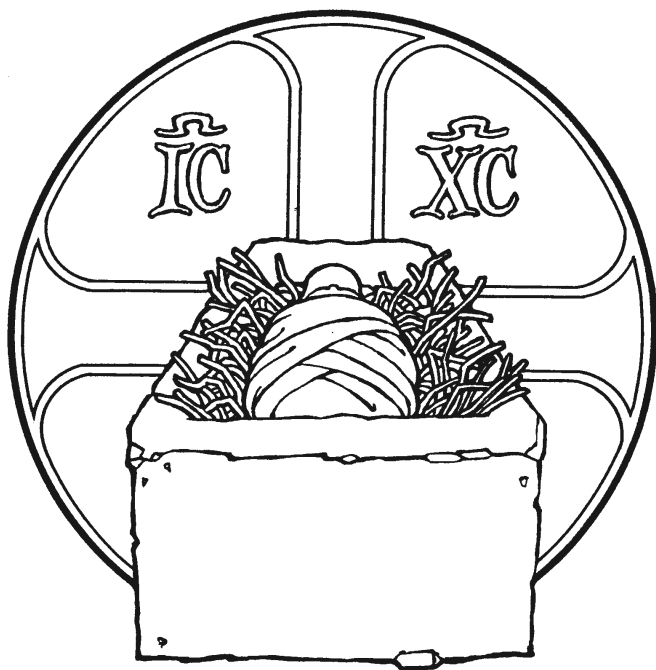




# OUR REDEEMER

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A congregation of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, established in 1924*



## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

*Christmas Eve*

Sunday, 24 December A+D 2023 • 7:00 P.M.

**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**

**420 W. Breitung Ave.**

**Kingsford, MI 49802**

**(906) 774-1844 • [www.ourredeemerkingsford.org](http://www.ourredeemerkingsford.org)**

Rev. Matthew D. Ruesch, Pastor  
[pastor@ourredeemerkingsford.org](mailto:pastor@ourredeemerkingsford.org)

Claire Valeski, Secretary  
[secretary@ourredeemerkingsford.org](mailto:secretary@ourredeemerkingsford.org)

## ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Order of Service:	LSB, Vespers, pg. 229
Hymns:	379, 368, 364, 370, 380, 933, 363, 387
Sermon Title:	"Sermon Title"
Sermon Text:	Titus 2:11-14

## WELCOME TO OUR REDEEMER

**WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU WITH US TODAY AS WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S GIFTS OF FORGIVENESS, LIFE, AND SALVATION.** If you are with us for the first time, please take a moment to introduce yourself to our pastor. Should you be looking for a church home, please indicate so when you sign the Record of Fellowship tablet. We would love to take the opportunity to tell you more about our congregation and what it means to be a part of the people of God here in the Twin Cities area.

**Our Redeemer is a congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.**  
**To learn more about The LCMS, visit [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org).**

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

*Christmas Eve*

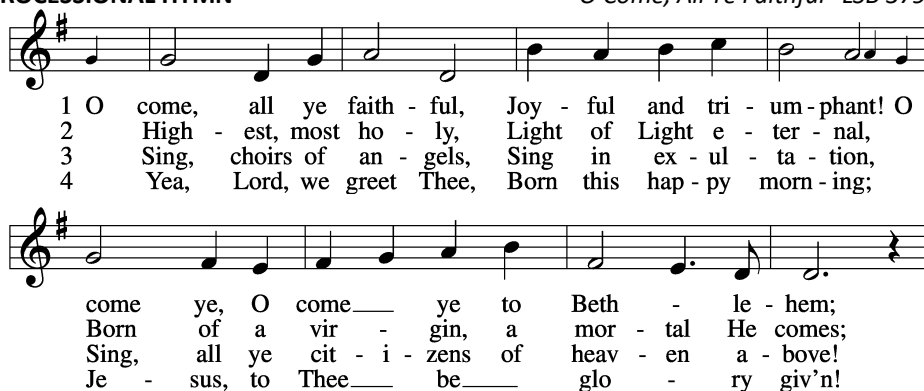
Sunday, 24 December A+D 2023 • 7:00 P.M.

***Lutheran Service Book, Vespers, pg. 229***

*Stand*


### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful" LSB 379*



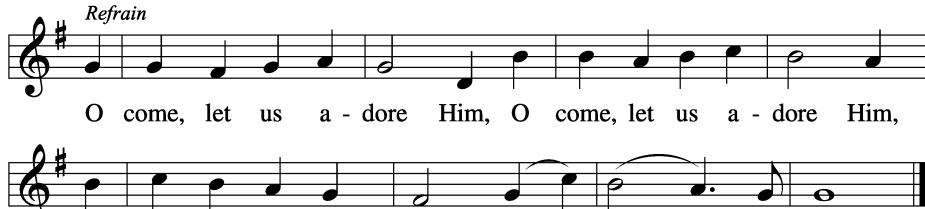
1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!



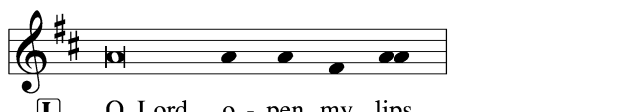
Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God In the high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*Refrain*

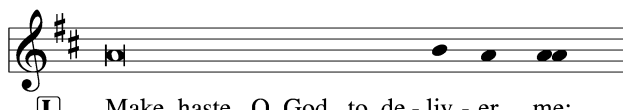


O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,  
 O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

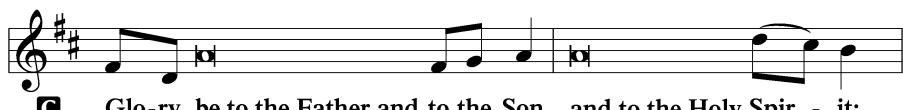
Text and tune: Public domain



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,  
**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;  
**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;  
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



## Psalmody

### PSALM

*Psalm 96; antiphon: v. 2*

- P** Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
**C** **tell of his salvation from day to day.**  
**P** Oh sing to the LORD a new song;  
**C** **sing to the LORD, all the earth!**  
**P** Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
**C** **tell of his salvation from day to day.**  
**P** Declare his glory among the nations,  
**C** **his marvelous works among all the peoples!**  
**P** For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
**C** **he is to be feared above all gods.**  
**P** For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,  
**C** **but the LORD made the heavens.**  
**P** Splendor and majesty are before him;  
**C** **strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**  
**P** Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
**C** **ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!**  
**P** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
**C** **bring an offering, and come into his courts!**  
**P** Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;  
**C** **tremble before him, all the earth!**  
**P** Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;  
**C** **he will judge the peoples with equity."**  
**P** Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
**C** **let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!**  
**P** Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes,  
**C** **for he comes to judge the earth.**  
**P** He will judge the world in righteousness,  
**C** **and the peoples in his faithfulness.**  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
**P** Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
**C** **tell of his salvation from day to day.**

# OFFICE HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High" LSB 368



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' - n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Readings

### READING

*Isaiah 9:2–7*

**L** A reading from Isaiah, chapter 9.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

on them has light shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation;

you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden,

and the staff for his shoulder,

the rod of his oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult

and every garment rolled in blood  
 will be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
 to us a son is given;  
 and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
 and his name shall be called  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace  
 there will be no end,  
 on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
 to establish it and to uphold it  
 with justice and with righteousness  
 from this time forth and forevermore.  
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

# HYMN

"Away in a Manger" LSB 364

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.  
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.  
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text and tune: Public domain

# READING

Titus 2:11–14

**L** A reading from Titus, chapter 2.

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## HYMN

"What Child Is This" LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text and tune: Public domain

## READING

Luke 2:1–20

**L** A reading from Luke, chapter 2.

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And

all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## HYMN

*"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LSB 380*



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

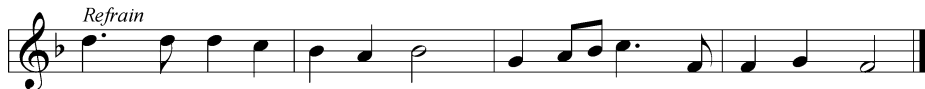


Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,





With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec-ond birth.

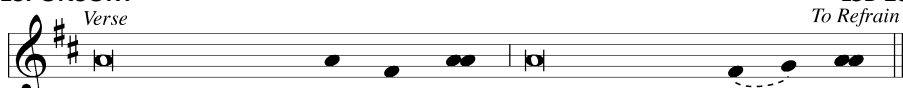


Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"

Text and tune: Public domain

## RESPONSORY

LSB 230  
To Refrain



- L** 1 Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.  
2 Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.  
3 Glory be to the  
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



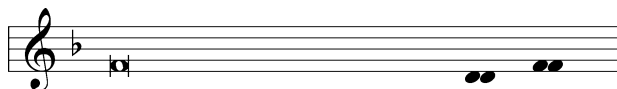
- C** Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

## SERMON

"Christmas: Past, Present, and Future" Titus 2:11-14

## Canticle

### Stand



- L** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



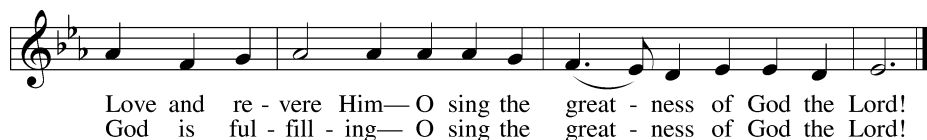
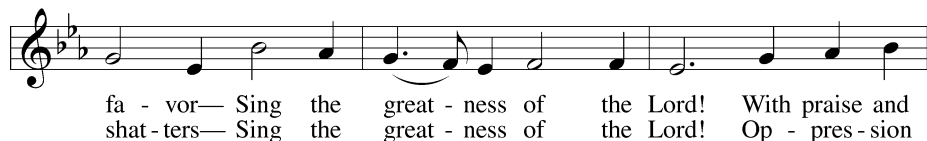
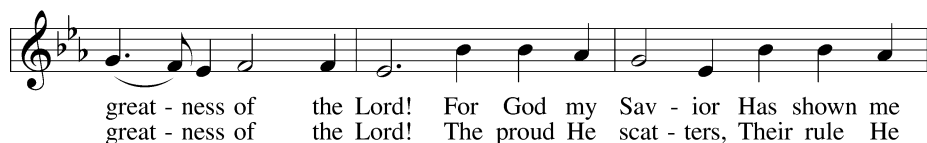
- C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

## MAGNIFICAT

"My Soul Rejoices" LSB 933



- 1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



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Tune: Public domain

*Sit*

## OFFERING

Prayer

*Stand*



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

## COLLECTS



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with your spir - it.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

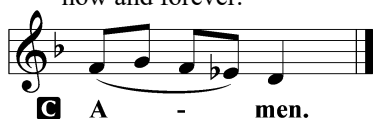


**C** A - men.

## COLLECT FOR PEACE

**L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from

the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Stand

*The candles are now lit for the singing of "Silent Night, Holy Night." The pastor will light his candle from the Christ candle in the center of the Advent wreath and then light the candles of the ushers. The ushers will pass down the center aisle to light the candle of the person seated at the end of each pew. Worshipers then light their candles from the person seated next to them. **Please tip the \*unlit\* candles into the lit candles to avoid dripping wax on the pews and carpet.***

# CANDLELIGHT HYMN

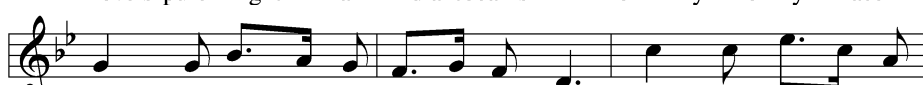
"Silent Night, Holy Night" LSB 363



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text and tune: Public domain

# BENEDICAMUS

LSB 234



**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## BENEDICTION

LSB 234



**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



**C** A - men.

## HYMN TO DEPART

"Joy to the World" LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU TO ROB & JASON KUEHL** for adding beautiful saxophone music to our service this evening! We appreciate you using your gifts, Rob & Jason!

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE AT OUR REDEEMER:** Join us in receiving the newborn King!

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>:** 9:00 A.M. Christmas Day Divine Service

The originally scheduled **CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT SERVICE** has been cancelled.

Please note that there is **NO CATECHISM VESPERS OR WEDNESDAY EVENING DIVINE SERVICE** on 12/27.

**THERE IS NO EDUCATION HOUR NEXT SUNDAY.** Adult Bible study, Youth Group, and Sunday school will resume on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. **THERE IS NO BIBLE STUDY** this Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>.

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are now in your mailbox. If you did not receive envelopes and would like them or do not have a mailbox and would like one, please contact Claire in the church office at (906) 774-1844 or at [secretary@ourredeemerkingsford.org](mailto:secretary@ourredeemerkingsford.org).

**BOTTLES/CANS:** The Youth Group wants your bottles and cans! You may drop off your bottles/cans at the church entrance bottle bin.

**LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR—Christmas Eve:** Jesus brought God delicately amidst sinners, as humble in crucifixion as He was helpless in conception. Yet this estate did not hinder but, in fact, heralded the full realm and reign of God for us. And thereby He reaffirmed the worth of even the feeblest human beings. God's gift of life arrives all the better for the plain packaging He habitually hides it behind. *Prayer: Lamb of God, make it so that our taking hold of You leads us to cradle Your little ones as well. Amen.*

**"THIS TIME OF THE YEAR ALWAYS FILLS US WITH CHEER** | But the reason we celebrate is not always clear | The cookies, the lights, the presents, the tree | The carols, the decorations, the family parties | But all of the delight and all of the fun | Does not mean a thing if we don't know God's Son | The tiny baby that was born to die | Can sometimes cause us to stop and ask why | Do we really deserve the sacrifice He made? | Are we worth the offering and the price that was paid? | In His eyes, we are, because He made us His own | And on the cross, the ultimate love was shown | So take joy in the season and spread His true love | But always remember the gift from above!" *Jerrold Nelson – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

## SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

### MUSIC

### ELDERS

### ALTAR GUILD

#### Week of 12/24

Sunday, 9:00 A.M.	Digital Music	Rob Kuehl	Sue Rochon
Sunday, 7:00 P.M.	Digital Music	Jim Reed	Sue Rochon
Monday, 9:00 A.M.	Digital Music	Jim Reed	Sue Rochon

#### Week of 12/31

Sunday, 9:00 A.M.	Digital Music	Gary Peterson	Jenna Long
Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.	Digital Music	Jim Sleik	Jenna Long

## THIS WEEK AT OUR REDEEMER

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Sunday (24)	9:00 A.M.	Divine Service
	7:00 P.M.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons & Carols
Monday (25)	9:00 A.M.	Christmas Day Divine Service
Tuesday (26)		
Wednesday (27)		
Thursday (28)		
Friday (29)		Pastor's Day Off
Saturday (30)		
Sunday (31)	9:00 A.M.	Divine Service

## GIVING REPORT & BUDGET UPDATE

### WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Last Week Offering:	\$2,158.15
Other Income and Gifts:	\$994.30
Total Income This Week:	\$3,182.45
Needed for Budget:	\$3,346.24
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>-\$163.79</b>

### YEAR-TO-DATE

Year-to-Date Offerings:	\$136,622.24
Other Income and Gifts:	\$24,037.7
Total Income This Year:	\$160,659.94
Needed for Budget:	\$167,311.00
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>-\$6,651.06</b>

## ATTENDANCE REPORT

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
Sunday, 12/17, 9:00 A.M.	91	79