

GT. LUCAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

1417 Parkview Drive PO Box 44 Kewaskum, Wisconsin www.stlucaswels.org

Second Sunday in Advent

December 9th & 10th, 2023

The Season

The Church Year begins with the season of Advent, which means "coming." We see that the King shall come. We see why the King came on the first time and why he shall come again on Judgment Day. We also cherish the way our King comes to us today in Word and sacrament, establishing his reign in our hearts.

The Sunday

Throughout history, God has raised up called servants—like John the Baptist—to preach a message of repentance. This repentance is central to our preparation for the Lord's coming. Without repentance, the King's coming only terrifies. But all those who believe and repent look forward to the coming of the King and the consummation of his everlasting kingdom.

The Service

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar in which we joyfully receive Christ's body and blood, in, with, and under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we celebrate the Sacrament we also give public confession of our complete unity in the Christian faith. We invite communicant members of St. Lucas Lutheran Church, or of another congregation in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) to commune. If you are a guest visiting with us today, please refrain from communing until you have spoken with our pastor. The congregation reads the potions in bold print.

Prayer before Worship

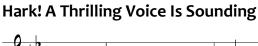
Lord Jesus, you have invited me to come and receive your holy Sacrament. I believe that in the bread and wine you give me your true body and blood to eat and drink. Forgive my sins and nourish my faith through this precious meal. I long for the comfort that comes with your promises; I yearn for the assurance of your faithful love. Bless me now as I receive you by faith.

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Timothy Henning Organist: Coralee Henning

Ushers: David Butzke (6 pm Saturday) Kevin Kempf (8 am Sunday)

Johnathan Kock (10:30 am Sunday)





Stand for the 4th stanza



Text: tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.; Latin, c. 5th–1oth cent. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889 Text and tune: Public domain

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just

and will forgive us our sins

and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

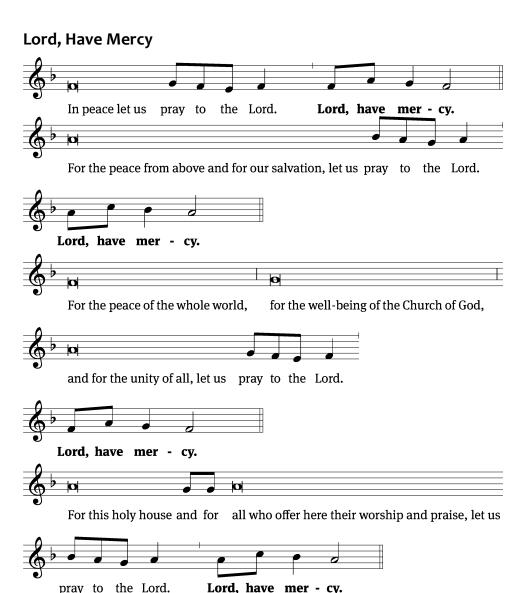
with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dotplus Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.





Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



Tune: Kevin Becker

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Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, abr., alt. Tune: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, Darmstadt, 1698 Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

Song

First Reading

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; Isaiah 40:1–11
Isaiah prophesies about one who could come to prepare people to meet their sovereign LORD.

make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. ⁷The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall,

but the word of our God endures forever."

9You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout,

lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

"He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms

and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



LORD, in Your Mercy, Hear My Prayer

Psalm 85A





LORD, in your mer - cy hear my prayer; your good-ness nev - er fails.

Tone



You, LORD, forgave the iniquity of your / people and covered / all their sins.

You set aside / all your wrath and turned from your fierce / anger.
Show us your unfailing / love, LORD, and grant us your sal- / vation. Refrain

I will listen to what God the / LORD says; he promises peace to his / people. Surely his salvation is near those who / fear him, that his glory may dwell / in our land. Love and faithfulness meet to- / gether; righteousness and peace kiss each / other.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son and to the Holy / Spirit, as it was in the be- / ginning, is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain



Text: Hal H. Hopson Tune: Hal H. Hopson

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Second Reading

St. Peter reminds us that judgment day will come at an unexpected time. So prepare with daily repentance.

⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

"Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹²as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

- A flickering candle sheds its light
 In hope of dawn's victorious might,
 And backward scurries cowardly
 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.
- 2. From Jesse's Barren stump will spring A pledge of peace shine like a beam; From all the nations crowds shall stream And war will be no more.

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. To the tune of What Child is This

3. God's messenger prepares the way, On sin He shines a piercing ray; He bids us greet the dawning day Renewed and purified.

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.



Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

God raised up John the Baptist to preach a message of repentance and forgiveness, preparing people to meet their Lord and King.

¹The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ²as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"—

3"a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

⁴And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

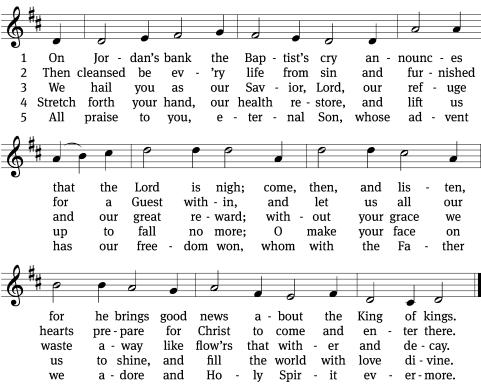
Be seated

Children's Sermon

Children may come forward to the front pew

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

CW 316



Text: tr. composite; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749
Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Mark 1:1-8 Listen to the Voice

Stand



Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

and became truly human.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, *[especially . . . here name the person and the cause of the petition]*. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, *[especially . . . here name the person]*. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

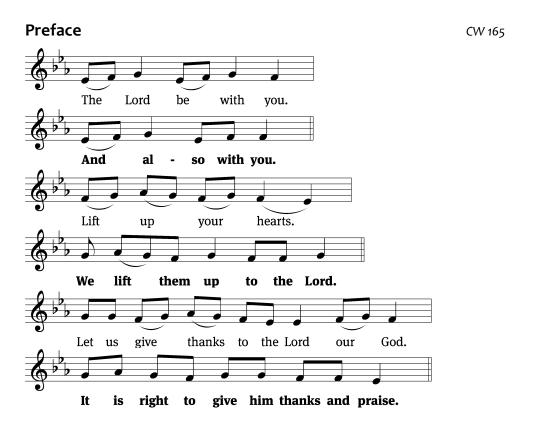
Amen.

Offering God's people offer their first and best to the Lord in response to the Lord's blessings to them. The offering is gathered in a basket in the church entrance before or after the service. If you prefer to give electronically, you may scan this graphic to access www.stlucaswels.org/donate.

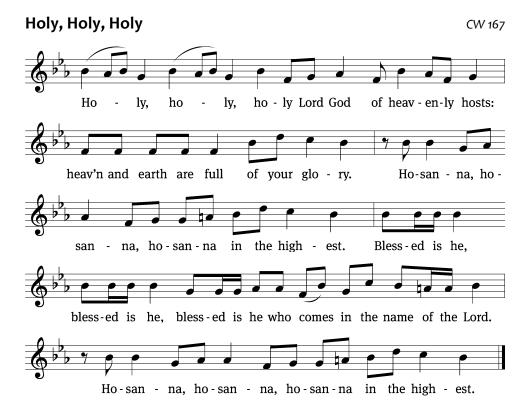


The Sacrament

Stand



It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

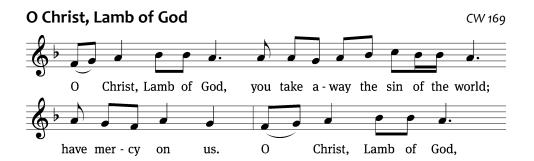


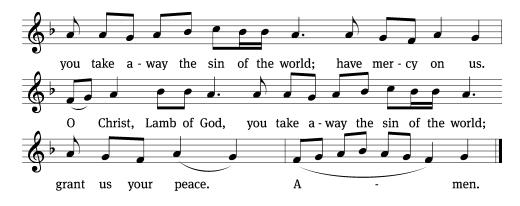
Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

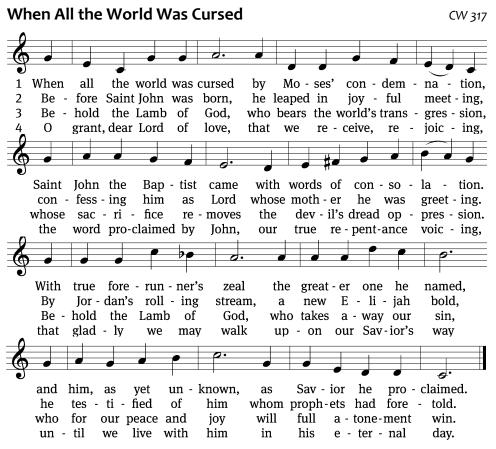
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**





Be seated

Distribution



The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

Amen.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

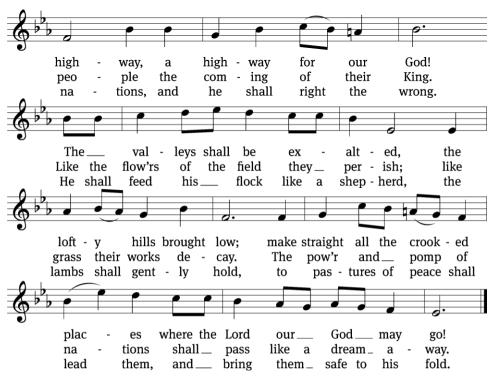
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.





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Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Announcements

Call Return Letter - Mark Hesse:

Dear St. Lucas Family,

Our gracious God has seen fit to accomplish his work through his people. I am honored by the role he has given me to serve in his kingdom, even more so when new opportunities arise. I appreciate all the support, prayers, and encouragement that you have shown me. After prayerful consideration, I have decided to decline the call to serve at St. Luke's Lutheran School in Vassar, MI. It appears to me that it is the Lord's will that I remain in Kewaskum to continue his work here.

Please pray for the congregation of St. Luke's, and I pray that our gracious God will send the worker they need as well.

In Christ, Mark A. Hesse

The Giving Tree: Christmas is a joyous time of year when we celebrate the greatest gift of all, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus gave his life for us as the ultimate sacrifice and the ultimate gift. Nothing we could do could possibly compare, but during this season of giving we find joy in giving gifts to others. The Giving Tree provides us with an opportunity to give gifts to families in need this Christmas. We have two trees, one located just to the left of the door as you are entering the church and one just outside the school office. Each tree is decorated with paper ornaments that have gift ideas printed on the back. All you need to do is take an ornament from the tree, as many as you wish to take, purchase one or more gifts, then return the wrapped gift(S) to either church or school along with the corresponding ornament. Make sure the ornament is returned with the gift to ensure it goes to the correct family. Please return the gifts by no later than Monday December 18th, so all gifts can be delivered before Christmas.

Church Decorating: Its that time of year again when brightly colored decorations and twinkling lights appear turning our worlds into a Christmas wonderland. They beautify our homes and churches and remind us of the celebration to come when we rejoice that unto us was born a Savior. We will be decorating the church on **Friday December 15th, at 5:00 pm**, with a meal to follow. If you are interested in helping to beautify our church for this joyous season, please let Pastor Henning know.

New Bible Study Topic in the New Year: Starting Sunday, January 7, we will discuss the topic "Burden Bearing." Paul wrote, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). The Burden Bearing Bible study provides encouragement, instruction, and practical examples to help Christians bear one another's burdens. On December 3 we will conclude the study of the Letter of James. December 10 & 17 we will discuss different aspects of the Advent season.

Christmas at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary: The Seminary Chorus, a 70-voice men's choir composed of students at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, will present its annual Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 10, at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. in the campus auditorium. Featured will be traditional and contemporary anthems for choir and hymns and carols for the audience. There are no advanced ticket sales; a free will offering is appreciated. The seminary is located 11831 N. Seminary Dr. in Mequon. Find more information on Facebook and at wisluthsem.org.

Join KML in Helping Families in Need: Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School is partnering with Coffeeville Company to raise money for KML's 12 Days of Christmas fundraiser to support families in need. This year we are raising money for the Gerlach, Hovorka, Lindenberg, and Praefke families. Learn more about the families, order coffee, or make a donation at kmlhs.org/12days. Deadline to Order Coffee: December 12, 2023. Deadline to Make a Monetary Donation: December 31, 2023.

KML Shrek the Musical Auditions: Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School's theatre department is holding auditions for the role of "Young Fiona" in the winter production of Shrek the Musical. Auditions are open to girls in grades 5-8 in the KML Federation and will be submitted by video. The deadline for submissions is **December 17**, 2023. For full audition information, please visit kmlhs.org/theatre.



Celebrating God's Blessings This Week:

BIRTHDAYS

Sandra Landvatter – 12/10 Eliana Schepp – 12/14

Sienna Hatch – 12/11 Peyton Scheunemann – 12/14

LaVern Geidel – 12/12 Brian Dreher – 12/15

CALENDAR

Readings for December 10th - December 17th

Sunday

Isaiah 26:20-27:13 1 John 4:1-21

Worship w/Communion 8 am

Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Hour 9:15 am

Worship w/Communion 10:30 am

Monday

Isaiah 28:14-29 IJohn 5:1-21 2 John 1-13 3 John 1-15

Tuesday

Isaiah 29:1-14 Jude 1-25

Bible study 6:30 pm

DEC 13

Wednesday

Isaiah 29:15-30:14 Revelation 1:1-20

Catechism Instruction for 6th-8th Graders 3:30pm

Advent Service 6:30 pm

Thursday

Isaiah 30:15-26 Revelation 2:1-29

Fuel for Moms 7:45 am Bible Study 10 am

DEC 15

Revelation 3:1-22

Isaiah 30:27-31:9

Friday

Isaiah 32:1-20 Revelation 4:1-11

DEC 16

Saturday

Worship 6 pm

DEC 17

Sunday

Isaiah 33:1-24 Revelation 5:1-14

Worship 8 am

Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Hour 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

Ushers for Dec. 16th & 17th

Saturday 12/16 Peters (6 pm)

Sunday 12/17

Stoltz (8 am) Wolter (10:30 am)

Ushers for Dec. 23rd & 24th

Saturday 12/23

Beyer (6 pm)

Sunday 12/24

Schacht/Strack (8 am)

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

Contact Information

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