

**Advent Retreat
First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025
Lord of Life Lutheran Church**



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

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

On Sundays and Mondays,

on good days and bad days,
early in the morning and very late at night,
here in this room, and out in the world,
God, we long for you to break in.

Meet us in this space.

Surprise us with your presence.

Fill this room with your good news.

With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray.

Amen!

GATHERING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound!

#239

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-present God, we long to feel you close.

We long to feel your presence in our lives.

We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world.

However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst.

Forgive our rushing and distractions.

Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space.

Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest nights, you are always there.

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith,

even when we doubt God's presence,

even when we fail to notice God's fingerprints in this world,

God is always moving closer to us.

Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:

Nothing can keep God's love away.

We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:5-13

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, you show up in unexpected ways. The change you bring can be scary. Help us to be brave when you show us a new way of life. Help us to be courageous when we are afraid. During this season of Advent lead us to connect with you and our community. Amen.

9:00 –9:30 AM | Intergenerational Advent Calendar Making
(Fellowship Hall)

9:30 –10:45 | Shared Meal
(Fellowship Hall)

9:45 –10:30 AM | Education
(Children in the Fellowship Hall and Adults in the Sanctuary)

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

In a world full of fear, where do you see Hope?

We see hope when we look to the next Generation.

We feel hopeful when we gather together.

We know hope, deep in our bones, when we dream of a better world.

You are right. Even in a fearful world, hope is all around us. Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope.

Candle is lit.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERTORY

We Are Waiting for Jesus

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

Lord of All Hopefulness

#765

THE BLESSING

May you remember that good news is louder than fear.

SENDING

Go in peace, and

be not afraid!

Adapted from Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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