Advent Retreat
First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026
Lord of Life Lutheran Church

8:15 – 8:30 AM | Arrival & Coffee Fellowship

8:30 – 9:00 AM | Opening Worship
(Sanctuary)

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* #256

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
In this Advent season we come before God with humility, knowing that God's grace and mercy changes everything.

Merciful God,
We confess that our response to you is often slow.
We linger on what we want instead of what you ask of us.
Forgive us. In these days of Advent, tune our hearts and minds to your will.
Help us to respond to your call to serve our neighbors with an enthusiastic YES.

Hear the Good News!
Rejoice! God's love for you has never wavered.
Rejoice! All of your sins are forgiven.
Rejoice! You have new life through Jesus.

HYMN *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness* verse 1 #251

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:57-80
57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that
the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.
59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his
father. 60 But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." 61 They said to her, "None of your relatives has this
name." 62 Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. 63 He asked for
a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. 64 Immediately his mouth was
opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. 65 Fear came over all their neighbors, and all
these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. 66 All who heard them pondered them
and said, "What then will this child become?" For indeed the hand of the Lord was with him.

Zechariah's Prophecy
67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:
68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his child David,
70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.
72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors
and has remembered his holy covenant,
73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us
74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
75 in holiness and righteousness
in his presence all our days.
76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
77 to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.
78 Because of the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
79 to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."
80 The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, we have grown so jaded, that we hardly even look for the miracles anymore. Open our eyes, that we might see your good work in new ways, Amen.

OFFERING

9:00 –9:30 AM | Intergenerational Craft
(Fellowship Hall)

9:30 –10:30 AM | Education
"When We Say Yes"
(Children in the Fellowship Hall and Adults in the Sanctuary)

10:30 –10:45 | Shared Meal
(Fellowship Hall)

10:45 –11:45 AM | Christmas Decorating Party

11:45 AM –12 PM | Lighting of the Advent Wreath, Communion and Sending
(Sanctuary)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
We light one candle for one God,
The one who comes to us as a baby, swaddled and wailing.

We light one candle for one hope, one light, one salvation.
We light one candle to say YES to the invitation
to participate in the story of God's people.

CANDLE LIGHTING SONG *We Are a People of Hope*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you.
And also 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE 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.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil;
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN *All Earth is Hopeful* #266

THE BLESSING
May God bless you with courage to say Yes!

SENDING
Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

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