



**All who heard him  
were amazed...**

Luke 2:47, NRSV

**ADVENT THREE**

Living Hope Lutheran . . . . . December 14, 2025

# LIVING HOPE LUTHERAN

A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

3100 East Calumet Street • Appleton, Wisconsin

[appletonlutheran.com](http://appletonlutheran.com)



Divine Worship. . . 2pm

Christmas Practice . . . 3pm

Andrew A. Schaller, Vacancy Pastor

Cell: (605) 880-7886

## **ADVENT THREE**

December 14, 2025

### **PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:**

**PSALM:** 117 (LSB);

**PRAYERS:** Before Communing (Inside Cover, LSB);

Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament (Insider Cover, LSB).

**HYMNS:** LSB 332 LSB 390 LSB 568:1-4 LSB 568:5

### **OPENING PRAYER**

**OPENING HYMN:** LSB 332 - *"Savior of the Nations, Come"*

**SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT** (Setting 2, WS Pg. 12)

**Pastor:** In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation:** Amen.

**Pastor:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

**Congregation:** Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

**C: Amen.**

- C: ♪ Lord, have mercy on us.  
Christ, have mercy on us.  
Lord, have mercy on us.
- C: ♪ Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.  
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.
- ♪ Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,  
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.
- ♪ Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,  
At God's right hand in majesty most high:  
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,  
With all the heav'n-ly host we glorify.

**Pastor:** Let us pray...through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever." **C: Amen.**

## **ADVENT CANDLE**

## **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE**

### **OT LESSON:**

### **ISAIAH 40:1-8**

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

- <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.
- <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

- <sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All flesh is grass,  
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

- <sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades  
when the breath of the Lord blows on it;  
surely the people are grass.
- <sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever. \*

### **EPISTLE LESSON:**

### **2 TIMOTHY 4:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. \*

### **GOSPEL LESSON:**

### **MATTHEW 3:1-11**

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

<sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

<sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. \*

## **ALLELUIA**

**Pastor:** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

**Congregation:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH:**

## **THE APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell, the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there He will come to judge the living and the dead;

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen.

**HYMN: LSB 390** - *“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”*

## **THE SERMON:**

## **LUKE 2:39-52**

<sup>39</sup> So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. <sup>41</sup> His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast.

<sup>43</sup> When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it;

<sup>44</sup> but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. <sup>45</sup> So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. <sup>46</sup> Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. <sup>48</sup> So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." <sup>49</sup> And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. <sup>51</sup> Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. \*\*

## **THE SILENCE OF THE CHILD JESUS**

### **THE OFFERTORY**

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

### **THE OFFERINGS OF THANKFUL HEARTS**

We express our thanksgiving for what the Savior Jesus has done for us by supporting His Work with our time, talents and gifts. Should you wish to leave a gift, there are offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary.

### **THE OFFERING HYMN**

**(WS 788)**

♪ Lord, You love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand Blesses freely, as a river That refreshes all the land. Grant us, then, the grace of giving With a spirit large and true That our life and all our living We may consecrate to You.

♪ We are yours – Your mercy sought us, Found us in death's dreadful way, To the fold in safety brought us, Nevermore from You to stray. Your own life was freely given As an off-ring on the cross For each sinner, now forgiven From eternal shame and loss.

♪ Blessed by You with gifts and graces, May we heed Your Spirit's call, Gladly in all times and places Give to You who gives us all. You have bought us; now no longer Can we claim to be our own; Ever free and ever stronger We shall serve You, Lord, a-lone.

## **PRAYER(S)**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be 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 the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**HYMN: LSB 568:1-4** - *"If Your Beloved Son, O God"*

### **THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT:**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**Congregation:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**Congregation:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Pastor:** It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the Messiah, the very Lamb of God, and calling sinners to repentance, that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory; Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sa-ba-oth, adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Pastor:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed 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!

## **LAMB OF GOD**

♪ O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose blood, once shed, true life restored, Impart Your joy, our faith increase. Sustain with Your mercy and grant us Your peace.

## **THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT:**



In the early church, Communion was thought of so highly that no one except confirmed members of the church were allowed even to watch it. This practice was more strict than necessary, of course. But the early church did understand something that many today do not: that Communion was never intended for indiscriminate use by everyone, but was restricted to those who are properly prepared. If you have never communed with us before, and desire the benefits of the Lord's Supper, please set up an appointment with the pastor to discuss how you can prepare properly. **The Lord's Supper will be received standing before the altar.**

## **O LORD, NOW LET YOUR SERVANT**

♪ O Lord, now let your servant Depart in heav'n-ly peace,  
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

♪ All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three-in-One;  
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

**Pastor:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

## **THANKSGIVING**

♪ My heart has now become Your dwelling,  
O blessed, holy Trinity.  
With angels I, Your praises telling,  
Shall live in joy eternally.  
Lord, may Your body and Your blood  
Be for my soul the highest good!



**THE BENEDICTION:** (Pastor) **CONGREGATION:** "Amen."

**CLOSING HYMN:** LSB 568:5 - "If Your Beloved Son, O God"

Welcome to all of our guests and visitors this afternoon in Jesus' name. We are glad that you have come to worship with us and hope that you will return again. If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about the Scriptures, please either speak with the pastor or with an usher on the way out.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

December 14, 2025

### **THIS WEEK**

**Tuesday:** Confirmation Class 3:30pm

**Sunday:** Worship 2pm, Christmas Practice 3pm.

### **2026 CLC MISSION HELPER TRIP**

*The CLC Mission Helper Program is making preparations for another Mission Trip to Africa for the summer of 2026. The main focus of this trip will be presenting the Gospel, through a series of child evangelism lessons, to member and non-member children in village congregations. Possible areas of evangelism include the CLC-Tanzania, CLC-Kenya, CLC-Zambia, and CLC-Uganda. CLC members are welcome and encouraged to apply. For more information and to apply, visit [www.mht.lutheranmissions.org](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org).*

### **MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES**

*Although there are no Midweek Advent Services scheduled for Living Hope this year, the services at Luther Memorial are being streamed shortly after 6pm on December 17<sup>th</sup> at [www.fdllutheran.com](http://www.fdllutheran.com).*

### **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

*Confirmation Class is scheduled to take place this Tuesday (December 16<sup>th</sup>) at 3:30pm.*

### **CHURCH ROOF REPLACEMENT**

*Due to the snow and cold weather, the roof replacement has been rescheduled for the spring. The tentative start date is now April 2, 2026.*

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

*There will be a lay-led Christmas Eve Service this year entitled "Let's Go to Bethlehem." The service will take place on Christmas Eve (December 24<sup>th</sup>) at 6pm.*

## **CLC CALL NEWS**

*Pastor David Naumann has returned the call of Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church in Spokane, WA. • Living Hope Lutheran in Appleton WI has called Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD. • Messiah Lutheran Church of Eau Claire, Wisconsin has called Pastor Ben Libby to serve as their 3<sup>rd</sup> Full-time pastor. • Pastor Terrell Kesterson has returned the call of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Red Wing, MN to serve part-time. • Pastor Emeritus Michael Eichstadt has accepted the call to serve as Vacancy Pastor at Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church in Phoenix AZ. • Pastor Ben Libby has returned the call of Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church in Phoenix AZ. • Pastor Emeritus David Schierenbeck has accepted the call to serve as Assistant to the Pastor at Berea Ev. Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, MN after he concludes serving as Vacancy Pastor of Our Redeemer's Lutheran in Red Wing, MN, at the end of January.*

### **General Missions 2025**

*The Cooperative Budget Plan (CBP) is a pledge established to participate in the work of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. This fiscal year runs from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.*

<b>Amount Pledged 2025</b>	<b>Received as of 11/30/25</b>	<b>Amount Remaining</b>	<b>Approximate per Sunday (29)</b>
\$5,500.00	\$2,152.00	\$3,348.00	\$115.00

### **Living Hope General Budget 2025**

*The Voters of Living Hope set the General Budget.*

*This fiscal year runs from January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.*

<b>General Budget</b>	<b>Received as of 11/30/25</b>	<b>Amount Remaining</b>	<b>Approximate Amount (3 Sundays)</b>
\$95,419.00	\$80,881.75	\$14,537.25	\$4,846.00

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## **HOME DEVOTIONS FOR DECEMBER 15-20, 2025**

**Monday – Matthew 11:2-10** When John sends disciples to ask Jesus to confirm His Messiah-ship, He points to the prophecies which He has fulfilled. He then turns and extols John's role in the coming Kingdom of God.

**Tuesday – Romans 10:9-15** It is with heart and mouth that Jesus is honored and salvation is enjoyed by both Jew and non-Jew. The Lord our righteousness provides preachers of the gospel to speak to the heart.

**Wednesday – Matthew 1:18-23** The Lord appears to Joseph in a dream to let him know that Mary has not been unfaithful to her promise. This miracle of God-with-us is not something Joseph or we would have thought up.

**Thursday – Isaiah 60:1-5** The coming of the LORD means the coming of light in darkness and nations will be drawn to that light. As John also writes: "In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind" (John 1:4).

**Friday - Psalm 98** Although Jesus' coming in Bethlehem was without earthly fanfare, His coming to judge the earth will be reason for shouting and singing and sounding of trumpets. Joy to the world, the LORD is come!

**Saturday – Psalm 4** God's children may have troubles, but they know that all blessings come from the LORD. To Him they will look and from Him receive greater joys than worldly prosperity can bring (v7).



These devotions are produced by Pastor/Professor Emeritus Paul Schaller and sent out on a weekly basis.

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