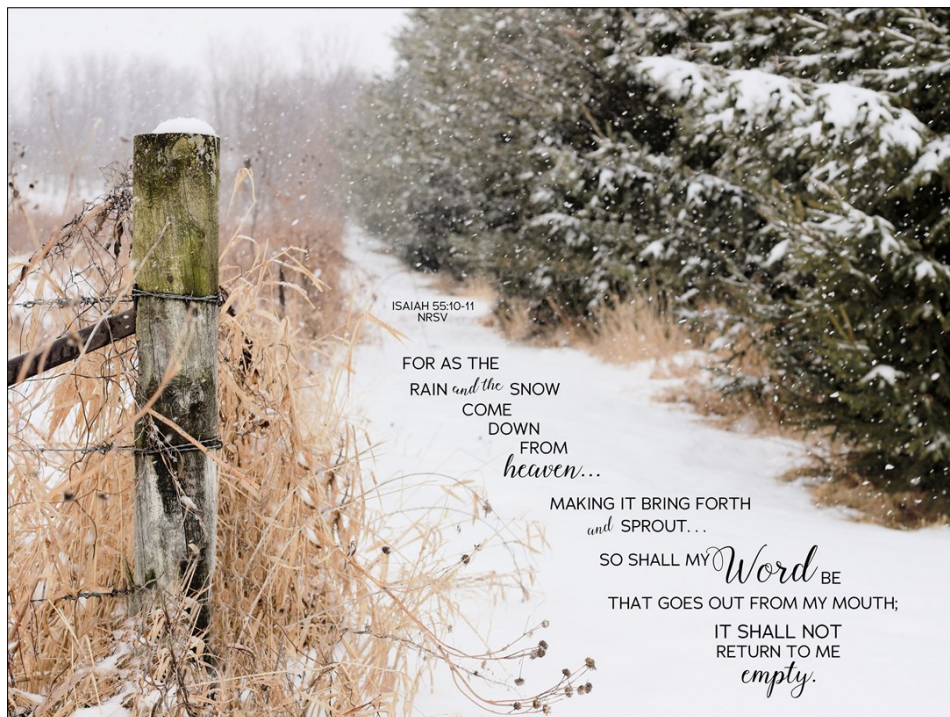


Christ the Servant Lutheran Church

Putting Jesus' Way of Life into Practice by...

**Encountering God, Loving One Another,
& Reaching the World.**

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025



Welcome to Christ the Servant Lutheran Church

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

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.

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. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN - Reckless Love

*Before I spoke a word You were singing over me
You have been so, so good to me Before I took a breath
You breathed Your life in me You have been so, so kind to me*

*O, the overwhelming never-ending Reckless love of God
O, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it Still you give Yourself away
O, the overwhelming never-ending Reckless love of God, yeah
(interlude)*

*When I was Your foe Still Your love fought for me
You have been so, so good to me When I felt no worth
You paid it all for me You have been so, so kind to me
O, the overwhelming never-ending Reckless love of God
O, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found Leaves the ninety-nine*

*I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it Still, you give Yourself away
O, the overwhelming never-ending Reckless love of God, yeah
(interlude)*

*There's no shadow You won't light up Mountain you won't climb up
Coming after me There's no wall you won't kick down
Lie you won't tear down Coming after me (x4)*

*O, the overwhelming never-ending Reckless love of God
O, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found Leaves the ninety-nine*

*I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it Still, you give Yourself away
O, the overwhelming never-ending Reckless love of God*

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

READING - Isaiah 55:1-13

- ¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts;
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
- ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
- ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.
⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake their way
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL - Matthew 11:2-11

The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON - Lori Moore

HYMN OF THE DAY - Great are You, Lord

*You give life, You are love You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore Ev'ry heart that is broken
And great are You Lord*

*It's Your breath in our lungs So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only*

*You give life, You are love You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore Ev'ry heart that is broken
And great are You Lord*

*It's Your breath in our lungs So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only (x2)*

*And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You Lord (x3)*

*It's Your breath in our lungs So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only (x2)*

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION - RESPONSE: Hear our prayer.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERING PRAYER

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.
Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Creator, Our Mother,
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

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN - I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

*I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And mild and sweet their songs repeat
Of peace on earth good will to men*

*And the bells are ringing, Peace on earth
Like a choir they're singing, Peace on earth
In my heart I hear them, Peace on earth
Good will to men*

*And in despair I bowed my head
There is no peace on earth I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth good will to men*

*But the bells are ringing, Peace on earth
Like a choir singing, Peace on earth
In my heart I hear them, Peace on earth
Good will to men*

*Then rang the bells more loud and deep
God is not dead nor doth He sleep
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth good will to men*

*Then ringing singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chance sublime
Of peace on earth good will to men*

*And the bells are ringing, Peace on earth
Like a choir they're singing, Peace on earth
In my heart I hear them, Peace on earth
Good will to men*

*Do you hear the bells they're ringing, Peace on earth
Like the angels singing, Peace on earth
Open up your heart and hear them, Peace on earth
Good will to men*

*Peace on earth, peace on earth
Peace on earth, good will to men*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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. Amen.

COMMUNITY LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN - Joy/Unspeakable Joy

*Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing*

*Joy to the world the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy*

*Joy unspeakable joy
An overflowing well no tongue can tell
Joy unspeakable joy
It rises in my soul never lets me go
He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love and wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love*

*Joy unspeakable joy
An overflowing well no tongue can tell
Joy unspeakable joy
It rises in my soul never lets me go*

DISMISSAL

**Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Statistics

The attendance on Sunday, December 7 was 51. 11 attended online. This week's offerings to General Fund: \$4,514 - online: \$1,270

Stewardship News

It is time to turn in your commitment card for 2026. If you have not received a card or need a new one there are extras on the welcome desk.

Giving Tree

We are again supporting 5 families from Vadnais Heights Elementary with gas and grocery needs this season. Take a tag off the tree (in the Narthex) and return it to Sue in the office with the gift card noted on it by Monday, December 15.

Christmas Worship Services

As we celebrate the Advent and Christmas season please join us for *Christmas Reflections*, an intergenerational Christmas pageant on December 21 at 10:30 at CSLC along with our partner congregation Lakeview Lutheran. Our Christmas eve worship will be at 4:00 and 9:00 PM, and on the 28th we will again have a joint service at Lakeview at 10:30.

NEW Book Club Begins in January

Along with the new year come new beginnings! January 5, 2026 will mark the beginning of a brand new book club at CSLC! Sign up in the Narthex if you wish to join. The inaugural read will be CSLC member Gaye Lindfors' new book, *Anticipate God's Goodness*. Contact Mary Barlau with questions.

Ushers and Communion Assistants Needed

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex to serve as an usher or communion server. *Your gift of hospitality matters!*

Year-end Giving Opportunities

As the year rapidly draws to a close it is time to consider year end giving opportunities. 2025 contributions must be received in the church office by December 30 postmarked by December 31, or for online transactions gifts must be fully processed by December 31 to be applied to your 2025 giving record. If you wish to pre-pay toward a 2026 pledge, please note this with your contribution so it may be applied correctly. Thank you for your support!

UPCOMING DATES:

December 16	Caring Friends Luncheon - 10:30-1:00
December 21	Christmas Program (joint) 10:30 AM
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship 4 & 9 PM
December 28	Joint Worship at Lakeview 10:30 AM
January 5	NEW Book Club meets

Scan the QR code below to make a secure online donation.



THIS WEEK AT CHRIST THE SERVANT

Today: December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM - Bible Study
9:00 AM - Worship
10:00 AM - Fellowship
11:30 AM - EFLC Worship
11:40 PM - EFLC Sunday School
1:45 PM EF Board Meeting (SS Room)

Monday, December 15

9:00 AM - Package bread & deliver
12:00 PM - Piecemakers (FH)

Tuesday, December 16

7:00 AM - Bread Preparation (FH)
8:30 AM - Bread Distribution (FH)
10:30 AM - Caring Friends Luncheon
6:30 PM - AA (FH)

Wednesday, December 17

10:00 AM - Bible Study (FH)
6:00 PM - Youth
7:00 PM - AA Mtg. (Class A)

Friday, December 19

9:00 AM - Piecemakers
5:30 PM - EF Choir Rehearsal (Class A)

Saturday, December 20

9:00 AM - Project Day (K/FH)
11:00 AM - Revelation Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM - Bible Study
9:00 AM - Worship & *Intergenerational Christmas Pageant*
10:00 AM - Fellowship
11:30 AM - EFLC Worship
11:40 PM - EFLC Sunday School
1:45 PM - EF Board Meeting (SS Room)

THIS WEEK AT LAKEVIEW

Today: December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent

9:45 AM - Fellowship
10:30 AM - Worship
12:00 - 5:00 PM - Eternity Karen Baptist Church

Monday, December 15

6:30 PM - Finance Meeting
7:00 PM - AA

Tuesday, December 16

6:30 PM - Council Meeting

Sunday, December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM - Worship - Christmas Program at Christ the Servant
12:00 - 5:00 PM - Eternity Karen Baptist Church

**Altar flowers are given by Tim & Sarah Kelvie in memory of
Sarah's parents, Pauline & Will Weierbach.**

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY! THANK YOU!


Greeter: Katie Wright
Ushers: Johnson Family
Reader: Peter Songster
Sound Booth: Tim, Tom, Peter, Kim, Jayson, Tony
Communion Assistants: Nancy & Chandra
Musicians: Revelation
Coffee Servers: Sandy Meyer & Mary Barlau
Bread Pickup: Gary Splittstoesser
Counters: Ron Hawkinson, Glen Johnson

PRAYER REQUESTS...

We pray for those in need of healing and mercy:
Emily B., Mary-Kay L. who is hospitalized, Pastor Dick M. and
caregiver Barb, Laiden S., Karen R., Norma (Mother of Leila H.),
Sharon G., Deb G., Rollie, Brian I, Katie W., Al J., Bev, Steve,
Paul S., Brian, Tony L., Roger K., Gary C., Gary (Uncle of Sue),
Sarah K., Carol L., Salomie (sister-in-law of Peter), Patty W.
(sister of Mike W.)

(Please call the church office with any prayer concerns or updates.)

Thank you for giving to support the ministries at Christ the
Servant. You may give on our website: www.cslcvh.org/giving.
Offering envelopes are available at the Welcome Desk.

	CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN CHURCH
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	Pastor Jon Yurk 612-231-2111 Pastor@cslcvh.org