



Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday, November 26, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Waukesha, WI

www.stlukeslutheran.org office@stlukeslutheran.org (262) 542-2545

Helping people make life-changing connections with God through Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

Notes for Worship

- Hymns: ELW – cranberry; ACS – purple.
- Individually wrapped gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.
- We invite children of all ages to be in worship with us. Children are welcome to use the Pray-Ground in front of the church on the piano side as a comfortable space to experience worship. If you feel your child(ren) are being too disruptive, you are welcome to move into the Chapel.

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

setting, Anne Krentz Organ

CALL TO WORSHIP *God's Love Is Alive in Us*

Mark Patterson
Angel Choir & Sing for Joy

THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

It's in the hard and challenging times our spirits most need to give thanks.

Not because we're glossing over reality, or clinging to rose-colored glasses,

But because it does us good to name out loud the good we can still find in the world.

And so we come to God tonight, with all we have and all we are,

And we say Thank You.

Thank you God,

for creating us, for loving us, for redeeming us.

And maybe, just maybe: We will leave this place with a blessed peace,

Knowing deep in our bones that the God of the universe is always with us.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

ELW 461

st. 1 – all; st. 2 – choir; st 3 – all



- 1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
- 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang - ers; seek - er, be a wel - come guest.
- 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
 Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, ... and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all!
And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *This is the Feast*

ELW pg. 140



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,



al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

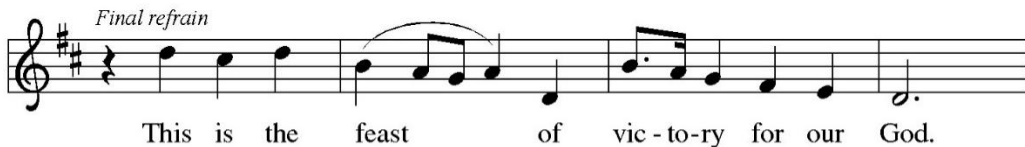
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God our Father, ... willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹“When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’ ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the Lord your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and

with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

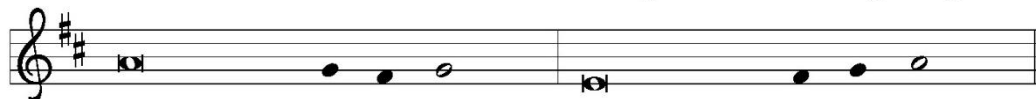
Psalm 100

The cantor will sing the refrain first, then all are invited to sing the refrain.

*Congregation sings the bolded verses, and the **R** is the refrain sung by all.*



En - ter God's gates with thanks-giv-ing.



¹ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, | all you lands!

² Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence | with a song.

³ **Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom | we belong;**
we are God's people and the sheep | of God's pasture. R

⁴ Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the | courts with praise;
give thanks and bless God's | holy name.

⁵ **Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is | everlasting,**
whose faithfulness endures from | age to age. R

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-9

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the

things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Be Thankful*

Anne Krentz Organ
Voices of Faith

May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. Be thankful.
May the word of Christ dwell in our lives. Be thankful.
May we sing with joy, giving thanks to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 6:25-35

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ When the disciples found Jesus on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³² Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”


³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

The gospel of the Lord.


Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Be Thankful*
The gospel acclamation is repeated by all

Anne Krentz Organ



May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. Be thank-ful.



May the word of Christ dwell in our lives. Be thank-ful.



May we sing with joy, giv-ing thanks to God. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



May we sing with joy, giv-ing thanks to God. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

THANKSGIVING MEDITATION

Pastor Jordan

HYMN OF THE DAY *Now Thank We All Our God*

ELW 840



- 1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
- 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
- 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high-est heav - en,



who, from our moth-ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

APOSTLES' 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.**

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!

And also with you!

MEAL

*Those who know For the Beauty of the Earth are invited to join Voices of Faith
at this time in the singing of the anthem.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of healing and hope, ... the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.
Amen.

DIALOGUE

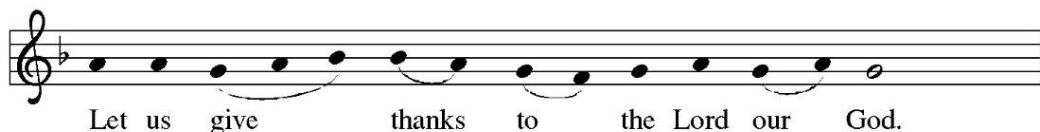
ELW p. 144



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**



Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

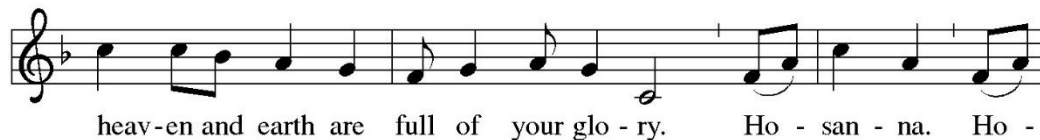
It is indeed right... We praise your name and join the unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal

Holy God, holy and mighty, ... Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup ... all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, ... a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God, ... with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, 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.

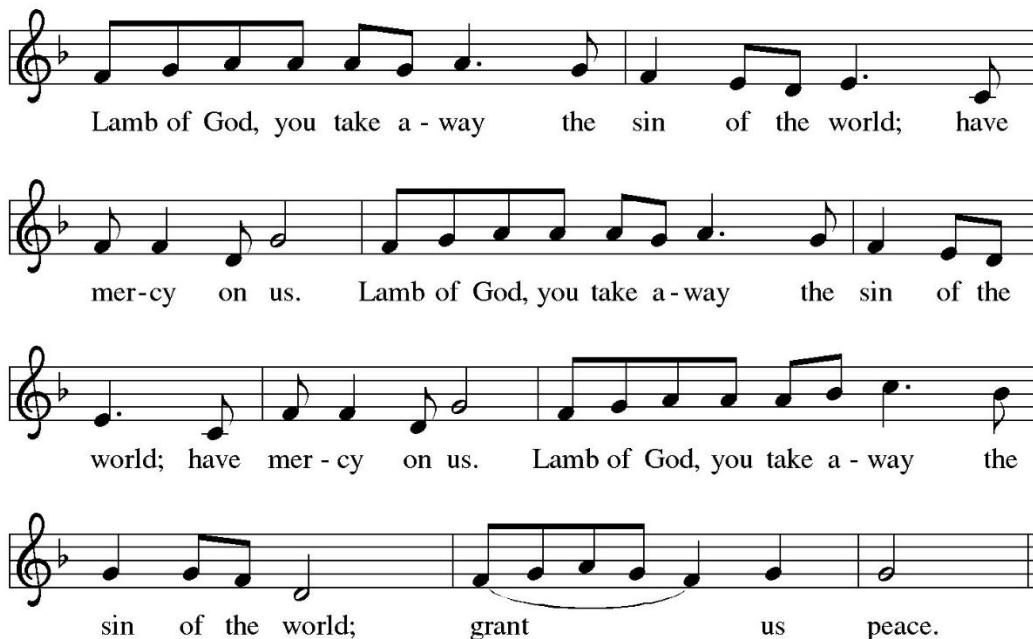
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

All who are baptized are welcome to receive Holy Communion, regardless of church affiliation. Receive our Lord in the bread and wine of this meal. Juice and individually wrapped, gluten-free wafers are available from the server by request.

LAMB OF GOD

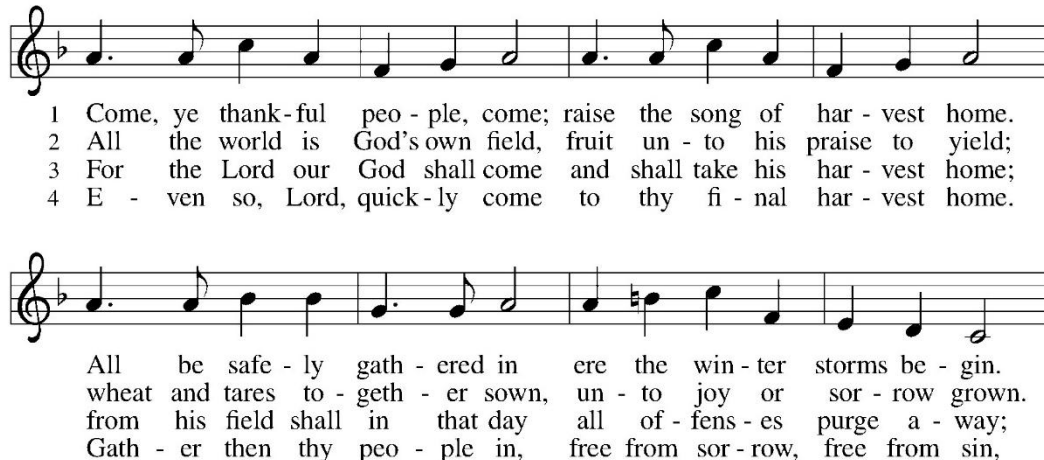
ELW p. 146



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

ELW 693



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.

All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

HYMN *Praise and Thanksgiving*

ELW 689



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
 2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
 neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
 guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
 with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep us to God's Gift of eternal life.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of field and flower, ... and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Let All Things Now Living*

ELW 881



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
 joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God*

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Following the postlude please join us for fellowship and pie in the Hospitality Area.

Copyright: *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*. Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*. Music: David M. Cherwien, Sylvia G. Dunstan © 2023 MorningStar Music Publishers/Birnamwood Publications. *BUNESSAN – organ*. Music: James Holloway © 2001 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. *For the Beauty of the Earth*. Words and music: John Rutter © 1980 Oxford University Press. *God's Love Is Alive in Us*. Words and music: Mark Patterson © 2016 Choristers Guild. *Hymn Harmonizations for Organ – Volume 2*. Music: John Ferguson © 1983, 2007 GIA Publications, Inc. *Hymn Harmonizations for Organ – Volume 3*. Music: John Ferguson © 1986, 2006 GIA Publications, Inc. *Let All Things Now Living*. Music: Lloyd Larson © 2005 Beckenhorst Press, Inc. *Let All Things Now Living*. Music: Katherine K. Davis © 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Company. *Praise and Thanksgiving*. Words: Albert F. Bayly © 2006 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. *Praise and Thanksgiving/BUNESSAN – harmonization*. Music: Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. *ST GEORGE'S WINDSOR – piano*. Music: Anne Krentz Organ © 2009 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Streamed and reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net #A-727601. All rights reserved.

Liturgies from sundaysandseasons.com License: SB127834 © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Be Thankful: Anne Krentz Organ, © 2023 Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival (lsmacademy.org). Permission granted for local use.

NOTES FOR WORSHIP

- Need to enter/leave the sanctuary while the service is underway? Please find times that are least distracting to others to do so. Appropriate times could be during a hymn, the peace, or the offering. Please try to avoid movement during divine moments of sacred action (when God has promised to be among us in special ways): in the reading/preaching of Scripture and in the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. And remember, there is a lot of grace for families and small children – their voices, wiggles, unexpected movements are part of the joy of living in community together.
- Our 8:15 a.m. services are livestreamed to the web via Facebook and our website, where they are archived for later viewing. Leaders and active assistants/participants in the service appear in the livestream. It is also possible that you and/or your children may be seen in our livestream.
- Please wear a nametag, especially to welcome visitors. It's another way we can be welcoming and help us to say hello to each other!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friendship Pads

Please be sure to sign in on the friendship pads located in each pew.

November's Mission of the Month: ELCA World Hunger and Waukesha Food Pantry. During the month of November and the time of Thanksgiving, we are motivated to share a portion of the gifts we have received from God with others, so they too receive the gift of food. The ELCA World Hunger program is highly regarded in its effectiveness of its ministry as is the Waukesha Food Pantry in its ministry to Waukesha residents.

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Please join us for worship during the Advent and Christmas seasons, starting this Saturday, November 29, with the first Sunday of Advent.

Holden Evening Prayer: Saturdays in Advent

We will be singing *Holden Evening Prayer* in worship on the Saturdays of Advent. Join us as we share in word and sacrament with the melodies of this familiar and beloved liturgy. Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

Advent and Christmas Devotionals Now Available

Our Advent devotional called *Humble and Holy* is now available at the welcome center in regular and large print. *Humble and Holy: Devotions for Advent and Christmas 2025-2026* continues a centuries old Christian tradition of setting aside time to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth and to anticipate his return. With devotions from the first Sunday of Advent, November 30, to Epiphany, January 6. This devotional will help you pause, reflect, and pray through this season of blessed waiting. Perfect for family, group, and individual use by all ages.

Worship With Us for Christmas

We will have three Christmas services for you to choose from, and each service will be different. The first will be a family service on Wednesday, December 24 at 3:00 p.m. that will be geared for families with children. It will feature carols and candlelight and a special craft project for kids to complete as part of the sermon. We'll meet again for worship at 5:30 p.m. This early evening service will be a traditional candlelight service with candlelight, Holy Communion, and carols. The final service of the evening will be held at 10:30 p.m. It will be a traditional Festival Holy Communion and Candlelight Service that celebrates the season by pulling out all the stops. There will be one worship service on Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day, at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday after Christmas Worship Schedule

We will have an abbreviated worship service offerings for the weekend of December 27/28.

There will be no Saturday service that weekend and we will have only **one service**.

The service will be Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 28 – 9:15 a.m.

Second Sunday of Christmas

Saturday, January 3 – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 4 – 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to the Font: Baptismal Gatherings

Pre-baptismal gathering, *Welcome to the Font*, is scheduled quarterly in our church.

Welcome to the Font is a time for parents preparing for baptism to join together with other parents while learning about God's work for them and their children in Holy Baptism.

Welcome to the Font is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Center. Baptisms are scheduled only after attending a *Welcome to the Font* gathering. To attend "Welcome to the Font" call the church office at (262) 542-2545.

Bring Your Nativity Set to Church

Time to start looking for your nativity set! At worship services December 6 and December 7, we will again be blessing each of our nativities. We invite everyone to bring their sets to church beginning Wednesday, December 3. Tables will be arranged at the front of the sanctuary so you can display your set that weekend. Please start thinking about where you placed your nativity after last season. Plan to bring it to worship and have it blessed so that it might be a sign of Christ's presence in your home.

Angel Tree

St. Luke's is again sharing our love for Hadfield and other Waukesha community families that need a little extra at the holidays. This year, we will have a tree filled with angel ornaments of Christmas wishes. We encourage all of St. Luke's to choose one or more tags and fulfill the needs. It's a great opportunity to feel the joy of giving to others; something the people of St. Luke's do so well. All **unwrapped** gifts need to be returned to church by the weekend of December 6/7. Important: When you return your gift, PLEASE attach the angel tag to it. You are also welcome to send along wrapping paper or boxes. If you have any questions, please text or call Kathy Pederson, (414) 530-7986.

Give the Gift of Warmth

Join Outreach for Hope to help keep people warm with their "Cloths for the Cold" Drive. They are asking help to raise \$4000 by the end of November to secure 400 winter coats, hats, and more. Each \$10 donation means one more coat purchased. Will you sponsor winter coats for an individual, a couple, or a family with children? Please write "Cold" in the memo line of your offering or contribute through their website directly, outreachforhope.org.

Kwik Trip Cards Fundraiser

This is an on-going year-round fundraiser for the youth. If you frequent Kwik Trip on a regular basis, please consider purchasing gift cards through St. Luke's to use for your gas and grocery purchases. The youth will get a portion of your everyday purchases. In addition to the gift, gas and grocery cards, we also have 5-count car wash cards available. Cards are available for purchase either via order form, available on the Welcome Station or directly from the stock Sunday mornings. Additional denominations are available upon request, usually within 2 weeks of the order. Contact Cari (youth@stlukeslutheran.org) with any questions or to order cards. Christmas is around the corner. KwikTrip gift cards make a great gift and support youth activities. We will be placing the next special order on December 3 for mid-December arrival.

Assisting Minister Training

Assisting ministers play a beautiful role in worship. They remind us that every baptized person shares in the priesthood of all believers. When you serve alongside our clergy, you help show that worship is something we all do together as the body of Christ. We'd love for you to be part of this ministry! Training Details: Date: Monday, December 15, Time: 5:30 p.m. Who: Current assisting ministers and anyone interested in joining. If you already serve and can't make it, please email PJ. If you're curious about serving, this is the perfect time to learn and get started. Come and see how you can make a meaningful difference in worship!

Communication is Important

Communicating when, where, what, why, and how is important. If there is something you would like communicated in the weekly bulletin, weekly *Connections* email, or the monthly Epistle newsletter, it's as easy as writing the announcement and emailing it to office@stlukeslutheran.org or stopping by the office with your article by the deadlines. The deadlines for the bulletin and *Connections* are 12:00 p.m. the Tuesday before the Thursday or the weekend you would want the information in *Connections* or bulletin. The deadline for the monthly Epistle newsletter is the 15th of the month unless the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday; then, the deadline is the Friday before. If you have any questions, please reach out either by email or call the church office at (262) 542-2545.

Support the Food Pantry

You can make monetary donations to the pantry through their website. Leaders of the pantry want us to know that canned fruits and veggies along with soups have been limited the last few months. When shopping for yourself, pick up some for our neighbors and drop them in the food pantry barrels as you leave the grocery store, or bring to church to drop in the cart by door.

Help For the Hope Center

There are many ways to help the Hope Center. Sorters are needed in the Clothing Shop, prep and serve breakfast and lunch, dates can vary. You can volunteer by contacting (262) 549-8726. Check out their website for their weekly donation request list at <https://hopecenterwi.org/donate-now/>. Hope Center address is 101 W Broadway, Waukesha 53186.

Join Us for Search Bible Study

Join PJ for Search Bible Study on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. Grow in faith and engage in great conversations.

GOSPEL MESSAGE: THANKSGIVING

The Life-Giving Lesson

The 2009 Disney movie *The Princess and the Frog* follows a young woman named Tiana, who is pursuing her father's dream of opening a restaurant. She works hard at multiple jobs, night and day, to make this a reality. But her plans and dreams are derailed when she kisses a frog prince and is herself turned into a frog. The two frogs begin a harrowing journey toward their transformation back into humans and learn many life lessons along the way. The biggest lesson for Tiana is that she is missing life by only working. She is missing out on love, laughter, friendship, and joy.

Jesus' admonition "Do not work for the food that perishes" (John 6:27) can be hard to hear for those who work night and day to literally provide sustenance for their families. Certainly, Jesus does not wish anyone to starve to death. Rather, he is pointing us to the same lesson Tiana needed to learn. We are all biological organic matter that requires food and water to sustain life. However, if our only purpose is to exist, we are not living.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus uses bread metaphors to teach about the kingdom of God. The kingdom is often understood as the "afterlife," but the author urges us to focus closer to home, on the realm of God on earth. Here Jesus calls us to work for the kingdom, the life-breath for all creation that is more than just food. The kingdom is a way of living for God, for our neighbor, and for the world to come. What do we strive to live for in life? What aspects of your life are life-giving? On this day of thanksgiving, for what do we give thanks to God?

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Serving tonight:

Presiding:	Pastor Jordan
Preaching:	Pastor Jordan
Music:	Michael Schaner
Lector:	Jennifer Thorstad
Assisting Minister:	Ben Shelley
Acolyte:	Conner Miller
Bread Baker:	Eileen Kron
Altar Care:	Jay & Kathy Fontaine
Communion Assistants:	Diana Lando Kathy Pederson
Ushers:	Randy Martin John Christiansen