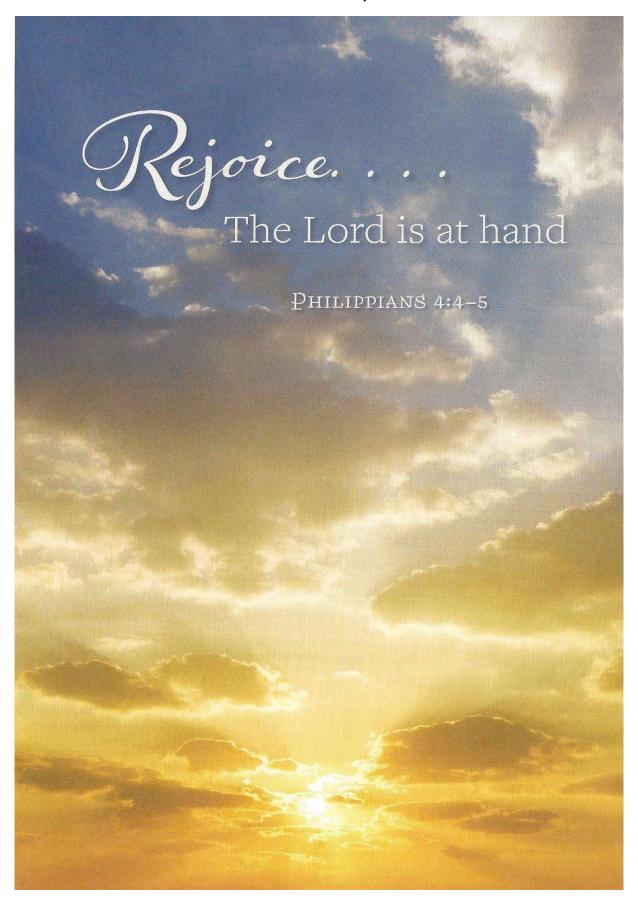
The 3rd Sunday in Advent | December 15, 2024



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

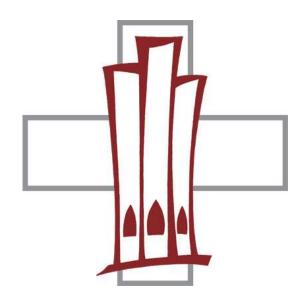
4107 21st Avenue, Moline, IL 61265

P: (309) 764-9720 E: holycrosslutheran@mchsi.com www.holycrossmoline-lcms.org

| Rev. Gary A. Wright | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Pastoral Assistant |
| Rev. Joel Brondos | Pastoral Assistant |
| Susan SerreYouth Dir | ector/Sunday School Superintendent |
| Hope Davenport | Office Administrator |

About the Cover

One day, like the bright morning light that breaks through the darkness of night, the Lord's second coming will bring rejoicing. While we do not know the day, the Lord is at hand today. God's Word shines brightly, dispelling the darkness of anxiety and fear and replacing it with rejoicing in what He has accomplished for us in the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord is at hand. Let us rejoice today!



Stand

Hymn of Invocation: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" LSB 338

1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the

 Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Stand

Rejoice in the Lord | always;* again I will say, | Rejoice.

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,* whose hope is in the | LORD his God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them,* who keeps faith for- | ever;

who executes justice for | the oppressed,* who gives food to the | hungry.

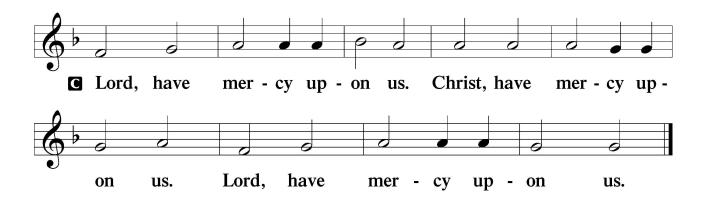
The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the | righteous.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Rejoice in the Lord | always;* again I will say, | Rejoice.

Kyrie LSB 186

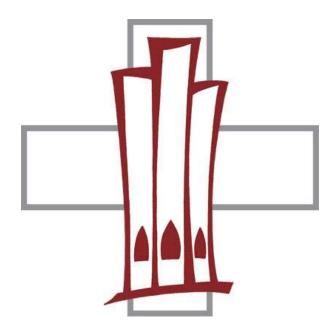


Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 189

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with thy spirit.
- Let us pray... Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Sit



¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

"Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together;

for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*

From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

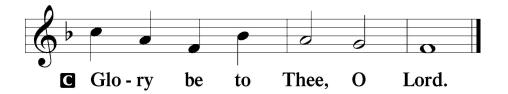
Stand

Alleluia LSB 190



Holy Gospel Luke 7:18–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.



¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 21In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ²⁴When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed LSB 191

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

- 1 Hark The Glad Sound! The Savior Comes,The Savior promised long;Let ev'ry heart prepare a throneAnd ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,In Satan's bondage held.The gates of brass before Him burst,The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
 The bleeding soul to cure,
 And with the treasures of His grace
 To enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim, And heav'n's eternal arches ring With Thy belovèd name.

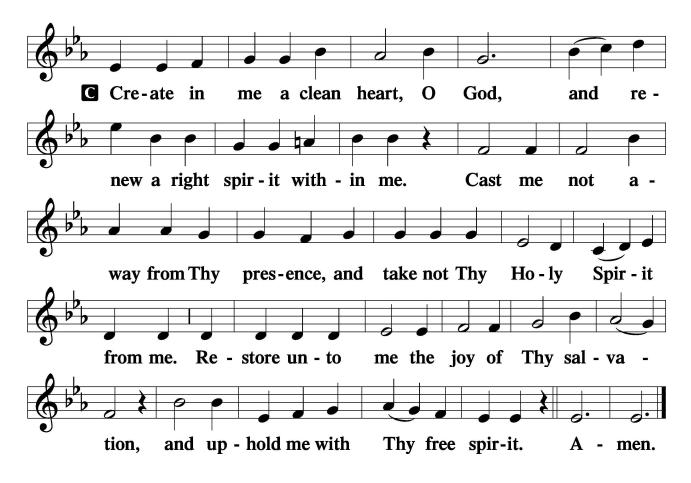
Sermon "A Prison Cell and a Peaceful Heart"

Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 7:18-28

Votum

- P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C Amen.

Offertory LSB 192

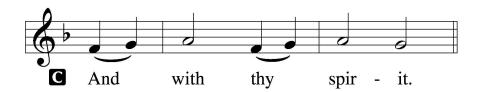


Prayer of the Church

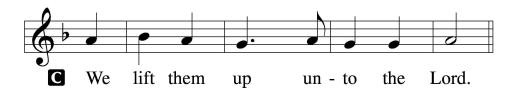
LSB 193

Preface LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.



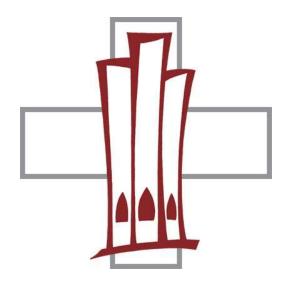
P Lift up your hearts.



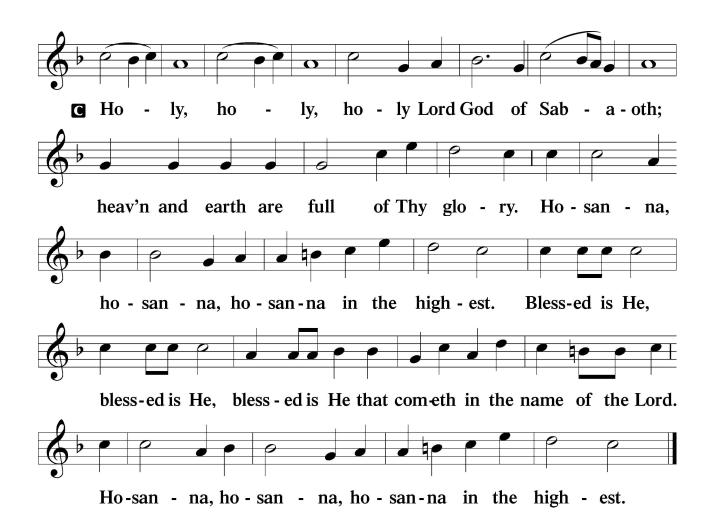
P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Sanctus LSB 195



Lord's Prayer LSB 196

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.

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My

→ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

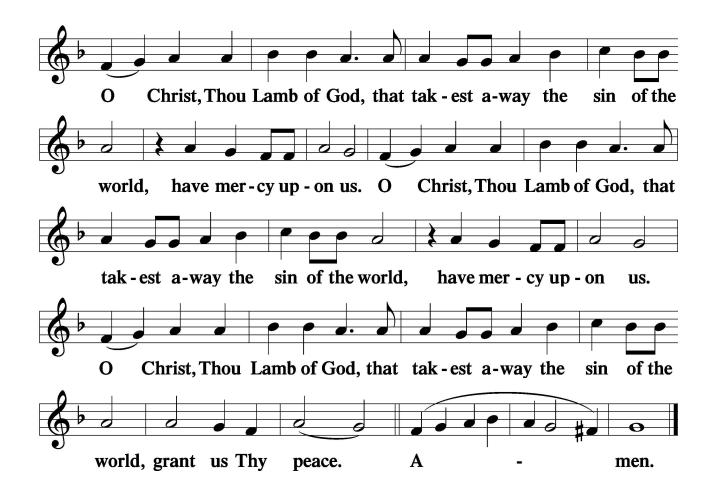
Pax Domini LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.





Agnus Dei LSB 198



Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding" LSB 345

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!"Christ is near," we hear it say."Cast away the works of darkness,All you children of the day!"

- 2 Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,
 Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
 Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
 One and all, to be forgiv'n;
- 4 So, when next He comes in glory
 And the world is wrapped in fear,
 He will shield us with His mercy
 And with words of love draw near.
- △ 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion
 To the Father and the Son
 With the ever-living Spirit
 While eternal ages run!

Distribution Hymn: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" LSB 515

Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
At midnight comes the cry.

- 2 The watchers on the mountain
 Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
 Go forth as He approaches
 With alleluias clear.
 The marriage feast is waiting;
 The gates wide open stand.
 Arise, O heirs of glory;
 The Bridegroom is at hand.
- Their cross and suff'rings bore,
 Shall live and reign forever
 When sorrow is no more.
 Around the throne of glory
 The Lamb they shall behold;
 In triumph cast before Him
 Their diadems of gold.
- 4 Our hope and expectation,
 O Jesus, now appear;
 Arise, O Sun so longed for,
 O'er this benighted sphere.
 With hearts and hands uplifted,
 We plead, O Lord, to see
 The day of earth's redemption
 That sets Your people free!

Stand

Nunc Dimittis LSB 199



Thanksgiving LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



A Let us pray... We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



P The Lord be with you.



Benedicamus LSB 201

A Bless we the Lord.



Benediction LSB 202



Hymn to Depart: "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng"

LSB 813

1 Rejoice, O pilgrim throng!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your king. *Refrain*

ref Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

- With voice as full and strong
 As ocean's surging praise,
 Send forth the sturdy hymns of old,
 The psalms of ancient days. *Refrain*
- With all the angel choirs,
 With all the saints on earth
 Pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
 True rapture, noblest mirth. *Refrain*

- 4 Yet on and onward still,
 With hymn and chant and song,
 Through gate and porch and columned aisle
 The hallowed pathways throng. *Refrain*
- 5 Still lift your standard high, Still march in firm array, As pilgrims through the darkness wend Till dawns the golden day. *Refrain*
- 6 At last the march shall end;
 The wearied ones shall rest;
 The pilgrims find their home at last,
 Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*
- △ 7 Praise Him who reigns on high,
 The Lord whom we adore:
 The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
 One God forevermore. *Refrain*

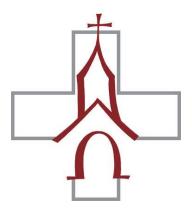
THANK YOU TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE

Preacher: Rev. Gary A. Wright

Organist: Bruce Noah

Elders: 10:45 A.M.: Jeff Welvaert ~ Lew Steinbrecher

Videographers: Rick Serre, Max Serre, Alex Serre



Acknowledgments

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THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES...GOD WILLING

| SUNDAY, DEC 15 | 9:15 A.M. | Voter's Assembly Mtg. |
|-----------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| | 10:45 A.M. | Divine Service HC |
| TUESDAY | 5:30 P.M. | Confirmation Class |
| WEDNESDAY | 9:00 A.M. | Bible Class |
| | 10:15 A.M. | Fitness Class |
| | 10:40 A.M. | Fellowship Hour |
| | 5:00 P.M. | Advent Dinner ~Evangelism |
| | 7:00 P.M. | Evening Prayer |
| THURSDAY | 1:00 P.M. | Foot Clinic |
| SUNDAY, DEC 22 | 9:30 A.M. | Children's Christmas Program |
| | 10:45 A.M. | Divine Service HC |

Per HIPPA privacy regulations, if you put someone on the prayer list, please make sure you have first secured their permission to do so.

Prayer List

Prayer list emphasis for today:

Members of the congregation receiving treatment for cancer **Serious health conditions:** Rev. Murdock, Bethany Albrecht, Fred Poe **Prayers for the Frank Noah family,** father of Sheila Noah, Kris Noah and Michelle Bowser.

Celebrating Birthdays This Week!!!

Melissa Thorngren ~ Willie Swain ~ Pat Mueller ~ Brice Winter

Please remember to complete one of the attendance cards in the pew rack. This information is used for many planning purposes!

The flowers on the altar are provided by Gerri Stolze in loving memory of her husband Russell and her son Mark.

Christmas cards are available for purchase in the church library. Prices are marked on the boxes.

Wednesday, December 18th at 5:00 p.m. an Advent Dinner will be hosted by the Evangelism Committee. Donations will go to benefit Sri Lankan Christmas.

If you would like to purchase an 8" red Poinsettia, the sign-up sheets are in the entryway. The cost is \$17.00/ea. You may take it home after the Christmas Day service. If you have any questions, you may contact the office. Thank you!

Come join us for the Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 22nd at 9:30 a.m. in lieu of Bible Class & Sunday School!!

Our Pantry Sunday recipient for the month of December is YouthHope (Christian Friendliness).

Please keep them in your thoughts while you're out shopping!

Just a reminder... There will be **NO** Peace Quilters in the month of January.

The Mutual Encouragement Committee

serves a meal the second Monday of every month following a worship service at Christian Care in Rock Island. In this way we serve both body and soul of those in our community who find themselves in need. Our next date of service is Monday, January 13, 2024. Monetary donations are always welcome and are used to purchase spaghetti ingredients, salads and garlic bread. A sign-up sheet is located in the entryway for those interested in providing desserts or fresh fruit. These items, clearly marked for Christian Care, can be left in the Holy Cross kitchen on Monday or Sunday immediately preceding. Space is limited in the Christian Care kitchen, so those signing up to serve must be limited to four. The Mutual Encouragement Committee thanks you in advance for your kind and generous cooperation.

ATTENTION!!!

The staff at Holy Cross is currently in the process of updating our records of contact information for members, etc. If you need to update your address, phone number or email, please contact the office at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

Volunteering to Serve

As we approach 2025, Holy Cross is looking for volunteers to serve on committees and leadership positions. If you are interested in serving the Lord through leadership/ committee work or general assist, please call or text Marcia Green *refer to church phone directory.

Volunteers are needed to watch the security monitor during our services! If you can help in this way, please sign the sheet in the church entryway. If you have any questions, please talk to a member of the Board of Elders.

During Advent season Confirmation Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact the office or Pastor Wright.

Fitness Class/Fellowship Hour

Exercise class begins at 10:15 a.m. immediately following the 9 A.M. Bible Class led by Pastor Wright. Come join in for the 20-minute chair exercises followed by Coffee Hour and Fellowship with friends. Coffee, tea, and treats are served. Everyone is invited!

Holy Cross has been blessed in their support to Sri Lanka this year. Our \$4,000 pledge to Rev. Mahlburg's work was achieved. God be Praised!

We will be supporting **The Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church's** annual Christmas outreach events bringing the gospel to non-Christian children and families. Our goal last year was \$3,000 and by God's grace our \$3,000 goal will be met this year as well. Donations for this purpose may be made payable to Holy Cross and should be given by December 15. Please clearly mark your gift **"Sri Lankan Christmas."** Thank you.

The Mission of the LCMS Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF) is to aid The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations, schools, and agencies of the LCMS Central Illinois District (CID) in building and expanding their facilities and ministries for the growth of God's Kingdom.

New Dollar for Mission Project

We have been able to fund four of our current DFM projects. We are moving our subsequent approved DFM project. **Restroom and water heater at University Lutheran Church, Champaign** Dollar for Missions (DFM) contributions are now being devoted to necessary infrastructure at the University Lutheran Church in Champaign (UniLu). New toilets will be installed in the men's room, and a new water heater will be installed for the building. "Items like these seem far from glamorous," said CID Mission Executive Ken Schurb. "They do not capture our senses until problems arise in connection with them. Then their importance stands out."

TRUTH, GOODNESS & BEAUTY... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Movie "Gladiator II," The Hymn "May God Bestow on Us His Grace," Roman Catholicism & Indulgences, Mary Visits Elizabeth, The Testimony of John the Baptist and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn or a podcast provider.

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CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO AM850 & kfuo.org: Tune in to Sharper Iron as we continue our study of Isaiah (weekdays at 8:00 a.m.) and wrap up the Gospel of John with the Resurrection account on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m.). Don't forget to join us for this week's edition of Joy!, featuring sacred music for the Advent season. You can find the full program schedule at kfuo.org/joy!

Prayer List

Members in Facilities: Cedarhurst, Moline-Susan Wyant; Park Vista-Ron & Caroline Luecke; Wodridge Supportive Living, Galesburg- Dick Ristau; Illini Restorative Care- Henry Setton; Friendship Manor- Dick Hochstetler, PhylThorngren; Mercer Manor, Aledo-Bob Koehler; Cedarhurst Memory Care, Moline- Jan Phillips;

Hope Creek, East Moline-Elizabeth Cobb

Serving in the Military: Alexa Ellis (daughter of Tera Elliott, granddaughter of Mike and Cheryl McLaughlin), Logan Noard (son of Kyle and Marilyn Noard), Stephen Waugaman (grandson of Donna Knudtson), Cameron Moore (grandson of Lew & Maria Steinbrecher), Matthew Glider (grandson of Doris Glider), Andrew Tolley (son of Carole Tolley), David Revel (son of Craig & Laurie Revel), Jeffrey Teuscher (nephew of Willie Swain), Austin Cox (grandson-in-law of Sieg Paulsen) Leith Masri (son of Peggy Jones), Jakob Ryckeghem (grandson of Connie McKean) Brett Kramer (grandson of Terry Kramer).

Members of the congregation receiving treatment for cancer:

Rev. Murdock, Kathrine Hopkins.

Friends & family of the congregation receiving treatment for cancer:

Steven Bell (nephew of Pastor & Phyllis Murdock), Dan Schmidt (brother of Sarah Paller) Tom Leahey (son-in-law of Bob Hellstrom) Gail Stuenkel, Lisa Crawford, Joanne Lyons, Dave Patterson, Harold Foster, Judy Knudsen, Peggy Arkland (friend of the McLaughlin's), Kim Trask (sister of Robbie Garrison),

Corey Dombrowski (neighbor of Dan & Melissa Thorngren).

Serious Health Concerns:

Rev. Murdock, Joyce Spidle, Ladd Poell (friend of Donna Knudtson),
Tracy Bennet (friend of Sieg Paulsen), Sandy Lohse, Bob Trueblood
(brother of Joyce Spidle), Tony Loritz, friend of Jennifer Swanburg,
Dennis Rusk, Richard Geisler, Heidi Sias, Maureen DeLassus, Kelly
Teuscher, Kenny Lackey, Gwen Shrake,
Pam and Bill, friends of Gwen Shrake,
Monroe 'Chip' Kemerling (cousin of Don Freeman).

Recovering/Ongoing Health Concerns:

Anita Ingold-Kroll (daughter of Martha Kroll), Levi Koopmas (relative of Patricia Erickson), Lucy Jahns, Penny Dawson, Donald Dawson, Scarlet Durbin, Phyllis Murdock, Sherri Lohse, Beryl Edwards, Helen White, Gary Johnson, Fred Poe, Carol Ferrell, Susan Jamieson, Joshua Duburg, Sieg Paulsen, Cindy Davenport.