

KEEP WATCH AND BE READY!

The Last Sunday of the Church Year

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH | Kearney, Nebraska

The Last Sunday of the Church Year

Sunday, November 26, 2017

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

We are so happy you could join us today! If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

For your convenience, **Listening Devices** are available for those who need assistance in hearing the service. Large-Print Service Folders are also available for those who require it. Please speak with an usher if you need either one of these resources. A **Nursery** is also available and is equipped with a speaker so that a minimal amount of the service is missed. The nursery is located in the hallway just off the entryway (first door on left).

SERVICE NOTES FOR TODAY

"The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:1–11; Second Lesson). The arrival of the bridegroom will be sudden and unexpected. Therefore you are to be watchful and ready like the five wise virgins. "For you know neither the day nor the hour" when the Son of Man is to return. (Matthew 25:1–13, Gospel Lesson). The lamps are the Word of Christ. The oil in the lamps is the Holy Spirit, who works through the Word to create and sustain the flame of faith in Christ. The foolish are those who do not give proper attention to the working of the Holy Spirit in baptism, preaching, and the supper, and so their faith does not endure. The wise, however, are those who diligently attend to these gifts of the Spirit, and who therefore have an abundance of oil. The flame of faith endures to the end. By God's grace they are received into the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth created by the Lord for the joy of His people (Isaiah 65:17–25; First Lesson).

HOLY COMMUNION IS OFFERED TODAY

As Christians who believe that the Bible is inspired by God and that every word written in it is God's holy word, we believe that we receive the body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. While this is something that goes beyond our human understanding, our faith allows us to accept this as true. God warns us in the Bible that anyone who doesn't under-stand this teaching or who denies this real presence of Christ's body and blood will do

damage to his or her soul if not properly taught first (1 Cor. 11:27-29).

As a congregation we care about people and about the spiritual well-being of individuals, especially those attending the Lord's Table today. If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are not under church discipline in another congregation, and are members of our congregation, one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS], or a member of our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS].

SERVING US TODAY

Preacher & Celebrant	Pr. Nathanael P. Seelow
Keyboardist	Michelle Reinsch
Ushers	
Greeters	Tony & Tracy Wenz
Sound Technician	Logan Hansen

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THE DIVINE SERVICE

The Service (Setting II)



OPENING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers | CW 7

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

Please stand.

- M In the name of the Father and of the ❖ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
- If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

 1 John 1:8,9
- M Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
- C Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his holy life and innocent death.

Trusting in him, I pray:

God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation on God's Word and for self-examination as you consider your thoughts, words, and actions according to the Ten Commandments.



The sign of the cross [•] may be made throughout the service by worshippers in remembrance of their baptism.

"In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'"

— Small CatechismDaily Prayers

ABSOLUTION

- M Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ♣ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY — Kyrie, eleison

Mark 10:47

- M In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- M For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- M For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- M For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- M Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C Amen.

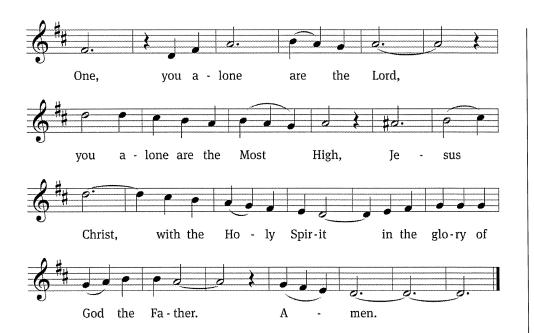
GLORY TO GOD — Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14

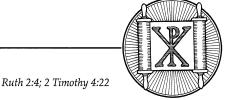


PARENTS: The shorter, oft-repeated expressions in the liturgy are excellent ways for young children to participate in the worship service. Help children watch for and join in phrases like, "Lord, have mercy," "Amen," and "Alleluia."





The Service of the Word



SALUTATION

M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY — Collect

M Let us pray.

Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Be seated.

The Collect is a short prayer that "collects" in one short petition all it is that we are asking God to do for us on the basis of the Word that we are about to hear—read and preached (Philippians 4:6).

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 65:17–25

In the Lord's new creation, we will completely forget the weeping and futility so characteristic of life in a fallen world. In their place shall be joy and gladness, fulfillment and satisfaction. It is the Lord's desire that his repentant people should not longer remember or be troubled by their former sins. Our place in the Lord's new creation has been secured through faith in Jesus. Through the saving work of his hands, we have the joy of sins forgiven and the gladness of life eternal.

ATCH THIS, I AM ABOUT TO CREATE NEW HEAVENS and a new earth, and the former things will not be remembered, and they will not come to mind. 18 Instead, rejoice and celebrate forever because of what I am creating. Watch this, I am about to create Jerusalem to be a source of gladness, and her people will be a source of joy. 19 I also will be glad because of Jerusalem, and I will rejoice over my people. The sound of weeping will not be heard again in her, nor will the sound of crying. ²⁰ There will never again be an infant there who lives for only a few days, or an elderly man who does not fill out all his days, for one who dies at a hundred will be considered a young man, and one who fails to attain a hundred years old will be regarded as cursed. 21 Then they will build houses and inhabit them. They will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² They will not build a house and have another person live in it. They will not plant and have another person eat the crop, for the days of my people will be like the days of a tree, and my chosen ones will enjoy all the work of their hands. ²³ They will not toil in vain, and they will not give birth to children doomed to disaster, for they will be offspring who are blessed by the LORD, and their descendants will be with them. ²⁴ Then it will happen that even before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear. 25 The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like cattle, but the serpent will eat dust as its food. They will not harm or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

- M The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 149

- M Praise the LORD. Sing to the LORD a new song.
- Sing his praise in the congregation of his favored ones.
- M Let Israel rejoice in its Maker.

- **C** Let the people of Zion celebrate for their King.
- M Let them praise his name with dancing.
- With hand drum and lyre let them make music to him.
- M For the LORD is pleased with his people.
- C He adorns the humble with salvation.
- M Let those he favors rejoice in honor.
- C Let them shout for joy on their beds.
- A Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

ONCERNING THE TIMES AND DATES, BROTHERS, THERE is no need to write to you, ² for you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ When people are saying, "Peace and security," destruction will suddenly come on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will certainly not escape. 4 But you, brothers, are not in the dark so that this day takes you by surprise like a thief, ⁵ for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep like everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober. ⁷ To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9 You see, God did not appoint us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are also doing.

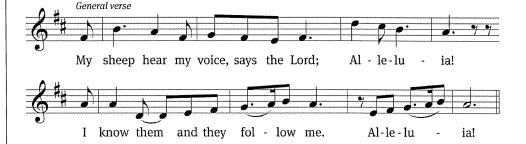
- M The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!

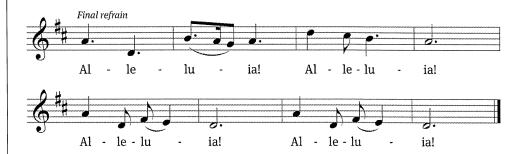
After describing the future glory of those who have died in Christ, Paul now proceeds to tell the Thessalonians about the coming Day of Judgment in which the Lord will give his final verdict. Let us walk in holiness and righteousness so that we may not be ashamed when our Lord appears to judge our work. The Lord who has chosen us for salvation and died for us will be on our side on the final Day of Judgment.

Please stand.

The Pastor will sing the refrain once. The congregation is invited to repeat the refrain a second time. The Pastor will sing the verse, and the congregation is invited to sing the final refrain.







M The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter twenty-five.

T THAT TIME THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WILL BE LIKE ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; 4 but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps. 5 While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' 7 Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, 'No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10 But while they were away buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11 Later, the other virgins also came and said, 'Lord, Lord, let us in.' 12 But he answered, 'Ameni I tell you: I do not know you.' ¹³ Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

- M The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying | CW 206

SERMON Isaiah 65:17–25

Paradise in the Paradox

Jesus warns that many invited to share in the eternal joy of his kingdom will miss out by failing to have a living faith at the end. Though some will be condemned for heinous crimes and gross sins, many more will fail to enter heaven because they neglected their faith. Even so, no matter how depleted our faith is, Jesus' grace can fill us to overflowing with a single word.

For more information about this **hymn**, see the insert.

¹ Usually, people say "Amen" at the end of a prayer. But Jesus used this Hebrew word at the beginning of a statement, which was unique. The inspired writer simply transliterated the Hebrew word that Jesus spoke, instead of using a Greek term. This translation does the same in English. The basic meaning is I solemnly tell you the truth.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M Eternal Lord, you speak to us in words of love and light and power. Fill us with peace today as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Guide our lives today as we see clearly the path you have laid out for us. Work in us today through your Spirit that our thoughts, words, and actions glorify you and serve our neighbor.
- Fill us with the Word we have heard today and move us to believe it and live it.
- Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word.

 Take away their fear of criticism and contention and make them bold to say what you say. Fill them with a love like yours and lead them to announce the forgiveness of sins as your free gift to us and all people.
- Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.
- Forgive us for the times we hear your Word but fail to live it in our lives. Break down the apathy that lurks in us and leads us to ignore eternal realities. Convict us with your law and then fill us so full of your gospel that we overflow with zeal to do your will.
- Give us thankful hearts to live and love with joy.
- M Guard and guide us as we live in a society that despises what you say about marriage. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Move parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus even when their children grow up.
- Protect us from the evil that surrounds us; give us pure hearts and minds.
- M Provide your divine compass for those who govern us by making laws and setting policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime and aggression. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to care for those who cannot care for themselves.
- Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Through the Prayer of the Church we heed Christ's command to "love one another." One of the greatest forms of love we can show for our neighbor is to pray for them.

- M Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.
- Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in your grace.
- M Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Fill eager minds with wisdom to discover new ways to treat disease and illness. Give patience and compassion to those who care for the sick and dying.
- Lift the eyes of the sick and the dying to your love in Christ.
- M Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

 Silent prayer.
- M Eternal Lord, you guide the world with your mighty power and love all people because your Son lived and died and rose again. Hear our prayers, spoken and in silence, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.
- In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

OFFERING

The Service of the Sacrament



PREFACE

Please stand.

M The Lord be with you.

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22

And also with you.

M Lift up your hearts.

Lamentations 3:41

Moved by God's love in Christ, by our Offering we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to give an offering.

- **C** We lift them up to the Lord.
- M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalm 136

ho -

na,

- It is good and right so to do.
- It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who preserves his Church to the end of time when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to glory. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY — Sanctus Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9 Но ly, ho ho ly, lv Lord of God hosts. heav - en and earth are of vour full glo - rv. Ho san na, ho the high - est. ho - san - na in san na. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

The Sanctus (Latin for "holy") is the song the Seraphim sing without ceasing before the Throne of God in Heaven. In the Divine Service, it is joined with the Benedictus, the song with which the Hebrew believers greeted Jesus upon his Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Combined, the Sanctus and the Benedictus represent the meeting place of Heaven and Earth; the song of the saints on earth joins with the praise of the hosts of heaven to greet the King of Kings and Lord of Lords as he deigns to dwell among us in the Holy Supper.

na.

ho

san

Ho -

san



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER — Pater Noster

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver • us from evil.

In this prayer we give thanks to the lord of the redemption that He has secured for us by His cross; we ask Him to prepare us to receive that redemption in living and joyful faith.

The Pater Noster ("Our Father"), the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples to pray, is the "table prayer" with which we come to the Lord's Table (Mark 11:9-10). For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION — Verba

Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ❖ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my • blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

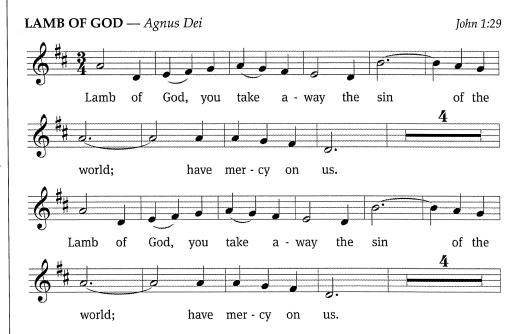
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

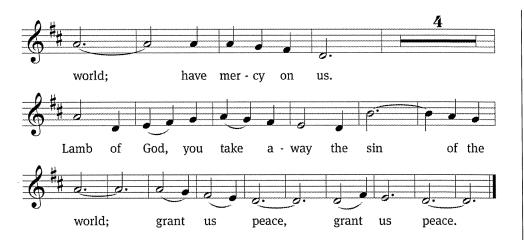
C Amen.

The Sacrament of Jesus' body and blood is the vehicle for peace. Showing them His wounds, the risen Lord declared His peace to His disciples on Easter evening. That same peace is given to us with the Lord's body and blood. By sharing the "peace of the Lord" with each other, we lay aside all that stands in contradiction with the Lord's testament

(John 20:21).

The Agnus Dei (Latin for "Lamb of God") is based on John the Baptist's acclamation of Christ: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!" This canticle recollects the sacrifice of the Lamb of God on Good Friday, reminding us that, through the Holy Supper, we "proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Cor. 11).





Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion today may wish to read **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**, found on page 156 in the front section of the hymnal. This page helps us put into practice what the Bible encourages: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." (1 Corinthians 11:28)

Prayer suggestions for before and after receiving the Lord's Supper can be found in the hymnal on pages 10-11 and 134-139.

In dismissing the communicants, the minister says:

M Now, may this true body and blood strengthen and keep you in the true faith to life everlasting. Your sins ♣ are forgiven. Go in peace. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Please stand.

M Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 107:1

M Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

Good Shepherd confesses and practices the Biblical teaching of a Closed Communion. We ask that only members of the Wisconsin Synod [WELS] or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us at the Lord's Table. If you have questions concerning our communion practice. or would like to inquire about how you, too, can commune with us. please speak with the Pastor following the service.

The name of the Lord is the beginning and the end of the Divine Service. We are now marked with the Lord's name in the Benediction - that word of God's blessing from Numbers 6 in which He favors us with His grace and peace. With the Lord's name given us in Holy Baptism, we were drawn together. Now, with that same name, He sends us back into the world, to the places of our various callings, to live by the mercy we have received as living sacrifices to the

praise of His glory and the good of our neighbor.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

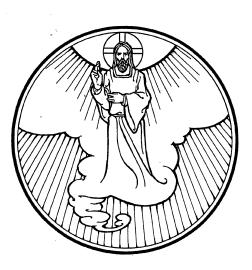
BLESSING Numbers 6:22-27

- M The LORD bless you and keep you.
 The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The LORD look on you with favor and ♣ give you peace.
- C Amen.

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

The King Shall Come | CW 25



Announcements

BIBLE CLASS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY Sunday morning Bible classes continue this morning. We are continue to study the book of 1 John in a class called, "Living in the Light of God's Love." Sunday School also meets today in the Education Building (across the parking lot). Children grades Pre-K through 8 are invited to attend. Sunday School starts at 10:45.

CONGREGATION AT PRAYER A copy of the newest "A Congregation at Prayer" is available as an insert in this worship folder. This resource is not only a good outline for personal and family devotions, but it also includes an up-to-date prayer list for those in (and outside) our congregation.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING TODAY Following Bible Class today, the church will be decorated for the Christmas season. If you would like to help with the decorating process, plan on being there. We'll plan on starting at noon. As in past years, we'll plan on ordering pizza for lunch. A sign-up sheet is hanging on the bulletin board in the entry way to sign up for the pizza lunch. Cost for the lunch is free-will (roughly \$5/person).

DECEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR The December church calendar is available on the table in the entry way and online at www.goodshepherdkearney.org/calendar.

SHOP ON AMAZON? Do you use and shop on Amazon? If so, just by shopping you can support Good Shepherd. Go to smile.amazon.com and choose Good Shepherd as your preferred charitable organization and then start shopping! A portion of each dollar spent on Amazon will be given back to Good Shepherd. Happy shopping!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PRACTICES Practice for the Children's Sunday School Service (planned for December 17) will take place on December 9 and December 16. The practice will begin at 10a and will last approximately an hour. If you plan on having your kids participate in this service, please plan on having them at those important practices.

WORSHIP SERVICE SURVEY An email will be sent to the congregation with a link to a survey and feedback form for the order of service we've been using for the past few months. Please take time to fill that out. If you do not receive it, or are not on the church's email list, please contact Pastor Seelow.

This Week's Calendar

Monday, November 27	.7p — Adult Catechesis
Tuesday, November 28	.7p — Praying Luther's Small Catechism Bible Class
Wednesday, November 29	.4p — Youth Catechesis
Thursday, November 30	.ALL DAY — Pastor in North Platte
Sunday, December 3	.9:30a — Divine Service with Holy Communion 10:30a — Fellowship 10:45a — Sunday School 10:45a — Book of 1 John Bible Class Ushers: Randy Webb & Tony Wenz Greeter: L. Adelung Family Sound Tech: Jamie Scott

Cleaning (11/26–12/2)......Church—Hansen; Fellowship—Harp; Ed. Bldg.—Powers

Last Week's "Numbers"

Divine Service/Communion	48/36	
Sunday Bible Class	11	
Sunday School	5	
Tuesday Bible Class		
General Fund	.\$1,326.00	
CMO	\$30.00	
NELHS	\$.00	
Other	\$.00	
Total Offering	.\$1,356.00	

For more information on the annual budget and an upto-date +/- report, see the weekly email. Don't receive the email? Speak to Pastor Seelow.

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 9......Children's Xmas Service

Practice

DECEMBER 16	Children's Xmas Service Practice
DECEMBER 17	Children's Christmas Service
DECEMBER 24	Christmas Eve Service (7p)
DECEMBER 25	Christmas Day Service (10a)
DECEMBER 31	Festival of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus [Observed] (9:30a)
FEBRUARY 4	Annual Souper-Bowl Event
FEBRUARY 14Ash Wednesday	