



# CHURCH AND SCHOOL

1417 Parkview Drive PO Box 44 Kewaskum, Wisconsin www.stlucaswels.org

# **Third Sunday in Advent**

December 14<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

#### The Season

Advent is Latin for "coming." In the season of Advent, Christians observe the connection between the first time the Son of God came into our world as the Savior and the second time he will come as the Judge. Advent prepares our minds and hearts, so that we might soon celebrate a real Christmas.

# The Sunday

Christ's coming results in great joy. But joy is not the same thing as happiness. It is infinitely better. Happiness is an emotion. Joy is a condition. Happiness comes from your circumstances. Joy comes from Christ assuring you of his abiding love and your glorious future. Therefore, happiness—"holiday cheer"—is fleeting. Joy is enduring.

## The Service

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar in which we joyfully receive Christ's body and blood, in, with, and under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we celebrate the Sacrament we also give public confession of our complete unity in the Christian faith. We invite communicant members of St. Lucas Lutheran Church, or of another congregation in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) to commune. If you are a guest visiting with us today, please refrain from communing until you have spoken with our pastor. The congregation reads the potions in bold print.

# **Prayer before Worship**

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you, loving Lord, for cleansing me of my sins and adopting me into your family through the miracle of Holy Baptism. As I worship today, help me remember what my baptism means to me. Lead me to feel genuine sorrow for my sins and empower me to put down the sinful nature that still lives in me. Lift me up as I hear your promise of forgiveness and give me strength to live a life pleasing to you.

# **Serving in Worship**

Presiding Minister: Seminarian Reagan Moore Organist: Coralee Henning

Preacher: Pastor Timothy Henning

Hymn CW 312



"Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; speak of peace," so 2 God will All their sins our par - don, blot - ting out each

Bap - tist's voice is the 3 Iohn the cry - ing in des - ert

Then make straight the crook - ed high - way; make the rough - er



says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing de-served his dark mis-deed; that well all an - ger he no peo - ple and near, call - ing to re - pent - ance for the plac - es plain. your hearts be true and hum - ble, Let read - v



their sor - rows' load. Speak all from to Je - ru - sa - lem more will see heed. They have suf - fered man-y\_a day; or king - dom now is here. 0 that warn - ing cry o - bev! for his ho ly reign. For the glo - rv of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell them that their their griefs have passed will change their a - way. God now pre - pare God val levs Now for way; let the a o'er earth is spread a - broad, all flesh shall now and



ver." sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now ach-ing sad - ness ev - er - spring-ing in - to glad - ness. rise to meet him the hills bow down to and greet him. see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; Johann G. Olearius, 1611-1684 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text and tune: Public domain

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

Confession CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

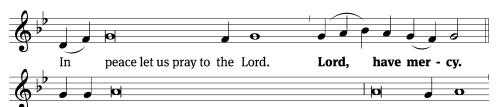
Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

# Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the

well-being of the Church of

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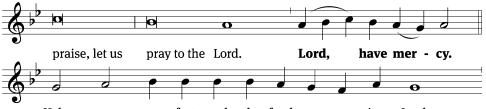


God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and

O



Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



# Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

CW 305 sts. 1, 4



Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Georg Weissel, 1590–1635 Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, Halle, 1704, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

# The Word

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 

# **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

# **First Reading**

Zephaniah 3:14-17

We rejoice because the Lord has saved us and delights in us.

<sup>14</sup>Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. <sup>16</sup>On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. <sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you,

but will rejoice over you with singing."

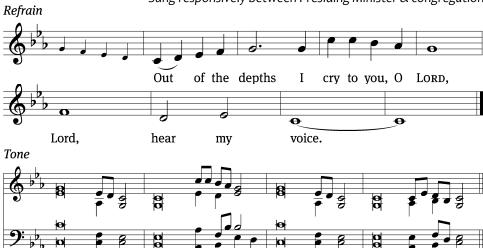
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

# **Out of the Depths**

Psalm 130

Sung responsively between Presiding Minister & congregation



Out / of the depths

I / cry to you, O LORD;

Lord, / hear my voice.

Listen closely as I / call on you for help.

LORD, if you kept / track of sins,

O / Lord, then who could stand?

But with you there is for-  $\!\!\!/$  giveness,

in order / that you may be feared. Refrain

I wait for the LORD, my / soul waits,

and in his / word I put my hope.

More than watchers wait for / morning

my / soul waits for the Lord.

Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,

for with the / LORD is faithful love;

with him is complete re- / demption.

He will redeem Israel from the / guilt of all their sins.

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 for- / ever. Amen. Refrain

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Tune: James J. Chepponis
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# **Second Reading**

Philippians 4:4-7

What is the reason for our enduring joy? The Lord is near to us.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

# **Lighting of the Advent Candles**

We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

We hear his call to see the light.

We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Three Advent candles are lit.

Gospel Luke 3:7–18

Those who rejoice in the good news of salvation joyfully produce fruits of repentance.

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

10"What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

<sup>11</sup>John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

<sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

<sup>13</sup>"Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

<sup>14</sup>Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?"

He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

<sup>15</sup>The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup>And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated



- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a right?
- 2 Love caused your in car na tion; love brought you down to me.
- 3 Re joice, then, you sad-heart ed, who sit in deep-est gloom,
- 4 Sin's debt, that fear ful bur den, let not your souls dis tress;
- 5 He comes to judge the na tions, a ter ror to his foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.

Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.

who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

your guilt the Lord will par - don and cov - er by his grace.

a light of con - so - la - tion and bless - ed hope to those



0 Je - sus, let your Word a lamp to light my way, be Oh. love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em-brace De - spair not; he you, he's stand-ing at the door is near He comes, for you pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n, glo-rious Sun, now come, who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O



show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry to love, all ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race! in love and cheer you and bids you weep no more. who best can help se - cur - ing e - ter - nal life in heav'n. chil - dren thus send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: tr. composite; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, D. M. Luther's ... Geistliche Lieder, Berlin, 1653, abr. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

Luke 3:7-18 The Powerful One is Coming Soon 1. Repent 2. Bear fruit

#### Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# **Prayer of the Church**

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. [Especially bless... here name the person and the cause of the petition.] Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

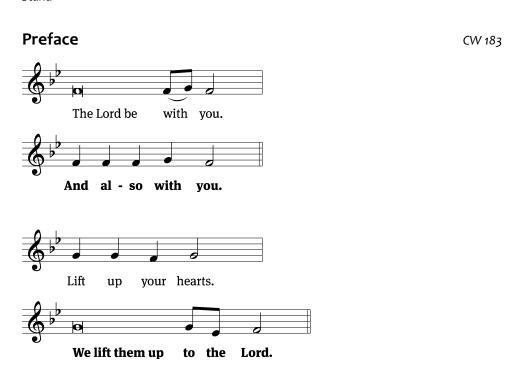
Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

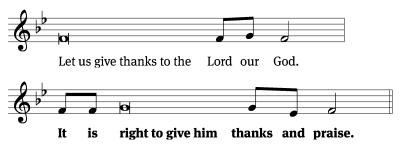
**Offering:** God's people offer their first and best to the Lord in response to the Lord's blessings to them. The offering is gathered in a basket in the church entrance before or after the service. If you prefer to give electronically, you may scan this graphic to access www.stlucaswels.org/donate.



# The Sacrament

Stand





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It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



Tune: Marty Haugen
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# **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

# Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

## **Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.** 



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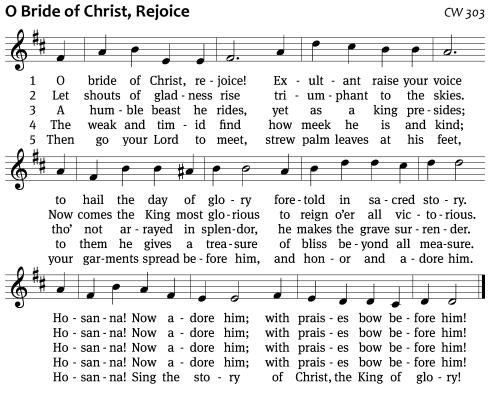
## Distribution

# **Personal Prayer before Communing**

Lord Jesus, you have invited me to come and receive your holy Sacrament. I believe that in the bread and wine you give me your true body and blood to eat and drink. Forgive my sins and nourish my faith through this precious meal. I long for the comfort that comes with your promises; I yearn for the assurance of your faithful love. Bless me now as I receive you by faith.

# **Personal Prayer after Communing**

Thank you, dear Savior, for nourishing my faith with the Sacrament of your body and blood. Lift my heart with your forgiveness, renew my confidence in your grace, empower my love for others, and lead me to long for the eternal banquet of heaven.



Text: tr. Victor O. Petersen, 1864–1929, alt.; Danish, c. 1600 Tune: Der Bussfertige Sünder, Nürnberg, 1679 Text and tune: Public domain

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

Amen.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

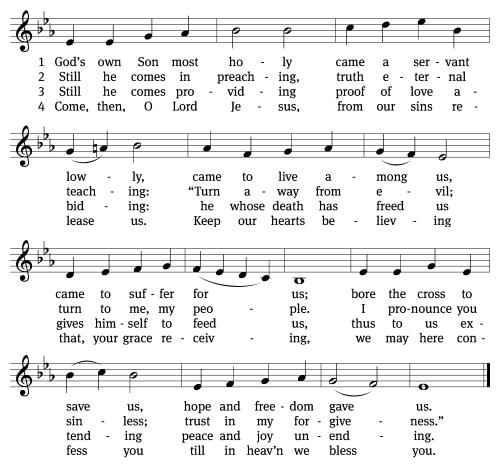
# Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.



Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547, abr.; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963 Tune: attr. Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534

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Setting Two from Christian Worship

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## **Church Resources**

**Family Devotions:** Get your family into God's Word during the week! Our church body has short devotions available for the entire family. Each devotion comes with a Set of questions for different age groups, a prayer, and hymn verses that can be sung or spoken. Please visit **wels.net/family-devotions** to get your weekly devotions.

**Marriage Moments:** Every marriage has its "moments". That's why marriages need moments of encouragement and refreshment. *Marriage Moments* are short, weekly videos highlighting one biblical marriage thought accompanied by a discussion question. Couples may subscribe to receive the videos directly through email at <u>welscongregationalsevices.net/marriagemoments</u>.

**Connecting WELS Members:** Connection is more important now than ever. Our church body offers many ways for WELS members to connect through social media. Join the WELS online community at **facebook.com/welslutherans**, **twitter.com/welstweets**, **Instagram.com/welslutherans**, and **vimeo.com/wels**.

**WELS Together e-Newsletter:** Stay in the loop! Subscribe to the WELS Together e-Newsletter to stay connected with the people of your synod and the ministry they serve. Also, don't miss the twice-monthly videos that cover important and exciting synod news. Please visit **wels.net/together** to read and subscribe.

**Baptism:** If you or a loved one had not yet been baptized, and are interested in more information, please contact Pastor Henning.

**Church Membership Starting Point** If you're interested in becoming a member here at St. Lucas, we would love to share with you a few Bible studies to introduce you to the biblical teaching here at St. Lucas. We are willing to set up these classes in any setting most comfortable for you, and can always find time that will work for anyone and everyone. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Henning, whose contact info can be found on the final page of this bulletin, underneath the church calendar.

#### **Announcements**

# **Upcoming Worship Schedule:**

Wednesday 12/13	6:30 pm	Midweek Advent Service	The Word Made Flesh is the theme for this year's series.		
Tuesday 12/24	4:00 pm		Lutheran Elementary School		
	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve	Sunday School		
	10:00 pm		Candlelight Service		
Wednesday 12/25	9:00 am	Christmas Day	Service with Holy Communion		
Tuesday 12/31	6:00 pm	New Year's Eve	Service with Holy Communion		

**A Big Thank you:** Thank you to everyone for making the groundbreaking service and celebration such a great day. Thanks be to God for his blessings on the building process and giving us a beautiful day to celebrate.

**Congregational Meeting:** There will be a congregational meeting following the 10:30 am service on Sunday, December 15, to call a teacher for our Lutheran Elementary School.

## Call Acknowledgement:

Dear members of St. Lucas,

I am writing to acknowledge and inform you that, on December 9, I received a divine call to teach kindergarten at St. John's in Milwaukee beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. Please feel free to reach out to me over the next few weeks as I deliberate these two calls, both to St. Lucas and St. Johns. I look forward to conversations discussing these two calls and where my gifts can best be used to serve our Lord and the little lambs that he has given to us to teach. In His Service,

**Jennifer Trimmer** 

**Church Christmas Decorating:** If you would like to help decorate the church for Christmas, gather at church on Monday, December 16, at 6:30 pm.

Parkview Drive will be closed December 16-18 (Monday through Wednesday) to access utilities for the new church building. The street will be blocked off in front of the new church lot, so you will not be able to enter the parking lot from Parkview. Access to the parking lot will be available through the alley.

**Time and Talent Forms:** As an opportunity to thank God for blessing you with time and abilities, as a chance to work together with your fellow believers, and as a way to save on costs for the new church building, Time and Talent forms are available in the back of church and in the office. Please fill out the form if you are interested in volunteering and return it to the box in the back of church or to the office. The back of the form is for expressing interest in bidding for various aspects of the building. If you know anyone who is in the trades and would like to bid on the project, please take a form and pass it on to them.

## **Celebrating God's blessings:**

Birthdays -

Brian Dreher 15 Nora Maxwell 19 Ranen Enright 22
Brad Homuth 19 Adeline Shier 19

# CALENDAR



Ţ	Sunday	_	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday
S	Norship w/ Communion 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am				Bible Study - 6:30 pm		Catechism Instruction 6th-8th Grade 3:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm
	Norship w/ Communion 10:30 am		DEC 20		DEC 21		DEC 22
_	Thursday	7	Friday		Saturday	1	Sunday
E	Fuel for Moms - 7:45 am Bible Study - 6:30 pm Ladies Guild - 6:30 pm				Worship 6:00 pm		Worship w/ Communion 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Worship w/ Communion 10:30 am
					St. Lucas Lutheran Church strives to be a congregation is always inviting, always edifying, and always equivolences www.stlucaswels.org		
			Contact Information				
				Pastor Timothy Henning			

(262) 707-6984 - thenning@stlucaswels.org

(920) 915-1130 - <a href="mailto:mhesse@stlucaswels.org">mhesse@stlucaswels.org</a> **School/Church Office**(262) 626-2680 - <a href="mailto:church@stlucaswels.org">church@stlucaswels.org</a>

**Principal Mark Hesse**