

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

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Pianist

As Scheduled

Ministers

All members of Gloria Dei

Caring Sharing Serving Reaching



2025

Worship Schedule for December

December 7 – Second Sunday of Advent w/HC

December 14 – Third Sunday of Advent w/HC

December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent w/HC

December 24 – The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve w/HC

December 25 – The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day w/HC

December 28 – First Sunday after Christmas w/HC

What is Advent?

Advent is a four-week season dedicated to reflective preparation for the arrival, "advent", of Jesus Christ's Nativity at Christmas time as well and Christ's expected return in the Second Coming. During this important event on the church calendar, each week of Advent focuses on a different theme - hope, peace, joy, and love. Christians from all denominations and backgrounds celebrate Advent in different ways but all focus on the anticipation of waiting for the arrival of Jesus.

Lighting candles on an Advent wreath is a common practice. The wreath typically has four candles, each representing one of the four weeks of Advent. A new candle is lit on each Sunday leading up to Christmas.



Season Greetings from Pastor Matthew . . .

O Christmas Tree

This article was originally preached as an Advent sermon years ago. It seems good to share this as we anticipate the Christmas celebration of our Savior's birth.

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are your branches!
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are your branches!
Not only green in summer's heat,
But also winter's snow and sleet.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are your branches!

Here in America, perhaps the chief symbol of the Christmas season is the Christmas tree. Whether that tree is freshly cut or artificial, with its evergreen branches, glowing lights, and beautiful decorations, the Christmas tree is a thing of beauty and joy, conjuring up deep-seated childhood memories. For many children, the Christmas tree is real and alive. They talk to it and sit under it because it is a special place; even a holy place. Children are much better at understanding this than adults.

If we look at Scripture in the first and last books of the Bible (see [Genesis 2:15-17](#), [3:22-24](#) and [Revelation 22:1-5](#)), we are reminded of the importance of trees in God's plan of salvation. In the first book of Scripture from Genesis, our first parents, Adam and Eve, having abused God's gift of freedom in eating the forbidden fruit from a tree – the tree of the knowledge of good and evil – brought sin into the world. We still feel the effects of this original sin in our own lives today. But God is gracious and merciful, and prevented Adam and Eve from perpetuating that sin for all eternity by banishing them from the Garden of Eden so that they would not eat of the tree of life and live forever. In the final book of Scripture from Revelation, John sees in his heavenly vision that tree of life “with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations” ([Revelation 22:2](#)). These bookends of Scripture remind us of God's providential care not just for people, but for all of his creation – even trees.

The origins of our modern-day Christmas trees are shadowy and uncertain at best. The evergreen is firmly rooted in pre-Christian traditions, which have come down to us today. In the medieval miracle plays which were presented inside or outside of churches on the day before Christmas, December 24 was known as “Adam and Eve's Day.” The miracle play depicted the events of the Garden of Eden, with a “Paradise tree,” an evergreen tree decorated with apples. This was the only prop in the play; a bare platform with that decorated tree standing alone on the stage. This surely must have left a lasting impression on people, associating the evergreen tree with Christmas – something which remains with us to this day. Tradition tells us that Martin Luther introduced the first indoor Christmas tree. It is said that Luther, returning home on a wintry December night, stopped and marveled at the beauty of the evergreen trees covered in snow. He was so struck with this that he cut a small tree, brought it into his own home, and decorated it for his family's celebration of the birth of the Christ Child. From Europe, the tradition of the Christmas tree has come to us, pointing us back to Adam and Eve's fall into sin through the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and pointing us ahead to God's creation redeemed and restored through Christ with the tree of life. And the bridge between these two trees is the tree of the cross on which the Lord of life suffered and died for us and for our salvation.

For some – perhaps many – the Christmas tree is no longer a Christmas tree, but a holiday tree. The religious truth of this holy day has been reduced to a generic winter holiday. The birth of Jesus as the central meaning of Christmas is not observed by many, and yet the tree remains – a silent witness of God’s gracious and loving plan of salvation for all mankind in the gift of his Son. In the commercialized, politically correct world that we live in today, how do we as believers reclaim the Christ-centered tradition of the Christmas tree that is so engrained in our culture? Perhaps it begins with something as simple as a prayer – simple, and yet profound. As we put up our Christmas trees and decorate them, gather your family members, friends, and loved ones together around that beautifully decorated tree and offer this prayer:

God of Adam and Eve, God of all our ancestors, we praise you for this Christmas tree. It stirs in us a memory of paradise, and it brings us a glimpse of heaven. Send your Son Jesus, the shoot from the root of Jesse, to restore your good earth to the freshness of Eden. On the day of his coming, every tree of the forest will clap its hands in joy, and all creation will bless you from these shining branches: Glory in heaven and peace on earth, both now and forever. Amen. (“Welcome Yule!” Chicago: Liturgy Training Publication, 1996)

A blessed Christmas to you in Christ Jesus our Savior.



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry, Newsletter article – December 2025

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves” (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? Do you have a person or two on your list that you just don't know what to give them? While I know you are running short of ideas...dad doesn't really want another tie, and your kid's teacher doesn't need another coffee mug. It can be nothing short of maddening to try to figure things out in the middle of this busy season!

As stewards of all of life and life's resources, we know that life is more than giving gifts. We stewards never want to take anything the Lord provides for granted. During this season of Advent and Christmas, it is a great idea to do whatever you can to be a faithful steward of your pastor. Even more so than the rest of the year, the demands on their time, their presence and their stewardship of the Gospel in the congregation become heightened.

The demands on pastors can wear them down and wear them out. How does the steward in the congregation serve as a faithful steward of the treasure that is their pastor? Here are a few ideas:

- Put them at the top of your prayer list. – Pray that the Lord guards them against the weariness that makes them susceptible to the work of the devil.
- Make worship a priority – St. Paul admonishes the Thessalonians and us to respect those who labor among us. There is no greater way to steward your pastor than to respect him enough to show up and receive what he has been sent to offer in the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Holy Sacraments.
- Be receptive to his work – If your pastor is tasked with calling you to repentance or encouraging you to be in worship, know that he is only caring for your soul.
- Esteem him highly – Take the time to thank him for his faithful service to Christ, the congregation and your family.
- Be at peace – This is an easy time for even minor annoyances to get blown out of proportion and become full-blown conflict. This not only spoils the season of Advent and Christmas, but it also spoils our stewardship of the Gospel and those who serve us in that Gospel. Remember that Jesus came into the world to be the Prince of Peace. This is an act of grace and mercy. The steward seeks to reflect this toward their pastor and their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stewardship at Christmas can be a challenge. Stewardship of your pastor during this time of the year is critical to our shared stewardship of the Gospel at a time of year when many are more open to hear and receive it.





Annual Lantern Walk Through the Bible December 6 from 4:30 – 7:30 pm

You are cordially invited to come along on the journey!

Presented in partnership by Gloria Dei's Evangelism Team and members of Royal Family Church, the **Lantern Walk Through the Bible** will feature "stations" along a snowy, lantern-lit pathway, highlighting Bible verses from Genesis through Revelation displaying God's great love and pursuit for us all. The Lantern Walk Through is a self-guided, go at your own pace, no tour guide event. At the end of the journey, experience the warmth from a firepit and enjoy roasting marshmallows as you sip hot chocolate, all while making new friends.

This **FREE** one-of-a-kind event is open to the neighborhood and surrounding community and will take place entirely on the church's lawn. Please dress warm! We realize this event takes place outside, however, if as you make your way through the snowy, lantern-lined paths, you find yourself feeling a bit chilly, stop by the warming room inside the church!



Happy 100th Birthday Betty!

On November 14th, Betty celebrated her 100th birthday. Happy Birthday! Everyone at Gloria Dei extended heartfelt congratulations to her on this significant milestone. We wish her continued health, happiness, and the companionship of friends and family. Her century of experiences stands as an inspiration to all members of our community, and we are honored to celebrate this occasion together.



Thank you!

Betty would like to thank everyone for the birthday wishes and the cards. Your thoughtfulness and kind gestures truly brightened her special day. As we move into this festive season, let's continue sharing joy and fellowship.





ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA'S:

Help to beautify our Altar for the Christmas season by donating a poinsettia! The poinsettias will be ordered from Pletcher's Floral **\$21.99** for an 8" plant. Colors are **red, white or pink**. If you would like to donate a plant, the **deadline is Sunday, November 30**. You will be billed directly from the church. *You can also bring in your own poinsettias, but please still sign up.*😊

The sign-up sheet is posted on the entryway bulletin board or call the church office directly at 612-781-1989 to place an order.

Thank you!



HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH

All hands (and able bodies) are needed to help decorate the church for the holidays. Plan to come to church on Tuesday, December 2 beginning at 9:30 am. All help is welcome – the more the merrier! The coffee will be on.

Holiday Gift Basket Distribution

The Social Ministry Committee will be assembling Holiday Gift baskets, filled with fruit, treats and goodies. These baskets will be delivered to our dear shut-ins. If you know someone who would enjoy a gift basket or simply could use some cheering up during this Holiday season, please leave their name, phone number and address in the Secretary's mailbox. The group will make sure they receive a gift basket.



Salvation Army Christmas Tree Gift Collection

There is still time to bring in your gift donation. The Social Ministry Committee is collecting **new** gift items for children ages 0-14 for the Salvation Army. **Gifts will be collected through December 7th**. Bring your unwrapped gifts to Church and place them under the Christmas tree in the Narthex. As in previous years, the Salvation Army's auditor request we add the monetary value of the gifts donated. Please add an estimated dollar amount to the items you leave under the tree.

GIFT IDEAS:

BOYS 6-14: Legos, Play tent, Tonka Trucks, Walkie Talkies, Hot Wheels, Children's Camera, Remote Control Cars, Star Wars toys, NBA/NFL clothing and gear.

GIRLS 6-14: Barbie Dolls (multi-cultural), Children's Camera, Scooter, Bead/Jewelry Kits, Art Kits/Projects, Make-up kits, Hair Accessories.

Gloria Dei and Royal Family will hold a Joint Service on Christmas Eve. The Candlelight Service will begin at 5 pm and include a short children's program. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 24th. Bring your friends and family. See you there!



There are 2026 calendar available on the Usher's Table at the back of the church. Feel free to grab one!

Graciously donated by Washburn-Mcreavy Funeral Home



THANK YOU, Operation Christmas Child Collected 21 Shoeboxes!

These simple gifts are all shipped outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease. The mission of Samaritan's Purse and Operations Christmas Child is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your generous giving!

***If you have Thrivent Insurance, don't forget your Thrivent Choice Dollars!
Call every month!***

Gloria Dei was fortunate to receive \$52 in Thrivent Choice Dollars for the month of November. Through this program, eligible members can recommend where Thrivent donates millions of charitable outreach dollars each year. Call 1-800-Thrivent (1-800-847-4836). When asked for subject, say "Choice Dollars". When asked for a choice, press 1. Then answer the next question with your birth date. Then a Thrivent representative will answer. Tell them you want to direct your choice dollars to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 3014 NE McKinley Street, Minneapolis.

Thank you so much for your generous giving!

FREE Community Dinner at St. Timothy's; December 9th @ 5 pm – 6:30 pm

Join St. Timothy's on Tuesday, December 9, from 5 pm to 6:30 pm (or until the food is gone) for their drive through community dinner. All are welcome! Please spread the word! St. Timothy's Lutheran Church is located at 825 51st Avenue NE, in Columbia Heights.

Free Community Dinner at Faith UMC – December 11 @ 5 pm – 6 pm

Faith United Methodist Church, 2708 33rd Avenue NE, will hold a free community dinner on December 11 (the second Thursday of the month) from 5-6 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Community Holiday Happenings



Flux Frost Fest – December 6 @ 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

The Flux Arts Building will host the second annual Flux Frost Fest. Find unique art and gifts. Stop in at make-and-take stations to make something fun. Play with polymer clay at the Clay Squared Gallery. Upstairs in the Art to Change the World Headquarters, make Magnets of Light with Leo Fortune. Learn how different cultures celebrate light during the dark winter and create wooden magnets using those symbols. Free cookies and snacks, music by Dave Dvorak (11-11:30 am), Vicki Dischler (12:30-1 pm) and Jerry Esnough (2-2:30 pm). Flux Arts Building is located at 2505 Howard Street NE.

Christmas Bazaar and Village Display

The Holy Cross Rosary Guild will host its annual Christmas Bazaar and Village Display in Kolbe Hall, 1630 Fourth Street NE. "Sip & Shop Event" on **Friday, December 5, 6-8 pm** with music & sing-along, crafts, baked goods and appetizers. Free admission with donations welcome. Saturday, **December 6, 10 am-4:30 pm** with crafts, snacks, baked goods plus free cookie decorating, crafts and games for children 11 am-3 pm. **Sunday, December 7, 8 am-noon** with Village Display, coffee & rolls and crafts. Accessible entrance in alley.

Red Cross Community Blood Drive

The Pritzker Hageman Law Firm will partner with the American Red Cross to host a community blood drive at its Northeast Minneapolis office, 100 University Avenue SE, **Monday, December 8, 10 am-6 pm**. The Red Cross bloodmobile will be parked in the firm's lot for easy access. Appointments can be made at pritzlaw.us/donateblood. All presenting donors will receive a \$15 Amazon e-gift card from the Red Cross. For more information, contact blooddonation@pritzkerlaw.com.

Christmas Cookie and Craft Sale

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, 2201 Third Street NE, will hold a Christmas Cookie and Craft Sale **Saturday, December 13, 9 am-4 pm**. Check out assorted holiday baked goods (including nut and poppyseed rolls), Christmas decor, crafts and gift items. Specialty food items will also be available to enjoy while you shop. After your shopping spree, plan to attend Great Vespers at 4 pm.



Holiday Train Arrival

The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will arrive Sunday, December 14 at 37th Avenue and Stinson Boulevard in Minneapolis at 8:15 pm. American Authors and Pynk Beard will provide live entertainment during the half-hour stop. Proceeds benefit East Side Neighborhood Services.

Northeast Community Band holiday concert – December 19 @ 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

The Northeast Community Band will perform its annual holiday concert Thursday, December 11 at Washburn High School, 201 W. 49th Street, while the Edison auditorium remains under renovation. The downbeat is at 7 pm. The band will also hold a raffle to support its Ralph Sowden Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to a senior Edison musician each year. The grand prize is a handcrafted music stand created by the band's bass clarinetist, Wil Hein. Other prizes include gift certificates to Northeast restaurants and a chance to conduct the band in "Sleigh Ride." Raffle tickets are \$5 each, and available at the door. The concert is free.

Advent Lessons and Carols: Splendor of Eternal Light

Holy Cross Catholic Church, 1621 University Avenue NE, invites the community to a special evening of sacred music and reflection at Advent Lessons and Carols: Splendor of Eternal Light, on **Saturday, December 20 at 7 pm**. This cherished Advent tradition weaves together scripture and song, illuminating the story of salvation through beloved seasonal music presented in both English and some Polish. The candlelit setting of Holy Cross will provide a contemplative atmosphere to prepare hearts for the coming of Christmas. A reception to follow in Kolbe Hall. Free and open to all, though a freewill donation is welcome.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

WCCO 830 AM Radio

Heard each Sunday morning at 6:05 a.m.

Hosted by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (unless otherwise noted)

December 7 "Chosen for What?" (Romans 15:7)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God calls believers to trust and follow Jesus--chosen, but chosen for what?

December 14 "Pictures of Patience" (James 5:7-8)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Patience can be practiced, tested, strained, and lost. Christians are called to return the patience God in His mercy has shown us, in Christ.

December 21 "Everybody Is Somebody" (Romans 1:7)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God sends His people--the Church--to be His letters to the world, delivering His Word of promise.

December 28 "Get Ready for the Best" (Luke 12:36-37)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Germán Novelli Oliveros

Christ will return--maybe this year, maybe even today! Pastor German Novelli helps us to prepare for the blessings and challenges of a new year.

Main Street Living North

Main Street Living is an hour-long Lutheran television program that airs new episodes each Sunday morning. The Twin Cities program is broadcast **at 9 am**. Central time on WFTC channel 29/9-2. Each Sunday, viewers enjoy a 30-minute remastered episode of "This is the Life," a popular Lutheran Hour Ministries series from the 70s and 80s. The episode is followed by a modified Lutheran worship service—led by a different local pastor each week. Main Street Living (Twin Cities) is endorsed by the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; however, the program receives no funding from the District. It is totally funded by viewers and congregations of the WFTC viewing area.

OFFICIAL ACTS for November

None



Time of Grace

Time of Grace tv program airs globally via various outlets, but you can also search topics and watch the program at timeofgrace.org/tv-program. Each episode is a 30-minute study of God's Word with Pastor Mike Novotny. Pastor Mike Novotny has served God's people in full-time ministry since 2007 as a pastor in Madison and now Appleton, Wisconsin. He also serves as the lead speaker for the Time of Grace television program and contributes to the written resources of Time of Grace Ministry.

Sundays KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 am
www.timeofgrace.org

Subscribe to Time of Grace

To help you stay rooted in Jesus by taking time out for God's Word every day. Subscribe to Time of Grace resources to be delivered to your email inbox daily. It's easy to subscribe to resources that'll keep you rooted in Jesus. Just select which types of resources you would like to receive, and they will be sent right to your inbox!
<https://timeofgrace.org/subscribe/>

WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS

Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called **Worship for Shut-Ins**. Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a Lutheran pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. Each program is closed captioned for the hearing impaired.

Weekly programs are broadcast on Total Christian Television (TCT) network -- **DIRECTV channel 377 at 10:30 am on Sundays OR** watch online on the homepage and in the "**Online Viewing**" portion of the website
www.worshipforshutins.org!

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

— Ferris Bueller

December Special Occasions for Special People



2nd Shirley Slagle 16th Dolores Kluwe 16th Pat Vogel 20th Gwen Johnson 29th Lyle Payette 31st Katie Beth Stand	<p><i>No Anniversaries</i></p>
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DECEMBER SERVANTS

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Be sure to sign up for Altar Care and Usher duties.
Sign-up sheets located on the bulletin board in the Church lobby.

Thank you!

Counters

7th	Sandy Westling and Tom Harris
14th	Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer
21st	Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli
24th	Tom and Patty Lyrenmann
25th	Tom and Patty Lyrenmann
28th	Shirley Holzinger and Verlayne Sather

Candles

7th	OPEN
14th	OPEN
21st	Shirley Holzinger – In Memory of Rudy and Greg
24th	Sandy Westling – Blessed Immanuel
25th	OPEN
28th	Shirley Holzinger – In Memory of Rudy's birthday, December 27

Flowers

7th	OPEN
14th	OPEN
21st	OPEN
24th	Christmas Poinsettias
25th	Christmas Poinsettias
28th	Christmas Poinsettias

The gift of love.

The gift of peace.



The gift of happiness.

May all these be yours this Christmas.



December 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Church Office Closed 7 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs) 7 pm AIAnon (upstairs)	2 9:30 am Decorate Church for the Holidays!	3 11 am Bible Study <i>Special Christmas Edition!</i> 7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting	4 	5 Pastor's Day Off 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	6 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 4:30 – 7:30 pm Lantern Walk Through the Bible, Self-Guided Tour 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
7 Second Sunday of Advent 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA Last Day for Salvation Army Gift Tree Donations	8 Church Office Closed 7 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs) 7 pm AIAnon (upstairs)	9 Deliver Salvation Army Gift Tree Donations and Shut-In Baskets	10 <u>NO</u> 11 am Bible Study 7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting	11	12 Pastor's Day Off 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	13 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
14 Third Sunday of Advent 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	15 Church Office Closed 7 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs) 6 pm AIAnon (upstairs) – meeting will include a Pot Luck	16 5 pm GDLC Council Meeting	17 <u>NO</u> 11 am Bible Study 7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting	18	19 Pastor's Day Off 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	20 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 4 – 5 pm Living Word Board Meeting 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	22 Church Office Closed 7 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs) 7 pm AIAnon (upstairs)	23	24 Christmas Eve <u>NO</u> 11 am Bible Study 5 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/Holy Communion and Children's Program (Joint with Royal Family) 7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting	25 Christmas Day The Nativity of Our Lord 10 am Christmas Day Service w/Holy Communion	26 Pastor's Day Off 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	27 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
28 First Sunday after Christmas 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	29 Church Office Closed 7 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs) 7 pm AIAnon (upstairs)	30	31 <u>NO</u> 11 am Bible Study	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 3014 McKinley Street NE 612-781-1989		



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

ADVENT: THE SECOND COMING — DECEMBER 1-15

Advent means coming. We anticipate the promised return of Christ as the judge of the world. We look with hope to the day of the resurrection of all flesh, when those who believe in Christ will rise to everlasting life.

The Church waits for the Second Coming in repentance, hope and faith. For the following, we pray "Lord, have mercy."

1. For hearts that imitate the generosity and graciousness of Jesus. Pray that God's people would be eager to show forth the love of God through their good works for their neighbor.

2. That the Lord would preserve His Word and Sacraments in our midst, so that we may be kept strong in the one, true faith until Christ's return.

3. That the people of God would be faithful in their attendance of the Divine Service, where God

strengthens our faith toward Him and our steadfast love for one another.

4. That all people would fear God and find hope in His gracious forgiveness through Christ.

5. For all who do not believe in Jesus, that they might hear the Gospel and believe.

6. For all Christians, that we might repent of our sins and prepare for Christ's return.

7. For steadfast faith as the world writhes and groans in anticipation of the day of judgment.

8. For the ministers of the Word, that they would be faithful to their calling.

9. for the Church's missionaries, that through them the Word would go forth into the world with power.

10. For our government, that we might live peaceable and quiet lives.

11. For parents, that they would see their role in raising children as a holy calling from God in these last days.

12. For patience, as we wait for Christ's coming, that we might believe God is not slow in keeping promises, but patient.

13. For those who mourn the loss of loved ones, that the promise of the resurrection may be their hope.

14. For those who are dying, that they may entrust their whole lives unto God who keeps them.

15. For the coming of Christ. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



ADVENT: THE INCARNATION — DECEMBER 16-31

During Advent we rejoice that God sent His Son to be the redeemer of the world. We gather with all Christians to celebrate this gracious gift from our heavenly Father. We trust in Christ alone as our Savior.

The Church gathers to thank God and ask for faith to trust in His gift of a Savior. For the following, we pray “Lord, have mercy.”

16. *For faithful reading of Old Testament, that all who read may see Jesus as the promised Savior.*

17. *For opportunities to proclaim the Gospel in this season. When the world is open to hearing the story of Christmas, may we be unashamed in our witness.*

18. *That all Christians might see the needs of their neighbor and love with the love of Christ.*

19. *For those who only attend worship at Christmas, that the Spirit would work faith through the hearing of the Word.*

20. *That we may believe the truth of the two natures of Christ.*

21. *For St. Thomas, apostle. That with him we might believe and confess that Jesus is Lord and God.*

22. *For faithful readings of the New Testament. That all the words of the apostles and evangelists may result in faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

23. *For pastors who serve as Christ’s under-shepherds in our midst. That they might proclaim the truth of the Good News of Christmas.*

24. *Rejoice that Jesus is Immanuel. God is with us to save us.*

25. *Rejoice in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen His glory — glory as the only-begotten of God.*

26. *Thank God for St. Stephen, the first Christian*



Martyr. That we might also serve God with our lives — thoughts, words and deeds.

27. *That God would grant us faith to believe that He comes to us in the Means of Grace.*

28. *For all those who face depression and desperation at this time of year. That God’s gift of love in Christ would gladden their hearts.*

29. *For all those who travel. That God would grant them safety.*

30. *That all would know and believe in the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus for the world’s salvation.*

31. *That the Lord would abundantly bless the efforts of the LCMS and its partners in the coming years. That the Gospel is the primary focus of all that is done and proclaimed.*

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at lcms.org/prayforus or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.

