

“Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper.”

During our service, we celebrate the Lord's Supper. If you are a visitor and are not a member of a congregation of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, we encourage you to speak with Deacon Barnard or one of our elders before the service about what we believe concerning the Sacrament.



December 31, 2023

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

2045 LYNN ST | SANFORD, MI 48657

Deacon *Donald M. Barnard*
Organist: *Sara Glynn-Dishaw*

Happy New Year!

Wishing you a blessed 2024 !

Hymn: **358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come** *sts. 1-5*



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by
 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad-dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
 God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,
 clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.
 in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

Stand

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all

your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠
Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 98:1–3; antiphon: Psalm 124:8

Our help is in the name | of the LORD,*

who made | heaven and earth.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done |
marvelous things!*

**His right hand and his holy arm have worked
salva- | tion for him.**

The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*

**he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the
| nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to
the house of | Israel.*

**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of
our God.**

Our help is in the name | of the LORD,*

who made | heaven and earth.



Kyrie

LSB 186



Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

P Glory be to God on high:

C and on earth peace, good - will toward

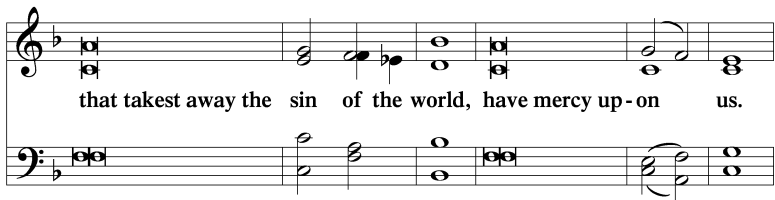
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

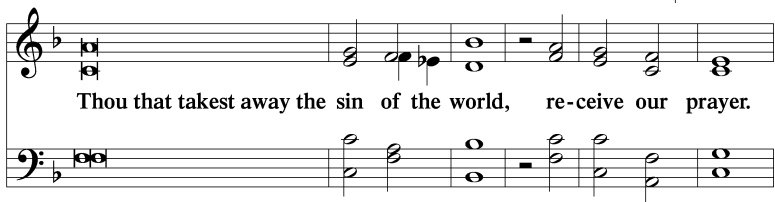
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only - begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

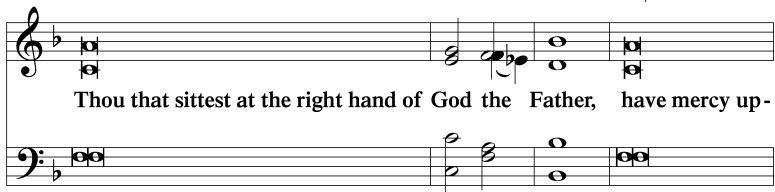
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



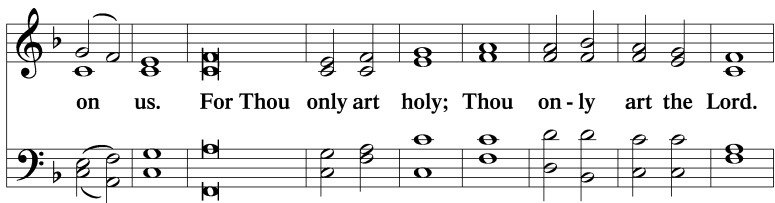
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



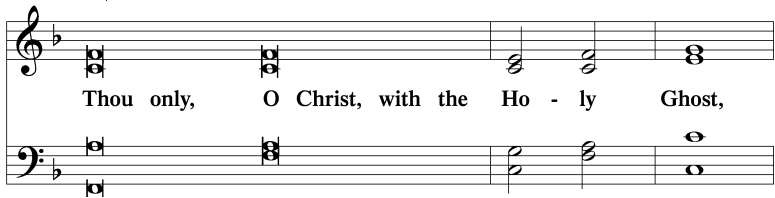
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



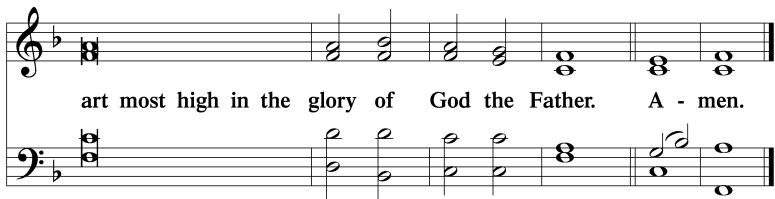
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

¹⁵For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,
“In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”
But you were unwilling, ¹⁶and you said,
“No! We will flee upon horses”;
therefore you shall flee away;
and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”;
therefore your pursuers shall be swift.
¹⁷A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;
at the threat of five you shall flee,
till you are left
like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,
like a signal on a hill.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: 358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come *sts. 6–10*



6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the
7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what
8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, Through whom the
9 Ah, Lord, though You cre - at - ed all, How weak You
10 Were earth a thou - sand times as fair And set with



shep - herds let us go To see what God for
in the man - ger lies. Who is this child, so
sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my
are, so poor and small, That You should choose to
gold and jew - els rare, It would be far too



us has done In send - ing us His own dear Son.
young and fair? It is the Christ Child ly - ing there.
mis - er - y That You might share Your joy with me.
lay Your head Where low - ly cat - tle late - ly fed!
poor and small A cra - dle for the Lord of all.

Epistle

Romans 8:31b–39

If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please Stand in Honor of The Holy Gospel

Alleluia

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 12:35–40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁵[Jesus said:] “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But know this,

that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came
down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the
virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius
Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to
the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

**And He will come again with glory to judge
both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is
worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and
apostolic Church,**

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission
of sins,**

**and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Hymn: **358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come** *sts. 11-15*



11 In - stead of soft and silk - en stuff You have but
12 And so it pleas - es You to see This sim - ple
13 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly Child, Pre - pare a
14 My heart for ver - y joy must leap; My lips no
15 Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, Who un - to



hay and straw so rough On which as King, so
truth re - vealed to me: That world - ly hon - or,
bed, soft, un - de - filed, A qui - et cham - ber
more can si - lence keep. I, too, must sing with
us His Son has giv'n! While an - gels sing with



rich and great, To be en - throned in roy - al state.
wealth, and might Are weak and worth - less in Your sight.
set a - part For You to dwell with - in my heart.
joy - ful tongue That sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:
pi - ous mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

Sermon *“Everlasting”* Romans 8: 31-35, 37-39

Deacon Donald M. Barnard

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sit

Offering

Stand

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

P: Beloved in the Lord: Hear God’s promise in Revelation 14:13:

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Blessed indeed,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!’” (Rev 14:13 ESV)”

P: Blessed are all those who die in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, for they are not dead, but only asleep with the Lord, awaiting the day of resurrection, when they will

rise bodily from their graves to enter the Paradise prepared by God our Heavenly Father.

☩: “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:20)

☩ It is customary for the Church to remember those in its midst who have died. We thank God for the life which He gave to them, and especially for calling them to faith in Jesus Christ through their Baptism.

We remember the example they gave us of faithfulness during their earthly life, of living out their vocations of father, mother, husband, wife, worker, and whatever other callings God gave them. We mourn their death, but we trust in the sure hope of the resurrection.

In joyful expectation of the resurrection to life eternal, we remember before the Lord our departed family and friends who have gone before us in faith and all those who are in our hearts and minds this day.

*Tim Sutton, Patricia Lucille Ochsankehl,
Larry Raymond Goedecke, Albert Rohn*

Congregation members may speak additional names of the faithful departed that we remember.

☩: Let us pray:

Almighty God, we remember with thanksgiving those who loved and served You in Your Church on earth and who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship

with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the glory of Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains four measures of music: a half note G4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note G4. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. It contains four measures of music: a half note G2, a quarter note G2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note G2. The lyrics 'And with thy spir - it.' are written below the top staff, with the first measure containing the text 'And with' and the second measure containing 'thy spir - it.'

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. It contains five measures of music: a half note G4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note G4. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. It contains five measures of music: a half note G2, a quarter note G2, a quarter note G2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note G2. The lyrics 'We lift them up un - to the Lord.' are written below the top staff, with the first measure containing 'We lift them up' and the second measure containing 'un - to the Lord.'

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
 ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
 bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

A - - - - - men.

Agnus Dei

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - - - - - men.

Sit

Distribution

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is God's gift to the Church. Through this gift we are fed with the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. When we gather together at God's table, we are also expressing our common faith and mutual commitment to the doctrine of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. (Attendance at the Lord's Supper is always a confession of that which we believe.) Because of the significance of the Sacrament and because the scriptures counsel us against its misuse (1 Corinthians 11:17-32), those who have not communed previously at St. Paul's are asked to speak with the pastor/deacon or an elder before communing

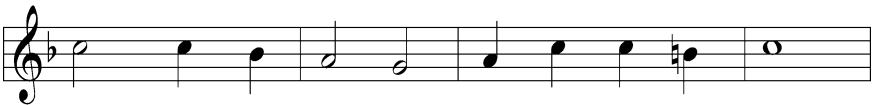
Distribution Hymn: "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord" LSB 637



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You

and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

Musical notation for the phrase "And with thy spirit". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics "And with thy spirit" are written below the treble staff.

C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.

Musical notation for the phrase "Thanks be to God". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics "Thanks be to God" are written below the treble staff.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

Musical notation for the phrase "Amen, amen, amen". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics "Amen, amen, amen" are written below the treble staff.

C A - men, a - men, a - men.

Hymn: "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" LSB 394



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph - et, Priest, and King su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
4 Sun and moon shall dark - ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God - head man - i - fest;
Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo - rious sign;
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
Thou by all wilt be con - fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Dismissal for Sunday School

Dismissal for Youth Bible Study

P Go in Peace, serve the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Acknowledgments: Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book
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. Church Office: 989-687-2824
 E-Mail: stpaul.lutheran@tds.net |
www.stpaulsanford.org

WELCOME:

We join in welcoming our visitor's this morning. If you would please be sure to sign the guest book (Elders can direct you to the location), Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL
<i>SUNDAY: New Year's Eve Morning Service with communion 9:30am / 10:30am Fellowship</i>
MONDAY:
<i>TUESDAY: 5pm Confirmation Class/7pm Lighthouse</i>
<i>WEDNESDAY: Public Relations 10am/Lighthouse 1pm/Choir 7pm</i>
<i>THURSDAY: Pastor Hoogerhyde Bible Study 2:30pm/Elders' 6pm</i>
<i>FRIDAY: Stephen Ministry Training Class 10am</i>
<i>SATURDAY: Band Rehearsal 4pm</i>
<i>SUNDAY : Worship Service 9:30am / 10:30am Fellowship/11am Bible Study</i>

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD 12/24/23 am

OFFERINGS	mom	Memorials	TOTAL	ATTENDANCE
Env / Plate				
\$1510/2160	20	-	\$3690	60

The most **delicious Peanut Brittle** you will find **on sale now-\$5/bag**. Please see a Ladies Aid member for purchase. You will be glad you did :)

Ladies Aid –Resumes with sewing 9am on February 7th

Thank you to all who donated to the Holiday Gift Baskets 😊

Mission of the Month: In December is the **Life Clinic of Midland County**. **The LifeClinic**, provides information so individuals can make the most informed, empowered decision possible for their physical, mental, and emotional health and that of their unborn child. Poster for the narthex is coming soon 😊

*Youth Movie Night-Saturday, January 13th @
6pm Pizzal/popcorn/smares and movie
discussion. 😊*

January 28th, 1pm Youth Group outing to the **Live Oak Café**, Midland where we will be brainstorming youth activities.



For more information about youth group, Sunday School, youth bible study and events, please use the QR code to get to the form.

January 14th –Voter Meeting

Prayer Request: *If you or someone you know are in need of prayers please call or email Edna Rottiers at 989-687-*

9687 / hughrottiers@gmail.com . Those with additional prayer request please complete a prayer slip and give to one of our Elders before the service or to one of the Ushers during the offering. Your prayers are important and our Lord does promise to answer



January Altar Guild representative is Kathy Engblade - 989.631.6447

The 2024 Flower Sign up is now available. Sign up to celebrate your events with decorative flowers!



January 14th Voter's meeting will include voting for board members. Please let board know if you are interested.

To our families with small children: Relax! You and your children are welcome to our worship service! Being in worship with you to observe and participate in the service will help them to learn how to behave in church – and they will learn that best by watching you worship on a regular basis! Sit anywhere in the sanctuary that you wish. The last two rows of pews are set aside for families with small children, but you don't *have* to sit there. In fact, sitting close to the front so your children can see what's happening may help them to feel more involved in the service. If they need something to keep their hands occupied, please ask one of the ushers for a copy of the children's bulletins for them to color. If for any reason you need to take your children out of the sanctuary so they can calm down, feel free to bring them into the bathroom at the back of the church. In addition, at the bottom of the stairs we have a cry room to the right, as well as the fellowship hall to the left. With the speakers in the basement, you will be able to hear the service while your child calms down. If your children don't want to sit still or be quiet through the whole service, there is absolutely nothing wrong with them: they are young and learning. The sound of children in worship is the sound of the Church's future.



Blacktop Project-We are accepting donations to the Blacktop project as we work toward future upgrades.

Pastoral Care: Please contact the Pastor @ cell 973-303-8252, office 989-687-2209, or email stpaulrev@tds.net. The Church Office (989-687-2824) / cell (989 859-9300) email stpaul Lutheran@tds.net, or Deacon Don Barnard (989-751-7726) email: stpauldeacon@tds.net or esocidnator01@gmail.com if you or anyone you know are in need of a visit from the Pastor or Deacon whether it's an illness, hospitalization, nursing home or shut-in. It is important to us that we receive these communications to plan a call or visitation. May God's blessings be upon you today and every day!



**Wild Game Dinner-
January 19th @ 6pm**
Featuring Guest Speaker: Doug
Roberts "The Deer Professor"
of ConQuest Scents/Farms

#Up Coming Events#

Youth Movie Night-Saturday, January 13th @ 6pm
Pizza/popcorn/smore and movie discussion. 😊

January 14th –Voter Meeting

January 19th @ 6pm **Wild Game Dinner** with Guest
Doug Roberts of ConQuest Scents

January 28th, 1pm Youth Group outing to the **Live
Oak Café**, Midland where we will be brainstorming
youth activities.

3 Lent Crosses – First showing of the 3 crosses made by Mike Schweigert, Randy Engblade, and Don Retzloff will be Feb 11th

Interested in joining the **Youth Ministry Board**,. Next meeting is Thursday, January 25th @ 6pm. The board will focus on the planning of education and activities designed for our congregation's youth. Please let Gerianne or Pastor know if interested.

Sanford Food Pantry: The current needs for the Food Pantry are **Mustard, Ketchup, Pancake syrup** There are refillable canvas bags from the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry available on the food pantry table in the fellowship hall. The bags have a suggested list of items and instructions. You may take these bags home and place the purchased items in the bag and return it to the church. The bags will be delivered to the Sanford Food Pantry the last week of the month. The empty bags will be returned to the church to be used again. *Thank you for all of the items and monetary donations. Please remember that the food pantry does not accept expired or dietary food.*

Thank you to all who helped with work around the church in 2023 ☺

Thank you to the congregation for the kind Christmas Gift. Sincerely, Don Retzloff & Mark Burns

Have you made a New Year's Resolution yet? Perhaps one way to start 2024 is to be blessed by devotions every **Monday** from Dr. Seltz. Maybe it is receiving a podcast every **Wednesday** or an Op Ed piece every **Friday**. You can receive all three and more by subscribing to the LCRL email list. See www.LCRLFreedom.org to subscribe

SERVING	This Week 12/31	Next Week 1/07
Flowers:	Open	Bill & Ruth Draves
Music:	Sara Glynn-Dishaw	Heidi Stecker
Proclaimer:	Deacon Donald M. Barnard	Pastor Christopher P. Vossler
Fellowship Host	Myrna, Patty, Christy	Ann Reith & Vicki Barnard
Ushers	Elders	Linda Mitchell & Marilyn Bowen
Acolytes	Natalie & Madison	Garrett & Sam
Greeters	Andrea & Dave MacDonald	The Holsingers

Read the Bible in a Year!

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

For Christians – and especially for Lutherans – nothing is more important than God’s Word. God speaks to us through His Word, and we do well to listen to what He has to say to us. That is why regular devotions and prayer and Scripture reading are so important for our spiritual life.

It’s always a good time to start a plan to read the Bible! And in fact, you can read through the entire Bible in a year, with only 15-20 minutes per day. Are you worried that the Bible might be too much for you to read in a single year? There are resources that can help. One option that is available is on your smartphone: Download the YouVersion Bible App and look up the “Reformation Reading Plan,” which was developed by the Michigan District to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

If you don't have a smartphone, you can follow this reading plan in the bulletin every week, along with suggested readings from Luther's Small Catechism. Note that whatever day you start the reading plan in the app will be "Day 1," so you may find yourself on a different day than what is in the bulletin.

Daily Readings:

Days 64-70	Reading	Catechism
Monday	Galatians 3, 4:1-7, Exodus 23, 24	The Sacrament of the Altar
Tuesday	Galatians 4:8-31, Exodus 25,26	Daily Prayers
Wednesday	Galatians 5,6 Exodus 27,28	Table of Duties
Thursday	Ephesians 1, Exodus 29,30,31	Christian Questions with Their Answers
Friday	Ephesians 2,3 Exodus 32,33	The Ten Commandments
Saturday	Proverbs 5, Psalms 34,35,36	The First Commandment
Sunday	Genesis 1: 1-5, Psalm 29, Romans 6: 1-11, Mark 1: 4-11	The Second Commandment

Daily Devotion Resources:

Daily Prayers for Morning, Noon, Evening, Close of Day (LSB 294-298)/*Treasury of Daily Prayer*/Portals of Prayer

Prayer Requests:

- Youth in the Church, especially our Confirmands
- Our Shut-ins
- Pastors of our congregation and Synod, and for increase in the numbers of Seminary students for future Pastors