



ADVENT 2025

Welcome to Lord of Life!

All are welcome here. We extend a special welcome to visitors. We're glad you joined us today!
The following information may help you in your worship experience and getting to know Lord of Life.

Communal words spoken and sung will be on the screen and/or in this bulletin. The bold text is spoken together. Songs/hymns can also be found (with music) in either Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) cranberry hymnal or All Creation Sings (ACS) purple hymnal. Both can be found under a chair near you.

We are grounded in the sacraments of baptism and communion. All are welcome at the Lord's table; there are no exceptions. Our bread is dairy, nut, and gluten-free; wine and juice are both available. If you aren't baptized and would like to be, please talk to Pr. Kirsten.

Children are welcome in this place! At baptism, we celebrate our place in God's family and the community of Lord of Life. Children of all ages are integral members of the Body of Christ, and have a place in our community that includes worship. Children learn by seeing, hearing, and experiencing worship with adults who care about them (not just their parents). We embrace the sounds and activity that accompany them.

We have a few resources for parents:

PrayGround: Table up front with coloring supplies; go with your child, sit near the table, or send them independently.

Activity Bags: things to occupy busy hands during worship, located in the shelves just outside the sanctuary; ask an usher if you need help finding them.

Nursery (for children 0-5, 5-7 by exception): Our nursery is staffed by a capable young adult who is kind and has been background checked. There is a sign-in sheet for security.

Narthex (Gathering/Entrance space): Benches, rocking chairs, or space to move around.

Children's Message: children are invited up front to engage with part of the message in worship.

Communion: children are welcome to receive the elements or a blessing. Please let the server know your preferences.

There are **Assisted Listening devices** available just outside the sanctuary doors for those that need amplified sound. Please ask an usher or member of the Sound & Tech Team if you need help.

Offering is an act of worship and a privilege to return to God a portion of what God has given us. If you are a guest, do not feel obligated to give. Offerings given today are joyfully used for outreach to the greater church/community and for the work and ministry of Lord of Life. You may donate electronically using the QR code that leads you to the website (www.lordoflife.org), by mail, using direct deposit with your bank, or RMD / QCD / or stock gift (in consultation with your financial advisor), or in the offering box at the font.

If at anytime you are uncomfortable standing, you are free to remain seated.

If you are worshipping from home, you are invited to participate, not just observe. Please prepare your own sacred space for worship. You might include some candles, a cross, water for remembering your baptism, and, if you will be participating in Communion, bread and wine or suitable substitutes.

Lord of Life is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

You can learn more at www.elca.org or thelordoflife.org.

We are located on the ancestral homeland of the Cayuse, Umatilla, Walla Walla, Palouse, Wanapum, and Yakama peoples. We give thanks for their presence and care of this land since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home. Learn more at native-land.ca.

GATHERING

When Christians gather for worship, they are forming community. This community is fluid, different each time it gathers, called together by the Holy Spirit. The Gathering is important, essential even, so that we acknowledge ourselves to be in God's and one another's presence. This kind of gathering reminds us that worship is not just about a relationship between God and me. It is also not just a human gathering. This gathering is the threshold, preparing us for the word and meal that await us. In our individualized culture, such a gathering reminds us that our meeting is unlike others we may have attended during the week; now the Holy Spirit has gathered us as a community. We are being formed as the church; the church on this day, in this place.

The Sunday Assembly: Using Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Volume 1. © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

We confess our sin and receive God's word of forgiveness, giving thanks that, even when we are dead in our trespasses, God makes us alive together with Christ (Ephesians 2.5). Together we are brought into the presence of God with an honest recognition of the reality of human sin and brokenness and our own sin and brokenness. Together we hear God's promise and declaration of forgiveness.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

We take a moment for silent reflection: on our sins and the ways we have been drawn away from God, and on God's great forgiveness that holds us always.

Creator God, forgive us for choosing our own path, away from you.

O Come Emmanuel, free us from our sins.

We have neglected the poor and needy.

O Come Emmanuel, free us from our sins.

We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

O Come Emmanuel, free us from our sins.

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight his paths! Every valley shall be lifted up. Every mountain and hill made low. All that is crooked will be made straight and the rough places plain. In the waters of baptism Christ forgives your sins. Repent and believe the gospel!

Amen.

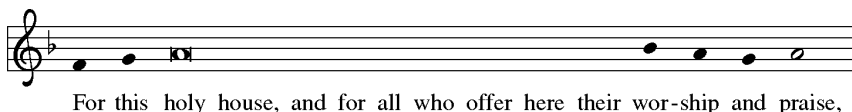
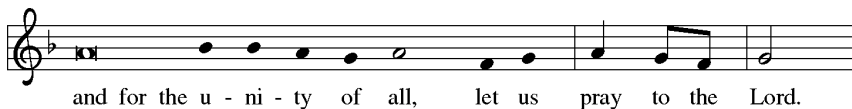
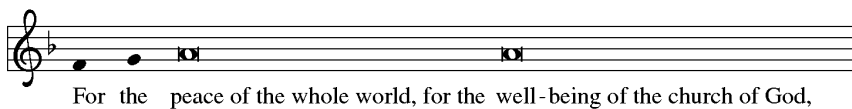
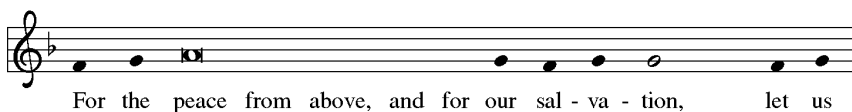
GREETING

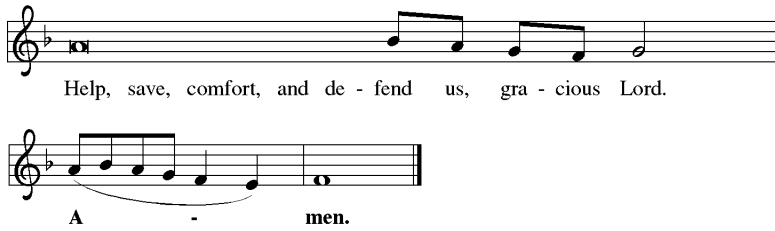
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE, ELW Setting 2

In worship, we are God's people, gathered around Word and sacrament. During the gathering, music plays an important role in giving us a common identity. The Kyrie, an early Greek Christian hymn to Christ, is our prayer of peace for God's mercy to fill the church and the world. "Kyrie eleison" is a Greek phrase that means, "Lord, have mercy."





LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. The evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath, just as we do today as a family of faith.

November 30, First Sunday in Advent: Hope

Reader: When I look around, I see shadows of hunger. Neighbors, nearby and around the world, will go to bed hungry tonight.

Reader: When I look around, I see shadows of injustice, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, and someone somewhere will fall asleep under a bridge tonight.

Reader: In the face of hunger,
Congregation: we light a candle of hope.

Reader: In the face of injustice, in the face of despair,
Congregation: we light a candle of hope.

The first candle is lit.

Reader: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

Reader: May the light from this candle say to all — God's hope is coming, on earth as it is in heaven.

Reader: Friends, be not afraid, God's hope is at hand!

December 7, Second Sunday in Advent: Peace

Reader: Because of war, because of violence in our communities, because there is still so much unrest in our hearts,

Congregation: we light a candle of peace.

Reader: Because hatred is still so strong, because so many swords have not yet been remade into plowshares,

Congregation: we light a candle of peace.

The second candle is lit.

Reader: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

Reader: May the light from this candle say to all — God's peace is coming, on earth as it is in

heaven.

Reader: Friends, be not afraid, God's peace is at hand!

December 14, Third Sunday in Advent: Joy

Reader: When I look around, I see shadows of sadness, families who have lost loved ones, people in prison, people who are isolated and feel on their own.

Reader: When I look around, I see shadows of grief, people dreading the holidays because of painful memories, or because they don't want to spend another Christmas alone.

Reader: In the face of sadness,
Congregation: we light a candle of joy.

Reader: In the face of grief, in the face of loss,
Congregation: we light a candle of joy.

The third candle is lit.

Reader: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

Reader: May the light from this candle say to all — God's joy is coming, on earth as it is in heaven.

Reader: Friends, be not afraid, God's joy is at hand!

December 21, Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love

Reader: Because too many people are wandering in the wilderness, because too many people are sitting in the valley of the shadow of death, because too many of our conversations are laced with conflict and bitterness,

Congregation: we light candles.

Reader: Because people all over the world are suffering, and we're often too distracted to notice,

Congregation: we light candles.

Reader: One for hope, one for peace, one for joy, and one for love...

The fourth candle is lit.

Reader: May the light from these candles overwhelm the world.

Reader: May the light from these candles illuminate the valley of the shadow of death.

Reader: And may the fire from these candles burn away whatever would prevent God's love from being born among us.

Reader: Friends, be not afraid, even now — even now — God's love is overwhelming the world, on earth as it already is in heaven!

ADVENT HYMN, ELW #247 *Come Now, O Prince of Peace / Ososŏ, ososŏ*

We will add one verse each week, singing verse 1 on Advent 1, verse 1&2 on Advent 2, and so on.

This Korean hymn was written for the opening worship service of the world conference for the peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, held in Incheon on April 25, 1988. It has gone far beyond the Korean context to be used around the world as a prayer for peace, love, freedom, and unification or unity.

O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ŭi - im - gŭm

1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.

2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.

3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.

4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.

Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.

Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.

Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
 Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
 Text and music © Geonyong Lee.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

November 30

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and give us faith to withstand anything that rages to deter us from following you. For you live and reign with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

December 7

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace. Breathe new life into us, that we might live passionately for you. For you live and reign with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

December 14

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. Strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way. For you live and reign with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

December 21

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always. For you live and reign with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Hearing the proclamation of the Word is central to our worship experience.

The Word is proclaimed throughout our worship, in our liturgy, prayers, sermon, hymns, and yes, scripture. You are invited to let go of the need to read along and simply listen, and let the Spirit lead your imagination and inspire your hearing.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

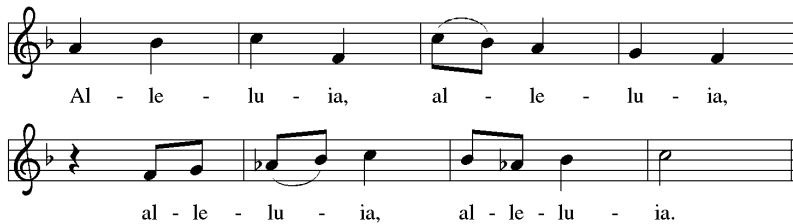
We're going to end with this refrain:

All: You are a dearly loved child of God!

Children: And so are you!

SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION, ELW Setting 2

We welcome the reading of scripture as if we were welcoming the very presence of God and Christ made known to us in the scriptures.



INTRODUCTION TO THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

READING OF SCRIPTURE *(readings are printed at the back)*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

November 30—*First Song of Isaiah (music at back of bulletin)*

December 7—ELW #239 *Hark, the Glad Sound*

December 14—*God, You Call Us To the Waters (words at back)*

December 21—ACS #973 *The Word Who Sang the Light into Creation / Palabra que fue luz el primer día*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, *From the perspective of an immigrant*

The creeds are a response to and a proclamation of the word. In our liturgy, sometimes we will use the creeds within church doctrine, and sometimes we use affirmations of faith, like this one, that use modern language to articulate our beliefs. Sometimes new words open up new pathways for naming and claiming what we believe. This affirmation is typically called The Immigrant's Creed and was written by Rev. Jose Luis Casal, the director of Presbyterian World Mission. He is an immigrant to the USA from Cuba.

**I believe in Almighty God,
who guided the people in exile and in exodus,
the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon,
the God of foreigners and immigrants.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean,
who was born away from his people and his home,
who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger.
When he returned to his own country
he suffered under the oppression of Pontius Pilate,
the servant of a foreign power.
Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured, and unjustly condemned to death.
But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead,
not as a scorned foreigner but to offer us citizenship in God's kingdom.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us,
who speaks all languages, lives in all countries,
and reunites all races.**

**I believe that the Church is the secure home
for foreigners and for all believers.**

**I believe that the communion of saints begins
when we embrace all God's people in all their diversity.**

**I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal before God,
and in reconciliation, which heals our brokenness.
I believe that in the Resurrection God will unite us as one people
in which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time.
I believe in life eternal, in which no one will be foreigner
but all will be citizens of the kingdom
where God reigns forever and ever.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

If the reading followed by preaching are together meant to bring us again to trust in God, to bring us again to faith, then one of the first ways we are invited to exercise that faith is by praying for the needs of all the world.

Asst. Min.: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Reader: God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission and deepen our relationships with people of all faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

O God, we pray for the church. We pray for our siblings in Christ in the Ulanga-Kilombero Diocese of Tanzania, Bishop Meggan Manlove, and Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry. We pray for Pastor Kirsten and our newly ordained deacon, Deacon Karleigh. Teach all of your people your ways, that we might walk in your paths. Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love through the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Give us courage to speak up where we see abuse of your creation and show us how we might be good stewards of all you've placed in our care. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. We pray for our nation, the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all in job changes, those who move to new locations, those returning home, and those who welcome or who have lost family members. Be with those in grief and despair. Sustain all who are ill or suffering. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another, especially for those who have no shelter, and struggle for nourishment of body, mind, and spirit. Show us how we can demonstrate your presence to all who suffer. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Asst. Min.: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The peace we share is a sign of God's mission of reconciliation among us and the reconciliation we have with one another in Christ Jesus. We greet one another, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. We all have different comfort levels for this. In this cold and flu season, you might choose to use hand signals, a wave, a bow, a smile, or a fist bump.

SPECIAL MUSIC

December 14—*The Holy Child will Come*, Festival Choir & Grace Notes Chime Choir

Piano accompaniment by Brian Swearingen. Flute accompaniment by Sarah Roley.

Choral setting by Patrick M. Liebergen. Hope Publ. 2006.

December 21—*The First Noel*, Men of Life Choir

Piano accompaniment by Brian Swearingen. Arrangement by Dan Forrest. Beckenhorst Publ. 2011.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL



OFFERING

A collection of material goods for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, is a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. We offer to God what God has first given us: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Your financial gifts may be placed in the offering box at the baptismal font, made electronically through our website (www.thelordoflife.org) or by using the QR code, sent in the mail, using direct deposit with your bank, or RMD / QCD / or stock gift (in consultation with your financial advisor). Please contact the Financial Secretary with questions.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed. Blessed be God who is our bread. May all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING, ELW Setting 2

Musical notation for the Great Thanksgiving, ELW Setting 2. It consists of four staves of music in G major, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes.

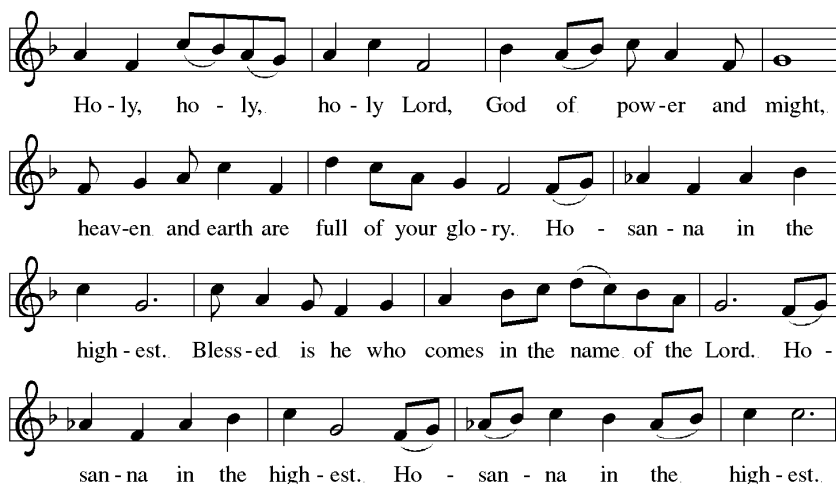
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

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 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 your promise to your people.
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
 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...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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.

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. **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.

Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Please use the version or language of your choice.

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

**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 are welcome at the Lord’s table, as we receive the presence of Christ for us in bread and wine. This meal is for all regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, criminal record, or list of offenses.

The elements can be brought to your seat if that is easier. Simply let the ushers know.

TABLE PRAYER

This common Lutheran table prayer has unknown origins. It can be traced back at least to 1698 in Leipzig, Germany.

1

2

Oh, come, Lord

Oh, come, Lord

Oh, come, Lord

Oh, come, Lord

Je - sus,

Je - sus,

Je - sus,

Je - sus,

be our guest, and

be our guest, and

be our guest, and

be our guest, and

let your gifts to us be blest.

let your gifts to us be blest.

let your gifts to us be blest.

let your gifts to us be blest.

Keep us for - ev - er

Oh, may there be a

Guide us a - long the

Come deep with - in our

in your sight, and be our joy, our hearts’ de - light.

good - ly share on ev - ’ry ta - ble ev - ’ry-where.

ser - vant’s way, and lead us to your dawn - ing day.

hearts to dwell, that we may all your good - ness tell.

**may be sung in canon*

Text: traditional table prayer, adapt. Susan Briehl
Music: TALLIS’ CANON, Thomas Tallis

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COMMUNION HYMN

November 30—ELW #254 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

December 7—ACS #941 *Breathe On Us, Breath of God;*

ELW #257 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

December 14—ACS #973 *The Word Who Sang the Light into Creation / Palabra que fue luz el primer día*

December 21—ACS #914 *Jesus, the Light of the World*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, **in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

SENDING

Like the Gathering, the Sending is a forming of the assembly. This time, however, the forming is for the assembly's life in the world as this local expression of the body of Christ disperses. Sending is a time for again recalling our baptism; this time for taking our baptismal calling with us into our daily vocation. It is a time for sending and being sent; a time to thank

God for the gifts of this assembly and prepare to extend them into the community.

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BLESSING

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

November 30—ACS #902 *Come Now, O God*

December 7—ACS #905 *We Are Waiting for Jesus*

December 14—ELW #726 *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

December 21—ELW #253 *He Came Down*

DISMISSAL

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE


MUSIC

November 30—First Song of Isaiah


ISAIAH 12: 2-6*

JACK NOBLE WHITE

Slow



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a - fraid. For the



Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

VERSE

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say,
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

REFRAIN

VERSE

Make his deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,
and this is known in all the world.

REFRAIN

VERSE

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion,
ring out your joy,
For the great one in the midst of you
is the Holy One of Israel.

REFRAIN (sung twice)

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December 14—God, You Call Us to the Waters

Tune: ELW #276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

God, you call us to the waters
Where your gracious blessings flow,
Yet we ask: "What should we offer?"
"What's the cost?" We want to know.
What we long for — can we earn it?
Can we buy it? Can we learn it?
What's the cost? We want to know.

We confess your invitation
Sounds too wondrous to be true.
Milk and wine and your salvation,
Living water — gifts from you!
May your waters and your table
Now remind us you are able
To give life, and life anew.

When we search for things to feed us
That will never satisfy,
Lord we pray that you will lead us
To the waters you provide.
Help us turn to seek your waters,
As repenting sons and daughters;
Lead us to abundant life.

May your church here be a witness
To your generosity.
May we share your life and wholeness —
Gifts of grace, for all and free.
May the poor find here your kingdom;
May the seekers find a welcome;
May the hungry come and eat.

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READINGS

November 30 —First Sunday of Advent—Daniel 3:1, [2-7] 8-30

¹ King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ² Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³ So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, ⁴ the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵ that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶ Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.” ⁷ Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸ Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! ¹⁰ You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, ¹¹ and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. ¹² There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods, and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in, so they brought those men before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? ¹⁵ Now if you are ready, when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you should fall down and worship the statue that I have made. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?”

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. ¹⁷ If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary ²⁰ and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. ²¹ So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. ²² Because the king’s command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³ But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, “Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?” They answered the king, “True, O king.” ²⁵ He replied, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt, and the fourth has the appearance of a god.” ²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not scorched, and not even the smell of fire came from them. ²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king’s command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.” ³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

December 7—Second Sunday of Advent—Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹ The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

December 14—Third Sunday of Advent—Isaiah 55:1-13

¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts;
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

December 21—Fourth Sunday of Advent—John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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Advent 2025 Word Search

N A E C I H F B O N E S N D T
 A O O L E H R W I W E N I S I
 G A F H C A R D A H S U A S S
 G S U T N D A C P T A E S P U
 N E R J O H N R D T E T P I I
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ADVENT	DANIEL	SHADRACH	MESHACH
ABEDNEGO	KING	NEBUCHADNEZZAR	FIERY
FURNACE	COURAGE	GOD	WORSHIP
EZEKIEL	BONES	SINEW	MORTAL
PROPHECY	BREATH	SPIRIT	ISAIAH
WATER	THIRST	FEAST	JOHN
INCARNATION	WORD	LIFE	LIGHT

Lord of Life Lutheran Church Mission Statement

As Lutheran Christians, Lord of Life invites all people, wherever they are on their spiritual journey, to worship God, serve others, and build community, in order to transform individuals, the Tri-Cities, and the world.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church Values

The spirit by which we go about living our mission and doing ministry.

ACCEPTANCE

We welcome all without exception, as modeled by Jesus.

GENEROSITY

We share our time, abilities, and resources in serving all God's people.

SERVICE

We meet the needs of others without recognition or expectation.

GROW in FAITH

We recognize that faith is a journey with intellectual and spiritual challenges along the way.

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

640 N Columbia Center Blvd

Kennewick, WA 99336

(509) 783-5222

www.thelordoflife.org

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Our Worship Services

Worship with us in-person or online on Sunday at 10 a.m.

We celebrate Communion every Sunday.

~ Advent Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. (Dec 3, 10, 17) ~

Worship with us online:

Find Us on YouTube at: **Lord of Life Lutheran Church - Kennewick, WA**

The link is posted to our Facebook Page—**www.facebook.com/LordofLifeKennewick**

More information can be found in our weekly email or on Facebook.

To sign up for the weekly emails or prayer chain, contact Ana in the office.

Christmas Eve Services

3:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

Both with beautiful Christmas music, candlelight, and Communion

Staff

Kirsten Sauey Hofmann, **Pastor** pastor@thelordoflife.org

Karleigh Crepin, **Deacon** deacon@thelordoflife.org

Ana Arias, **Office Administrator** office@thelordoflife.org

Abby Hays, **Preschool Director** youngyears@thelordoflife.org

Brian Swearingen, **Musician** (509) 554-9745

David Baldwin, **Choir Director** dlbaldwinbiker@gmail.com

Office Hours for Ana: M-F, 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

Office Hours for Pr. Kirsten: M-Th, 9 a.m.—3 p.m. (Off on Fridays)

Office Hours for Dcn. Karleigh: *(yet to be determined, likely Off on Mondays)*

We want to be available to you. Making appointments is helpful.

Prayer requests should be sent to LordofLifePrays640@gmail.com.