

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

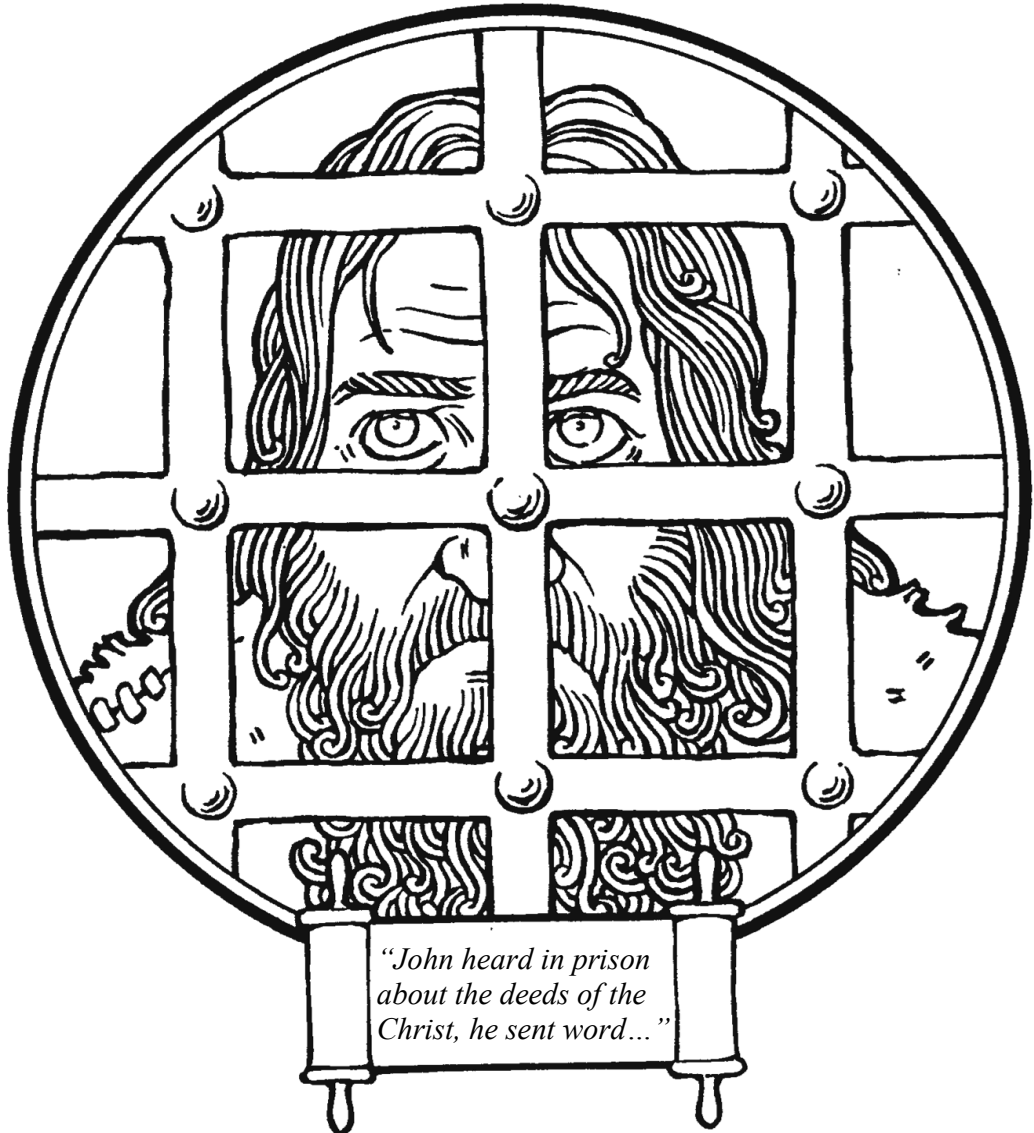
"A Disciple Making Community"

"KNOW, GROW, and GO"

West Salem, Wisconsin

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Third Sunday in Advent – Dec. 14th, 2025



Welcome! We are glad you are here today!

Our mission here at Prince of Peace is to exist to be a disciple making community for the Lord Jesus Christ. Our message is that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you have questions about the Christian faith or Prince of Peace, our pastor or one of our elders would be happy to talk with you.

Pastor: Rev. Peter Adelsen

Cell: 765-860-5204 Email: pastor@wspop.org

Elder: Dan Kolander, 608-697-5458, Email: dkolander5458@gmail.com

Elder: Joe Scholze, 608-780-6771, Email: josephscholze@gmail.com

Church Office: 608-786-3938 Email: Office@WSPOP.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30am-12:00pm (*staffed voluntarily*)

Our Communion Practice: *Prince of Peace is a member congregation of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS). The LCMS practices the Biblical and historical practice known as Close or Closed Communion (1 Corinthians 11:18-22). In this Supper of Our Lord, we receive the real presence of Jesus Christ's true Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25). Since this is also a sign of our communion, or common confession of faith (1 Corinthians 10:16-17), we welcome to the Lord's Supper all those who are catechized members in good standing of the congregations of the LCMS or those in fellowship with the LCMS, such as The American Association of Lutheran Churches (TAALC).*

It is indeed a consequence of the division in Christianity that we cannot extend a general invitation to receive the Lord's Supper. Reception of the Sacrament of the Altar by those who are not fully united with us would confess a oneness that does not yet exist and for which we must all pray. New member classes are offered regularly, so that those who are not in fellowship with us can be welcomed to the Lord's Table in the future! We thank you for your respect for our Biblical and historical practice. Guests, please ask an elder or Pastor Adelsen before the service if you have any further questions concerning the Sacrament of the Altar, including the desire to become a member so we can all join together at the Lord's Table.

Please let us know you were here. Please fill out a Connection Card. You may leave it on the table at the back of the sanctuary or place it in the offering plate. Or leave it at the end of your row and an Usher will collect it. Thank you!

Theme for Today's Service: People lament the arduous task of waiting in the midst of grief, illness, despair, and injury. To remain steadfast in faith like Job seems unattainable. Hearts are anxious, tongues muted, ears deafened, and bodies crippled. Anguish thrives in the hearts, minds, and bodies of men. Yet followers of Jesus confess and believe the truth – the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, and the maimed are healed. In Jesus, compassion and mercy prevail, as we wait.

Order of Service

Divine Service 1, p. 151 ff.

Opening Hymn

LSB 349 Hark the Glad Sound

Confession and Absolution

LSB p. 151

Service of the Word

LSB p. 151-160

Introit

Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Phil. 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

I will hope continually

and will praise you yet more and more.

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day,
for their number is past my knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come;

I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

O God, from my youth you have taught me,

and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,

until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Kyrie

LSB p. 152

Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB p. 156



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall

not go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle Reading

James 5:7-11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

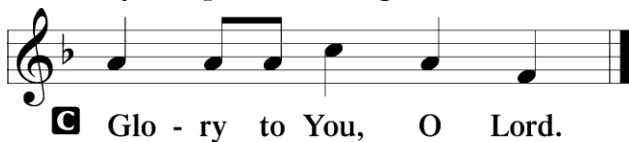
C Thanks be to God.



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
 mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
 stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel**Matthew 11:2-15**

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way

before you.’ ¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

LSB p. 158

Teaching the Faith from the Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism The Third

P *How can water do such great things?*

C Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God’s word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” (Titus 3:5–8)

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day

LSB 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

Sermon

“Where is the Joy?” (Matthew 11:2-15)

Prayer of the Church

Following each prayer read aloud ending "Lord in Your Mercy," the congregation may respond "Hear our prayer."

Offering, Offertory

LSB p. 159-160

Special Music: "Mary, Did You Know?", Sarah Kolander

Service of the Sacrament

LSB p. 160 ff.

Distribution Hymns

LSB 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

LSB 334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Post-Communion Canticle – *Nunc Dimittis*

LSB p. 165

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction

LSB p. 166

Closing Hymn

LSB 346 When All the World was Cursed

Announcements

Go in peace and Serve the Lord, thanks be to God!



Prince of Peace News and Notes for December 14th, 2025

Serving the Lord and One Another Today: *Accompanist:* Deb Dunnum, *Song Leader:* Sarah Kolander; *Ushers:* Roger & Ginny Emmons; *Money Counters:* Barb Alsobrooks, Elaine Schmidt; *Acolyte:* Caleb Kolander; *Altar Guild for December:* Sharie Brunk and Lizbeth Novak

Serving the Lord and One Another Next Sunday: *Song Leader:* Holly Ford; *Ushers:* Dany & Kari Moen; *Money Counters:* Chris Leis, Ona Childs; *Acolyte:* Caleb Kolander

Our Response to God's Gifts

Attendance last Sunday and Monday: 57
Weekly Need Original Budget: \$3,868.38
Weekly Need Revised Budget: \$3,225.00
Week of December 7 Offering: \$3,888.00
(Full Financials are posted on the kiosk in the lobby.)

THIS WEEK AT PRINCE OF PEACE
December 14 through December 21

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| <i>Today</i> | 9:00 am..... Divine Service with Holy Communion <i>afterfellowship time</i> 10:30 am..... Adult Bible Study 10:30 am.....Sunday School 11:30 am..... Catechesis Class |
| Mon. Dec. 15 | 7:00 pmDivine Worship Service with Holy Communion |
| Tues. Dec. 16 | 5:00 pm Men's Bible Study at Feature's |
| Wed. Dec. 17 | 9:30 am..... Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Advent Evening Prayer Service <i>after POP Choir practice</i> |
| Sun. Dec. 21 | 9:00 am..... Divine Service with Holy Communion <i>after fellowship..... Congregational Voters' Meeting</i> |

Soup Supper & Midweek Advent Prayer Service

Wednesday, Dec. 17th

Meal at 6:00pm Evening Prayer Service at 7:00pm

Sign-up for meal planning in the narthex

We decorate in preparation for Christmas. In December people spend hours putting up lights in their living space and ornaments on their evergreens. Poinsettias are placed on the mantel and presents under the tree. These Christmas decorations bring enjoyment and anticipation to the holiday. Advent is the Church's season of preparation for Christmas, for the coming of the Lord. This Advent season, as part of our preparation we have been reminded how to see Christ in these decorations. This coming Wednesday we reflect upon the Creche, and how it helps us point to Christ and prepare for His coming! Then, on Christmas, we will focus on the decorated presents which point us to the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.



Advent Devotional Booklets

Slow down and focus on the meaning of the season by emphasizing hope, peace, joy, and love amidst holiday busyness. Seek a journey of spiritual preparation and reflect on Christ's birth and eagerly anticipate His return!

The booklet contains daily scripture guidance through January 6th.

*Pick up one on the table in the narthex *

Prayer Chain POP Prays!

Do you know that Prince of Peace has an email prayer chain? If you have a prayer request or want to be on the prayer chain to pray for others, please email Bill Stichman. We rejoice always, pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances.

wstichman@charter.net

LUTHERANISM 101/ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS - Are you considering membership to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church? Are you a member who would like to touch-up on what we believe, teach, and confess? Stay tuned for Lutheranism 101/Adult Instruction! This class is for potential new members and all current members who would like to learn more about the basic teachings of Christianity. For more information, or to sign-up, please contact Pastor Adelsen.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

Prince of Peace Baby Hats Ministry

is again restarting for the winter. As many knitted and crocheted hats for newborns, preemies and stillbirths as we can make! *Can you help?* We have yarn for the taking. *Don't know how?* We have the time to teach you! Hats are then dedicated in **January 2026**, then given to a local hospital. A collection is started on the table in the narthex! If you have any questions, see Melissa Adelsen.

**Thank you on behalf of the POP LWML
for your generous donations to the La Crosse County Jail Donation Drive!**

Soon though, items will be taken away for delivery.
There is still time to donate, see the list near the bin in the narthex.

Also, visit their website at
Lacrossejailministry.org

**Thank you everyone that took the time to prepare gifts
for the Lakeview Health Center Giving Tree!**

*"I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me."* Matthew 25:36

WEEKLY LIFE THROUGH FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE - God sends us, like John, to be His messengers and share His Gospel with the world before He comes (Matthew 11:10). Instead of grumbling against one another (James 5:9), we have the privilege of sharing Christ's forgiveness, comfort, and encouragement with those having feeble knees and anxious hearts (Isaiah 35:3-4), especially with those frightened women facing surprise pregnancies, women enduring the cross of barrenness, and those carrying the guilt of abortion.

Bible Studies at Prince of Peace

Sunday Mornings after Fellowship: Please stay today for adult Bible Study after fellowship time. We are nearing the end of our topic of Proverbs. *“Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.”* Proverbs 30:5

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: All welcome at 9:30am as we continue our study on the Gospel of John. Join us anytime! Martin Luther regarded the Gospel of John as a cornerstone of Christian faith, placing it among the most important books of the New Testament.

Men’s Bible Study: All men are invited to our study on Timothy and Titus. The next scheduled meeting is December 16th. Men’s group meets at Feature’s in West Salem at 5:00pm on certain Tuesdays. See Pastor Adelsen if you have questions.

Women’s Bible Study – *(this group meets online)* You don’t even have to leave the house! Meets on most Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. on Facebook Messenger. Current topic is “Promised Rest” by Michelle Diercks. See Carrie Horstman or Debbie Dunnum if you'd like to join.

JOB WELL-DONE! Thank you to all that have signed up for building cleaning. This team effort has made a difference and will continue to do so for our housekeeping and the church finances. We are almost covered for the rotation through February! Except – the week of December 28th through January 3rd. Sign-up sheet in the narthex. Note some date ranges for duties are weeks and some are months.

PRINCE OF PEACE CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS’ MEETING - Sunday, Dec. 21st after fellowship time. Please stay for this important semi-annual update from Pastor and the Officers of the Church.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - Later this month, the 2026 paper offering envelopes will be placed in the church mailboxes. In an effort to continue to manage church expenses, it was most efficient to reassign numbers for all of our Congregants. All assigned members will receive new offering (envelope) numbers. Also, if you regularly do not use a paper envelope, or consistently give electronically, you will not receive a box of paper envelopes but of course still have a giving number assigned. If you have questions, see Kurt Childs. Thank you.



Concordia Theological Seminary
Adopt-a-Student
Program

Supporting the Leyh Family at CTSFW

The Lord continues to answer the prayers of His Church to “send out laborers into His harvest” (Matthew 9:38).

Josh Leyh, a member of Prince of Peace, has begun studying for the Office of the Holy Ministry at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne this academic

year. As he, along with his wife Faith and son Peter, takes up this task, we, as Christ’s flock at Prince of Peace, are encouraged to support the Leyhs in every possible way through prayer, encouragement, and financial support.

Throughout his seminary education, please consider financially supporting the Leyh family through the Concordia Theological Seminary Adopt-A-Student program.

When Pastor Adelsen was studying to be a pastor at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, their Adopt-A-Student program was greatly beneficial to him and Melissa. Pastor has been forever grateful to the congregations and individuals that supported him while in seminary. Even when Seminarian Leyh graduates, the seminaries’ Adopt-A-Student program is always worthy of supporting as a mission of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

Prince of Peace has a special offering box for the Leyh family placed in the narthex which will be prepared and sent later this month to the Concordia Seminary Adopt-A-Student program.

Feel free, if you wish to send support to the Leyhs directly.

The Leyh Family
6305 Reed Rd. Apt. 1
Ft. Wayne IN 46835

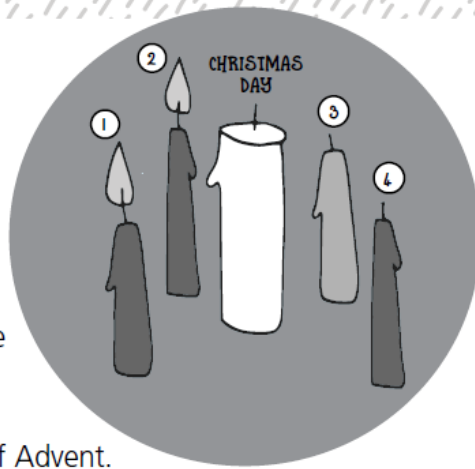
Personal updates from Josh are posted on the bulletin board.

+ + +
**KIDS IN THE
DIVINE SERVICE**
+ + +

What is the Advent wreath?

The Advent wreath is the circle of candles (and/or evergreen branches) that you see in the sanctuary during the season of Advent.

Some Advent wreaths hang from the ceiling of the sanctuary while others are placed on a floor stand. Either way, the Advent wreath is one of the many beautiful things you'll see around the church during Advent.



How do we use the advent wreath?

It used to be that the Advent wreath was used in the home to help count the four weeks of Advent. Now you can find them in homes as well as in the church sanctuary. Each Sunday in Advent, a new candle on the wreath is lit. For example, during the first week in Advent, only one candle is lit. During the second week in Advent, two candles are lit. We do this to remember and prepare for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World!

**Going away for a weekend? Would you like to listen to the sermon again?
Did you know that you can listen to Prince of Peace sermons online?
Check it out:**

- Sounding the Scriptures POPcast on Spotify & Apple Podcast
- Facebook.com/WSPOPLCMS
- Our website at WSPOP.org



Christmas at Prince of Peace

"O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"

On Christmas, we receive the greatest gift of all: Jesus Christ, our Lord!
Join us at Prince of Peace as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord



Fourth Sunday in Advent

Dec. 21, at 9 a.m.

Children's Christmas Program

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m.

Christmas Day Divine Service

Thursday, Dec. 25 at 9 a.m.



First Sunday after Christmas

Dec. 28, at 9 a.m.

Circumcision and Name of Jesus Divine Service

Thursday, Jan. 1, at 9 a.m. (breakfast at Features to follow)

Second Sunday after Christmas

Jan. 4, at 9 a.m.

Advent

from the Latin for "coming," the season of Advent focuses on Christ's first coming at Christmas, His second coming on the Last Day, and His coming in between by Word and Sacrament.

Christmas

a contraction of "Christ's mass." This day (Dec. 25) and its season celebrate the birth of Christ. The season is also called Christmastide and is in total 12 days. This season celebrates the fulfillment of the Advent expectation.

Epiphany

from the Greek for "appearance." This festival (Jan. 6) and its season celebrate the revelation of Jesus to the world as God's Son.



One Thing's Needful

In Luke 10:42, Jesus says, "one thing is needful," referring to the importance of prioritizing time with God and listening to his word, as exemplified by Mary, over being consumed by worldly tasks like Martha's serving. It emphasizes that nurturing one's spiritual life through intimacy with God is more essential than getting caught up in external activities, even those done with good intentions.

INVOCATION In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

INTROIT Page 3

MEDITATION Psalm 146 – Martin Luther viewed Psalm 146 as a powerful call to trust God over fallible human leaders, emphasizing God's care for the vulnerable (strangers, orphans, widows) and contrasting it with the futility of earthly power, aligning with his core message of salvation through faith in Christ, not human works. He saw the psalm as a guide for prayer, showing how God's eternal, just action for the needy (like the blind, bowed down, or prisoners) offers true hope, unlike shifting political promises.

DAILY READINGS

| | | |
|--------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 14 Dec | Isaiah 30:15–26 | Rev 2:1–29 |
| 15 Dec | Isaiah 30:27 – 31:9 | Rev 3:1–22 |
| 16 Dec | Isaiah 32:1–20 | Rev 4:1–11 |
| 17 Dec | Isaiah 33:1–24 | Rev 5:1–14 |
| 18 Dec | Isaiah 34:1–2, 8 – 35:10 | Rev 6:1–17 Micah 1:1 – 7:20 |
| 19 Dec | Isaiah 40:1–17 | Rev 7:1–17 |
| 20 Dec | Isaiah 40:18 – 41:10 | Rev 8:1–13 |

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

- That those wandering from the Body of Christ would return to His fold
- The Leyh family, Josh and Faith, and their pre-school age son Peter currently attending Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne Indiana, at the loss of their unborn baby.
- Pray for: Willie Danielson, Gary Adelsen, Barb Alsobrooks, Travis Glick, Lyle Anderson, Bill & Sal Stichman, Tom Schran

LEARN BY HEART Matt. 11:10^b *“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”*

COLLECT Page 4

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.* (Numbers 6:24-26)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Isaiah 7:10-17, Romans 1:1-7, Matt. 1:18-25