

*a* STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE  
**GOD-LIVED**  
*life*

**A Life of Hospitality**

# St. LUCAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

1417 Parkview Drive Kewaskum, Wisconsin  
262-626-2680 [www.stlucaswels.org](http://www.stlucaswels.org)

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 18 and 19, 2021

### Welcome

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! In our service we gather before our gracious God to offer him our worship and praise. We assemble to hear God's holy and powerful Word and celebrate his life-giving Sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with him in heaven.

### For Your Convenience and Safety

For your ease and convenience, the entire order of service is printed out in the following pages. Many of the elements of this service have ancient roots in the Christian church. Some are very recent. Lutheran worship is specifically designed to include the participation of the assembly. Parts marked **M** are spoken or sung by the minister, and parts marked **C** are spoken or sung by the congregation. Congregational parts are also printed in bold.

If you are in need of restrooms, they are located in lower level of the church. Parents who need to attend to upset infants or toddlers may use the parent's room located just beyond the ushers' room on the left as you leave the church. A large print version of this service folder and a printed copy of today's sermon for those who have difficulty seeing or hearing are available from an usher.

For the convenience of others please silence all electronic devices.

Offerings may be given in the collection plate in the church entryway. Please keep your service folder or recycle it in the green bin in the entryway. Communion will be offered by continuous distribution.



# ORDER OF SERVICE

## GATHERING RITE

Stand

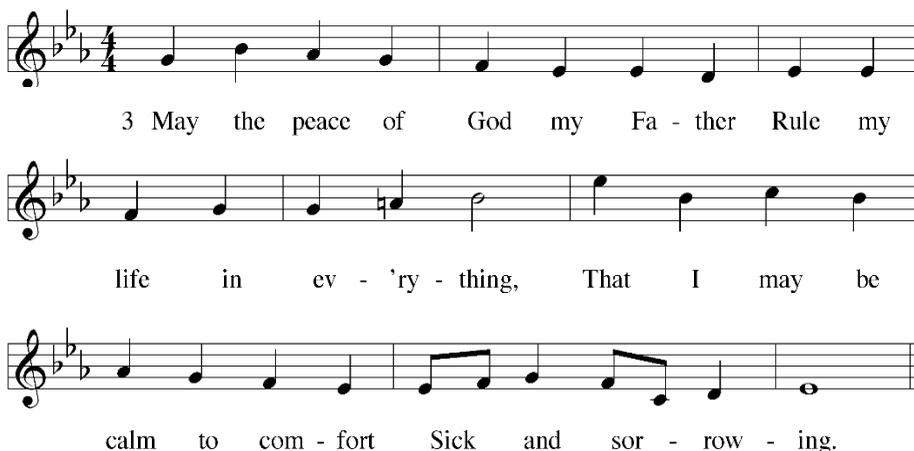
*Music begins playing underneath spoken word.*

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

M: Heavenly Father, you have blessed us with gifts to serve you and our neighbor. We repent for times we have used those gifts selfishly instead of generously and selflessly. Forgive us and let your peace rule our lives.



3 May the peace of God my Fa - ther Rule my  
life in ev - 'ry - thing, That I may be  
calm to com - fort Sick and sor - row - ing.

M: Dear Savior Jesus, you have shown us the full extent of your love by giving your life for ours on the cross. Though that love is what ought to motivate our service, too often our service is grudgingly given, motivated by guilt and obligation, instead of generously given, motivated by your love. Forgive us and let your love fill our lives.

C: ♪ May the love of Jesus fill me As the waters fill the sea,  
Him exalting self abasing – This is victory. (CW467:4)

M: O Holy Spirit, you want all people to be saved by the power of the Gospel. You also tell us that you use our Christian lives and service to lead them to hearing the Gospel. We are sorry when people see sin in our lives and not the good deeds you desire from us. Forgive us and live within us.

**C: ♪ May his Spirit live within me As I seek the lost to win,  
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only him. (CW467:6)**

M: As a called servant of the Triune God, I announce to you his grace and forgiveness. On behalf of and by the command of our Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C: ♪ May the mind of Christ my Savior Live in me from day to day,  
By his love and pow'r inspiring All I do or say.  
  
May the Word of God dwell richly In my heart from hour to hour,  
So that all may see I triumph Only through his pow'r. (CW467:1-2)**

M: Let us pray: This is different from previous months

Almighty God, you sent your Son to become one of us to cleanse us and claim us. Give to us the same spirit of hospitality Jesus had to look on each stranger as someone you love, and therefore worthy of our time and concern; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**C: ♪ May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe,  
Looking only unto Jesus As I onward go. (CW467:5)**

Be Seated

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 18:1-15

*Abraham demonstrates a God-lived life, sacrificing hours and possessions to welcome strangers to his home. Led by God, we ought not hesitate to sacrifice for hospitality.*

The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

<sup>3</sup> He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest

under this tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant.”

“Very well,” they answered, “do as you say.”

<sup>6</sup> So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. “Quick,” he said, “get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.”

<sup>7</sup> Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

<sup>9</sup> “Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him.

“There, in the tent,” he said.

<sup>10</sup> Then one of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.

<sup>11</sup> Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ <sup>14</sup> Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

<sup>15</sup> Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, “I did not laugh.”

But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

## Lighting of the Advent Candles

Sing to the tune of "What Child Is This"

**A flick'ring candle sheds its light In hope of dawn's victorious might,  
And backward scurries cow'rdly night Reminded of the morning.  
Watch, watch, for Christ is near, The promised Son of God most dear.  
Hope, hope, his light will clear The shades of death and sin.**

**The dawn of God's redeeming grace Lit Bethlehem, that humble place;  
Now radiant beams from Jesus' face Illumine all creation.  
Watch, watch, for Christ is near, The promised Son of God most dear.  
Hope, hope, his light will clear The shades of death and sin.**

Text: Mark W. Oldenburg, © 2008, 2014, Birnamwood Publications. Printed under Onelicense.net # 3115594.

*Four Advent candles are lit.*

Stand

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:9-13

*Jesus shows ultimate hospitality in inviting the tax collector to follow him. Matthew responds with the God-lived life by inviting his friends to his house and to Jesus.*

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

<sup>12</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>13</sup> But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be Seated

# Hymn of the Day

Jesus Your Church With Longing Eyes | CW 9



1 Je - sus, your Church with long - ing eyes For your ex -  
2 E'en now, when tem - pests round us fall And win - try  
3 Come, gra - cious Lord, our hearts re - new, Our sins for -  
4 Oh, come and reign o'er ev - 'ry land; Let Sa - tan  
5 Teach us in watch - ful - ness and prayer To wait for



pect - ed com - ing waits. When will the prom - ised  
clouds o'er - cast the sky, Your words with plea - sure  
give, our foes sup - press, Our root - ed en - mi -  
from his throne be hurled. Let na - tions bow to  
your ap - point - ed hour, And fit us by your



light a - rise And glo - ry beam from heav - en's gates?  
we re - call And know that our re - demp - tion's nigh.  
ty sub - due, And crown your gos - pel with suc - cess.  
your com - mand; Let grace re - vive a dy - ing world.  
grace to share The tri - umphs of your con - qu'ring pow'r.

Text: William H. Bathurst, 1796–1877, abr., alt.

Tune: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT (LM) *Andächtige Haus-Kirche*, Nürnberg, 1676, alt.

SERMON

**Matthew 9:9-13**

## *Eating with Sinners*

Stand for the Apostles' Creed printed on the next page

**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.**

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, you humbled yourself to be born of a virgin. You became one of us. Your hospitality knew and knows no bounds. You invited fishermen, a tax collector, people from all walks of life to be your disciples. You welcomed little children and took them up in your arms. You spoke to the woman at the well and offered her living water—forgiveness and life. Give us a rich measure of your Holy Spirit so that we take that same view of all people we meet. Lord in your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Holy Spirit, you have turned our hearts from the darkness of sin and eternal death to the light of life and an eternity in heaven through Jesus Christ alone. You have given us eyes to see our Savior Jesus. Give us eyes to see each person we meet as one for whom our Savior died, and one God loves dearly. Give us the words to speak in love. Grow us in wisdom through our study of your word and grant us peace. Lord, in your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Father, you created us and continue to provide and protect us. Give us the courage and trust to take you at your word. Your word tells us, “You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God” (2 Cor. 9). Give us the courage to be hospitable to others whether in the family of believers or those not yet in the family of believers. Protect and provide for us and let our generosity overflow to strangers. Lord, in your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Accept our prayers and grant all we need, not because we are worthy, but for the sake of Jesus Christ who lived a perfect life in our place and died for our sins and was raised again.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Be Seated

# BIBLE STUDY

## **ACTS 2:42-47**

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## **INTRODUCTION**

In general, Christians are viewed negatively by mainstream pop culture while Jesus is viewed positively. Why? What would it take to change that perception?

## **INTO THE TEXT**

1. The early Christians devoted themselves to four things. Explain how each prompted the unity they needed to reflect Jesus to their community:
  - Apostle's teachings
  - Fellowship
  - Breaking of bread
  - Prayer
2. Describe what your experience would have been if you were to visit this congregation

## **APPLYING IT**

1. Hospitality is literally, "love of strangers," in Greek. To loves strangers means that we as a church need to be outward focused. It is easy for churches to lose that perspective and focus on inward concerns. What are ways that our church could become too inward focused?  
(i.e., How do we insure outward focus?)

2. The early church was "all for one and one for all!" They were generous with all of the gifts God had blessed them with. They were willing to share everything and others noticed. Come up with at least three ways our church can reflect that early Christians spirit of hospitality.

Stand

## BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give ☩ you peace.

C: Amen.

## Closing Hymn

Hosanna to the Coming Lord | CW 21



1 Ho - san - na to the com - ing Lord! Ho - san - na  
2 O Sav - ior, with pro - tect - ing care A - bide in  
3 O Ad - vent King, our sins for - give; Come in our  
4 Then in the last and dread - ful day, When earth and



to the in - car - nate Word! To Christ, Cre - a - tor, Sav -  
this your house of prayer, Where we your part - ing prom -  
lives and hearts to live, And let our hum - ble souls  
heav'n shall melt a - way, Your flock, re - deemed from sin -



ior, King Let earth, let heav'n ho - san - na sing.  
ise claim, As - sem - bled in your sa - cred name.  
be - come A tem - ple wor - thy of your name.  
ful stain, Shall swell the sound of praise a - gain.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, abr., alt.

Tune: VOM HIMMEL HOCH (LM) Schumann, *Geistliche lieder auff's new gebessert*, Leipzig, 1539.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Giving Tree:** Thank you for your generous gifts for the Giving Tree. Sharing Christ's love in this way will enable several St. Lucas families to celebrate the true joy of Christmas. Please return the ornament and gift cards to the office by Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Church/School Office Assistant:** Starting January 3 St. Lucas Lutheran Church will need a new church and school office assistant. We will need someone who will be able to do basic financial work using QuickBooks, desktop publishing using Microsoft Office, basic website maintenance and updating, along with other office duties. Depending on the time of the year this job requires up to 30 hours per week. If you are interested in applying for this position, would be able to help on a temporary basis during the hiring process, or have any questions about this position, please contact Pastor Henning or Principal Hesse. A job description is available.

We thank Bev Hansen for her faithful service in assisting in the Lord's ministry here at St. Lucas Lutheran and pray for the Lord's blessing on her new employment.

**New Hymnal Update:** You can pre-order your own copies of *Christian Worship: Hymnal* and *Christian Worship: Psalter* at [nph.net](http://nph.net).

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

**December 24 - *Who Is He?***

**2 PM & 4 PM Lutheran Elementary School**

**6 PM Sunday School**

**10 PM Candlelight Service -- *What Child Is This?***

**December 25 - 9 AM -- *What Child Is This? God in the Flesh***

**December 26 -- *What Child Is This? Our Substitute and Sacrifice***

**December 31 -- *New Year's Eve***

**January 1 & 2 -- *What Child Is This? Who Turns Slaves into Sons***

# CALENDAR

December 18-December 27, 2021

*Suggested readings for each day of the week are listed in parenthesis.*

<b>Saturday</b>	<i>(Luke 7:29-35)</i>	
9:00am	Sunday School Christmas Eve Rehearsal	
6:00pm	Worship	Ushers: Peters
<b>Sunday</b>	<i>(Luke 1:39-55, Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Psalm 85)</i>	
8:00am	Worship	Ushers: Stoltz
9:15am	Family Bible Class and Sunday School	
10:30am	Worship	Ushers: Wolter
<b>Monday</b>	<i>(Isaiah 45:1-8)</i>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>(1 Corinthians 2:6-10)</i>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>(Mark 3:31-35)</i>	
<b>Thursday</b>	<i>(Romans 1:1-7)</i>	
<b>Friday</b>	<i>(John 1:29-34)</i>	
2:00pm	St. Lucas Elementary School Children's Service	Ushers: Peters
4:00pm	St. Lucas Elementary School Children's Service	Ushers: Kempf:
6:00 pm	St. Lucas Sunday School Children's Service	Ushers: Schacht
10:00pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Vespers Service	Ushers:
<b>Saturday</b>	<i>(John 19:25b-27)</i>	
9:00am	Christmas Day Festival Worship w/Communion	Ushers:Strack
<b>Sunday</b>	<i>(Luke 2:41-52, 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26, Hebrews 2:10-18, Psalm 111)</i>	
8:00am	Worship w/Communion	Ushers: Schacht
10:30am	Worship w/Communion	Ushers: Strack

***St. Lucas Lutheran Church strives to be a congregation that is  
always inviting, always edifying, and always equipping.***



**OUR CHALLENGE IS THIS:** Tune out the calls of society. Pray for strength to be different and live the life God created just for you. A God-lived life. A life of hospitality.

*Pray for God's strength and commit to at least one goal or as many as you desire. Let us encourage one another to live out our commitments.*

**I CHALLENGE MYSELF TO...**

- Invite a neighbor, co-worker, or family member to worship
- Sit next to a new member each Sunday
- Invite someone out to lunch after church
- Help a young family with their children during worship
- \_\_\_\_\_

**By God's grace, I commit to these goals,**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

