

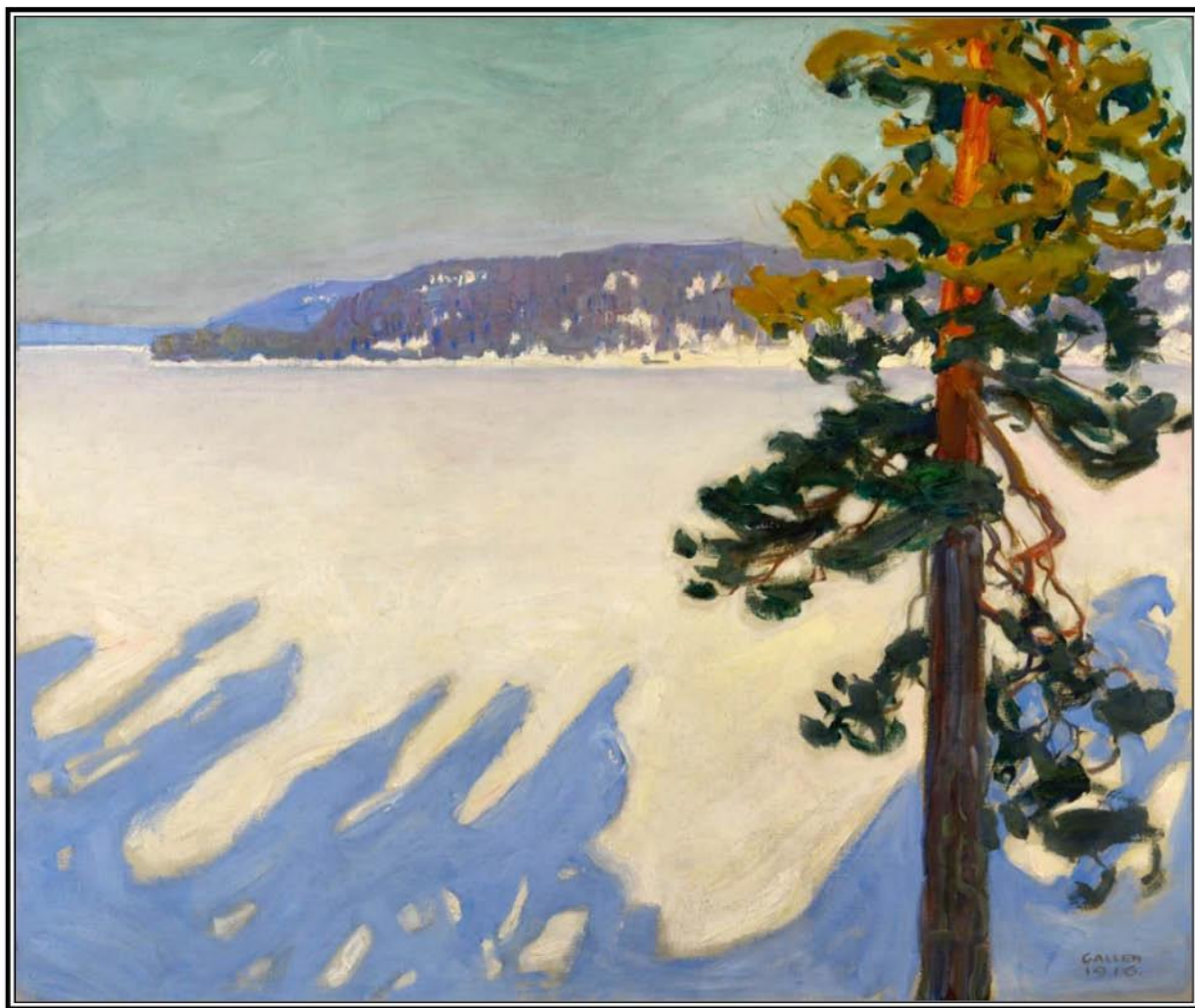
LAKE OF THE ISLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT ✠

DECEMBER 10TH, 2023

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the spirit of the Lord will come upon God's messiah, the anointed one who will come to bring justice and peace upon the earth. 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 love.

In addition to our celebration of Sancta Lucia, which is traditionally marked on December 13th, we recall the musical tradition of Finland which celebrates its national day of independence on December 6th.



Lake Ruovesi in Winter, Akseli Gallen-Kallela 1916

~~~~~  
*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

✠ 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 the prelude time to prepare your heart and mind for worship.

Julotta

Traditional

Welcome



✠ Confession & Forgiveness ✠

Penitential Rite

*Please stand as
you are able*

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.

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.

C: Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Confession

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.

Words of
Absolution

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.

C: 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

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, **to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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 Advent Wreath

On the First Sunday of Advent we lit a candle of Hope. Today we light the candle of Peace. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we remember that Jesus is our hope and our peace. From the prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 9:6-7

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

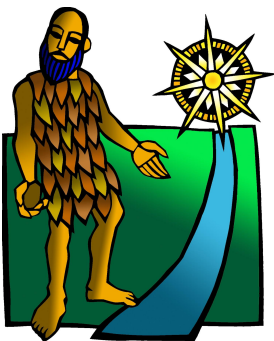


Advent Song

Lesson

*Isaiah 61:1-4,
In the language of the
jubilee year, the
prophet, moved by the
spirit of God,
announces deliverance
for those who are
oppressed and comfort
for those who mourn.*

Solo



Let us pray:

Gracious God, **Grant that we may find peace as we prepare for our Lord's birth. May divisions in ourselves and in our families be peacefully resolved. May there be peace in our cities and in the countries of our world. Help us to see the paths of peace in our lives, and then give us courage to follow them. Lord, let us remember that you only are the giver of lasting peace and that you are always with us. Amen.**

**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**

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Bereden väg för Herran

Swedish Folk Melody

Prepare the royal highway, the King of kings is near;
let every hill and valley a level road appear.
Then greet the king of glory foretold in sacred story:
O blest is he that came in God the Father's name!

Sancta Lucia Processional



Sancta Lucia is celebrated throughout Scandinavia on December 13. As late as the mid-18th 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 13th 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.

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 & Johny 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.



Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world."

John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No."

²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

R: The Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Please be seated.



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

Hymn of the Day
Please stand as
you are able.



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 - fle; 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: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

A: Send forth your faithful people with words of promise Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, God of abundant grace, we commend all of 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 \$7,900 in offerings each week.

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

Kom ge mig värme ge mig ljus

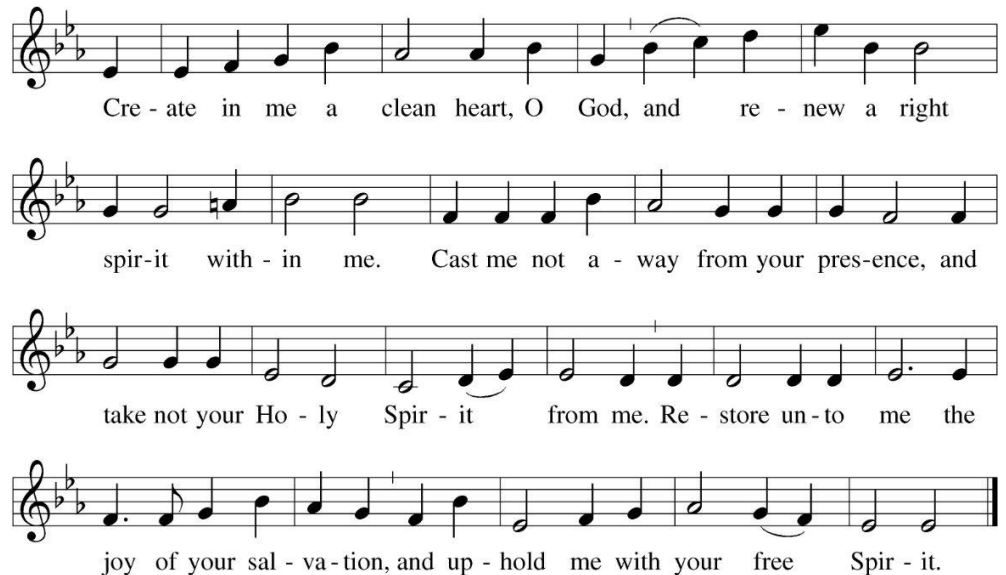
Jean Sibelius

Offertory
*Please stand as
you are able.*



Create in Me a Clean Heart

WOV #732



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

Offertory Prayer

A: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

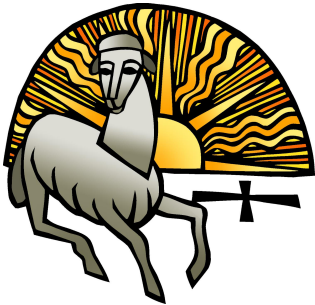
C: Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer



Words of Institution

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: Long expected Jesus, as you once came long ago as a child to Bethlehem, appearing to John the Baptist at the River Jordan, and riding into Jerusalem as our king, we know that you are coming again. You are the desire of every nation; you are the joy of every longing heart. Prepare us to welcome you anew. By your all sufficient merit, you have raised us and you will raise us yet again. So let every Amen we pray, with gratitude and anticipation, rise before you in honor of your loving and triumphant name.



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.

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



Distribution Music

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Marshall McDonald & Steven Sharp Nelson

Communion
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.

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: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn



✠ Sending ✠

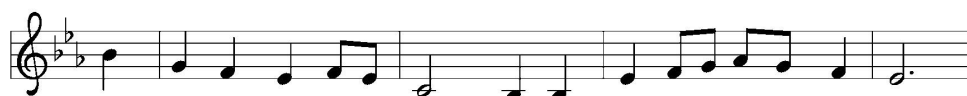
*We receive the blessing of God and leave in peace,
Sent out to live the way of Jesus for the sake of the world God loves.*

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

ELW #313



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
till rap-tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin-ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
where Christ, the bless-ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

C: Amen.

Announcements



Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*Koppången.
Nu är det jul igen*

WELCOME

*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.*

YOUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY	Pastor.....	Rev. Dr Arden D. Haug
	Organist.....	Dr. Kristina Rizzotto
	Cellist.....	Audrey Snyder
	Soloist.....	Phil Friedlund
	Guest Musicians.....	ASI Lillelag
	Sancta Lucia.....	Winnie Ulland
	Worship Assistant.....	Mary Sabatke
	Communion Assistants.....	Bill & Kathy Fredell
	Altar Servers.....	David & Mary Goplen
	Reader.....	Kathy Fredell
	Usher.....	Lars Olson
	Coffee Host.....	Twyla Hobbs
	Worship Tech Assistant.....	Jim Olson
CHURCH OFFICERS	President.....	Marty Carlson
	Vice President.....	Steve Hoyt
	Treasurer.....	Ross Bartels
	Secretary.....	Charlie O'Brien
STAFF	Pastor.....	Rev. Dr. Arden D. Haug
	Director of Music.....	Dr. Kristina Rizzotto
	Office Manager & Children's Ministry Director.....	Diane LaMere
	Worship Technical Director.....	Joseph LaMere
	Design & Communication Director.....	Michelle McCreery
	Custodian & Caretakers.....	Sarah & Trevor Skorburg

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Worship is live-streamed each week & remains available for viewing on www.youtube.com/@LOTICchurch.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DEC 10	9:30 AM	<i>Worship with Holy Communion... & Sunday School</i>	Sanctuary & YouTube Sunday School Rooms
	10:45 AM	<i>Coffee Hour</i>	Fellowship Hall
	1:30 PM	<i>Philip Low Recital</i>	Sanctuary
MONDAY, DEC 11	11:00 AM	<i>Norwegian Glee Club</i>	Fellowship Hall
	4:30 PM	<i>Confirmation</i>	Zoom
	6:30 PM	<i>Hymnus Angelicus</i>	Large Group Room
	7:00 PM	<i>AA</i>	Fellowship Hall
	7:00 PM	<i>Prayer Ministry</i>	Zoom
TUESDAY, DEC 12	7:00 PM	<i>Men's AA</i>	Fellowship Hall
	7:00 PM	<i>AA/Recovery & Spirituality</i>	Christy Room
WEDNESDAY, DEC 13	10:00 AM	<i>Bible Study</i>	Library/Zoom
	12:00 PM	<i>Staff Meeting</i>	Christy Room
	7:00 PM	<i>Choir Rehearsal</i>	Sanctuary
THURSDAY, DEC 14	12:00 PM	<i>Al Anon</i>	Fellowship Hall
	7:00 PM	<i>Church Council</i>	Christy Room
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15	5:00 PM	<i>Women's Book Club</i>	Home of Deb Gilroy
SATURDAY, DEC 16	10:00 AM	<i>Christmas Tea Setup</i>	Fellowship Hall
SUNDAY, DEC 17	9:30 AM	<i>Worship with Holy Communion... & Sunday School</i>	Sanctuary & YouTube Sunday School Rooms
	10:45 AM	<i>Christmas Tea</i>	Fellowship Hall

SCAN TO GIVE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer List

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



The family of **Ed Peitso**; **Pat Nortwen**, **Kathy Dahl**, daughter of Phyllis Dahl; **Marta Brown**, daughter of Liz & Mike Brown; **Graham Rawle**, friend of Mark Duff & Michelle McCreery; **Matthew Moen**; **Anna Lena Stenberg Skold**; **Trygve Svard**; **Cecelia Morris**, friend of Kathy & Mark Hering; **Sam Pederson**, nephew of Jennifer Cook; **Beth Addington & Elizabeth Muench**, friends of the congregation; **Natalie Mozey**, daughter of Alan & Mary Poulsen; **Bunny & David Anderson**, sister & brother-in-law of John Bergford; **David Cook**, brother of Jenny Cook; **Kathy Sawyer**, niece of Philip Friedlund, **Joey Juras & Fitz Loula**, friends of the Gruys family; **Dona Duff**, mother of Mark Duff; **Alison Reagon**, friend of Mark Duff & Michelle McCreery; **Lyle Kuehn**, brother-in-law of Carol Kuehn, **Amanda Frahm**, sister-in-law of John & Alyson Frahm; **Nancie Nelson**, friend of Michelle McCreery; **Phyllis Thomson**, friend of Michelle McCreery; **Donna Shroyer**, cousin of Linda Nelson; **Avey Egsgaard**, friend of Jana & Michael Kavoukjian; **Shannon Morell**; **Vonnie Norum**, mother of Liz Brown; **Mary Ann Wastweet**, sister of David Hagford and **Debbie Daline**, friend of Michael & Jana Kavoukjian.

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.

Loved Ones In The Military

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

*Carol Kuehn 12/11 Natalya Haug 12/12
Emily Melbye 12/16*

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.

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.

Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to all who helped to make Floyd's memorial service so special. Your kindness and willingness to give of your time and talents will always be in our hearts and minds.

With love and blessings to all,
Phyllis, Bob, Kathy & Alex Dahl

Congratulations

to Trevor Skorburg, our caretaker, on his ordination and call to Zion Lutheran Church in Buffalo, MN starting today!

Women's Book Club

Friday, December 15th

5:00 PM

Home of Deb Gilroy

Next up is *The Gentle Art of Blessing*, by Pierre Pradervand, who shows that the practice of blessing has the power to create more than just a momentary change. It unleashes tangible benefits throughout your entire life—through your daily interactions, your relationships, and how the laws of positive expectations and unconditional love can open the doors to a more peaceful world.

Join us! Bring a snack to share if you like...

Lessons & Carols

December 17th

10:45 AM

Fellowship Hall

Worship on this third Sunday of Advent will feature Lessons & Carols as well as our Sunday School children's portrayal of the Nativity scene.

Christmas Tea

December 17th

10:45 AM

Fellowship Hall

Immediately after the service we will gather in Fellowship Hall for our annual festive tea.

Our signup form is in Fellowship Hall. Items you're bringing for the tea can be delivered to the church beginning Wednesday, December 13. Set up will be Saturday, December 16 at 10am.

The Gift of Generosity

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported LOTI this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. End of the year gifts to LOTI must be received by Sunday, December 31st.

Caroling, Caroling!

Sunday, December 17th

6:00 PM

Home of the Reisbergs

You are invited to join the caroling chorus!

We will gather at the home of Michelle & Bernie Reisberg to sing Christmas carols around the neighborhood before returning to the Mary Tyler Moore House for refreshments.

Please bring an appetizer to share.

RSVP to pastor@loti.org

Growlers & Theology

December 21st

7:00 PM

Parsonage

Following the model of Luther in his home in Wittenberg, Germany, Pastor Haug leads the informal study of theology and *adult beverages*.

Christmas Eve ~

Morning Worship & Family Worship

December 24th

9:30 AM & 4:30 PM

Sanctuary

Our morning service will feature Hymnus Angelicus under the direction of Paul McKenzie.

The evening family service will include the Christmas mass of Gesu Bambino by Italian composer Pierro Yon with strings, flute, and chimes, as well as our live nativity.

Our Saviour's Housing Meals

Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church provides a meal for 40 on the first Friday of every month. Our monthly meals are provided by donation. The shelter orders & serves the meal. Cost per meal is \$250. For information or to sign-up for 2024, contact the Church Office at 612-377-5095.



1936-2023

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

2020 W. Lake of the Isles Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55405
612 377-5095

[Church Office](#) ✉ [Pastor Haug](#) ✉ loti.org

Office Hours

Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM – Noon



ELCA