



Ascension Lutheran Church
A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession
(clclutheran.org)
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Pastor: Terrel Kesterson – Organist: Peggy Kesterson

Ascension Lutheran is a family of Christians
intent on sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and His victory over death



The Second Sunday In Advent December 9, 2018

“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.” (1 John 4:9, ESV)

PRESERVICE MEDITATION: Psalm 95 (page 143-144 in The Lutheran Hymnal)

HYMN 61 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People”*

A Service Of Word & Sacrament, setting 2 (page 12, Worship Supplement)

FIRST LESSON: Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵ for your fellowship in the Gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ; ⁷ just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the Gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. ⁸ For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. ⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

PSALM OF THE DAY (*responsively*) – from Psalm 89

L: I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever;

C: WITH MY MOUTH I WILL MAKE KNOWN YOUR FAITHFULNESS TO ALL GENERATIONS.

L: “I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David:

C: ‘YOUR SEED I WILL ESTABLISH FOREVER, AND BUILD UP YOUR THRONE TO ALL GENERATIONS.’”

L: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face.

C: BLESSED ARE THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE JOYFUL SOUND! THEY WALK, O LORD, IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR COUNTENANCE.

L: In Your name they rejoice all day long, and in Your righteousness they are exalted.

C: FOR YOU ARE THE GLORY OF THEIR STRENGTH, AND IN YOUR FAVOR OUR HORN IS EXALTED.

L: My covenant I will not break, nor alter the Word that has gone out of My lips.

C: ONCE I HAVE SWORN BY MY HOLINESS; I WILL NOT LIE TO DAVID:

L: His Seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me.
C: BLESSED BE THE LORD FOREVERMORE! AMEN AND AMEN.

SECOND LESSON – the Gospel: Luke 3:1-6 *rise*

¹ Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Apostles’ Creed (page 15, Worship Supplement)

HYMN 63 (The Lutheran Hymnal) “*On Jordan’s Bank The Baptist’s Cry*”

SERMON: Malachi 3:1-4

THE SON OF GOD CAME TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS

¹ **“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He *is* like a refiner’s fire and like launderer’s soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the LORD, as in the days of old, as in former years.**



OFFERTORY (page 16, Worship Supplement)

Psalm 51:10-12

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 94 (The Lutheran Hymnal) “*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*”

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, and THE LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION (page 21, Worship Supplement)

Numbers 6:24-26

HYMN 87 (The Lutheran Hymnal) “*Joy To The World, The Lord Is Come*”

WELCOME, VISITORS! Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book in the narthex.

TODAY our usher is Glenn Libby. In our Bible Study we’re on Revelation 9:6ff.

FRIDAY: NORTH AURORA CARE CENTER BIBLE STUDY: 10:10 AM.

SUNDAY: WORSHIP SERVICE: 10 AM; SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY: 11:15 AM.

NEXT SUNDAY our usher is Rick Louderman. NORTH AURORA CARE CENTER

SERVICE: 3:00 PM, BATAVIA REHAB SERVICE: 4:00 PM.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Last Sunday our offering was \$3,605.00 (needed each week: \$1,157.00), and our attendance was 17. Our

General Fund balance as of last Sunday was \$4,807.00. Total outstanding unpaid bills: –\$6,532.00 (mainly from church mortgage payments and Cooperative Budget Plan offerings to the CLC).

UPCOMING DATES:

Sunday, December 23: Christmas reading and carol service: 10:00 AM, potluck afterwards.

Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve service: 7:30 PM

(Tuesday, December 25: no Christmas Day service planned)

Tuesday, January 1: New Year’s Day service: 10:00 AM

Sunday, January 13: Council meeting

Sunday, January 27: Voters meeting

WE’RE HAVING A POTLUCK on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, immediately following our church service (no Sunday School and Bible Study that day).

Please SIGN UP on the SHEET on the TABLE in the NARTHEX.

OUR LUTHERAN SPOKESMAN SUBSCRIPTIONS are paid by our congregation at a cost of \$15.00 per subscription each year. It

would help with our budget if we could reimburse our congregation for the cost.

THE CLC NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT is in your MAILBOX.

THE MIDWEST CHRISTIAN WOMEN’S RETREAT, sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, will be held

March 22-24, 2019, at the Riverport Inn & Suites, Winona, MN. Registration is \$75 and opens on January 1, 2019 and will be limited to the first 120 applicants. Register at www.ladiesretreat.clclutheran.net. Choose the “Midwest Spring Retreat.” Hotel reservations (separate from retreat registration) can be made by calling (507) 452-0606, with the special block rate for our group available now. Be sure to mention “retreat” to get the block rate. Deadline for both retreat registration and hotel reservations is Friday, February 22, 2019.

THE CLC KINSHIP COMMITTEE is seeking sponsors to support overseas orphans and seminary students. There are both students and orphans that will not have financial support starting in January if we do not find new sponsors. Please give this prayerful consideration. For more information, please email or text Dan Roehl (danroehl@hotmail.com / 507-381-2042).