

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 763, 206 N. Court St.

Au Gres, MI 48703

Missouri Synod



Sunday Worship– 9:00 am

Bible Study – 10:15 am

Pastor Sean McNeil
Phone: 231-750-2294

Church Phone: 989-876-8910
office@stjohnaugres.com
Office Hours: Wednesday 8 am– 12 pm

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 763, 206 N Court St; Au Gres, MI 48703

SERVING THE LORD Sunday, November 30, 2025

SOS: Linda Byard
Greeter: Roxanne Klein
Altar Care: Cheryl Appold
Liturgist and Preacher: Pastor Sean McNeil

Elder: Denny Klein
Usher: Charlie Appold
Bulletin: Sandra Jantzi

This Week at St. John's

| | | |
|-------------|---------|---|
| SUN (11/30) | 9:00am | Worship/HC – Advent I |
| | 10:15am | Coffee Hour/Fellowship |
| | | Bible Study in MPR |
| MON (12/1) | 10:00am | Nativity Set Up |
| | | Ladies Christmas Tree Decoration/Luncheon |
| WED (12/3) | 5:30pm | Soup Supper |
| | 6:30pm | Midweek Service: Advent I |
| SUN (12/7) | 9:00am | Worship/HC – Advent II |
| | | Mites Collected |
| | 10:15am | Coffee Hour/Fellowship |
| | | Bible Study in MPR |

WE WELCOME ALL TO GOD'S HOUSE TODAY – in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please take a moment and fill out the “*Welcome to Our Worship*” pad in the brown folder at the end of the pew. If you are visiting, please sign the guest register book in the narthex. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to return every Sunday at 9:00am.

LARGEPRINT – copies of today's service are available. Ask the greeter if you would like one.

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR – We invite all to stay for coffee hour and fellowship after worship in the fellowship hall. December hostess is Veronica Hiveley (989-876-8466) Please consider calling and offering to help bring snacks or facilitate set up/clean up.

DOOR OFFERING – for the Closet Exchange is being taken today. Please make checks payable to “It Takes A Village”.

334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?
 2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;
 3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.
 4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!
 And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new
 A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.
 And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.
 That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.
 In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
 Cannot His love erase;
 Your guilt the Lord will pardon
 And cover by His grace.
 He comes, for you procuring
 The peace of sin forgiv'n,
 His children thus securing
 Eternal life in heav'n.

6 He comes to judge the nations,
 A terror to His foes,
 A light of consolations
 And blessèd hope to those
 Who love the Lord's appearing. ,
 O glorious Sun, now come. ,
 Send forth Your beams so cheering
 And guide us safely home.

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.
Amen.

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 25:4–5, 21–22; antiphon: vv. 1–3a

To you, O LORD, I lift | up my soul.*

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame.

Let not my enemies exult | over me.*

Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to shame.
 Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;*
 teach me | your paths.
 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my sal- | vation;*
 for you I wait all the | day long.
 May integrity and uprightness pre- | serve me,*
 for I | wait for you.
 Redeem Israel, | O God,*
 out of all his | troubles.
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.
 To you, O LORD, I lift | up my soul.*
 O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame.
 Let not my enemies exult | over me.*
 Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to shame.

Kyrie

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 23:5–8

⁵“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

⁷“Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ ⁸but ‘As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.’ Then they shall dwell in their own land.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 24; antiphon: v. 7

¹The earth is the LORD’s and the full- | ness thereof,*

the world and those who | dwell therein,

²for he has founded it up- | on the seas*
and established it upon the | rivers.

³Who shall ascend the hill | of the LORD?*

And who shall stand in his | holy place?

⁴He who has clean hands and a | pure heart,*

who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear de- | ceitfully.

⁵He will receive blessing | from the LORD*

and righteousness from the God of his sal- | vation.

⁶Such is the generation of those who | seek him,*

who seek the face of the God of | Jacob.

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O | ancient doors,*

that the King of glory | may come in.

⁸Who is this King of | glory?*

The LORD, strong and mighty,

the LORD, mighty in | battle!

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates!

And lift them up, O | ancient doors,*

that the King of glory | may come in.

¹⁰Who is this King of | glory?*

The LORD of hosts,

he is the King of | glory!

Epistle

Romans 13:11–14

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1–9

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵“Say to the daughter of Zion,
 ‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
 humble, and mounted on a donkey,
 and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the

road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

332 Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 God was there up - on His throne.
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,
 Back to God He ran His course.
 Into hell His road went down,
 Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son
 Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
 By Your mighty pow'r make whole
 All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
 Shines in glory through the night.
 Darkness there no more resides;
 In this light faith now abides.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
 Glory to the Son, our king,
 Glory to the Spirit be
 Now and through eternity.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483-1546; (sts. 1-2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812-76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4-5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973
 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
 Text (sts. 3, 6-7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 4-5, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002410
 Text (sts. 1-2) and tune: Public domain



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

- C** **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.**

The Words of Our Lord

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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210



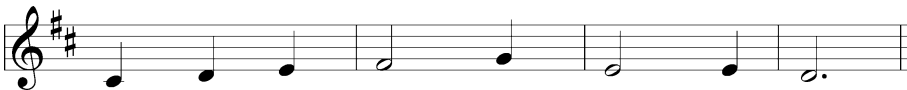
C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

798 The God of Abraham Praise

630 Now, My Tongue, the Mystery Telling

631 Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

Nunc Dimittis

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

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.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

343 Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002410
Tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

PRAYER CONCERNS



Pray for our members with health concerns:

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Devin Ruse | Marcia Twarog | Walker Byard |
| Doris Braman | Tammy Younger | Sharon Whyte |
| Sandy Metzger | Jerry Thomas | Adalyn Osborn |
| Perry Tremble | Rich Schnell | Ken Bender |

Pray for friends with health concerns:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Ella Layton | Janice Haas | Wendy Dieleman-Reid | Karen Olson |
| Shannon Reed | Debbie Kahihikolo | Tim Robbin | Brendan Harrison |
| Hunter Sweet | Jean Marttila | Matthew Mason | Kris Hammerbacher |
| Paula Switala | Brianna Dery | Scott Schell | Karen McGuire |
| Al Fox | Cody Gee | Howard Hackerd | Kay Tremble |
| Jeri Christie | Emmett Lynch | Cathy Mueller | Joan Behrman |
| Greg Norgan | Teresa Strehl | Matthew Hackerd | Donald Nelson |
| Diane (Joyce Forro's daughter) | | Mike Jones | Mike Shillair |
| Brian Leja | | | |

Please contact the office with any updates to the prayer list



Convenient and secure ONLINE GIVING is available through TITHE.LY giving portal. Scan the QR code to the left or go to our church website at: www.stjohnaugres.org once there, click the link located on the homepage.

Today at St. John

MAILBOX CHECK – Check your mailbox today for a copy of the December Newsletter and Portal of Prayer Devotional. If you know of someone who is housebound, spread some Christmas love by visiting them and delivering their mail.

FREE ITEMS TO SHARE – Books, booklets, puzzles, etc. are on the table in the multi-purpose room. Help yourself.

This Week at St. John

POINSETTA PRE-ORDERING – is now available. Cost is \$12 for 6” red poinsettia. Sign up deadline is **TODAY**. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the MPR. Checks should be made out to St. John Ladies Aid and given to Roxanne Klein.

WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW) – in lieu of our weekly Bible Study, join us Monday at 10:00 am to help set up the Christmas Tree in the auditorium!

NATIVITY SCENE SET UP – your help is requested to set up our beautiful Nativity Set in anticipation of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you can help, please come to the church at 10am on Monday, December 1st.

LADIES CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING & CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – Monday, December 1st at 10:00am. Following the set tree decorating and a short devotion we will go to the Anchor Pub for our Christmas Luncheon at noon. All ladies of the church are invited. Both to decorate and for lunch. A donation will be taken for Good Samaritan Mission of Bay City. Any questions can be directed to Pat Metzger.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE WITH SOUP SUPPER – Invite friends and family to join us at 5:30pm on Wednesday for a soup supper, provided by Ladies Aid. Our Midweek/Advent I service will begin at 6:30pm.

IT'S LUTHERAN WITNESS TIME – now is the time of year when our members can order or renew subscriptions of *The Lutheran Witness* (LW), the official periodical of the Lutheran Church -Missouri Synod. Published 11 times a year, they provide laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life. Each issue includes the *Michigan In Touch* (michiganintouch.com) supplement. Cost is \$22.50 for one year. Deadline for ordering is December 15th. Let the church office know if you wish to receive it.

CHURCH STORE – Let someone know you are thankful for them this Thanksgiving. Cards are in the display case in the fellowship hall. Cards, containing beautiful Bible verses, are available for many occasions. Check them out! Individual cards are (.50) each or box (\$6).

Mission Opportunities

November's MISSION OF THE MONTH – Wellspring Lutheran Services, walk alongside people of all ages and walks of life. They share hope when a circumstance may not feel hopeful.

LWML MITES – are accepted the first Sunday of each month. If you wish to save mites throughout the month, please take a mite box. Bring your mite box or drop any spare change for needed missions in the large LWML box located in the gathering/narthex area next Sunday.

FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN – We are hanging Christmas ornaments for the Food Bank of Eastern MI with your name on it in the window of the church office for the months of November and December . Every \$1 you donate equals 6 meal for our hungry neighbors. Checks may be made out to the Food Bank of Eastern MI. Putting the number P710 in the memo portion of your check insures the donation stays here in Au Gres.

AU GRES CHARITIES FOOD PANTRY – The need in our community it great, as 63 families were served last week. Pantry needs: dry cereal, chicken noodle soup, Spaghetti O's, Mac N' Cheese, Pancake mix, spaghetti noodles, spaghetti sauce, and canned potatoes. Items can be placed in the grocery cart in the fellowship hall.

Upcoming Events at St. John

Advent Midweek services with Soup supper – December 3, 10, 17
Children's Christmas Service – December 14th @ 9am.
Christmas Eve Service – Wednesday, December 24
Christmas Day Service – Thursday, December 25

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE – Prepare to celebrate our Savior's birth during the children's Christmas service at St. John on Sunday, December 14, at 9:00am. Please join in as we participate with our children in worship.

Upcoming Community Events

See the bulletin board in the MPR for more details about an event

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| December 5 | Blood Drive – Zion Lutheran Church Tawas |
| December 5, 6, & 7 | Living Nativity – Immanuel Lutheran Church of Frankentrost |
| December 6 | Bethlehem Breakfast – Zion Lutheran Church Tawas |
| December 13 | Cookie Walk – Faith Lutheran Church Prescott |
| December 14 | Old Fashioned Christmas in the Park – Au Gres (2 & 4 pm) |

Advent Activities for Families

- ☆ Make and deliver treats to neighbors
- ☆ Give Jesus a birthday gift by giving a gift to someone in need
- ☆ Donate a bag of food to a local food pantry or food bank
- ☆ Pray for good things for someone who has been unkind to you
- ☆ Visit an elderly friend or relative who doesn't get many visitors
- ☆ Make a handmade gift for someone
- ☆ Learn to say Merry Christmas in a few languages
- ☆ Listen to Christmas music while doing a task you have been putting off
- ☆ Volunteer your time at church, school, or a local organization
- ☆ Surprise someone by doing a task or chore they normally do
- ☆ Genuinely compliment someone who isn't expecting it
- ☆ Make a creative project that helps you reflect on the true meaning of Christmas
- ☆ Do something to help the Earth
- ☆ Attend an Advent or Christmas-themed musical performance, play, or Living Nativity
- ☆ Go Christmas caroling
- ☆ Do something to make the holiday season better for someone who needs it
- ☆ Read one of the Gospel accounts of the birth of the Jesus
- ☆ Have a family night at home playing games while enjoying hot chocolate and snacks
- ☆ Watch a family Christmas movie
- ☆ Use an Advent wreath or Jesse Tree throughout Advent
- ☆ Buy at least one gift this year from a small business (local or online)
- ☆ Surprise a neighbor by shoveling their snow or doing another yard task for them
- ☆ Write a note to someone who has had a positive impact on your life
- ☆ Make cookies or homemade treats as a family
- ☆ Read at least one book about Christmas traditions in another country
- ☆ Pray for peace in your community and the world

Scripture of the Week

Psalm 122

A song of ascents. Of David.

- ¹ I rejoiced with those who said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
- ² Our feet are standing
in your gates, Jerusalem.
- ³ Jerusalem is built like a city
that is closely compacted together.
- ⁴ That is where the tribes go up—
the tribes of the LORD—
to praise the name of the LORD
according to the statute given to Israel.
- ⁵ There stand the thrones for judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.
- ⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May those who love you be secure.
- ⁷ May there be peace within your walls
and security within your citadels.”
- ⁸ For the sake of my family and friends,
I will say, “Peace be within you.”
- ⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your prosperity.

Life Thoughts – Being a Gospel-motivated voice for life means loving all our neighbors, regardless of their size, condition, or past. As servants in the Master’s house (Matthew 24:43), we not only need to be prepared for Christ’s coming (Matthew 24:44; Romans 13:11), we should be eager to make all other ready, preaching the Gospel to them, inviting them “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord” (Isaiah 2:3) that they, too, might be brought into the safety of the ark of the holy Church.