music: CHRISTE, DU LAMM GOTTES, *Kirchenordnung*, Braunschweig, 1528

## Distribution

*Holy Communion will begin in the front of the church, nearest where the pastor and assisting minister will distribute the bread and wine. Please take either a glass of red wine or white grape juice from the full tray and place your emptied glass into the extra tray which is in front of the first pew.*

*Your offerings will also be received as the usher directs you toward the front of the church for communion.*



## Distribution Music



## Koppången

*Py Bäckman /Per-Erik Moreaus*

*There is silence around me on this peaceful winter night.  
From the church down in the valley I can see the candlelight.  
And I stopped for a moment in this winter paradise,  
When I heard a choir singing through the darkness and the ice.*

*And the rays of lights behind the window's vaulted frames  
Have united the souls in hope that something great is waiting.  
And I know that those who have left us here had the same thoughts as I,  
We're like flames in the darkness and stars up in the sky.*

*And I see how they sparkle and they fade before my eyes  
And the truth is coming closer like a wonder in disguise.  
We are caught here for a moment like an imprint of a hand  
On an old and frosted window or a footprint in the sand.*

*For a while I'm eternal - that's the only thing I know,  
I am here and we share our dreams about our destination.  
It is cold out here, the snow is white but I'm warm deep inside.  
I am warm 'cause I know that my faith will be my guide.*

## Post-Communion

### Blessing

*Please stand  
as you are able.*

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

**C: Amen.**

## Post-Communion

### Prayer

**A:** Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**C: Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

Verse 1 & 4



## ✠ Sending ✠

*We receive the blessing of God and leave in peace,  
sent out to live the way of Jesus for the sake of the world God loves.*

### *All Hail to You, O Blessed Morn*

LBW #77



1 All hail to you, O bless-ed morn! To tid - ings long by proph-ets  
2 True God, the Fa - ther's Son, is he; yet tru - ly one of us, that  
3 He will, like us, shed bit - ter tears, will know our needs, yet still our  
4 For our re - demp-tion still he comes. In him shines, like a thou-sand



borne ful - fill-ment you have giv - en. Oh, great-est and most bless-ed  
we might find in him a broth - er. He comes with peace and love to  
fears and send his Spir - it's pow - er. He will re - veal his Fa-ther's  
suns, God's mer - cy, cloud-ed nev - er! Now all who will on him be -



day when un - to earth in glo-rious ray shone out the grace of heav-en!  
live on earth, our err - ing race to give such help as could no oth - er,  
will, our cup of woe with mer-cy fill to sweet-en sor - row's hour. . .  
lieve, who fol - low him, he will re - ceive and as his flock will gath - er.



Young and old their voic - es blend-ing, prais - es send-ing  
seek - ing, car - ing for the love-less and the hope-less,  
Strug - gling, suf - f'ring, he, by dy - ing, dear - ly buy - ing  
He will guide us, walk be - side us, and up - hold us,



un - to heav - en for this no - blest of earth's chil - dren!  
all the lost ones thirst-ing for un - fail - ing foun - tains.  
our sal - va - tion, o - pens wide the gates of heav - en!  
till in heav - en we shall be like him for - ev - er!

Text: Johan Olof Wallin, 1779–1839; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978  
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

## Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord makes his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

## Announcements

*Please be seated.*

## Postlude



## *Nu är det jul igen*

*You are free to leave during the Postlude or remain to enjoy the offering of music and praise.*

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## WELCOME

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*We thank you for celebrating the love of Jesus Christ with us this week, and we invite you back again—  
for prayer and worship. We will continue to have Sunday services online.*

*We hope the message of God's grace will guide and strengthen you  
as you grow in love and faith in your daily life.*

### WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Pastor .....	Rev. Dr. Arden D. Haug
Organist .....	Dr. Kris Rizzotto
Guest Musicians .....	ASI Lillelag
Soloist .....	Shay Behrends
Sancta Lucia .....	Claire Jacoby
Worship Assistant .....	Mark Duff
Communion Assistant .....	Michelle McCreery
Altar Servers .....	David & Mary Goplen
Reader .....	Kathy Fredell
Usher .....	Bill Fredell
Coffee Hour .....	Christmas Tea

### CHURCH OFFICERS

President .....	Marty Carlson
Vice President .....	Steve Hoyt
Treasurer .....	Ross Bartels
Secretary .....	Jon Sprain

### STAFF

Pastor .....	Rev. Dr. Arden D. Haug
Music Director .....	Dr. Kris Rizzotto
Children's Ministry Director .....	Diane LaMere
Worship Technical Director .....	Joseph LaMere
Office Manager .....	Linda Nelson
Design & Communication Director .....	Michelle McCreery
Custodian/Caretakers .....	Sarah & Trevor Skorburg



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## CALENDAR

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11	9:30 AM	<i>Worship with Holy Communion.....</i>	Sanctuary & YouTube
		<i>Sunday School.....</i>	Sunday School Rooms
	10:30 AM	<i>Christmas Tea.....</i>	Sanctuary
	7:00 PM	<i>Mina Fisher Recital.....</i>	Sanctuary
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12	7:00 PM	<i>AA.....</i>	Fellowship Hall
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13	1:00 PM	<i>Valley Grove Open House/Gallery Talk..</i>	Christy Room
	7:00 PM	<i>Men's AA.....</i>	Patio/Fellowship Hall
	7:00 PM	<i>AA/Spiritual Recovery.....</i>	Christy Room/Sanctuary
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14	10:00 AM	<i>Bible Study.....</i>	Library/Zoom
	12:00 PM	<i>Staff Meeting.....</i>	Christy Room/Zoom
	7:00 PM	<i>Confirmation.....</i>	Christy Room
	7:00 PM	<i>Choir.....</i>	Fellowship Hall
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15	12:00 PM	<i>Al Anon.....</i>	Fellowship Hall
	7:00 PM	<i>Church Council.....</i>	Christy Room
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18	9:30 AM	<i>Worship with Holy Communion.....</i>	Sanctuary & YouTube
		<i>Sunday School.....</i>	Sunday School Rooms
	12:00 PM	<i>Julbord.....</i>	Fellowship Hall
	6:00 PM	<i>Caroling.....</i>	Home of the Riesbergs

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SCAN TO GIVE




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*Worship is live-streamed each week & remains available for subsequent viewing on our [YouTube channel](#).*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Prayer List

Please keep the following friends & members of our community of faith in your prayers of thanksgiving or for comfort, peace, and healing:



**Matthew Moen; Anna Lena Skold; Trygve Svard; Elena Glück & family**, niece of Renate Amann; **Sam Pederson**, nephew of Jennifer Cook; **Beth Addington; Elizabeth Muench**, friends of the congregation; **Natalie Mozey**, daughter of Alan and Mary Poulsen; **Linda Kuehn**, sister-in-law of Carol Kuehn; **Allison Peterson**, friend of Susanne Haas; **Bunny Anderson**, sister of John Bergford; **Allison Reagon**, friend of Michelle McCreery & Mark Duff; **Amara Small & Anne Vaaler Richardson**, friends of Jana Lindberg & Michael Kavoukjian; **Roxanne Spiess**, friend of Phyllis Dahl; **Joey Derington**, brother of Kelly Mayhar; **Ken Haenel**, friend of Mary Sabatke; **Nathan Anderson**, nephew of Rick Pepin; **Geof Witrak**, brother-in-law of Rick Pepin; **David Cook**, brother of Jenny Cook; **Mark Peterson**.

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### Visiting Sunday School Age Children

Children ages **3** through **6th Grade** are welcome to visit **Sunday School**. We do ask that a parent or guardian accompany your child to **Sunday School** to get them checked in and settled before returning to worship.

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### Kid Worship Materials

Kid worship materials are available in the **Narthex** (back of Sanctuary). Crayon packets and a variety of coloring pages and activity sheets are available for your children to enjoy during worship.

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### Staffed Nursery in the Christy Room

Our **Nursery** is staffed today for our littlest ones in the Congregation to use. Ushers can help you with directions to the **Christy Room** or simply follow the signs provided in the back of the **Sanctuary**.

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### Loved Ones In The Military

Please keep all the members & families of the military in your prayers of thanksgiving and protection.



### Our Saviour's Housing Meals

For many years, *Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church* has provided a *meal for 40* on the first Friday of every month. Our monthly meals are provided by donation. The shelter orders and serves the meal. Cost to provide the meal is **\$250**.

Thank you to **Carol Kuehn & Family** for December.

Our 2022-2023 Schedule:

**JAN** *Lizbeth & Mike Brown*

**FEB** *Mary & Dave Goplen*

**MAR** *Ellie Holmquist, Heather Jacoby, Ruth Lee, & Gretchen Robertson*

**APR** *Rick Gripentrog*

For information or sign up, contact Cheri Moe  
[moeclana@aol.com](mailto:moeclana@aol.com) or (952) 431-5226.

[oscs-mn.org](http://oscs-mn.org)

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***HAPPY BIRTHDAY!***

*Natalya Haug 12/12 Emily Melbye 12/16*  
*Gregory Sarles 12/17 Marty Carlson 12/18*

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### Thank You

The beautiful winter decorations by the **21st Street Entrance** were provided by *Lee Wilson*.

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### Meditation

**LOTI** is available during office hours for a time of quiet meditation. You can use the sanctuary to spend time in prayer, light a candle, listen to recorded sacred music, and/or use a guided meditation tool. Please call the church office to reserve a time.

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## Women's Bible Study

Library, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 PM

We are studying *Children of the Day*, by *Beth Moore*.  
Join us! [loti.org/lifestyle/groups/](https://loti.org/lifestyle/groups/)

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## Christmas Tea & Cookie Sale

Today, Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 AM

Following our Sancta Lucia service today, please join us for our annual *Christmas Tea!* In addition to special refreshments, a select collection of cookies will be baked by *Shay Berends* and provided for sale, as well as *Cheri Moe's* chocolate church mice.

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## Valley Grove Exhibition

### Open House & Gallery Talk

Christy Room, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Join us for coffee, cookies & lefse with *Robbie LaFleur*, creator of four Valley Grove tapestries in the Norwegian tradition, on display in the **Christy Room** through December. Gallery Talk at 3:00 PM.  
[robbielafleur.com](http://robbielafleur.com)

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## Lessons & Carols

December 18<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 AM

The *Church Choir* will celebrate a Festive Service in the tradition of King's College Cambridge. The service blends readings & music with guest musicians Harpist *Andrea Stern*, flutist *Laura MacKenzie*, and trumpeter *Dr. Ben Alle*.

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## Christmas Caroling

December 18<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 PM

You are invited to join the caroling chorus! We will gather at the home of *Michelle & Bernie Reisberg* to sing around the neighborhood before returning to the *Mary Tyler Moore House* for refreshments. Please bring an appetizer to share.  
RSVP to [pastor@loti.org](mailto:pastor@loti.org)

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## Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24<sup>th</sup>  
4:30 PM

As in years past, the service will center around the Christmas story in *St. Luke's* gospel is framed in familiar Christmas carols and culminating in a *living nativity scene* at the manger for Holy Communion. The *Church Choir* will sing at this worship service. *Please note that there will be only one service this year on Christmas Eve.*

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## Christmas Morning Service

December 25<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 AM

The Sunday morning Christmas worship service on will be highlighted by the Christmas Day cantata, *For Unto Us a Child is Born, BWV 142*. The cantata has long been associated with *J.S. Bach*, but increasingly, musicologists suggest that it was the work of Bach's predecessor in Leipzig, *Johann Kuhnau*. Regardless, it is a colorful piece with a stirring *Alleluia*. The cantata will be performed by strings, flutes, vocal soloists and choir. Along with traditional Christmas carols sung by the congregation, this sparkling and lively cantata will be a wonderful way to begin your Christmas Day.

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Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Friday 9:00 AM to Noon

