



November 24, 2024
26th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Lincoln Heights Lutheran Church.



Lincoln
Heights
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The logo for Lincoln Heights Lutheran Church features a large, stylized cross on the left side. The cross is composed of a vertical bar and a horizontal bar, with a circle at the intersection. The word "Lincoln" is written in a large, serif font, with the cross acting as the letter "L". Below "Lincoln" is the word "Heights" in a similar serif font. At the bottom, the words "LUTHERAN" and "CHURCH" are written in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font, separated by a large, decorative flourish that connects the two words.

Prepare for Worship

Lord Jesus, you have invited me to come and receive your holy Sacrament. I believe that in the bread and wine you give me your true body and blood to eat and drink. Forgive my sins and nourish my faith through this precious meal. I long for the comfort that comes with your promises; I yearn for the assurance of your faithful love. Bless me now as I receive you by faith. Amen.

Our Mission is to nurture each other in God's Word and spread the Good News of Christ to all.

513 In You Is Gladness



1 In you is glad - ness a - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
 2 If he is ours, we fear no pow - ers, not of



sun - shine of my heart. By you are giv - en the gifts of
 earth or sin or death. He sees and bless - es in worst dis -



heav - en, you the true Re - deem - er are. Our souls are
 tress - es; he can change them with a breath. Where - fore the



wak - ing, our bonds are break - ing; who trusts you
 sto - ry tell of his glo - ry with hearts and



sure - ly has built se - cure - ly and stands for - ev - er.
 voic - es; all heav'n re - joic - es in him for - ev - er.



Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are pin - ing to see your
 Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for glad - ness, win o - ver



shin - ing, dy - ing or liv - ing to you are
 sad - ness, love him and praise him and still shall



cling - ing now and for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!
 raise him glad hymns for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!

Stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

CW 172

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.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

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 innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

CW 172

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.

Amen.



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the




right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,




with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518

The Word

Salutation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 51:4–6

Pay attention to me, O my people. My nation, listen to me!

For the law will go out from me, and I will establish my justice as a light to the peoples.

⁵My righteousness is near.

My salvation goes forth, and my arms will bring justice to the peoples.

The seacoasts will wait for me. They will have confidence in my arm.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens.

Look closely at the earth beneath, because the heavens will vanish like smoke, and the earth will wear out like a garment, and its inhabitants will die like gnats.

But my salvation will remain forever, and my righteousness will never be abolished.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

95A The Rock of Our Salvation

Refrain



Let us shout for joy to the rock of our sal - va - tion.

Tone



Come, let us sing for joy / to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the rock of our sal- / vation.

Let us come before him with thanks- / giving
and extol him with mu- / sic and song.

For the LORD is the / great God,
the great King a- / bove all gods.

In his hand are the depths / of the earth,
and the mountain peaks be- / long to him.

The sea is his, for he / made it,
and his hands formed the / dry land. *Refrain*

Come, let us bow down in / worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our / maker;
for he is our God and we are the people of his / pasture,
the flock under / his care.

Today, if only you would / hear his voice,
“Do not hard- / en your hearts
as you did at / Meribah,
as you did that day at Massah in the / wilderness.”

**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. *Refrain***

Second Reading

Jude 20–25

But you, dear friends, continue to build yourselves up in your most holy faith as you keep praying in the Holy Spirit. ²¹Keep yourselves in God's love as you continue to wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, which results in eternal life. ²²Show mercy to those who are wavering. ²³Save others by snatching them out of the fire. Show mercy to still others with fear, hating even the clothing that is stained by the flesh.

²⁴Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you faultless in the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵to the only God, our Savior, be glory, majesty, power, and authority through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all time, now, and to all eternity. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

CW 179



Refrain



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

Tone



Rejoice in the Lord for his love and faith - ful - ness.

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Gospel

Mark 13:26–37

Then you will see the Son of Man coming on clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷At that time he will send out his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of the sky.

²⁸“Learn from this illustration of the fig tree: Whenever its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also when you see these things happening, you will know that he is near—at the doors! ³⁰Amen I tell you: This generation will certainly not pass away until all these things happen. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³²“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. ³⁵Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Reception of New Members

(8:00 am)

488 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near when Je - sus, God's a -
2 A trum - pet loud shall then re - sound and all the earth be
3 A book is o - pened then to all, a rec - ord tru - ly
4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord and sought but car - nal



noint - ed, shall with great maj - es - ty ap - pear as judge of
shak - en. Then all who in their graves are found shall from their
tell - ing what each has done, both great and small, when they on
plea - sures, who here de - spised his pre - cious Word and loved their



all ap - point - ed. All mirth and laugh - ter then shall cease when
sleep a - wak - en and with the liv - ing in that hour, by
earth were dwell - ing, and ev - 'ry heart be clear - ly seen, and
earth - ly trea - sures! With shame and trem - bling they will stand and



flames on flames will still in - crease, as Scrip - ture tru - ly teach - es.
God's al - might - y, bound - less pow'r, be changed at his com - mand - ing.
all be known as they have been in thoughts and words and ac - tions.
at the judg - e's stern com - mand to Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.

- 5 My Savior paid the debt I owe and for my sin was smitten;
within the Book of Life I know my name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free, and Satan cannot threaten me; there is no condemnation!
- 6 O Jesus Christ, do not delay, but hasten our salvation; we often tremble on our way
in fear and tribulation. Your saints are waiting patiently;
come soon, Redeemer, make us free from ev'ry evil. Amen.

Text: tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832–1919, alt.; Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–1599, abr.

Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1535, ed. Joseph Klug Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Live with Your Eyes on the Skies Mark 13:26-37

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Eternal and gracious Father, today we end another year of grace. Once again the Holy Spirit has nourished and strengthened our faith as we reviewed the words and works of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. We have rejoiced to hear that you kept the promises you made to your ancient people. We were encouraged as we remembered how you empowered your followers to proclaim the good news in their world.

Work in us every day to believe the truths of your Word and apply them in our lives.

We are aware that we live in dangerous times as Satan and his forces of evil assault your people again and again. Give us wisdom to discern teachings that subtly deny the Scriptures. Provide courage to stand against the attacks of godless opponents. Strengthen our resolve to confess the truth and then to speak the truth in love.

Work in us every day to be watchful and cautious as we live in our world.

Help us take to heart that your Son, our Lord Jesus, is coming again to judge the living and the dead. Since the day of his return is unknown to us, lead us to note the signs that signal the end of time. Spare us from fear as trouble and woe increase, and fill us with hope as we long for that great day.

Work in us every day to be ready for the moment of his coming.

Fill us with concern for family members and friends who are not taking seriously their need for Jesus and his forgiveness. Provide opportunities to reach out to them with patient persistence and to lovingly lead them to your Word and sacraments. Make us generous with our offerings so that others can go in our place to proclaim the good news.

Work in us every day to witness to Christ and his love for sinners.

Lead us to see our Savior's face in the faces of the poor and hungry, the lonely and forgotten, the oppressed and imprisoned, and move to support them whenever we can. Empower our faith to be lights in the world so that people may see our good works and glorify you and your Son.

Work in us every day to imitate your love for the lost, the least, and the last.

If you call us to glory before the final day comes, carry our souls to heaven where we will await the resurrection of our bodies. Comfort those who may grieve over losing us and point them to the day when they will join us at the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Work in us every day so that we are ready whenever you call us home.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Fill us with hope and joy as we await your Son's return. Cause us to enjoy your earthly blessings in light of your eternal glories and to realize that heaven is really our home. Lead us to long for the splendor of Paradise where you will wipe away all tears from our eyes.
Work in us every day as we listen for the sound of the final trumpet. Amen.

Be seated

Good News for Kids/Offering

The Sacrament

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. The Lord's Supper makes a second statement. It says, "We are one in all that we do." We don't know if this type of bond exists with our guests, so we ask that if you are not a member of a WELS or ELS congregation you refrain from the Lord's Supper today and meet personally with our pastor if you desire to receive the sacrament in the future.

Stand

Preface

CW 183

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

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

CW 184

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
san - na in the high - est!

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Words of Institution

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 \dagger 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 \dagger 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. **Amen.**

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us your peace.

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Be seated

Distribution

676 Take and Eat


Refrain



Take and eat, take and eat, this is my bod - y



giv - en up for you. Take and drink, take and drink,



this is my blood giv - en up for you.



- 1 I am the Word that spoke and light was made;
- 2 I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;
- 3 I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;
- 4 I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid;



I am the seed that died to be re - born;
I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;
I am the gate that guards you night and day;
a cho - sen stone and pre - cious in his eyes;



I am the bread that comes from heav'n a - bove;
I am the life that rais - es up the dead;
you are my flock: you know the shep - herd's voice;
You are God's dwell - ing - place, on me you rest;



Refrain

I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.
I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.
you are my own: your ran - som is my blood.
like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.

5 I am the light that came into the world; I am the light that darkness cannot hide;
I am the Morning Star that never sets; lift up your face, in you my light will shine.
(Refrain)

6 I am the first and last, the Living One; I am the Lord who died that you might live;
I am the bridegroom, this my wedding song; you are my bride, come to the marriage
feast. (Refrain)

Text (sts. 1–6): James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010; (Ref): Michael Joncas, b. 1951 Tune: Michael Joncas, b. 1951 Text (sts. 1–6): © 1969 James Quinn, SJ, admin. OCP Publications; (Ref): © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518 Tune: © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518

668 Jesus Comes Today with Healing



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, knock - ing at my
2 Christ him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, yet in bread and
3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, gives him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
wine a - bid - ing in this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
Sav - ior ho - ly, blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
me this hour — in this or - di - nar - y sign.



He him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, and I hear his
gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, and the cup, the
ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, who to bit - ter
On my tongue his pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept his



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
pre - cious to - ken of his sa - cred cov - e - nant.
death was giv - en, hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
grace, be - liev - ing that I taste his love di - vine.

- 5 Let me praise God's boundless favor, whose own feast of love I savor,
bidden by his gracious call. Wedding garments he provides me,
with a robe of white he hides me, fits me for the royal hall.
- 6 Now have I found consolation, comfort in my tribulation,
balm to heal the troubled soul. God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
cleanses me from sin and error, makes my wounded spirit whole.

Text: tr. David W. Rogner, b. 1960; Heinrich Puchta, 1808–1858 Tune: adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758; Johann Löhner, 1645–1705
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669 In This Holy, Blest Communion



1 In this ho - ly, blest com - mun - ion plain and
 2 In this ho - ly, blest com - mun - ion Christ and
 3 In this ho - ly, blest com - mun - ion saints are



pre - cious gifts com - bine: bread is tru - ly
 sin - ners join as one— they, the Fa - ther's
 gath - ered side by side, joined to - geth - er,



Je - sus' bod - y, blood of Je - sus joins with wine.
 ran - somed chil - dren, he, the Fa - ther's right - ful Son.
 broth - ers, sis - ters, in one bod - y u - ni - fied,



What a bless - ing Christ is giv - ing; what a
 Here the loft - y feeds the low - ly, each his
 faith in Je - sus, hope of heav - en, love for



lov - ing, gra - cious host, in his sup - per
 high - ly cher - ished guest; here the guilt - y
 oth - ers all in - creased by the full - ness



well pro - vid - ing what his peo - ple need the most!
 taste for - give - ness, here the wea - ry find their rest.
 of the ban - quet, by the rich - ness of the feast.

Thank you, dear Savior, for nourishing my faith with the Sacrament of your body and blood. Lift my heart with your forgiveness, renew my confidence in your grace, empower my love for others, and lead me to long for the eternal banquet of heaven.

Stand

Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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.

Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

491 Come, You Thankful People, Come



- 1 Come, you thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home,
- 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to your fi - nal har-vest home;



All be safe - ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be - gin.
wheat and weeds to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way,
gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, shall pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied.
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast,
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come with all your an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har-vest home.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893 Text and tune: Public domain

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Welcome to Lincoln Heights!

We are glad you are here today to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please speak with an usher for any help.

Yellow Cards

Please fill out a yellow card and place it in the offering plate when passed. Thank you.

In Our Prayers

The Lord is eager to hear the prayers of thanks and petitions for help from his people. Please keep these members and families in your prayers. Contact Pastor to add someone to this list:

Ukraine

Ray & Gloria Overson, Sherry Just and Randy Michael- shut-ins

Jeff Overson, Pat Oswald, Makenzie Phippen, Steve Carter- health

Lucas Gilman & Karri Pippett, Daniel Pfeifer & Paige Harman, Isaiah Luellen & Andie Schlabach - engaged couples

Anthony Hoey

Online Giving

Thank you for your generous and cheerful offerings to the Lord.



www.LHELC.org/giving

Prepare for Next Sunday

For a simple devotional reading plan, review the readings for this week on Monday through Wednesday. Then read the Scripture for next Sunday on Thursday through Saturday. The Word for next Sunday:

Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 19:28-40

Thank You to Today's Helpers

Accompanist: Donna Bakken

Altar Guild: Christine Pfeifer & Paula Twelmeyer

Counters: Karl Kuhrt & Steve Winecke

Streaming: Megan Bowman

Ushers 8 am: Lee Bowman & Jon Schaeffer

Ushers 10:30: 2 open spots

Next Sunday's Servants

Accompanist: Buffy Kokke

Altar Guild: Karen Pippett & Karen Pippett

Counters: Steve Winecke & Dave Rasmussen

Streaming: Available

Ushers 8 am: Chad Virden & James Norton Jr.

Ushers 10:30: 2 open spots

Open Forum

TODAY between services an Open Forum will be held. Please be sure to attend and find out what is happening at Lincoln Heights.

Christmas Greetings to Students and Military

Students will have papers and projects due as well as finals coming up soon. Members of the military may be far from home. Let's send them encouraging words in a Christmas card! This is the last morning to pick up Christmas cards and stamps in the narthex.

Thanksgiving Worship

Join us for a special service of
Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 27th at 7:00 pm

"Thanksgiving Mercy"

Luke 17:11-19



Welcome New Members

Kristina and Sarah Carpenter will be brought into membership this morning. They come to us from St. Paul's in Cannon Falls, MN. Welcome to Lincoln Heights!

Advent by Candlelight

The ladies of Beautiful Savior invite the ladies of Lincoln Heights to join them for Advent by Candlelight. This is an evening of elegance, fellowship, food, and worship, designed to focus our thoughts on Christ at the beginning of the Christmas season.

The program will include an opening devotion, appetizers, main program, fellowship and dessert.

The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex. You may sign up to attend, bring food, share your musical abilities, read or help clean up. Please sign up by December 1 so enough tables can be prepared.

Advent by Candlelight will be held on Sunday, December 8 at Beautiful Savior, 8051 EP True Parkway, West Des Moines.

Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for Christmas, there are forms and envelopes on the table in the narthex. Fill out the form, put it in the envelope with payment and place in the offering plate. Cost is \$11 per plant. Flowers may be taken home after Christmas services.

THIS WEEK AT LINCOLN HEIGHTS

November 24 - December 1, 2024

Sunday	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	9:00 am	Homeless Meal Delivery
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Open Forum
	10:30 am	Worship with Communion
	10:30 am	Kunama Worship
	11:35 am	Hand Bell Practice

Wednesday	7:00 pm	Thanksgiving Worship
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Sunday	8:00 am	Worship
	9:00 am	Homeless Meal Delivery
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Kunama Worship
	11:45 am	Christmas Decorating

TOGETHER - WELS NEWSLETTER

Blessings, challenges, and opportunities in WELS schools WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools completed the annual Lutheran school statistics collection from all WELS schools for the 2024-25 school year. On the surface, the numbers are very close to a year ago, with preparatory and area Lutheran high school enrollments increasing by 103 for a total of 7,484 students, Lutheran elementary school enrollments increasing slightly to 28,361 students from 28,081 in 2023, and the number of students served by early childhood ministries decreasing to 11,338 from 11,799. The number of called teachers has grown by 49 to 3,108. The following insights come through close examination of trends in our schools over the past 3, 5, and even 15 years. Even though early childhood ministries and Lutheran elementary schools have continued to open, a much greater number have closed. When compared to the 2010 statistical report, the number of early childhood ministries has decreased from 388 (225 connected to a Lutheran elementary school and 163 standalone) to 345 (241 connected to a Lutheran elementary school and 104 standalone), though total enrollment has increased by 13 percent. The number of Lutheran elementary schools has decreased from 328 in 2010 to 276 currently, though during that period total enrollment has increased by 17 percent. The number of area Lutheran high schools has grown by four, including a fully accredited WELS online high school enrolling 14 students, with overall area Lutheran high school enrollment increasing by 23 percent since 2010. Although enrollment overall has been at record numbers the last two years due to increased interest in Christian education, fewer but larger schools are a result of mergers, consolidations, and closures due to the reality of rising costs and decreased enrollments, making it more difficult for smaller schools in smaller congregations with fewer supporters to continue to exist. WELS Lutherans WELS Lutherans The Commission on Lutheran Schools stands ready to provide consulting guidance and onsite support for schools dealing with fiscal sustainability challenges, declining enrollment, and merger considerations. Thanks to generous gifts toward utilizing schools for outreach, funds are now available to review, provide guidance for, and help all schools develop and implement effective harvest strategies for the growing number of unchurched and community members enrolling in our schools. It is our prayer that every

school is effectively using a harvest strategy to connect more families to the gospel. Please contact lutheranschools@wels.net for further information. In Christ, Mr. James Rademan, director, Commission on Lutheran Schools

WELS students praise God through song

It is amazing to hear 300 high school students singing the praises of Jesus at the top of their lungs.” Almost 350 students from 13 area Lutheran high schools participated in the West Regional Choral Festival Nov. 15-17 hosted by St. Croix Lutheran Academy, West St. Paul, Minn. This was the second of two regional choral gatherings for WELS high school students; the remaining 11 high schools met Nov. 8-10 at Illinois Lutheran High School, Crete, Ill., for the East Regional Choral Festival. The mission of WELS Choral Fest is to “foster Christian fellowship among WELS high school students as they prepare, rehearse, and perform choral music, so that with one heart and voice they may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 15:6).” Amidst a weekend of rehearsals, students participate in a pops concert on Friday before gathering together again for a sacred concert on Sunday. Thirty-six students from Luther Preparatory School (LPS), Watertown, Wis., attended Choral Fest this past weekend. “My favorite part of Choral Fest is talking to new people,” says Greta Boettcher, an LPS senior who is a member at Prince of Peace, Taylorsville, Utah. “I also love hearing the progress throughout the weekend, when the songs start coming together. Music has long been a priority at WELS Lutheran high schools, including Luther Preparatory School, one of WELS’ two ministerial education high schools. At Luther Prep, every student is enrolled in music education classes for all four years, 85 percent of students participate in one of three mass choirs, and 80 percent of students are enrolled in keyboard instruction. Students are also involved in band, handbells, and other instrumental ensembles. “We take music very seriously because it is so important to Christ’s church,” says Rev. Matthew Crass, LPS president. The school is looking to enhance its campus and fine arts offerings for its students by building a new music center. Currently students practice, perform, and attend music classes in a 112-year-old building that used to serve as a gymnasium. “The building has gone through many renovations and modifications over the years to accommodate our huge music program,” says Crass. “But sharing space is no longer an option. We have maximized our

ability to adapt.” The new proposed center would include a performing arts theater with sloped seating, designated band and choir spaces, right-sized classrooms, piano studios, and practice rooms. “Music is part of our heritage,” says Crass. “Because of [LPS’s] purpose— more than half of our students become pastors or teachers—they are going to use that gift [of music] in the public gospel ministry.” And, Crass stresses, using the gift of music is also true of students who serve as laypeople in WELS congregations. “They are going to be using these gifts to proclaim our Savior’s name—to magnify his name, to make his name known among all the nations— whether they are here in Watertown or in Wausaukee or in West Virginia or wherever they might be.” Boettcher, who plays piano and sings in various choirs at Luther Prep, appreciates the focus Luther Prep puts on music: “Singing and playing piano is a great way to lay it all on Jesus,” she says. “LPS’s music program has made me more confident in my musical abilities and given me many opportunities to praise God. Whether that be in the concerts, or simply singing with my peers in chapel, music is very special at Luther Prep.” Learn more about the proposed new music center at Luther Preparatory School at lps.wels.net/magnify.

20 years of WELS schools accreditation

WELS Schools Accreditation (WELSSA) is marking 20 years of helping WELS schools provide the assurance of a quality, Christ-centered education to families. Mr. Paul Patterson, associate director of the WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools, says, “Accreditation is really about assurance. You’re being assured that you’re doing the things that good schools should be doing. The WELSSA accreditation process reviews and evaluates a school’s mission and if it’s faithful to that mission, the business and administration practices of the school, policies (such as safety), curriculum, the facility itself, and how student services are being offered. Patterson explains: “Accreditation is a two-part improvement process that a congregation would go through. The first part of accreditation is a self study. A self-study is a congregation looking at a set of standards and identifying if they have or are doing the things listed in those standards. The second part of accreditation is a peer review. So, you bring in people from nearby schools or from other parts of the United States who verify that self-study. If a school is meeting 85 percent of our standards, then we recommend that the Commission on Lutheran Schools, WELSSA’s governing board, accredits

the school.” While the initial accreditation process takes about 15 months, it is not a program to simply put a stamp on a school to declare it “good,” but rather it’s a process of continual improvement and ongoing evaluation. Once a school is accredited, it provides annual reports of the school’s progress on the recommended improvement plans and is re evaluated every six years. To begin the WELSSA accreditation process, school leaders can contact the office of the Commission on Lutheran Schools to get started . Currently, 162 WELS schools are accredited by WELSSA—about 50 percent of Lutheran elementary schools and high schools and about 25 percent of early childhood programs. Due to the regulatory and accreditation policies in some states, some WELS schools also receive accreditation from other agencies. In total, 60 percent of WELS elementary schools, 85 percent of high schools, and 40 percent of early childhood programs are accredited through a recognized agency in their state. “The benefit of WELSSA is that we have standards in place that help schools remain distinctively Lutheran, and we want to encourage our schools to embrace the beauty of the truths we have in our Lutheran Confessions and our understanding of how God comes to us in the means of grace,” says Patterson. He concludes, “We are so thankful for God’s grace for the 20 years he has allowed this program to exist. We pray that his grace would continue to help schools improve so that families who send their kids to our schools can know their kids are getting a great education and they are being connected to Jesus.”

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