# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 2025



# ${\it ELW~SETTING~4}\\ {\it LUTHERAN~CHURCH~OF~THE~HOLY~SPIRIT}$

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.



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# THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

## PRELUDE "Hark, the Glad Sound!" Paul Bouman

#### **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: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

# **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 Wait



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.

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- P The Light shines in the darkness,
- C but the darkness has not overcome it.
- P During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.
- C The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
- P We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.
- C The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
- P We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.
- C The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
- P For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:
- 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 Today we light two candles. The first candle illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The second candle extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of this world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.



- P God of mercy and compassion, scripture says that if we draw near to you, you will draw near to us. In a shadowy world where human weakness and weariness reside, we ask for you to draw near and dispel the darkness around us. May the light of this season illuminate our hope, strength, and steadfast endurance as we await the coming Savior. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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**

#### FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. The word of the Lord.

#### C Thanks be to God.

#### **SECOND READING**

#### Romans 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup> and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name";

<sup>10</sup> and again he says,

"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";

<sup>11</sup> and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,

and let all the peoples praise him";

<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the gentiles;

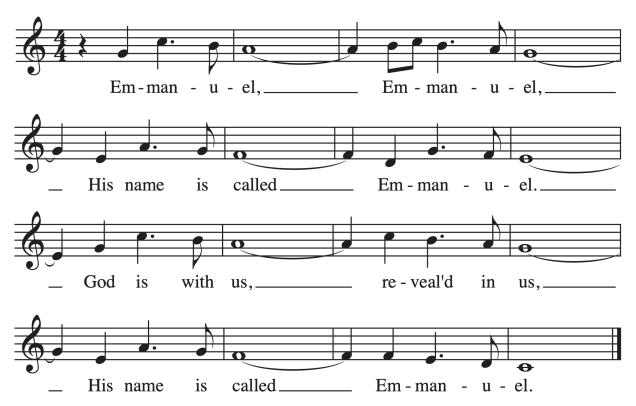
in him the gentiles shall hope."

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

#### C Thanks be to God.

#### ADVENT GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12

- P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the third chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.
- P <sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,
  - "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
  - 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"
  - <sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and

do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." The Gospel of the Lord.

# C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

#### **SERMON**

#### **Pastor Tim Linstrom**



1 O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams, 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce de - vour the small;



guide us to jus - tice, truth, and love, de-liv-ered from our self - ish schemes. as beasts and cat - tle calm-ly graze, a lit-tle child shall lead them all.



May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re-lease, Then en - e-mies shall learn to love, all crea-tures find their true ac-cord;



till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace. the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944 Music: JERUSALEM, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

"O Day of Peace"

**ELW 711** 

Please Stand

#### **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 With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. 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.

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost A hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. We especially pray for Carol Bertrand, Ruth Berman, Ethan Cloonan, Amy Dohler, Gordy Duprey, Elizabeth Falato, Marian McBride, Cathy Nathan, Darlene Neumann, 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). Surround all with care and consolation. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,

# C hear our prayer.

- A With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith especially Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, whom we commemorate today. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. 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

# OFFERTORY "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" arr. Robinson

Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

# **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A Nourishing God,

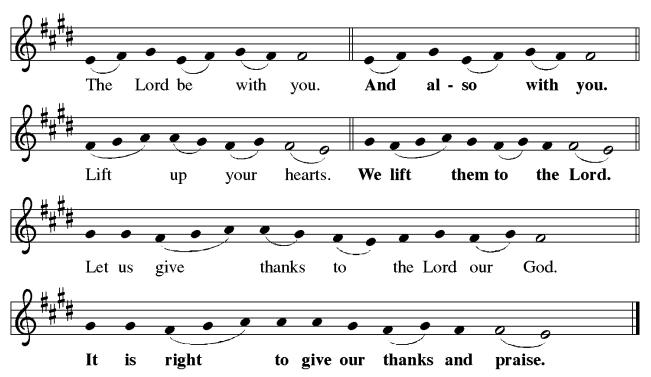
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,

that we may rejoice and be for the world

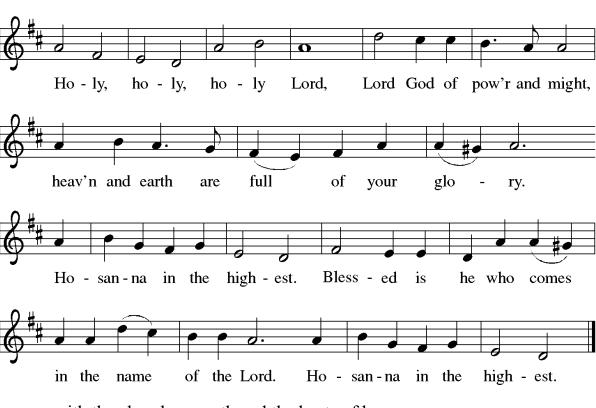
signs of your kingdom come.

## 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 forey

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.

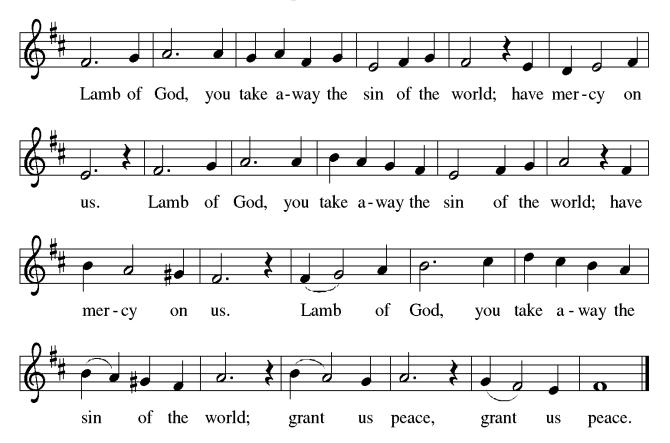
Amen.

Please be seated

#### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

P Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

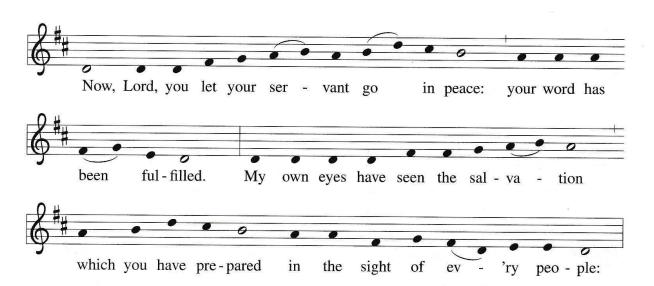


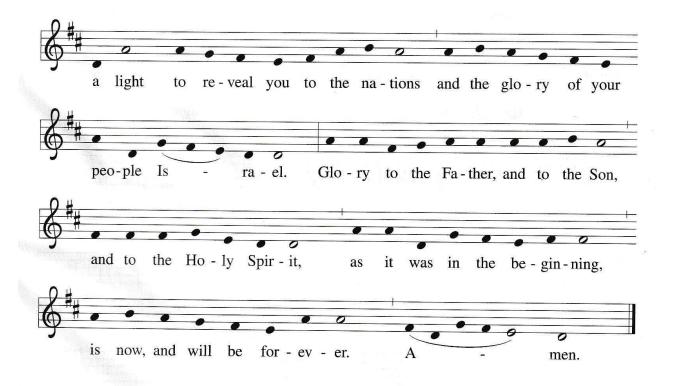
#### C Amen.

#### **COMMUNION CANTICLE**

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

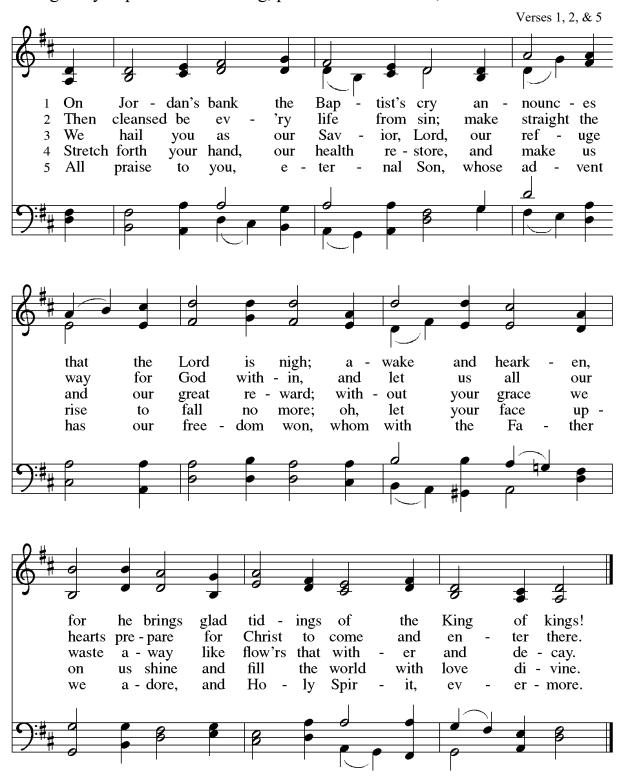
A God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

# C Amen.

#### **BENEDICTION**

P May God who comes among us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621 and good news to share today and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" ELW 249 DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Keep awake
- C Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" Michael Costello

\_\_\_\_

Sanctuary flowers were donated by the Labellarte's in honor of Michelle's 32nd birthday.

# WEEKLY FOOD COLLECTION —

This week's donation item: Soup.

Join us in the gift of giving and the miracle of multiplying our efforts to the glory of God. Please bring your donations to the church by Sunday.

<u>STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT</u> — 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 <u>www.holyspirit-elca.org/stewardship</u>. 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.

# EXPOS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - Wednesday, December 10th. - All

Experienced People of Spirit are welcome at a Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, December 10th at 11:30am. The menu will feature Al Edwards' amazing chili! If you'd like to join us, please contact Jeanne Nelson (847-502-6799 or jnelson814@comcast.net). We're asking everyone to bring a chili topping, a side, and/or help with setup or cleanup. Also, bring a can of non-perishable food for the COOL Pantry.

<u>POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS</u>— 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. Please return all order forms along with your check to the church office by **December 14th.** 

<u>COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED</u> — Have you considered serving on our Church Council? If you would like to find out more, please contact a member of this year's nominating committee: Mike Pedersen (pedersenm785@gmail.com), Jeanne Nelson (jnelson814@comcast.net), Kelly Wittich (kellywittich@yahoo.com), and Ryan Hathaway (rbhathaway@gmail.com). Any Council member would be happy to chat with you.

<u>ANGEL TREE</u> — Wrapped gifts are due to the church by **Sunday, December 14th.** One of the most rewarding Christmas activities around Holy Spirit is the sharing of gifts with children in need. Each year, we receive the names of children from Lutheran Day Nursery/After School Program for whom we purchase gifts at Christmas. These children have come to be called our "angels".

Sign up for a child/children through our Signup Genius linked on the church website at www.holyspirit-elca.org/#tree. Or by scanning the QR code. **QR codes not your thing?** We have a small tree in the gathering space with a few angel names on it. Grab one and then sign your name on the sheet at the information desk. If you have any questions, please contact Kari Davenport, karikdavenport@yahoo.com or 773-844-7542.

**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>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.

ON-LINE GIVING AND TEXT TO GIVE — 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.





#### **Poinsettias for Christmas**

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*. Please complete the form below and return it along with your check to the church office by **Dec. 14**.

Phone	
Number of Poinsettias @ \$20 each Given to the Glory of God and in memory / honor of:	***

Poinsettias may be picked up following the 5:00 PM Christmas Eve service or any time during the following week.

HOLY	<b>SPIRIT</b>	<b>HAPPENINGS</b>
111/1	. ,	

**Sunday December 7** 9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

Youth Watch Party

Prayer Group

10:45 am Brass

**Tuesday December 9** 4:15 p.m. LYFE

**Thursday December 11** 

4:30 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Adult Choir

9:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. Bible Study

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

**Pastor:** Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom **Office Manager:** Ciara Crews

Music Ministers: Karen M. Jirsa, Bill Vaananen,

Patrick Cantagallo, and Nancy Fencl

Organist: Karen M. Jirsa

Children's Ministry Director: Jennifer Williams

Assistant Minister Joe Labellarte

CommunionJeanne Nelson, Nila BilstadUsherChristine Upadhyay, Al EdwardsGreeterJerry Mason, Mary Detjen

Record Larry Brady

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

Church email: lutheranholyspirit@gmail.com
Church Phone number: 847-945-1550