

THANK YOU to the **Church Council** for serving the Advent Meal this evening.



Sunday, December 21

Worship Service w/Holy Communion
9:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class
10:30 a.m.
Christmas Caroling - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Children's Program
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship
w/Holy Communion – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 28

Worship Service w/Holy Communion
9:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class
10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 31

New Year's Eve
Worship Service w/Holy Communion
6:30 p.m.

THIRD WEDNESDAY IN ADVENT
December 17, 2025

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------|
| Opening Hymn | <i>“Savior of the Nations, Come”</i> | p. 332 |
| Divine Service Three | | p. 184 |
| Kyrie | | p. 186 |
| Collect of the Day | | |
| Old Testament Reading | | |
| Epistle | 1 John 1:1-4 | |
| Holy Gospel | Matthew 1:18-25 | |
| Nicene Creed | | p. 191 |
| Sermon Hymn | <i>“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”</i> | p. 338 |
| Sermon | Crèche | |
| Offering | <i>(Offering plates are near the doors as you exit)</i> | |
| Prayers of the Church | | p. 193 |
| Service of the Sacrament | | p. 194 |
| Distribution Hymns | | |
| | <i>“O Living Bread From Heaven”</i> | p. 642 |
| | <i>“O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth” **</i> | p. 834 |
| | <i>“My Soul Rejoices”</i> | p. 933 |
| Nunc Dimittis | | p. 199 |
| Salutation & Benedicamus | | p. 201 |
| Closing Hymn | vs. 1 & 5 | p. 357 |
| | <i>“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”</i> | |

SERVING US THIS EVENING

Rev. Peter C. Kolb, Pastor ~ Rose Tucker, Organist

** - Hymn of the Month

A LOVING WORD TO THOSE GUESTS WHO WISH TO COMMUNE

We believe, as Scripture teaches, that the Body and Blood of our Lord are truly present in, with, and under the bread and the wine of the Sacrament and those who eat and drink unworthily, that is, not believing these truths, do so to their great harm. Also, Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is professed at this altar. Therefore, if you are not yet instructed, in doubt, or hold to a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, you are requested to refrain from the table and speak to the Pastor or Elder to see how you can prepare in the future to also receive this gift of grace.

St. Mark Lutheran Church

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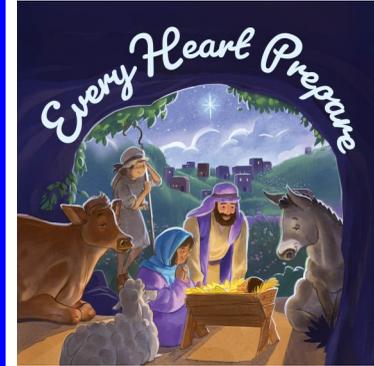
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Our Mission Statement: Learning, Living and Sharing Christ's Love



EVERY HEART PREPARE

We decorate in preparation for Christmas. In November and December people spend hours putting up lights in their living space and ornaments on their evergreens. Poinsettias are placed on the mantel and presents under the tree, and we “deck the halls with boughs of holly.” These Christmas decorations bring enjoyment and anticipation to the holiday.

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MIDWEEK OF ADVENT III
CRÈCHE

“Prepare!” is often the watchword of the season as the world gets ready for another celebration of Christmas. An integral part of any preparation is decoration. We see decorations everywhere this time of year. The world may not comprehend the real meaning of Christmas, but even secular preparations use many of the same decorations beloved by Christians—an appropriation we shouldn't mind at all, because these decorations point us to Christ. This year, as we look forward again to the coming of the Messiah, we take a fresh look at how the adornments of the season draw our eyes to Jesus, that we may more richly behold the love, peace, joy, and hope He comes to bring as this beauty is set before us.

Tonight, we focus on the crèche—those miniature models of the nativity scene that abound each December. Unlike lights and evergreens, the symbols that aided our meditation these last two weeks, the crèche is distinctly Christian. In it, we behold Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Magi, the angels, the stable animals, and, at the center, baby Jesus. Some places introduce the characters in chronological order; others put them all out at once. Either way, the crèche represents a crucial, historical event: God taking on human form and human nature so that He could take our place and redeem us from all sin. We behold it with fresh eyes this evening.



December 17, 2025

