



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
(The Lutheran Church —Missouri Synod)
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Pastor Edward H. Schmidt

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 22, 2024

WELCOME TO ST. LUKE'S!

We are so happy to have you with us this morning as the season of Advent progresses and we continue to prepare the way of the Lord! As we do so, we pray that God uplifts your heart and soul and mind and fills you with his peace at the hearing of His mighty Word! May He richly bless you today! Please sign our guest register in the hallway if you are visiting and please join us again! Blessings of joy to all!

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT December 22, 2024

TODAY'S SERVICE: The season of Advent is quickly coming to an end. Today is the last Sunday in this season. We have heard the Scriptures and prepared the way of the Lord and now see where he will be born—in Bethlehem. We also observe in today's Gospel reading how the infant John leaped in the presence of Jesus when their mothers met. In our Epistle reading we hear, as well, why Jesus has come—to be the perfect offering to God for sinful man. What a great day to be in church!

THE ORDER OF SERVICE: Divine Service III, LSB Pg. 184
(Burgundy Hymnal)

HYMNS: #338, #349, #333, #352

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

The Old Test: Micah 5:2-5a Micah predicts the place of the birth of Christ!

The Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10 Jesus comes to be the perfect offering.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 Mary visits her cousin whose baby leaps for joy!

SERMON TITLE: "A Blessed Visit" Luke 1:39-45

TODAY'S PRAYERS: We remember Mark Rundquist who has been diagnosed with cancer; Sara Fowler who is experiencing effects associated with her brain injury 2 years ago; Hugh Baker, who is at Bonaventure of Thornton, 12281 Washington Center Parkway, Thornton; Becky Rundquist, who is receiving medical care for her leg; Art Arendall (former member) who underwent triple by-pass surgery; Robert Fields, Pastor's son-in-law's father who is extremely ill; Richard Bell, Gerry and Sheryl Griesinger, friends of Cheryl Medford, who are ill; Debbie Youland, mother of a close friend, who is undergoing cancer treatment and Rudolph Walter, brother of Betty Skaffen, battling cancer. Please remember these requests in your prayers this week. Thank you!

ST. LUKE'S NEWS

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: We've arrived at the "reason for the season!" It's Jesus, who comes to fulfill the Scriptures and bring salvation! As we celebrate this wonderful gift from heaven we invite everyone to join us for our Christmas services! Christmas Eve candle-light service will take place this Tuesday, December 24th at 7:00 PM. Christmas Day service will take place Wednesday morning, December 25th at 9:00 AM. Please invite a friend and join us as we will celebrate the gift of a Savior!

NEW ADDRESS: The new address for Jon and Jean Meyer is as follows: 2121 Hyview Drive, Casper, WY 82604

ALTAR FLOWERS: If you would like to sign up for the donation of altar flowers for 2025, the calendar is in the hall and the envelopes are on the entry-way table. The cost of altar flowers is \$20.00.

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS sign-up sheet is on the entry-way table. The price is \$20.65 for the whole year beginning with the March 2025 edition. Please sign up for your subscription by the end of the year. Your check can be made out to St. Luke's Lutheran Church with the memo line "Lutheran Witness" and placed in the offering plate any time before the end of the year.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2025 are now available. Please sign up for them on the sheet on the back table. The box of envelopes will be placed in your mailbox before the first Sunday in January.

OUR CHARITY DONATIONS for December go to the Christian Action Guild of Golden. Today is the designated collection day for the Christian Action Guild of Golden. The following items are needed and will be accepted for their pantry; canned soups (other than Tomato), tomato sauce, canned beans, canned tomatoes, crackers, canned tuna, cereal, and peanut butter and jelly.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS: Large print Bulletins with insert are available each Sunday. If you are having difficulty in reading the Bulletin and insert, please check with an usher for the large print version.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday	Pastor's Family Day	
Tuesday	Christmas Eve	7:00 PM
	Candle-Light Service	
Wednesday	Christmas Day Service	9:00 AM

DIVINE SERVICE III—LSB (page 184)

<u>HYMN</u>	# 338
<u>CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION</u>	p.184
<u>INTROIT</u>	1 Sam.2:1b,2 5b-7
<u>KYRIE</u>	p. 186
<u>SALUTATION</u>	p. 189
<u>COLLECT FOR THE DAY</u>	p. 189
<u>OLD TESTAMENT: Micah 5:2-5a</u>	
<u>THE EPISTLE: Hebrews 10:5-10</u>	
<u>THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45</u>	
<u>CREED</u>	p. 191
<u>HYMN</u>	# 349
<u>SERMON: "A Blessed Visit"</u>	
<u>OFFERTORY</u>	
<u>PRAYERS</u>	
<u>HOLY COMMUNION</u>	
<u>HYMN</u>	# 333
<u>NUNC DIMMITIS</u>	p. 199
<u>BENEDICTION</u>	p. 202
<u>HYMN</u>	# 352

THOSE SERVING:

Elder: Kreg Renzelman

Organist: Rebecca Beshore

Altar Guild: Peggy Jacobs, Sunshine Frahm, Lori Schwindt

Altar Flowers: Sunshine Frahm

Last Sunday's Offering: \$6,551.00

Attendance: 45

Bible Study: 18

Wednesday Advent Service: 14

Thursday Bible Study: 15

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God by Rachael Zelif in thankfulness for blessings received throughout the year.

HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated in our worship service this morning. Because the Bible calls us to have the same understanding of the Christian faith (1 Cor. 10:1-22), to believe that Jesus' body and blood are truly present (Mt. 26:26-28, 1 Cor. 10:16, 11:27), and to properly prepare (1 Cor. 11:27-32), we invite forward at this time those who are confirmed members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. If you are not yet a member and would like to receive communion, we invite you to speak with the pastor about instruction and membership. We openly and joyfully would like to have you as a member and extend this invitation to you!

IN THE WORD

TODAY'S BIBLE STUDY: Most Christians, when reading the Holy Bible gravitate to the most "famous" books of the Bible like Genesis, Matthew, and John. Few, however, know much about the less famous books. Join us in Bible Study this morning for our series, "The Five Shortest Books of the Bible." Today's book is the third shortest in the Bible. Come along and find out what it is! Fellowship Hall, 10:30 AM

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY is postponed until next Thursday, January 2nd.

THE VERSE OF THE DAY: "But you, O Bethlehem, Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from You shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient days." Micah 5:2

TODAY'S THEOLOGY QUESTION: Micah tells us that Jesus will be born in "Bethlehem-Ephrathah." While most Christians have heard that the name "Bethlehem" means "House of Bread," what does "Ephrathah" mean?

- A. "Fruitful"
- B. "Outcast"
- C. "In the Shadows"
- D. "Faithful"
- E. "Up-town!"