Sunday, November 8, 2026
The Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost



For when the **foolish** took their lamps,
they **took no oil** with them,
but the **wise** took
flasks of oil with their lamps.

Matthew 25:3-4

Sharing the Light!

Holy Communion Lutheran Church
2000 West Sixth Street Racine, Wisconsin 53405
A community called to Worship, Learn, Love, and Serve

Special thanks to greeter Sally Neitzel, assisting minister Lana Buhler, lector and communion assistant Susan Anderson, AV technician Lynn Helmke, ushers Dave Barlament, Jim Buhler, Tim Krikau and Gary Wee, altar guild Grace Deibert, Susan DiPasqule Peterson, Katie Peterson, and Lynn Sinclair, voffee fellowship Sally Neitzel, councilperson in charge Rebecca Mason, the Bell Choir, and our musicians and Gregory Berg for sharing their time and talent with us today.

*Please stand if you are able where there is an asterisk * in the bulletin.*

PRELUDE ***"Be Thou My Vision" arr. N. Hanson*** **Bell Choir**

***GATHERING SONG**

O the Joy

Gregory Berg



***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.
Amen.

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

***KYRIE**


Leader:
Congregation:
Let us join as - one as we pray to the Lord, Lord have mer - cy. For the
peace from a - bove and for our sal - va - tion, Lord have mer -
cy. For this ho-ly house and for all who in faith gath - er to wor - ship in this place, that
we may be-hold a - glimpse of your face, Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy,
Christ have mer-cy, Lord have mer - cy. That all of the world may
know your peace, Lord have mer - cy. That the poor be re-stored and the
bound re - leased, Lord have mer - cy. That the life of the church may be
strong and se-cure anchored and cen-tered - sole-ly on you, and for gui-dance and grace in all that we do,
Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer-cy, Lord have mer - cy.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love,
you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.
Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC ***"For the Beauty of the Earth" arr. by Kocher and Moklebust*** **Bell Choir**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Lisa Lequia

NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MAY GO TO CHOIR

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may
not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so,
through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of
the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those
who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the
sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who
are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and
so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

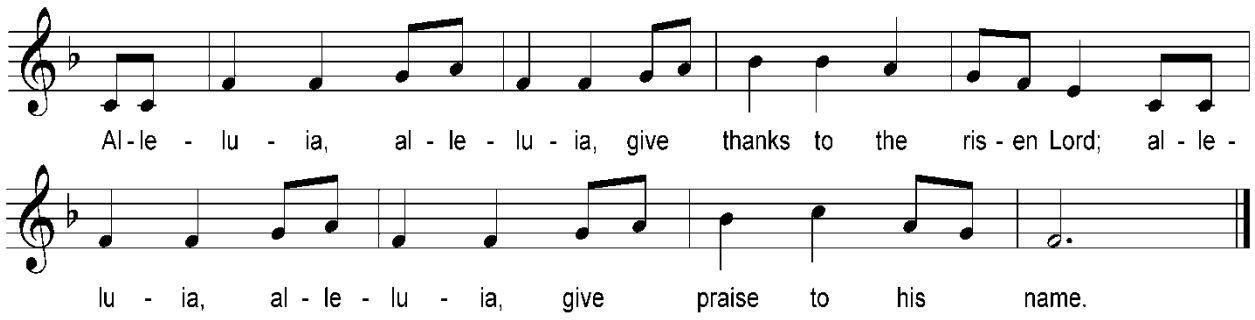
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 70

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.
2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.
4 **Let all who seek you rejoice and be in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, twenty-first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Laura Fladten

***HYMN OF THE DAY v. 1 soloist**

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



ing #A-741140

Text: African American spiritual
Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

CHILDREN RETURN TO WORSHIP

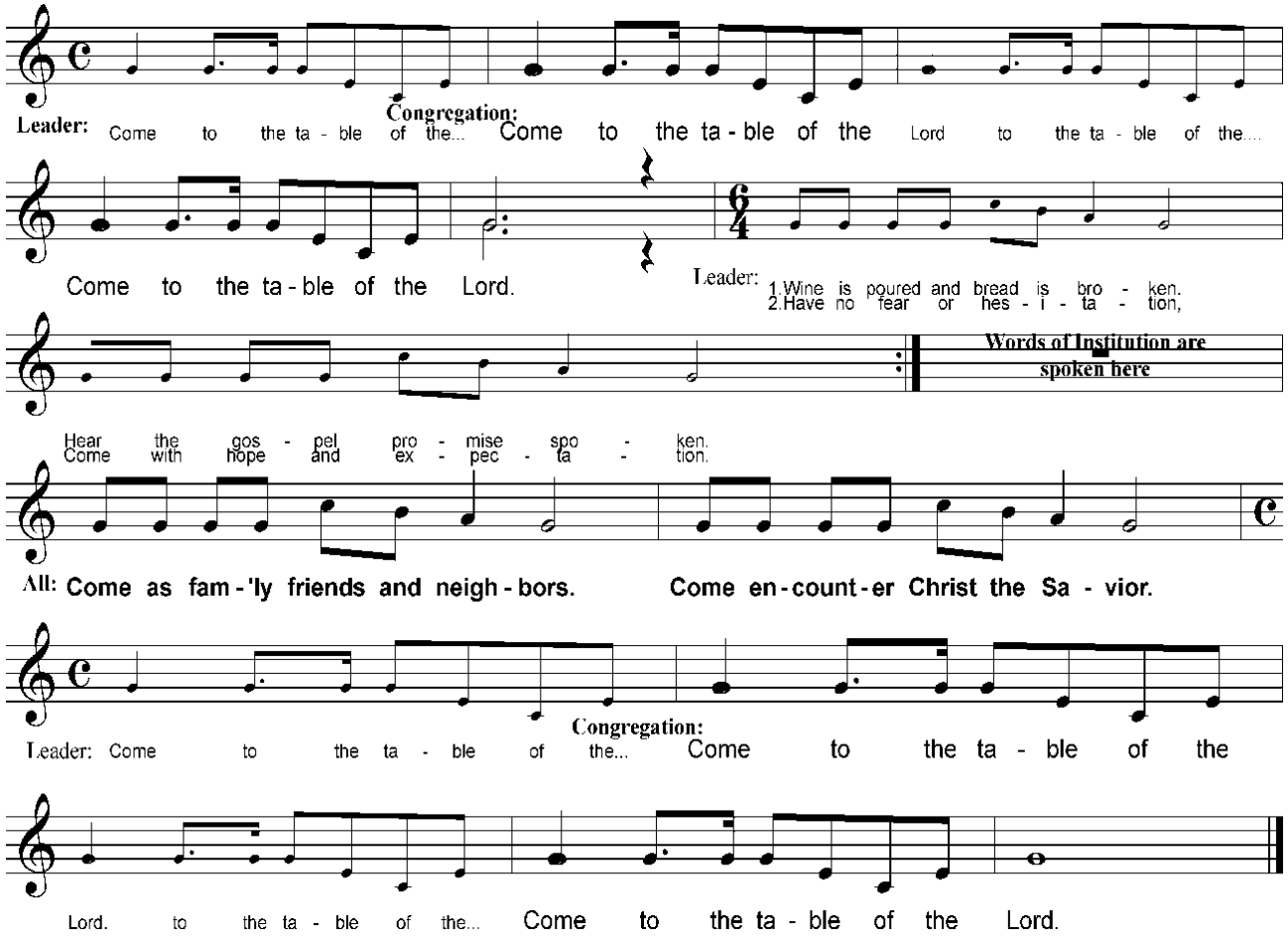
APOSTLES CREED

*** APOSTLE'S 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,
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

***INVITATION SONG**

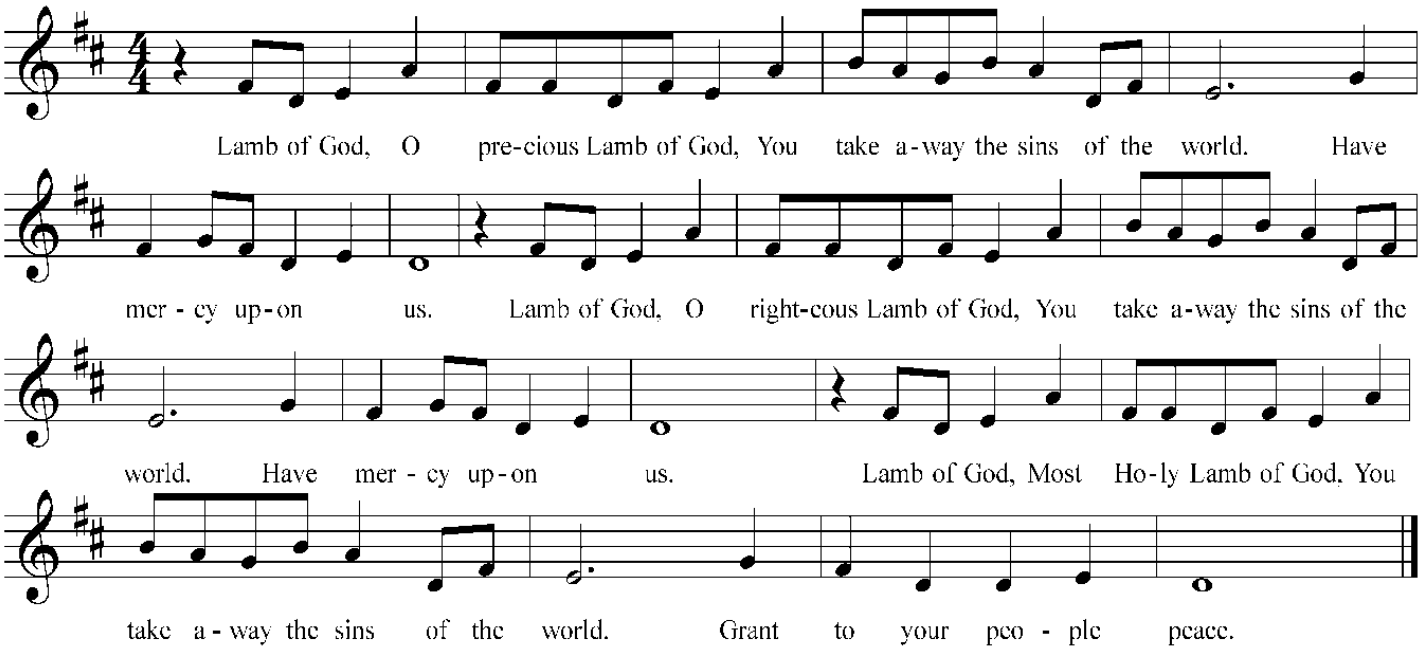


***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG



DISTRIBUTION HYMN



***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

CHILDREN MAY GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY**



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Let us pray. (brief silence)

Help us, Lord, to see the beauty of living a life of humility and simplicity. Deter us from prizing things that do not ultimately matter and that lead to emptiness and purposelessness. Draw our attention instead to the blessings of life that truly matter - fill us with profound and authentic gratitude for all that we have been given - and remind us of the great blessing we receive in our giving. Hear us, O Lord.
YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.

Help us, Lord, to see the world around us through appreciative and discerning eyes. Draw our attention to the beauty of the natural world .... and to the balance and connections that allow all things to flourish. Open our eyes to see the ways in which our greedy carelessness does damage to the earth and the creatures that live upon it- and give us the courage and conviction necessary to right what we have wronged. Hear us, O Lord,
YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.

Help us, Lord, to aspire to be people who more clearly reflect your light and your love. Deepen and widen our appreciation for the amazing diversity of the human family, and help us to relinquish the fear and suspicion that prevents us from fully connecting with those who seem to be quite different from us or who see the world very differently than we do. Help us to refrain from quick condemnation of others- and guide us towards real and meaningful connection with each other. We especially pray for our community, for our state, and for our country- that we would be fearless and relentless as we work together for a kinder, more compassionate, more just and safer world. Hear us, O Lord,
YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.

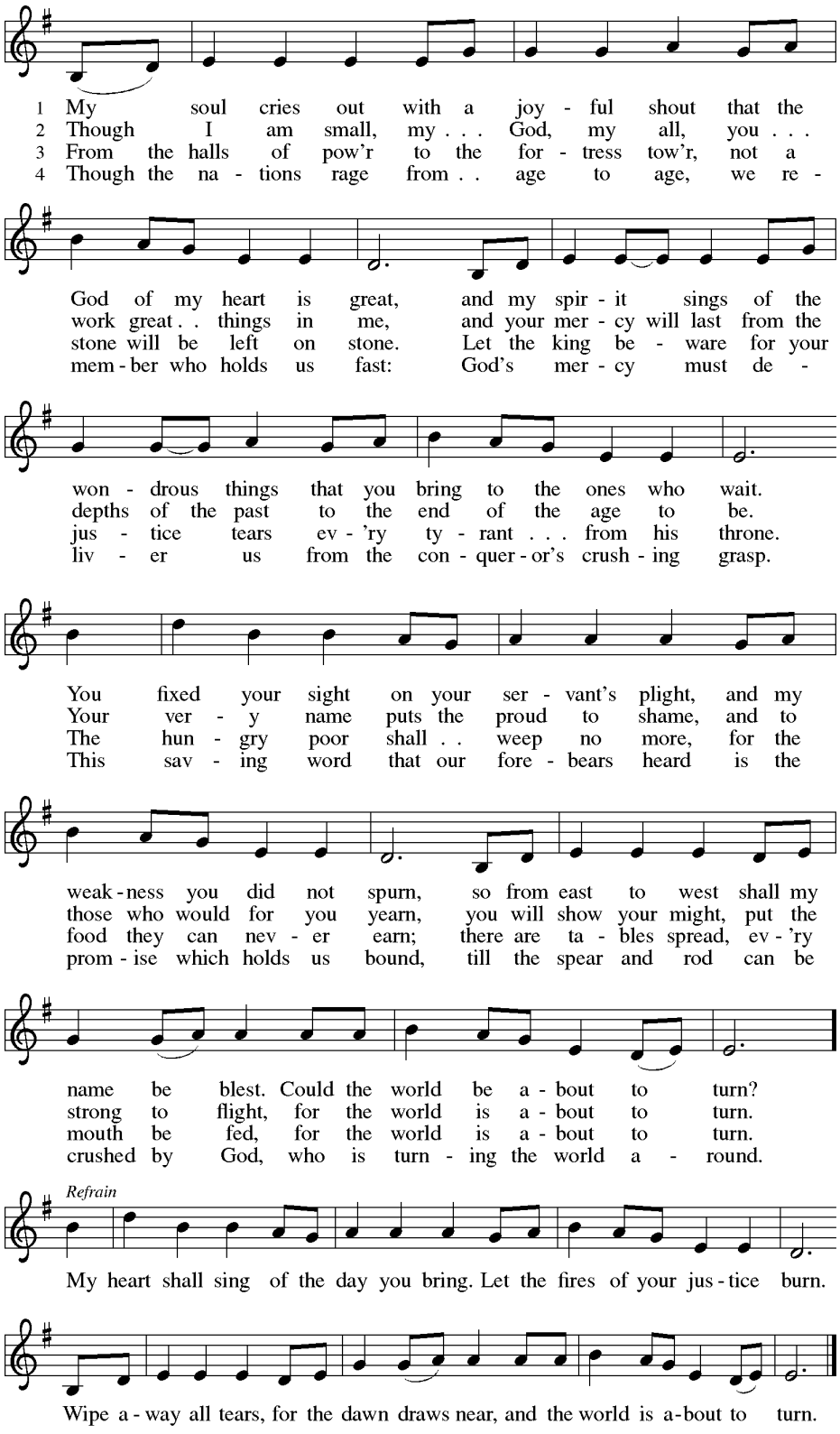
Help us, Lord, to receive your gifts of hope and strength in the face of any kind of adversity. We pray for those who are living in places of conflict and war ..... those whose lives have been disrupted by flooding, fires or other natural disasters .... and those who are contending with sorrow, sickness, or difficulties of any kind. Today we remember….. Give them your help - and use us as instruments of your healing and grace. Hear us, O Lord.
YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.

We offer these spoken prayers and the unspoken prayers of our hearts in the certain hope that You hear our every prayer and respond in turn with grace upon grace and mercy upon mercy, through Christ our Lord.
AMEN.

BLESSING
The holy Trinity,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Canticle of the Turning



Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Encourage each other..

Thanks be to God.

Announcements



Altar Flowers
The flowers on the altar this morning were given in loving memory of Chris Chomicki by Jenny, Andrew, Cameron, and Jameson Palmgren, and by the Mason family.

Welcome Visitors!
A special welcome to any visitors worshipping with us this morning. Please fill out one of the yellow cards in the pew rack in front of you so we can acknowledge your visit with us. You can put your completed card into the offering plate or give it to an usher or a pastor before you leave. Please join us in the lounge after worship for a treat and a time of fellowship.

Communion By Intinction
All are welcome to come to the table for Communion. We offer Holy Communion through Intinction (dipping the wafer into the chalice of wine). There are gluten free wafers and grape juice available in the center if that is your preference.

Craft Fair and Bake Sale After Worship
Come to the Youth Room after worship and shop at our Craft Fair and Bake Sale! The proceeds will all go to support the youth who are going to the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer in Minneapolis. Come check out the items created and donated by our talented crafters and bakers! Do some early holiday shopping or get a treat for yourself!

November Birthday Club
Everyone with an November birthday is invited to come to the lounge on Thursday, November 12th at 10:00. Celebrate your special day with Pastor Mark, Pastor Laura, a cup of coffee, a birthday donut, and conversation!

Diaper Ministry
Thank you to Cathie Rolfson who sponsors this month's Diaper Depot delivery in honor of Shelley Lussmyer!

Please support our diaper ministry kids and families by participating in our Christmas Gift Giving Tree.

Our November distribution dates are November 11 h from 11AM – 1PM and November 25th from 4 - 6PM. Contact Kylee Albright kygregg@mac.com or Amy Larsen amylarsen2406@att.net with questions or to volunteer.

Adult Education Hour - MJCI Shalom Next Sunday
Join us in the lounge following worship on Sunday, November 15th, to learn more about MJCI Shalom, one of our tithe recipients.

MJCI Shalom is a locally led organization in Rwanda focused on community development and peacebuilding. They empower their community through agricultural and vocational training, nutrition support, access to clean drinking water, and savings groups.

This organization holds a special connection to our congregation—it was founded by a friend whom Laura Hermanns and Lynn Helmke met during Laura's time in Rwanda with the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program. Come hear more about their inspiring work!

Diaper Ministry Christmas Party
The Diaper Ministry Christmas Party gift tags are available this week on the tree in the Welcome Center off of the lounge. We'll be refilling the tree as more names become available, but right now if you can limit to one tag per family with a gift amount of $25 - $35 per child, we'd appreciate it! Please wrap your gifts and include the original tag from the tree with your gifts. We ask that all gifts are returned to church by November 29th to give us time to organize them before the party on December 5. As always, we thank you for your generosity! Questions? Text or call Lynn Helmke at 262-497-3097.

Men's Group Friday, November 13th
All men are welcome to join Pastor Mark at 9:00 a.m. in the lounge on Friday, November 13th for coffee and conversation.

Confirmation Class Next Sunday

A reminder to kids and parents that the Confirmation class will meet next Sunday, November 15th, after the worship service.

Worship Service Volunteers Needed!

The worship committee is looking for new faces to serve in a variety of ways during worship and we would love to have the youth involved. We are looking for both individuals or families who would like to participate and serve on the altar guild, be ushers, readers, communion assistants, assisting ministers, and greeters. Your help would be greatly appreciated! Put your name on the sign up sheet in the lounge to let us know which areas you would like more information about or are interested in or want to volunteer for. Thanks!

Book Club

The Book Club will meet on at Julie Burton's home, 136 Steeplechase Drive, on November 11th from 10:00 – 11:30 to discuss The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife by Anna Johnson. T

Upcoming Worship, Service, Education, and Fellowship Opportunities

Sunday, November 8 –9:30 Worship/Sunday School
10:30 Craft Fair & Bake Sale Youth Fundraiser
Monday, November 9 – 10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study
12:30 Food Pantry
Tuesday, November 10 – 1:00 Quilters
Wednesday, November 11 – 10:00 Book Club
11:00 – 1:00 Diaper Ministry
Thursday, November 12 – 10:00 Birthday Club
Friday, November 13 – 9:00 Men's Group
12:30 Food Pantry
Sunday, November 15 – 9:30 Worship/Sunday School
11:00 Adult Education – MJCI Shalom
11:00 Confirmation Class
Monday, November 16 – 10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study
12:30 Food Pantry
Tuesday, November 17 – 10:00 Third Tuesday Bible Study
Friday, November 20 – 12:30 Food Pantry
Sunday, November 22 – 9:30 Worship/Sunday School
10:30 Advent-ure Together With Us Event
Monday, November 23 – 10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study
12:30 Food Pantry

Holy Communion Church Council

President Joleen Carlson, Vice President Gary Wood, Secretary Laurie Knudson, Treasurer Kylee Albright, Members at large Rose Adamski, Steve Barootian, David Knudson, Rebecca Mason, and Polly Timmerman

Office hours Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Finance Update

September Finance Numbers		Year to Date Finance Numbers	
Revenue:	$ 39,459.89	Revenue:	$ 381,659.00
Expense:	$ 50,158.79	Expense:	$ 421,024.31
Net Income:	$ (10,698.90)	Net Income:	$ (39,365.31)

In person attendance Sunday, November 1, 2026 - 99 Households watching online - 25

Poinsettia Order Form



Every year we marvel at the beauty of our sanctuary as it is decorated to the Christmas season, and a special part of these decorations are the beautiful poinsettias plants from Milaeger's. You can purchase a plant in memory or honor of someone special. This year the plants will all have white flowers. The cost for each pant will be $16.00. Plants can be picked up after the 10:30 Christmas Eve worship service or on Sunday, December 27th..

Orders **must** be in the office by **Wednesday, December 2nd** to be guaranteed.

You may order as many plants as you wish. Return this form with your to the office or place it in the offering plate.

Your Name_____ Envelope #_____

_____ Number of plants ordered @ $16.00 each = $_____ I will pick up my plants _____

In Memory of: Given by:

In Honor of: Given by:





Advent-ure Together With Us!
November 22nd right after worship



Celebrate the beginning of Advent with fun activities for all ages!

There will be:



Cookie Decorating, Making Ornaments, Advent Chains, Joy Jars and Handprint Wreaths, a Photo Booth and goodies to snack on!



Come join us!

GENEROSITY QUOTES

"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."
(Sir Winston Churchill)

"The greatest give you ever give, is your honest self."
(Fred Rogers)

"Generosity is the most natural expression of an inner attitude of compassion and loving kindness."
(Dalai Lama)

"You cannot do a kindness too soon, because you never know how soon it will be too late."
(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

"There is no exercise better for the heart, than reaching down and lifting someone up."
(John Holmes)

"For it is giving, that we receive."
(St Francis of Assisi)

"The heart of the giver makes the gift – dear and precious."
(Martin Luther)

"Give, and it will be given to you."
(Luke 6:38)

"A generous person will prosper. Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. "
(Proverbs 11:25)