Third Sunday of Advent December 14, 2025

Service Music: ELW, Setting 10 (ELW, page 203) Year A, Advent 3 (ELW, page 19)



Today we turn our attention to Mary the Mother of Jesus. The Church has highly revered Mary since the beginning. Even Martin Luther taught us to honor her and called her Blessed - just as Holy Scripture tells us to do. Consider these two quotes from Luther in two Christmas sermons delivered in 1529 and 1531.

"Mary is the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of all of us even though it was Christ alone who reposed on her knees . . . If he is ours, we ought to be in his situation; there where he is, we ought also to be and all that he has ought to be ours, and his mother is also our mother."

"[Mary is the] highest woman and the noblest gem in Christianity after Christ . . . She is nobility, wisdom, and holiness personified. We can never honor her enough. Still honor and praise must be given to her in such a way as to injure neither Christ nor the Scriptures."

WELCOME!

Guests, we are glad you have joined us today! If you would like to receive contact from the pastor or welcoming committee following this worship service, please fill out a card from the pew slot and put it in the offering plate.

Children's Church takes place during our worship service. The children are dismissed after *Blessing the Children* and brought back to their families after the *Prayers of Intercession*.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – 8:55

PRELUDE

The assembly rises in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: O Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

C: Those who walk blamelessly, do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

P: Come let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our God, our Maker.

C: For he is our God. We are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel / and ransom captive Israel That mourns in lonely exile here / until the Son of God appear

-Refrain-

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel

O come, Desire of Nations, bind / in one the hearts of humankind Bid all our sad divisions cease / and be yourself our Prince of Peace -Refrain-

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer / Our spirits by Thine Advent here

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night / and death's dark shadow put to flight -Refrain-

The assembly is seated.

The Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

R1: We light again the two candles in our Advent wreath, to remind us of God's gifts of hope and peace (*first two candles are lit*). Today we will light the third candle, the candle of joy.

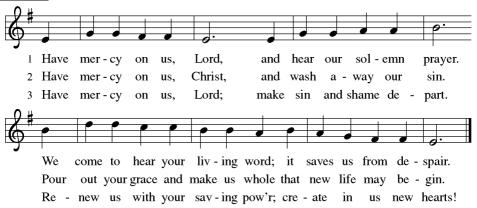
R2: As we wait for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, we look forward to the joyful celebrations and festivities we may share with those we love.

The prophet Isaiah tells us "the desert shall rejoice and blossom" because God will renew the world in his love, save the lame, and gather the outcast. The good news of Jesus' birth and the promise of God's peace are still tidings of great joy for us today.

R1: St. James says, "Strengthen you hearts, the coming of the Lord is near." The third candle reminds us of our joy in the arrival of Jesus Christ. (*third candle is lit*)

C: Thank you, God, for the gift of joy. Help us to recognize the moments of joy in our lives, and to live joyfully so that others may be filled with the joy that comes from knowing Jesus Christ. Amen!

KYRIE



P: We continue to pray:

C: Repair our relationships, O God, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.

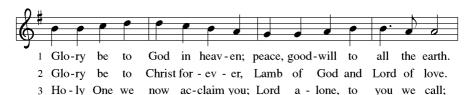
P: Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, + in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free. **C: Amen.**

The assembly rises in body or spirit.

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.**

CANTICLE: GLORY TO GOD





Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

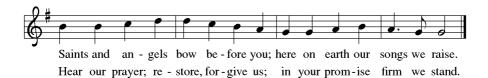


in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.

to

be

God on high!



in - her - it,

glo - ry

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it,

the peace that we

P: Let us pray.

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

The assembly is seated.

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Children are dismissed for Children's Church.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

- 1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
- like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting.
- The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
- They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.
- ³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.
- ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water;

and streams in the desert:

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

8 A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A: Word of God. Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 146:5-10 (read responsively)

- ⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- ⁶ who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

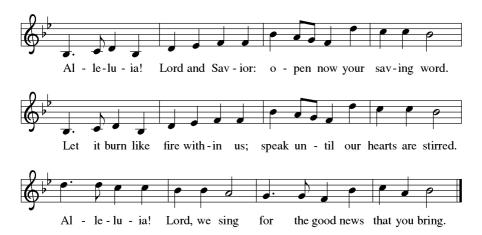
- ⁸ The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.
- ⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- ¹⁰ The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. A: Word of God. Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The assembly rises in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke 1:26-38

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your

relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly rises in body or spirit to sing the Hymn of the Day.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 272 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Share the peace of Christ with one another by shaking hands or with a word or sign of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A: God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. We ask for protection for Christians being targeted for their faith in **Syria and Nigeria.** God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. We pray for the people of **Sudan and Gaza** who are starving due to war and famine. Bring them aid through your ministers. Make peace in places of conflict, especially **Ukraine**, **Iran**, **and the Holy Land**. We pray for the safety of first responders, those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect others, especially **Anthony**, **Eli**, **Nathan**, **and Tyler**. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer**.

A: When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. We pray especially for Amanda, Barry, Bert, Bev, Carol, Carol, Crew, Dave, Donna, Doug, Drew, Ed, Emmett, Frieda, Hattie, Jean, Jenn, Jeryl, Jim, Joe, John, Joseph, Karen & Ed, Konnor, LaVonne, Lynn, Maggie, Mark, Michelle, Phil, Sandy, Stan, Steve, Tami, Ted, and Wally.

In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith, especially **John of the Cross**, whom we *commemorate today. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **C: Amen.** *See announcement for commemorations.

MEAL

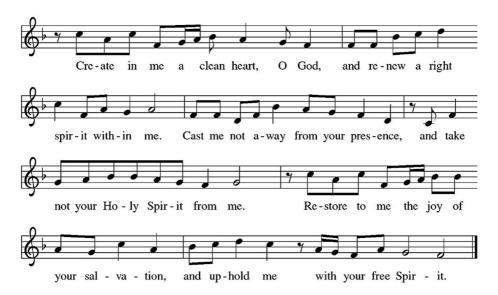
OFFERING your offering may be placed in the plate as it is passed. We thank all who support God's ministry here and in the world.

CHOIR SPECIAL MUSIC

Come Thou long Expected Jesus
Arr. Ed Harris

Stand as the offering is presented at the rail.

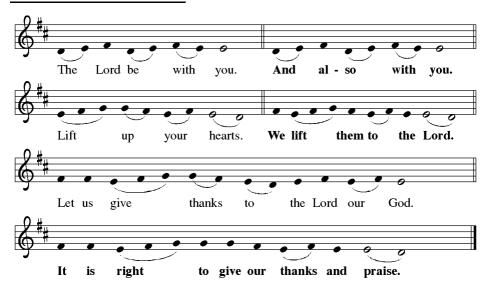
PRESENTATION OF GIFTS: ELW 186 Create in Me



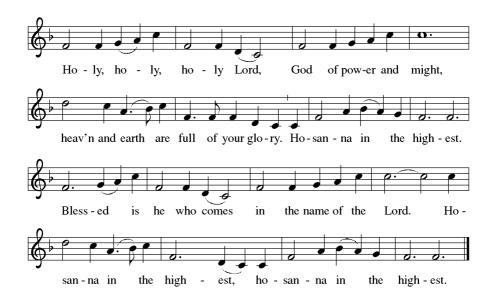
OFFERING PRAYER

A: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **C: Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with John, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

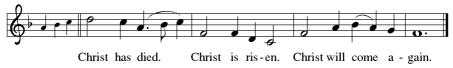


Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming. C: Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth. C: Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

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. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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

P: God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised. All are welcome here. **C: Thanks be to God.**

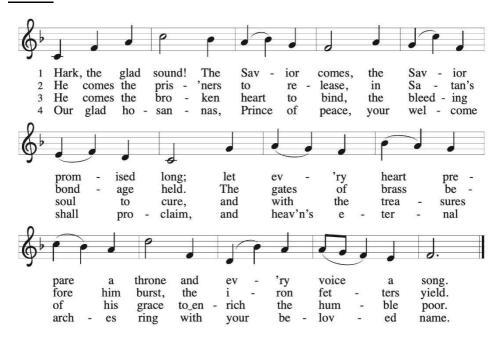
The assembly is seated.

Come, for Christ invites you. Communion today will be distributed at the altar rail (please stand or kneel, as you are comfortable), the ushers will direct you forward to receive the bread (which is gluten-free) and cup either wine (red) or grape juice (white).

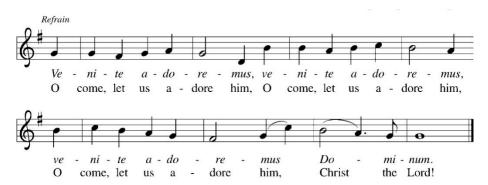
Lamb of God



HYMN ELW 239 Hark the Glad Sound



HYMN ELW 283 O Come All Ye Faithful (chorus only) (sing 3 times)



The assembly rises in body or spirit at the invitation of the presiding minister.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **C: Amen**

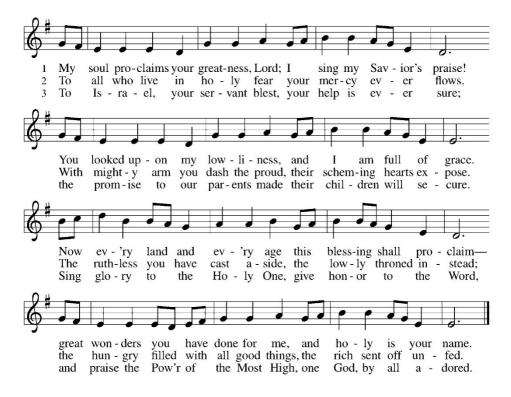
SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING BLESSING

P: May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **C: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 251 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness Lord



AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION

P: Siblings in Christ, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ in gratitude to God and service to others, all the days of your life?

C: I will, and I ask God to help me.

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. C: Thanks be to God.

<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>

Attendance last week:

Saturday 28

Sunday 57 YouTube 9

Birthdays this week:

12/14 Melissa Forari 12/14 Renee White 12/15 Samuel Pessein

Anniversaries this week:

There are no anniversaries this week.

<u>12/24 – Christmas Services</u> – See insert for Christmas Services. We are also looking for Worship Assistants for both services! Check out the "**NEEDED**" spots on page 26 and call or email the office to let the church office know you'd like to serve at one (or both!) services!

<u>Today! – Picture Day for the Directory!</u> We are working on a new picture directory that will be available in 2026. Pictures will be taken in the office before and after the services. Contact the office at 563-355-4161 with any questions!

<u>Today! – Coffee and Conversation</u> – This is a time where we ponder questions about current events and cultural trends in light of our Christian faith. This is an intentional time for conversation and prayer facilitated by Bryce. No sign-up required. All are welcome.

<u>12/20 7PM Blue Christmas</u> – Blue Christmas service will be held at Redeemer Lutheran in Bettendorf. 1107 Tanglefoot Ln, Bettendorf, IA 52722. Contact the office for more information at 563-355-4161.

<u>Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services</u> – Check the bulletin insert for details!

<u>12/29 Bible Study – 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.</u> A Jesus Shaped Life Bible Study: How Biblically Sound Theology Deepens Our Relationship with

God and Each Other. Please contact Justina at 563-940-3782 if you are interested in joining or if you have any questions!

<u>1/6 Epiphany Service</u> – 6:00pm Around the World Potluck! Bring a dish from your cultural background to share! There will be a polar plunge, kids crafts & games (search for baby Jesus!) and the service starts at 7:00pm. Contact Justina Pessein at 563-940-3782 if you have any questions!

We livestream our services on YouTube each week to help us worship together and stay connected even when we are not at full health or out of town!

Youtube Link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzjnqGF4g_QWtn_I2SqpL5Q

COMMEMORATIONS

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591 Sunday, December 14, 2025

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

Las Posadas (LLC) Tuesday, December 16, 2025

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552 Saturday, December 20, 2025

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

Worship Assistants

December 14 9:00 AM Worship

Presider Bryce Hewlett, SAM

Guest Speaker
Assisting Minister
Reader
Acolyte

Kim Hewlett
Pat Larson
Angie Schmidt
Edi Southwell

Music Minister Steve Abel
Cantor Kaylee Pesseir

Cantor Kaylee Pessein
Ushers Fritz Voss & Judy Larson

Altar Guild Marilyn Pieart & Dee Worley

Counters Steve & Sue Miller

December 21 9:00 AM Worship

Presider Bryce Hewlett, SAM
Assisting Minister Shirley Richlen
Reader Diana Worley

Acolyte Dex Hewlett
Organist Linda Gross
Cantor Noa Hewlett

Ushers Jerry & Yvonne Nichols
Altar Guild Marilyn Pieart & Dee

Worley

Counters Steve & Sue Miller

December 24

Presider

Assisting Minister

Reader Acolytes Organist

Cantor

Ushers Forari

Altar Guild

Counters

December 24

Presider

Assisting Minister

Reader Acolytes

Music Minister Accompanist

Cantor Ushers Counters 4:00 PM Worship

Bryce Hewlett, SAM

Jason Forari
Pat Larson
NEEDED
Linda Gross
Kaylee Pessein

Anna Forari & Melissa

Shirley Richlen & **NEEDED**

NEEDED

11:00 PM Worship

Bryce Hewlett, SAM

NEEDED NEEDED

Eden & Kellan Bileddo

Steve Abel

Madlyn Wulgaert Noa Hewlett

NEEDED NEEDED

Prayers for Healing and Support

Congregational Members

Ed Arp, Lynn Chamberlain, Bev Chappen, Sandy Henry, Frieda Houldsworth, Jeryl Krumbholz, Jim Krumbholz, Doug Larson, Bert Leder, LaVonne Mienke, Mark Peters, Jean Rowe, Dave Schmidt

Family and Friends

Amanda (friend of Melissa), Barry (cousin of Ellen Hogbin),
Carol (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), Carol (friend of Steve & Sue
Miller) Crew (Susie and Jeff Seitz' new grandson),
Donna (Ed Arp's sister),

Drew (Pat Larson's friend), Emmett (friend of Diana Worley),
 Hattie (Frieda's sister), Jenn (family of Bryce/Kim & Gary/Eunice),
 Joe (Janene's son-in-law), John (Susie & Jeff Seitz' friend), Joseph (friend of Bryce & Kim), Karen and Ed (Shirley's Aunt and Uncle),
 Konnor (Bert Leder's grandson), Mark (friend of Jason Forari), Michelle (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), Phil (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother), Stan (relative of Fritz Voss), Steve (friend of Pat Larson) Tami (family of Maggie Bayliss), Ted (Ellen Hogbin's father-in-law),
 Wally (Frieda's nephew)

Those Whose Duty it is to Protect Others

Anthony Karasek (Judy Larson's great nephew) CPT Eli Smith (Jerry and Myrna Mattly's grandson) Nathan Pearson USAF (Jenna & Kane Schmidt's friend) Tyler McLaughlin, First Responder (Family of Pat Larson)

If you have anyone who needs to be taken off or added, please notify the church office.

December / January 2025-2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9AM Worship		1PM Sarah Circle	6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry		5PM Saturday Service
10AM Coffee & Convo				11AM Service at BHCC 11:30AM GANG		7PM Blue Christmas at Redeemer Lutheran
01	00	02	04		00	07
9AM Worship 10AM Council Mtg.	22	23	24 4PM Christmas Eve Service 11PM Christmas Eve Service	ONLINE ONLY Christmas Service Christmas	26	NO Saturday Service
28	29	30	31	1/1	1/2	1/3
9AM Worship	6-7:30PM Bible Study		6-8PM Food Pantry	No Food Pantry Office Closed New Year's Day		5PM Saturday Service
1/4	1/5	1/6	1/7	1/8	1/9	1/10
9AM Worship		6PM Epiphany Potluck 7PM Service	6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry		5PM Saturday Service