

# *Divine Service*

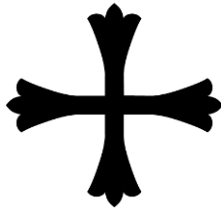
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE ASCENSION

DECEMBER 30, 2018 ✝ SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.





*Welcome! Please fill out the Record of Fellowship, which is the red book at the end of your pew.*

## PRELUDE

*Minuet in C*

J. S. Bach

Zac Lavender, cello

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Please stand and face the processional cross.*

***Lutheran Service Book 519***

***“In His Temple Now Behold Him”***

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

*[Hebrews 10:22]*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

*Psalms 124:8*

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Psalms 32:5*

*Kneeling or sitting forward*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*[John 20:19-23]*

**C** **Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47

*Lutheran Service Book 942*

**"Kyrie! God, Father"**

Ky-ri - e! God, Fa-ther in heav'n a-bove, You a-bound in gra-cious love,  
Of all things the mak-er and pre-serv - er. E - le - i-son! E-le-i-son!  
Ky-ri - e! O Christ, our king, Sal-va - tion for all You came to bring,  
O Lord Je-sus, God's own Son, Our me-di - a-tor at the heav'n-ly throne:  
Hear our cry and grant our sup-pli - ca - tion. E - le - i-son! E-le-i-son!  
Ky - ri - e! O God the Ho - ly Ghost, Guard our faith, the  
gift we need the most, And bless our life's last hour, That we leave this  
sin-ful world with glad - ness. E - le - i-son! E - le - i - son!

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# GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ~ *Glory to God in the Highest*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Lutheran Service Book 948

**"All Glory Be to God Alone"**



1 All glo - ry be to God a - lone, For - ev - er - more the  
2 We praise You, God; Your name we bless And wor - ship You in  
3 Lord God, our King on heav - en's throne, Our Fa - ther, the Al -  
4 You take the whole world's sin a - way; Have mer - cy on us,



high - est one, Who did our sin - ful race be - friend And  
hum - ble - ness; From day to day we glo - ri - fy The  
might - y One. O Lord, the sole - be - got - ten One, Lord  
Lord, we pray. You take the whole world's sin a - way; O



grace and peace to us ex - tend. A - mong us may His  
ev - er - last - ing God on high. Of Your great glo - ry  
Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's Son, True God from all e -  
Lord, re - ceive our prayer this day. From God's right hand Your



gra - cious will All hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.  
do we sing, And to Your throne our thanks we bring.  
ter - ni - ty, O Lamb of God, to You we flee.  
mer - cy send, To all the world Your grace ex - tend.

- 5**     **You only are the Holy One**  
         **And over all are Lord alone.**  
         **O Jesus Christ, we glorify**  
         **You and the Spirit, Lord Most High;**  
         **With Him You evermore shall be**  
         **One in the Father's majesty.**

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## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22

**P**     The Lord be with you.

**C**     **And with your spirit.**

**P**     Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C**     **Amen.**

*Sitting*

**A** The Old Testament Reading for the First Sunday after Christmas is from 2 Samuel, chapter seven.

<sup>1</sup> Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup> the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." <sup>3</sup> And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup> "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup> In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' <sup>8</sup> Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from

before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup> from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>12</sup> When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, <sup>15</sup> but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Refrain***Cantor introduces first time, then congregation sings second time:*

- L** For the pillars of the earth | are the LORD's,\*  
and on them He has | set the world.  
He will guard the feet of His faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in | darkness,\*  
for not by might shall a | man prevail.
- C** The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to | pieces;\*  
against them He will thunder in | heaven.  
The LORD will judge the ends | of the earth;\*  
He will give strength to His king and exalt the power of His a- | noointed.
- C** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- C** *Refrain*

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**A** The Epistle is from Galatians, chapter four.

<sup>1</sup>I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, <sup>2</sup>but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. <sup>3</sup>In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his

Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Standing*

## ALLELUIA

*Lutheran Service Book 952*

*"Alleluia – II"*



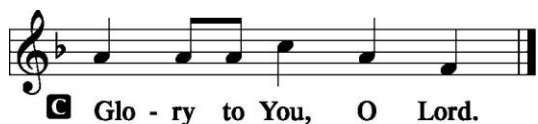
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**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



**P** <sup>22</sup> And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord<sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord")<sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.<sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.<sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law,<sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen  
your salvation  
<sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in  
the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



<sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.<sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed<sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin,<sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.<sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.<sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

*Sitting*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Lutheran Service Book 530*

**“No Temple Now, No Gift of Price”**

## SERMON

*Standing*

## CREED

*Lutheran Service Book 953*

**“We All Believe in One True God”**



1 We all be-lieve in one true God, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,  
2 We all be-lieve in Je - sus Christ, Son of God and Mar - y's son,  
3 We all con-fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who from both in truth pro-ceeds,



Ev - er - pres - ent help in need, Praised by all the heav'n - ly host;  
Who de - scend - ed from His throne And for us sal - va - tion won;  
Who sus - tains and com-forts us In all tri - als, fears, and needs.



All He made His love en-folds, All cre - a - tion He up-holds.  
By whose cross and death are we Res - cued from all mis - er - y.  
Bless-ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty, Praise for - ev - er be to Thee!

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## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*[1 Timothy 2:1-4]*

- P** Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.
- P** God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [name(s)] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

*Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3*

*Following the prayers, please greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation in preparation for worthy reception of the Holy Supper.*

*Sitting*

## OFFERING

### MUSIC

*Ave Maria*

Franz Schubert

Zac Lavender, cello

### MEDITATION

*Luke 2:38 – "And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem." Notice here how giving thanks to God leads to good works (speaking about Jesus, in this case). Thankfulness toward God for all He has done for us is the foundation of a Christian life lived in godliness. For if we know all that the Lord has done for us, how can we not strive to honor Him with what we think, say, and do?*

## OFFERTORY

*Psalm 51:10-12*

*Lutheran Service Book 956*

**"Create in Me"**



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va-tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with your spirit.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

*[Colossians 3:1]*

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

*[Psalm 136]*

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

**P** In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words,  
we receive His testament:

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



*Lutheran Service Book 960*

**"Isaiah, Mighty Seer in Days of Old"**

I - sa - iah, might-y seer in days of old, The Lord of all in spir - it  
 did be-hold High on a loft-y throne, in splen-dor bright, With robes that  
 filled the tem-ple courts with light. A-bove the throne were flam-ing ser-a-phim;  
 Six wings had they, these mes-sen-gers of Him. With two they veiled their  
 fac-es as was right, With two they hum-bly hid their feet from sight,  
 And with the oth - er two a - loft they soared; One to the oth - er  
 called and praised the Lord: "Ho - ly is God, the Lord of Sab - a-oth!  
 Ho - ly is God, the Lord of Sab - a-oth! Ho - ly is God, the Lord of  
 Sab-a-oth! His glo-ry fills the heav-ens and the earth!" The beams and lin-tels  
 trem-bled at the cry, And clouds of smoke en-wrapped the throne on high.

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PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

- P** The ☩ peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Sitting*

*About participation in the Lord's Supper:*

*The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.*

*Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. [Those coming to the altar for a blessing rather than Holy Communion are asked to cross their arms over their chest.]*

*For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.*

*(Above is the "Model Communion Card Statement" from Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper, a 1983 report by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.)*

## MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

***Lutheran Service Book 634***

***"The Death of Jesus Christ Our Lord"***

## NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32

Lutheran Service Book 938

"In Peace and Joy I Now Depart"



1 In peace and joy I now de-part Since God so wills it.  
2 Christ Je - sus brought this gift to me, My faith - ful Sav - ior,  
3 You sent the peo - ple of the earth Their great sal - va - tion;  
4 Christ is the hope and sav - ing light Of those in blind - ness;



Se - rene and con - fi - dent my heart; Still - ness fills it.  
Whom You have made my eyes to see By Your fa - vor.  
Your in - vi - ta - tion sum - mons forth Ev - 'ry na - tion  
He guides and com - forts those in night By His kind - ness.



For the Lord has prom - ised me That death is but a slum - ber.  
Now I know He is my life, My friend when I am dy - ing.  
By Your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, In ev - 'ry place re - sound - ing.  
For Your peo - ple Is - ra - el In Him find joy and glo - ry.

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## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P** Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

[Psalm 103:1]

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

Numbers 6:24-26

**C** Amen.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Please remain standing and face the processional cross.*

***Lutheran Service Book 410***

***“Within the Father’s House”***

## POSTLUDE

*Courante from Cello Suite No. 1 in G*

J. S. Bach

Zac Lavender, cello

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## SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

### **Presiding Minister**

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

### **Lay Assistant(s)**

J.P. Morr, *Head Elder*

Penny Duren, *Acolyte*

### **Organist**

Zac Lavender, *Guest Organist*

### **Musician(s)**

Laura Negus, *Cantor*

### **Altar Guild**

Judy Russell/Jill Drachenberg

### **Usher(s)**

Brian Beckman/Martin Kunkel

### **Greeter(s)**

Tom & Judy Russell

### **Fellowship Host(s)**

Greg & Judy Ison

## SERVING NEXT WEEK

### **Presiding Minister**

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

### **Lay Assistant(s)**

Sam Negus, *Elder*

Edie Durden, *Acolyte*

### **Organist**

Debbie Dickensheets, *Director of Music*

### **Musician(s)**

Jessica Luhrs, *soprano*

Laura Negus, *soprano*

Ginnie Little, *alto*

Adrian Popescu, *tenor*

Evan LaVan, *bass*

### **Altar Guild**

Sarah Cadagin/Jean Meyers

### **Usher(s)**

Greg Ison/Justin Ledford

### **Greeter(s)**

Tom Lawton & Linda Rathje

### **Fellowship Host(s)**

The Schoellen family



CALENDAR		
Sunday 12/30	<b>First Sunday after Christmas</b> Nursery available LCA Ensemble Rehearsal Divine Service with Holy Communion Fellowship Hour	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM Following worship
Monday 12/31	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Tuesday 1/1	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Wednesday 1/2	Open Arms LCDC Church Office Open Arms LCDC Chapel	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 10:00 AM
Thursday 1/3	Open Arms LCDC Church Office North Atlanta Circuit Pastors Conference	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Friday 1/4	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 1/5	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 1/6	<b>The Epiphany of Our Lord</b> Nursery available LCA Ensemble Rehearsal Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist</i> Divine Service with Holy Communion Fellowship Hour	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM Following worship

## GROWING IN HIS WORD

### ✝ Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist

**Theme:** The arrival of Christ at Christmas and our hopeful expectation of His Second Coming on the Last Day reminds us that not only has He come to us in the past and will come again in the future, but that He is here with us presently in the Sacrament. This new fascinating and provocative DVD-based study on the Lord's Supper (or Eucharist) will give all participants a greater appreciation for the miracle that happens every Sunday and its meaning for our everyday lives.

*From the producer: Although the Eucharist appears to be simple bread and wine, it is actually the "source and summit" of the Christian life. Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist explores the truth and beauty of Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture, to its profound role in the life of the Church and its members. It is the crescendo of the entire story of salvation.*

**Day & Time:** Sundays, beginning January 6 at 9:00 A.M.  
Tuesdays, beginning January 15 at 10:45 A.M.

**Location:** Sundays in church fellowship hall  
Tuesdays in church overflow room

### ✝ Library Update: Kindles

**Theme:** The church Library Committee is developing a list of free Kindle books, including several Bible versions, that you can have on you, always accessible, if you download the free Kindle app on your iPhone or iPad devices. There is also one Kindle available for loan, and possibly another in the works. Please contact Judy Russell at [judith.f.russell@gmail.com](mailto:judith.f.russell@gmail.com) for more information.

## SERVING IN HIS NAME

### ✝ Congregational Voters Meeting

**Theme:** Calling all members! We've got a lot of exciting things in the works and we want you to play a part. Please plan to join us for an important meeting as we consider the 2019 church budget and elect congregational officers.

**Day & Time:** Sunday, January 13 immediately following the Divine Service

**Location:** Church sanctuary

### ✝ 1-1-1 Mission Campaign

Theme: For less than the price of one visit to Starbuck's, you could contribute a month's worth of financial support toward our Lord's mission work in the English District. 1-1-1 is a new campaign to raise \$1/per person/per week. That means that by giving \$4 each month, just \$52 a year, everyone in the district can give toward the work of getting the Gospel out to those in our community. Just think what could happen if every person in the English District did this! Right now, the English District is supporting Concordia Lutheran Mission in Myerstown, PA. But this money goes toward eight other startup congregations, including two Spanish-speaking churches and several college ministries. Please consider playing a part in the mission of our English District! Dollars may be contributed in the designated 1-1-1 Mission box located in the narthex.

### ✝ Support for LCA Music Program

Theme: Have you enjoyed the music at Lutheran Church of the Ascension? We are so grateful for our Music Director, Debbie, as well as the gifts of our talented musicians. Please consider supporting them and ensuring the quality music here for time to come by making a special donation to the music program. You may make your gift out to the general music fund, or give in memory of Irma Collins, Mary Ann Nuckols, Tamara Albrecht, or Dan Buehl, all of whose memorial monies are set aside for special music. On behalf of our musicians and our congregation, thank you for your continued support!

## FELLOWSHIPPING WITH THE SAINTS

### ✝ Congregational Luncheon

Theme: Join your brothers and sisters in Christ after church every fourth Sunday of the month for a family meal! Last names that begin with A-L are invited to bring a hot dish to share (usually crock pot or steam tray is best), and last names M-Z are welcome to bring a cold dish. Plates, napkins, cutlery, and beverages will be provided. Bring your appetite!

Day & Time: Sunday, January 27 following Divine Service

Location: Church fellowship hall

# LIFTING UP ONE ANOTHER IN PRAYER

## In Celebration

### **Birthdays**

- ✝ Clara Smith, 1/3

### **Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries)**

- ✝ Tom Russell, 1/1
- ✝ Jason Schoellen, 1/1
- ✝ Shirley Scrugham, 1/1

### **Wedding Anniversaries**

- ✝ Sam and Laura Negus, 12/31

### **Membership Anniversaries**

- ✝ Jean Meyers, 12/31
- ✝ Matthias Rappe, 12/31
- ✝ Kati Durden, 1/1

## In Need

### **Recent Requests**

- ✝ Janet Evans (stepmother of Kati Durden), for health and healing.
- ✝ Mary Grace Evans (mother of Kati Durden), for health and healing.
- ✝ Justo Gonzalez (friend of the Garcias), for health and healing.
- ✝ Harry Ison (father of Greg Ison) for health and healing.
- ✝ Willard and Wilma Meyer (grandparents of J.P. Morr), for health and hope.
- ✝ Donald Smith (friend of Nancy Grossberg), for health and healing.
- ✝ Persecuted Christians in the Central African Republic (CAR), where church-run refugee camps have been attacked by a Muslim militia.

### **Ongoing Requests**

- ✝ Jack and Carolyn DeLong, for health and healing.
- ✝ Hannibal (Hank) Durden, for growth and development.
- ✝ Heidi Schnakenberg (niece of Clara Smith), for health and safety.
- ✝ Barb Schoellen (mother of Jason Schoellen), for health and healing.
- ✝ Yvonne Wolfe (friend of the Millers), for health and healing.
- ✝ Rhonda Zacharias (friend of the Millers), for health and healing.
- ✝ Rev. Dr. Jonathan & Dcs. Cheryl Naumann, missionaries to the Dominican Republic, & all synodically deployed missionaries.
- ✝ Lutheran Church of the Ascension & Pastor David Miller
- ✝ Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Ctr & Director, Barbara Collins
- ✝ LCMS President Matthew Harrison & all synodical officials
- ✝ English District Bishop Jamison Hardy & all district officials





THE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH OF THE  
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RESTROOMS

Restrooms are located to the right of the church entrance, down the hallway. Please see an usher if you need assistance.

NURSERY

Children are always welcome and encouraged to be in worship! For those who need it, however, we have a staffed nursery located down the hallway in the preschool. It is intended for children from birth to age 5. Hours of operation are 8:30 – 11:30 A.M.

BABY CHANGING STATION

For your convenience, a baby changing station is located in both the men's and women's restrooms on this level, just down the hall. For further privacy, a mother-infant station, which includes a rocking chair and changing table, is available in the enclosed lounge of the women's restroom downstairs.

BUSY BAGS

Each Sunday your child may pick up a "busy bag" from the stand in the Narthex. Each busy bag has different books and activities for your child to keep them busy during the Divine Service when they are unable to focus. Please return the pouch and its contents to the stand in the Narthex at the end of the service. This way the pouches will be clean and ready for the next Sunday's service.

PRINT RESOURCES

Resources for personal devotions as well as understanding Lutheran faith and worship, are available to anyone gratis in the narthex by the bulletins:

- *Portals of Prayer*: Quarterly devotional resource for private prayer.
- *A Simple Explanation of the Christian Faith*: Luther's Small Catechism in convenient booklet form.
- *A Simple Explanation of the Church Service*: Easy to understand guide to Sunday's liturgy in the Divine Service.
- *What About . . . Fellowship in the Lord's Supper*: An explanation of one of the Lutheran church's most misunderstood doctrines. Learn more about the biblical, historic, and loving practice of closed Communion.