



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

DECEMBER 8, 2024

**So glad
you're here!**

Please fill out
the
**NEW Communication
card each Sunday** and
place it in the offertory
plate. If you are a
guest, please fill the
entire card as it's
important for our
attendance records
and safety alerts to
your cell phone. Let us
know how we may
pray for you or if you
have a
suggestion to share.

If you have problems
standing for prolonged
periods of time, feel
free to remain
seated during any part
of the service when
the congregation
stands.

Noisy Offering:

We collect your loose
coin for a special
quarterly offering on
the **1st Sunday of
each month**. At the
end of the quarter we
send the offering to a
designated local
group/organization.
Past recipients: Child
Assessment Center,
River House, RAPS,
Lions Den MBTC, Toys
for Tots, and others.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH NALC



We are God's mission to make and nurture disciples for Jesus Christ

INTRODUCTION: Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the Baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

*All may make the sign of the cross †, the sign marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the
people of God. Let us prepare for service.

ADVENT 2

P: Redeeming God, You refine us with the fire of Your love that we might prepare Your way in our hearts and homes, in our towns and cities, and in the fields and valleys of our lives, as we await our redemption which draws ever nearer.

C: **Amen**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

C: Amen

GATHERING HYMN

PEOPLE, LOOK EAST

#248

P: Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: To you, O God,

C: **we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

P: Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of † Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

C: **Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

PEACE

P: Peace be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us share the joy and peace of the Lord together.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

WORD

This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it!

FIRST READING: MALACHI 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

READING FROM PSALM - LUKE 1:68-79 (RESPONSIVELY)

A: Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

C: You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.

A: Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,

C: to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

A: This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

C: free to worship you without fear, holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

A: And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

C: to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

A: In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

C: to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

P: The Holy Gospel according to **LUKE 3:1-6**

C: Praise to you, oh Christ.

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' This completes the reading of the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

IN THE BLEAK MID WINTER

#294

A: Let us affirm our faith through the reading of the Apostles Creed.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED LED BY THE SERVICE ASSISTANT

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived
by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was
buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the
Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one Christian Church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection
of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

(A Brief Silence)

Prepare your church to share the good news, life-giving God. Put your word within us and dwell among us. Send us out to proclaim the mercy and salvation that abides in you. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Protect the creation, life-giving God. Sustain the mountains and hills. Restore the rivers. Give us wisdom and compassion to care for wilderness areas and urban ecosystems. Move us to care for your creation in all its forms and richness. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: We pray for our congregation, that it be ready to welcome those you send to us. We pray for all visitors, those who long for connection with a community, and those who are searching for meaning in their lives. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Grow peace within us, abundant God. Raise up leaders in every community grounded in your justice and mercy. Increase their love for all people. Hear us O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Comfort all who hurt or are ill, life-giving God. Wrap them in your tender care. Remember them and send us out to share your love: **Annabell, Dave & Leesa, Lee Bickham, Jason Campbell, Carolyn Chambers, Jeri DeWitte, Ester Dodson, Duprey Family, Cindy Eschendal, Paul Fry, Karl & Mary Gottliebber, Gary & Mary Gray, Angelina Hamblin, Ron Hobby, Dianna Johnson, Richard & Jodi Keehn, Jim & Patsy Lippert, Dianne Lowthian-Harlow, Jan Langerman, Nancy Light, Jean Loudon, Lew & Kitty Martin, Ed & Bonnie McManus, Nancy McMillan, T.J. Midcalf, Luke Newkirk, Jan & Emil Meissner, Terry & Dianne Sanders, Alicia Schnee, Richard & Connie Skoski, Cindy Smith, Zach Stachurski, Mary Stephenson, Diane Tolles, Stephen Vaglia, Sandy Valco, Henry Wadley, Denise Warba, Mathew)**

Hear us O God

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Bless this congregation, life-giving God. Give strength and joy to worship leaders, musicians, and our altar guild as they prepare the way for the celebration of the Christ child's coming among us. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: We lift up your children of God in prayer today; **Mike, Paul, Madeline, and Daniel Raymond.** Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: We lift our prayer partner for this week; **Good Shepherd Ev Lutheran Church, Manistee, MI.** We pray for our local churches guide them in their ministry and outreach in this broken world and lead them through your Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God,

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

CONGREGATION WILL BE SEATED AS THE OFFERING PLATES ARE PASSED BY THE USHERS.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of Heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

S 144b

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

P: We give you thanks, Holy Father, for your holy name which you have caused to dwell in our hearts, and for the knowledge and faith and immortality which you have made known to us through Jesus your servant; to you be the glory forever. You, almighty Master, created all things for your name's sake, and gave food and drink to men to enjoy, that they might give you thanks; but to us you have graciously given spiritual food and drink, and eternal life through your servant. Above all, we give you thanks because you are mighty; to you be the glory forever. Remember your church, Lord, to deliver it from all evil and to make it perfect in your love; and gather it, the one that has been sanctified, from the four winds into your kingdom, which you have prepared for it; for yours is the power and glory forever. May grace come, and may this world pass away. Hosanna to the God of David. If anyone is holy, let him come; if anyone is not, let him repent. Maranatha!

C: **Amen**

THE USHERS WILL DISMISS YOU TO COME FORWARD
THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. ; through Jesus Christ our Lord; as we continue to pray:

C: **Our Father who art in Heaven hallowed by 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 power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

#879

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

P: May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

*Join us in the Fellowship Hall
for Coffee & Conversation!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - TAKE THIS PAGE HOME

Dec 8	Advent WK 2 10am Service Council meeting following service	LOVE Council will meet in the Activities Room following service - anyone may attend.
Dec 9	YOGA—Activity Room	10:30am Activity Room
Dec 11	Pen & Palette Artist Guild	10am –2pm Activity Room
Dec 15	Advent WK 3 10am Service	JOY
Dec 22	Advent WK 4 10am Service	PEACE
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service 6pm	Celebrate Christmas Eve with your family and friends. <i>This service will not be broadcast on Facebook.</i>
Dec 25—27	Merry Christmas	The church office will be closed Dec 25-27
Dec 29	Service 10am	
Jan 1	Happy New Year!	The church office will be closed Jan 1-3
Jan 5	Epiphany Sunday Service 10 am	

	DEC 1	DEC 8	DEC 15	DEC 22	DEC 24	BUDGET
THE PEOPLE CAME	43					Weekly \$1421
THE PEOPLE GAVE	\$844					Monthly (\$477)

3rd QTR Noisy Offering—\$190
provided to Toys for Tots
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
FAITHFUL GIVING!**



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**A renewed Lutheran
community moving forward
in faith, the NALC is
focused on living out
Christ's Great
Commission to go and
make
disciples in North America
and around the globe.**

