

LAKE OF THE ISLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS ✠

DECEMBER 31ST, 2023

The Twelve Days of Christmas are marked by the various commemorations of the early church. Beginning on Christmas Day, the first day of Christmas, December 26th commemorates the death of the first martyr, St. Stephen, December 27th commemorates St. John the Apostle, the author of the gospel that proclaims the Word became Flesh, December 28th, recalls the death of the Holy Innocents, the children slain by King Herod, in his pursuit of the new born king. January 1st commemorates the naming of Jesus, all culminating on January 6th, the feast of the Epiphany and the arrival of the three kings. In the Roman Catholic Church this day is known as the Feast of the Holy Family.

This morning we mark the end of the old year and the promise of the new.



Rest on the Flight into Egypt, Luc Olivier Merson, 1880

~~~~~  
*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

Dialogue for New
Year's Eve
*Please stand as
you are able.*

✠ 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.

Carol of the Bells

Ukrainian Carol, arr Danny Wright



For everything there is a season:

And a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die.

A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.

A time to break down, and a time to build up.

A time to weep and a time to laugh.

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

A time to be silent and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate.

A time for war and a time for peace.

God has made everything suitable for its time.

God has put a sense of past and future into our minds.

God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.

Whatever God does endures forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen

Gathering Hymn



Cold December Flies Away

ELW #299



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.
2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.
3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.
In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the
light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est
birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.
hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.
spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

Text: Catalanian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953
Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalanian carol
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

Almighty God, **you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Message
Please be seated.

Christmas Song Verses 1 & 4.



✠ Word ✠

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



The Bells of Christmas ELW # 298

Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer

1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly

2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly

3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled

4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our

for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve

guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly

find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a

babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who

Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from

hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.

dwel - lings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.

man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.

glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.

lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

Lesson

Galatians 4: 4-7
Paul seeks to show the
Galatians that the
purpose of Christ's
birth was to liberate us
from the law's
condemnation so that
we would be fully
adopted into God's
family as beloved
children.

R: ⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

R: Word of God, word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia
Please stand
as you are able.



Gospel
*Matthew 2:13-15,
19-23*
*St. Matthew tells the
story of the Holy
Family's escape
into Egypt.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." ¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

P: 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.*



Greet Now the Swiftly Changing Year

LBW #181



1 Greet now the swift - ly chang - ing year with
2 Re - mem - ber now the Son of God and
3 This Je - sus came to end sin's war; this
4 His love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds the



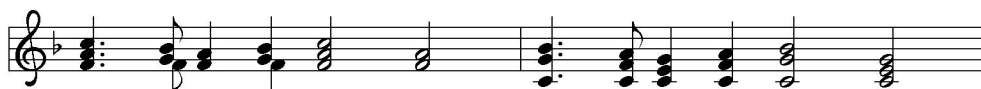
joy and pen - i - tence sin - cere. Re - joice! Re - joice! With
how he shed his in - fant blood. Re - joice! Re - joice! With
name of names for us he bore. Re - joice! Re - joice! With
vol - ume of a whole year's needs. Re - joice! Re - joice! With



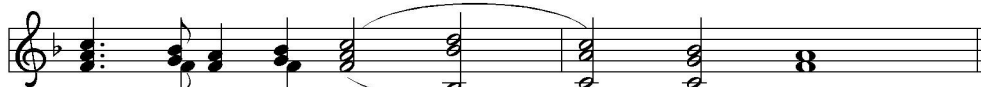
thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.
thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.

✠ Confession & Prayers ✠

P: O Lord our God, you know the ways this past year in which our lives have not represented truth and knowledge. You know the times in which we struggled to be warm and caring and the times when we did not choose goodness. Forgive us Lord, for those times when our lives did not reflect your love. Give us your help and healing in our lives that we may begin this New Year with hope and joy.



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
Chris - te e - lei - son.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

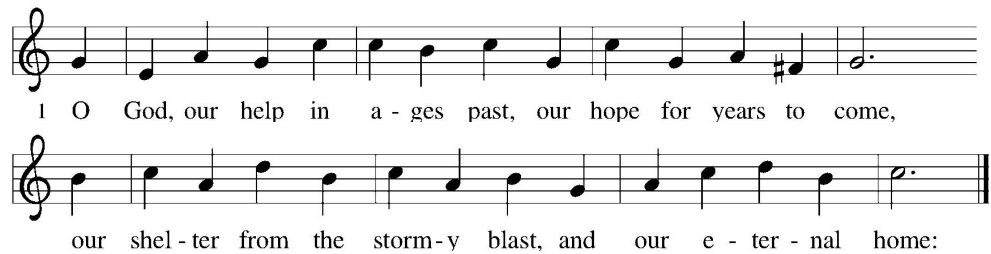
C: Merciful God and Father in heaven, you are faithful and just; you are willing to forgive our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness. Before you and our sisters and brothers, we confess that we have spoken many empty words and have at times broken even our most sacred vows. Our sins are an affront to you; they are a disgrace before the watching world, and they have caused us unspeakable pain. Through our Lord Jesus may we begin this new year with the joy of knowing we belong to you, with the freedom of being purified by your blood, and with the healing which your grace alone can bring. In the name of our blessed Savior we pray.

P: In Jesus' name the Lord our God forgives our sins this day and every day, this year and every year. What is over is done; God gives us grace for what is to come.

C: Amen.

O God Our Help in Ages Past

ELW #632



Prayers of the
Church

P: Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

A: You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice... Lord, in your mercy,

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.

Blessing for the
New Year

P: O God, you have been our help in ages past, our hope for year to come. As we welcome this new year, bless us with peace. Fill our days with light of Christ and lead us on the path of life until we see you in our heavenly home. You live and reign forever and ever. 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.*

Anthem



On Christmas Night

arr Ralph Vaughan Williams

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring;
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before Thy grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
When sin departs before Thy grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night;
All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night;
"Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and forevermore. Amen."

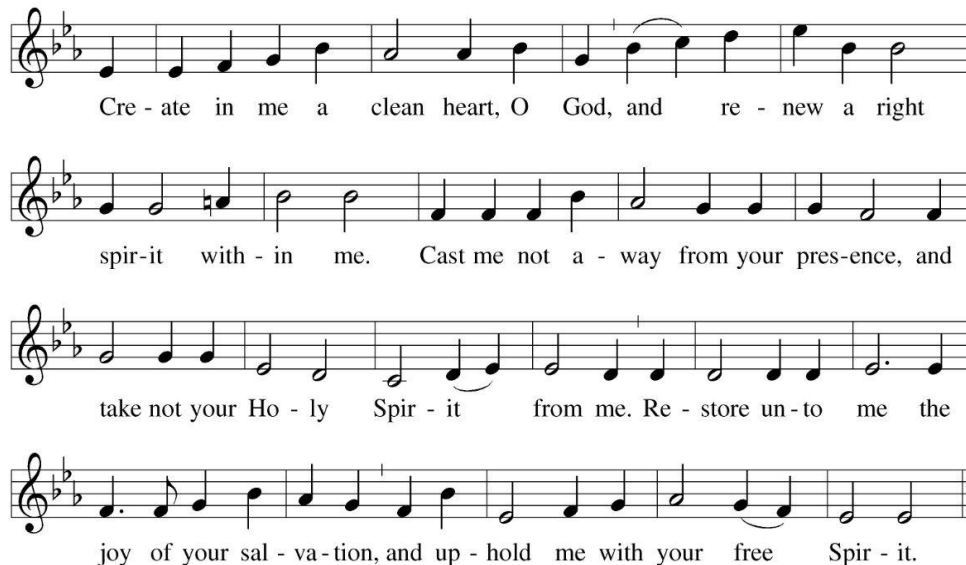
Offertory Response

*Please stand as
you are able.*



Create In Me a Clean Heart

WOV #732



Offertory Prayer

A: God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

C: **Amen.**

✠ 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.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

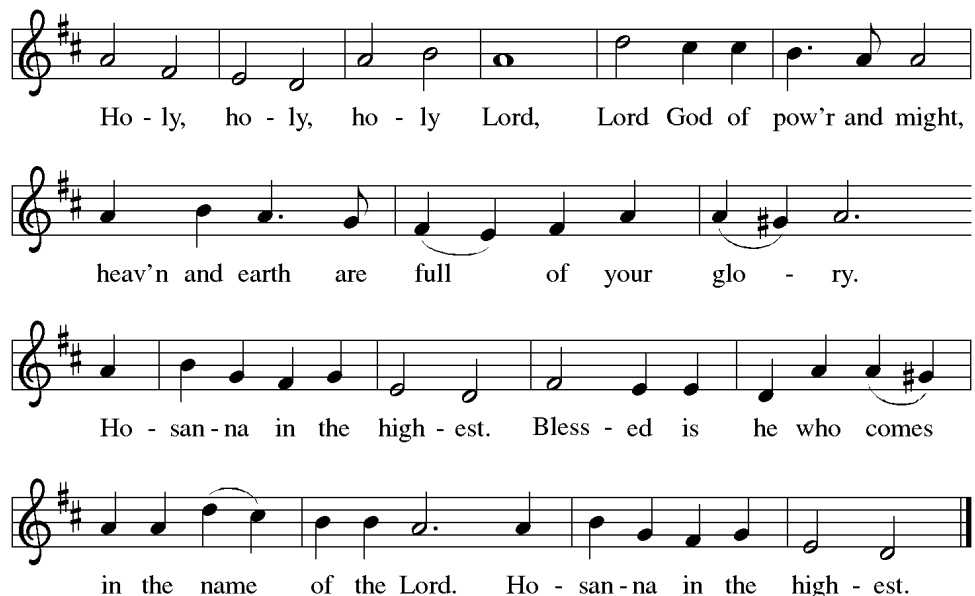
P: Lift up your hearts.

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...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...



P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

Words of Institution

P: 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, **Amen.**

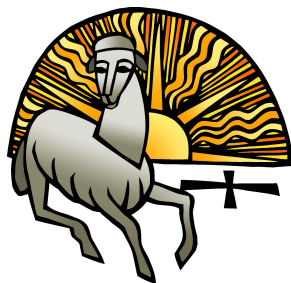
Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Communion *Please be seated*

P: Come to me all who are tired and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. The table is ready. All are welcome.

Lamb of God



O Christ Thou Lamb of God

LBW #103

A musical score for the hymn "O Christ Thou Lamb of God" (LBW #103). The score is written on five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff continues the melody and lyrics. The fourth staff continues the melody and lyrics. The fifth staff concludes the hymn with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "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".

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

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

Pastorale, BWV 590

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Post-Communion Blessing

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

C: **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

A: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

✠ 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.*

Sending Hymn



Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

ELW #545



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord makes his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord looks upon you with favor and + gives you peace.
C: Amen.

Announcements



Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Noël X: Quand Dieu naquit à Noël

Jean-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

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

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
Worship Assistant.....Mark Duff
Communion Assistant.....Michelle McCreery
Altar Servers.....Ellie Holmquist, Ruth Lee & Eivor Lund
Reader.....Eric Mechels
Usher.....Don Holzschuh
Coffee Hour Hosts.....Mary Flynn & Linda Nelson

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

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DEC 31	9:30 AM	<i>Worship with Holy Communion...</i>	Sanctuary & YouTube
MONDAY, JANUARY 1		NEW YEAR'S DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2	7:00 PM	<i>Men's AA.....</i>	Fellowship Hall
	7:00 PM	<i>AA/Recovery & Spirituality.....</i>	Christy Room
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3	10:00 AM	<i>Bible Study.....</i>	Library/Zoom
	12:00 PM	<i>Staff Meeting.....</i>	Christy Room
	6:30 PM	<i>Choir Rehearsal.....</i>	Sanctuary
THURSDAY, JANUARY 4	12:00 PM	<i>Al Anon.....</i>	Fellowship Hall
	7:00 PM	<i>Women's Bible Study.....</i>	Library
	7:00 PM	<i>Men's AA.....</i>	Christy Room
FRIDAY, JANUARY 5	6:00 PM	<i>Our Saviour's Shelter Meal.....</i>	Our Saviour's Housing
SATURDAY, JANUARY 6	9:30 AM	<i>Priscilla Circle.....</i>	Christy Room
SUNDAY, JAN 7	9:30 AM	<i>Worship with Holy Communion...</i>	Sanctuary & YouTube
	10:45 AM	<i>Coffee Hour.....</i>	Fellowship Hall

SCAN TO GIVE



Bulletin liturgy and hymnody reprinted under CCLI license #1821244 and or OneLicense.net #A-70405

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

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:



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; **Vonnie Norum**, mother of Liz Brown; **Mary Ann Wastweet**, sister of David Hagford; **Debbie Daline**, friend of Michael & Jana Kavoukjian and **Marion Eddelbuettel**, grandmother of Nico & Lauren Rondestvedt Eddelbuettel.

Poinsettias

You may take your flowers home after the service or anytime the church is open. The list of flower donations is posted on the Christy Room door.

Loved Ones In The Military

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Cody Rustad 1/1 Patrick Bracken 1/4

Esme Stier 1/4 Laura Nortwen 1/6

Naomi Mechels 1/6

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.

Nursery in the Christy Room

Parents with little ones are welcome to use the Nursery, as needed. Ushers can help you with directions or simply follow the signs provided in the back of the Sanctuary. The livestream of the service will be playing in the Christy Room for you to view.

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.

The Gift of Generosity

Today, Sunday, December 31st

Year-end gifts to LOTI are due.

We thank everyone who has supported LOTI this past year and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead.

Women's Bible Study
Thursday, January 4th
7:00 PM

Library

We are studying *Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman*, by Beth Moore. Join us!

Priscilla Circle
Saturday, January 6th
9:30 AM
Christy Room

Join us for a time of camaraderie!
No knitting skills required..

Growlers & Theology
Thursday, January 11th
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*.

LOTI Book Club
Friday, January 26th
5:00 PM

Home of Deb Gilroy

Next up is *The Night Watchman*, by Louise Erdich, Join us! Bring a snack to share if you like...





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