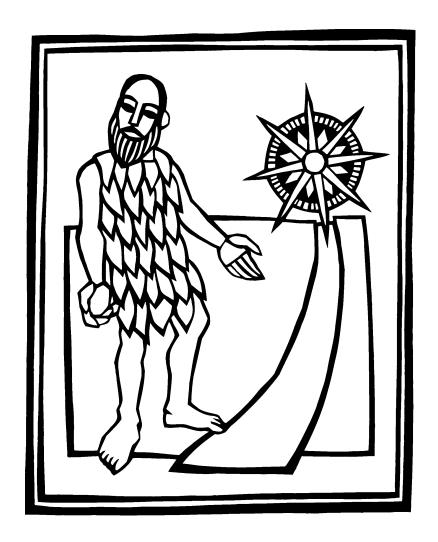
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 14, 2025



ELW SETTING 4 LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom, Pastor
30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL

847-945-1550 www.holyspirit-elca.org



We are glad you are with us today.

We are a family of faith living and growing together in Christ.

This bulletin is filled with information about the life of the church, you are invited to take it home for reference and further reflection during the week. Various updates and additional church information, along with the Pastor Tim's sermons, are posted each week on our website — www.holyspirit-elca.org. Welcome cards/envelopes are located in the pew rack. Please take a moment to fill out the information and return it to the offering plate.

Our sound system includes a T-system hearing loop, which allows worshipers with T-system compatible hearing aids to tune in directly to the worship leaders' microphones for clearer sound. There are two hearing unit headsets available in the narthex for use. Additionally, large print bulletins are available at the sanctuary door.

As we worship and celebrate communion this morning we remind you that this is the Lord's table. Jesus is the host. We are his guests. God welcomes everyone to come and eat and be nourished, fed and forgiven. Come and eat and live! Please extend your hand to receive the bread, then take a cup from the tray. Please indicate if you prefer to receive a gluten-free wafer. Those not receiving communion are welcome to receive a blessing.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Holy Spirit, please see Pastor Tim. Membership comes through baptism or affirmation of faith.

Please let us know if we can be of service to you in any way!

Welcome visitors to LCHS! Please scan this QR code to share your info with us.



Portions of today's worship are from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2008 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20455. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Hymns are used by permission through *OneLicense.net* License #A-712844

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

All page and hymn numbers refer to the "red" ELW hymnal.

PRELUDE "Comfort, Comfort, Now My People" Larry Shackley

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

- P Long-expected God,
- C we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

- P God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
- C Amen.



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Hope for Those Who Are Watching



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

Text and music ©1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

All rights reserved. Used by permission

- P Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.
- C We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!
- P Grant us vision to behold your glory.
- C We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!
- P Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.
- C We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!
- P Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.
- C We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!
- P For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:
- C Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Candle Lighting

P This morning, we light three candles. The first candle reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The second candle is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The third candle awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.



- P God of eternity, you called faithful people throughout the ages to behold your glory. We acknowledge you call us to the same awareness today. We confess at times our spiritual senses are stifled. Rekindle a new awareness of your everlasting glory. We stand in awe of your deeds and ask you to repeat them in our day. In Jesus's name we pray.
- C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Tim Linstrom

Isaiah 35:1-10

FIRST READING

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

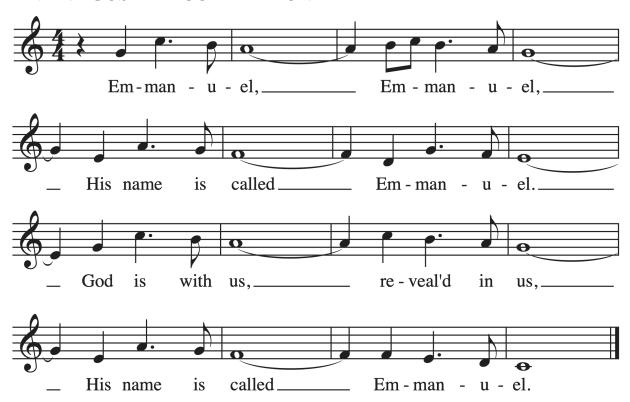
James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ADVENT GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

- P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the third chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.
- P ² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

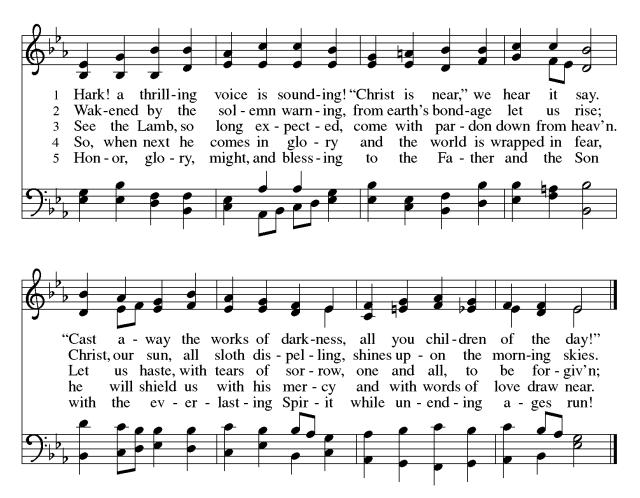
C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Tim Linstrom

HYMN OF THE DAY "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!" ELW 246



Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.
- A God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. We pray for those serving in the military and their families, especially **Amelia Eastman**, **Thomas**

Menter (grandson of Louise), Dylan Utterback (son of Julie & Joel), Jim Detjen (brother of Mary), Dylan Glenner, Hannah Best (son and daughter of Anne-Marie Glenner). We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. We A especially pray for Carol Bertrand, Ruth Berman, Ethan Cloonan, Amy Dohler, Gordy Duprey, Elizabeth Falato, Marian McBride, Cathy Nathan, Darlene Neumann, Sandy Kalas, Tom Weglarz, Allison Wittich, Valerie Farran (friend of the Wittichs), Jacob Gombar (uncle of Jeanne Nelson), Jean Goodale (friend of Joan Roehl), Laura Hansel (sister of Mary Detjen), **Tobey Lannert** (sister-in-law of Carol Duprey), Vic Larson (former member), Cierra Mason (granddaughter of Jerry Mason), the Chase Petersen family (friends of Amy Dohler), Kari, Sydney, and Luke Stocks (daughter in-law and grandchildren of Dorothy and Ron Stocks), Michael Ungari, Lenita Spears, (relative & friend of the Labellarte family), Coco & Lukas (grandchildren of JoAnne Schwarcz), Jim Wahlund (brother in-law of Chris Miller), Dana Zingrone (friend of Jeanne Nelson). In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

- A When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith especially Mary, mother of Jesus, and John of the Cross. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
- C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always

C and also with you.

All the people greet one another through the sharing of the peace.

THE OFFERING

WORLD HUNGER OFFERING

OFFERTORY ""O Come, O Come, Immanuel" Natalie Sleeth

Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Nourishing God,

you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

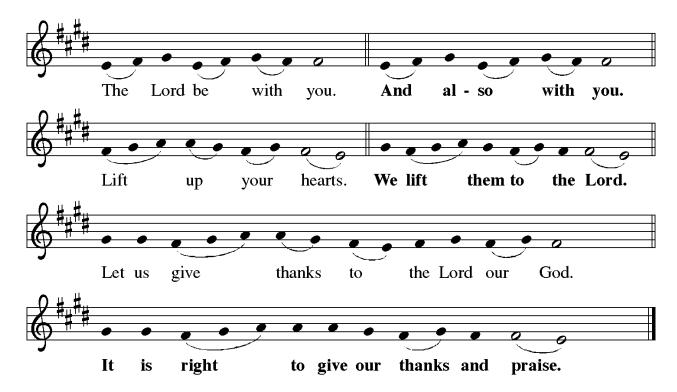
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,

that we may rejoice and be for the world

signs of your kingdom come.

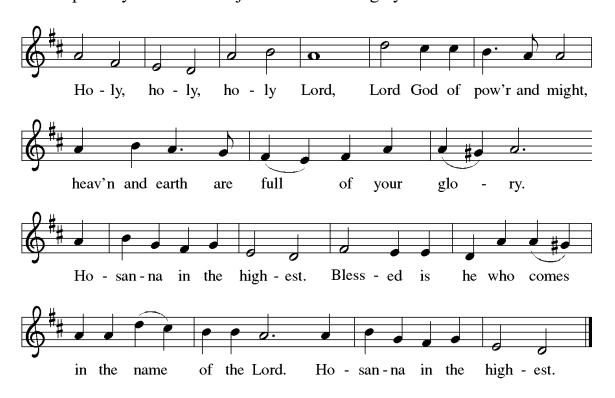
C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P All who believe in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, are welcome at the table of the Lord. Let us pray together as our Lord taught us.
- 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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

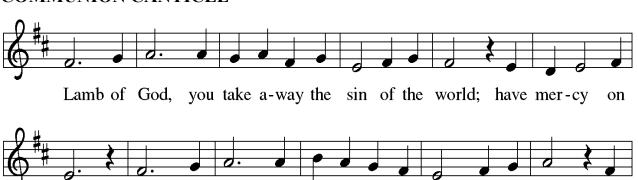
Please be seated

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

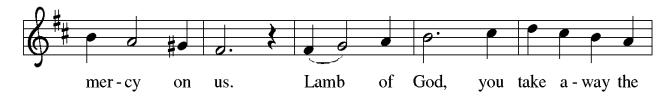
- P Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.
- C Amen.

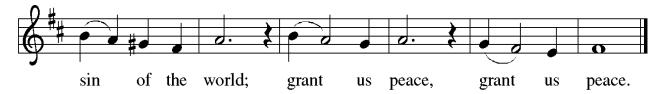


COMMUNION CANTICLE



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have





Stand after all have been communed

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE





POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
- C Amen.

BENEDICTION

- P May God who comes among us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.
- C Amen.



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.
Arr. © 1999 Novello & Company Ltd., London, United Kingdom. All rights reserved. International copyright secured.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Keep awake

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "People Look East" Steve Wente

Sanctuary flowers were donated by the Corey Kalas in memory of Mel Kalas.

<u>CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND SING-ALONG</u> — December 14th.

Today after service please join us for our annual Christmas program and sing along. This years program is entitled, "Martin's Tree", the story of Martin Luther's family and the first Christmas tree. Don't miss the kids performing in this delightful annual program.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS — December 14th.

All order forms along with your payment are due today. Help us decorate the altar for Christmas Eve services by donating poinsettias to the glory of God, in honor or memory of someone special. Cost is \$20.00 per plant. Checks may be made payable to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit.

ANGEL TREE — December 14th.

Wrapped gifts are due today Sunday, December 14th.

Target Gift Cards Too: Lutheran Day Nursery also has some families in need this year. In addition to the gifts for the children, we will also be collecting Target gift cards to be given to these families.

<u>CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE</u> —

3:30 PM - Service of Candles and Communion with special music.

5:30 PM - Family worship with Candles and Communion, the Christmas Orchestra, and Youth & Cherub Choirs.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT — Do you still need to make your 2026

stewardship commitment? A link to submit your commitment online can be found on the church website at www.holyspirit-elca.org/stewardship. Stewardship forms are also available in the church gathering space.

<u>GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORMS</u>— for anyone who needs to update their giving amount based on their new 2026 pledge this can be done online by logging into your Vanco Simply Giving account. If you are unable to do this or prefer we update it for you, authorization forms are available in the church office.

<u>IMPORTANT TAX BENEFIT</u> — Have you reached that golden IRS age of 70 ½? If so, then you can donate directly to Holy Spirit from your taxable IRA with a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

- Currently the maximum annual QCD amount any individual can make in total is \$108,000 (index adjusted annually).
- This direct contribution satisfies any RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) you may be subject to.
- This distribution is not included in your Adjusted Gross Income for the year and thus will not be taxable income.
- This amount will not count against your IRMAA (income related monthly adjustment amount for Medicare).

Just direct your IRA custodian to distribute via direct check to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. You may already have a checkbook for your taxable IRA account for making such charitable contributions written directly to the charity. Remittance information should include the donor name. Questions can be directed to Jackie Murphy at Jmurph2803@gmail.com.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY — Join us on Thursday mornings from 10:15 to 11:30 for a time of Biblical reflection and spirited conversation. Our new study is entitled, "Light of the World: a Beginner's Guide to Advent". Amy-Jill Levine, professor of New Testament studies and author, explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus, including the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Maji. Theses stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories and the Old Testament, the role of women in 1st century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation, and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the

census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt. Don't miss this wonderful study! Your thoughts and opinions are valued as we learn from the experts and from each other. We always close our time together in prayer.

QUILTERS — The Quilting Ministry meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

<u>PRAYER GROUP</u> — Our prayer group meets at 9:30a.m. on Thursday mornings in room 3. If you'd like to pray with us, please come! We'd love for you to join us.

<u>ON-LINE GIVING AND TEXT TO GIVE</u> — Our secure online giving option makes it more convenient for members and visitors to donate. Giving is also as easy as sending a text with our text-to-give feature. Text the amount you want to donate to 844-573-1379. A registration link will be texted back for you to enter your information.



Tap "Process" to complete your donation. Please scan this code with your phone to donate using our secure online giving page.

<u>LIVE STREAM</u> — Our services are live-streamed and archived on our Holy Spirit YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/ @churchinthewoods-holyspirit or scan the QR code. Please reach out to Daaron Dohler or Ryan Hathaway if you have any questions.



HOLY	SPIRIT 1	HAPPENINGS
111/11		

Sunday December 14 9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

10:45 am Children's Christmas Program

10:45 am Brass

Tuesday December 16 4:15 p.m. LYFE

4:30 p.m. Confirmation

4:30 p.m. Adult Choir

Thursday December 18 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group

10:30 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday December 21 9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

Pastor: Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom

Office Manager: Ciara Crews
Music Ministers: Karen M. Jirsa, Bill Vaananen,

Nancy Fencl

Organist: Karen M. Jirsa
Children's Ministry Director: Jennifer Williams

Assistant Minister Jan Schwanke

Usher Michael Pedersen, Al Edwards

Greeter Jerry Mason

Communion Kelly Wittich, Allison Wyrwicz

Record Daaron Dohler

Church office hours: Weekdays. 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

Church email: lutheranholyspirit@gmail.com

Church Phone number: 847-945-1550