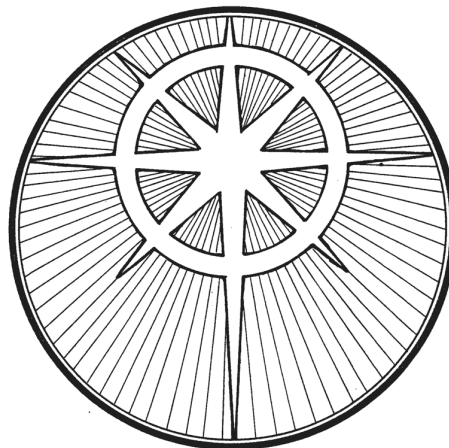


+ The Epiphany of Our Lord +

January 12, Year of our Lord 2025 | DS2

+ Confession and Absolution +

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



Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

1 John 1:8–9

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

Confession of Sins

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

+ Service of the Word +

Introit

Psalm 45:6–8a; antiphon: v. 17



P I will cause your name to be remembered in all gener- | ations;*
therefore nations will praise you forever and | ever.

G Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter
of up- | rightness;*
you have loved righteousness and hated | wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your com- | panions;*

your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and | cassia.

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.

I will cause your name to be remembered in all gener- | ations;*

therefore nations will praise you forever and | ever.

Kyrie: 944 Kyrie — II



1 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.



Ky - ri - e e - le - - - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - - - i - son.
Ky - ri - e e - le - - - i - son.

Text: Traditional Tune: Russian Orthodox Text and tune: Public domain

Antiphon (Epiphany)



L The Christ has ap - peared to us.



G O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite

Psalm 95:1-7

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in G major. The lyrics are: 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord, 2 For the Lord is a great God 3 The sea is His, for He made it, 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son. The treble staff has a circled melodic line for the first two measures of the first line.

1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.

5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

The second system of music continues the melody. The lyrics are: 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion. 2 and a great king a - bove all gods. 3 and His hand formed the dry land. 5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;. The treble staff has a circled melodic line for the first two measures of the first line.

1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
4 For He is our God,
5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,

The third system of music continues the melody. The lyrics are: 1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing, 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand; 3 O come, let us worship and bow down, 4 For He is our God, 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning, The treble staff has a circled melodic line for the first two measures of the first line.

1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

The fourth system of music concludes the piece. The lyrics are: 1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise. 2 the strength of the hills is His al - so. 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er. 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. 5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men. The treble staff has a circled melodic line for the first two measures of the first line.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

- P** Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

- C** Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Choral Anthem *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1–12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse of the Day

Matthew 2:2b

P Alleluia. Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.



Apostles' Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day: 395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (see hymnal for music)

1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and light, Aglow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob's race, King David's son, Our Lord and master, You have won Our hearts to serve You only! Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, All victorious, Rich in blessing! Rule and might o'er all possessing!

2 Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine, And deep within our hearts now shine; There light a flame undying! In Your one body let us be As living branches of a tree, Your life our lives supplying. Now, though daily Earth's deep sadness May perplex us And distress us, Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.

3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls from God above A ray of purest pleasure. Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood Refresh our souls with heav'nly food. You are our dearest treasure! Let Your mercy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us! For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.

4 Almighty Father, in Your Son You loved us when not yet begun Was this old earth's foundation! Your Son has ransomed us in love To live in Him here and above: This is Your

great salvation. Alleluia! Christ the living, To us giving Life forever, Keeps us Yours and fails us never!

5 O let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned, Our voices gladly blending! For Christ goes with us all the way—Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day! His love is never ending! Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story! Great is He, the King of Glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love is first and last, The end and the beginning! He will one day, oh, glorious grace, Transport us to that happy place Beyond all tears and sinning! Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning For the day of Your returning!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608
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+ Sermon +

The Star, the Wisemen, and the Gifts

Offertory, p. 176 for music

Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19

☞ (sung) What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Announcement of Offering and Greetings of Peace

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

+ Prayer +



World: For **Hurricanes Milton and Helene flood relief** and recovery in the Southeast. For **Camp Linn Haven** (North Carolina) flood cleanout and reconstruction. For God to cease the wars between modern-day **Israel** and the **Hamas** and the conflict between **Ukraine** and **Russia**.

Vocation: For our singles, parents, grandparents, and families. For Recent Baptism of **Sunday H. Smith**, daughter of Cole and Tamia, (baptized 12/22). For recent Baptism of **Rowan Blankenbeckler** (baptized 12/15).

Birth of **Autumn Lea** (granddaughter to Rick & Lisa Gift). For **Joshua Arguien** and **Adelaide Yoder** who were married on 9/20. For **Turner and Mandy Gough** who were married on 12/30. For **veterans and our military** (including **Carter Felt, Casey Lawson, Tyler Smith** and **William Smolter**). For **those serving in hospitals and homeless shelters**. For **teachers** in our community schools. For our circuit's seminary students: **Aaron Wade, Sam Bohnet, Vicar Daniel Bueckman**, and **Vicar Alex Ogden**. For **Elijah & Faith Miessler** (upcoming blessing of their marriage on 1/18). For **children and families** dealing with difficult situations due to drugs, alcohol, violence, abuse, stress, and strife. Birth of **Hudson Hamby**, born 12/12 (Great-grandson of Becky Hamby).

Loss and Mourning: For the family of **Pete Gay** (Catherine Boute's bother in-law). For the family of **Curtis** (Joshua Buslovich's brother in Virginia) who passed away. For the family of **Phyllis Strege** who passed away 9/18 and whose memorial service was held at Praise on 9/26. For the family of **Nancy Vesper** (Jim's mother) who passed away 9/9. Family of **Brad Barnett** (Phil & Carol's son) who passed away and whose memorial service was 9/3. For many remembering loved ones who passed away.

Health: For **Sharon Yoder** health and hospice care at home. For **Neil Gulas** recovering from open-heart surgery (Suzanne Nunnink's father). For **Darrel Wehmeier** (Deb Wales's brother) multiple internal lessions, cancer tests. For **Gary Kubin** hip surgery rebab. **Ted Frazier** migraines that required recent hospitalization. For **Will Wade** knee surgery rehab. For **Brian Strege** knee replacement rehab. Pastor **Kent Dockery** knee surgery recovery. For **Sandy Bagley** knee pain and stroke recovery. For **Barbara McGillick** nerve root pain in back. For **Emma Lu Kerekes** health and hospice care (in Oak Ridge). For **Linda Davis** anemia treatments prior heart valve procedure next year. For **Marty Smith** strength and comfort for dealing with cancer (Tyler and Megan Smith's father[-in-law]). For Katie Felt's uncle, **Tim** in Florida, final months. For **Don Hammond** heart afib (Joan Large's son). For **Rachel Ernst** upcoming rescheduled surgery. For **Ed McGillick** persistent dizziness and tendencies to fall. For **Bill Frazho** (Paul Ruble's brother-in-law) lung and overall health. For **Steve Pierce** recovery from bladder cancer surgery on Friday (uncle of Seth and Tina Pierce). For **Bill** who has started chemo for cancer (friend of Seth and Tina Pierce). For **Ron Williams** (back at Foothills) and for his wife Pamela. For **Barbara Moyers** recovery from back surgery (now home). For **Carole Vitzthum** (and **George** taking care of her). For **Garrison** with ALS (student of Amy Mohr's daughter, Coleen Williams). For **Dominic Steer** (Steve Kaiser's brother-in-law) health. For Jerry & Jennifer Kropps's mothers: **Louise Kropp** and **Marie Guinn** (both turning 90 and recently diagnosed with lung mass [Louise] and cancer [Marie]). For **Linda McMichael** (hamstring and knee fractures healing). For **Dana** (Ed & Sandy's niece recovering from tongue and throat cancer surgery). For **Bradley Happel** (Becky Hamby's brother) open heart surgery/quadruple bypass recovery. For **Mary** (Ed & Sandy Bagley's daughter) health. For **June Latham** (Phyllis Bembas' sister) stroke and vision recovery. For **Edward Faberzak** (son of friends of Jim Vesper, former Navy serviceman) fighting cancer. For **Pastor Ed Maanum** kidney acceptance. For **Fred Goddard** (nephew of

Mary Ellen Brown) lung cancer treatment. For **Steve Greene** (friend of Jim Vesper) dealing with multiple cancers. For **Andrew** (son of a friend of Laura Bisconte) treatment for a mass in the base of his brain. For **Larry & Cathy Wacker's daughter** and **son-in-law's** health and cancer treatments. For **Carol** (Alex Hick's aunt) recent diagnosis of frontal lobe dementia. For **Tim Smith** heart health. For **Tom Williams** maintenance chemo treatments. For **Janeen Meier** healing for physical and mental health (Maureen Roberts' sister and Pastor Roberts' Aunt). **Debbie Johnston** kidney health. **Bob McDermott** dealing with Parkinson's symptoms. For **Alan Stremsterfer's mother** health issues. For **Lisa Stremsterfer's father** health and stability. **Aurora Stevens** back and shoulder pain treatments. For **Kathy Bigger** (friend of Donna Wall) pancreatic cancer. Andrew Hebar's **Aunt Kara** (health).

Birthdays: Camden S 1/13, Will W 1/13, Rhonda H 1/14, Jules F 1/17, Hannah K 1/21, David C 1/24, Robbie M 1/25

Anniversaries: Joel & Barbara M 1/11, Tim & Karen F 1/17, Gus & Lee S 1/19, Jim & Valerie V 1/20

Benediction for those worshipping on the livestream.

+ *Service of the Sacrament* +

A Word to Our Guests and Visitors about Communion at Praise

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death and resurrection until He comes. Scripture warns that those who come forward to eat and drink our Lord's Body and Blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great spiritual harm. The Lord's Supper is also a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Therefore, any who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet to desire to receive the Sacrament (Communion), are encouraged to seek guidance from the pastor.

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P (sung) The Lord be with you.



C And al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface ~ Altar Book (appropriate to the day or season)

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C (sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

p. 161 or 178

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, ...now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

John 20:19

P (sung) The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei, p. 180 for music

John 1:29

C (sung) Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of
God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



Distribution

Please see our pastor for details about baptism, instruction, and vow of confirmation of our church's teachings prior to taking the Lord's Supper (Communion) at Praise.

Distribution Hymn: 341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (see hymnal)

Distribution Hymn: 370 What Child Is This

Distribution Hymn: 832 Jesus Shall Reign

Distribution Hymn: 632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee

Thank the Lord, p. 181 for music *[Psalm 105:1–3, 42–43]; [1 Chronicles 16:8–10]*

C (sung) **Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done. Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Post Communion Collect

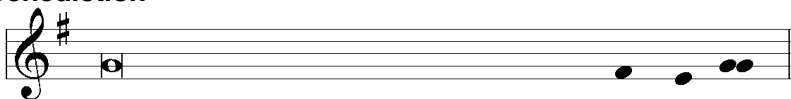
p. 183

L Let us pray... now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26



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 A - men.

Acknowledgments

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Praise Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Sunday Divine Services weekly at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Bible Study and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Address: 315 Southdowne Dr, Maryville, TN 37801

Phone: (865) 977-5810; Website: praiselutheran.com

Online giving: praiselutheran.com (click the blue "Give" button)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PraiseLutheranChurch/>

Staffed Office Hours: Monday through Thurs. 9:00 to Noon, Thurs. also: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Office Administration: Tina Pierce, tina@praiselutheran.com

Pastor Derek Roberts, pastor@praiselutheran.com, cell: (865) 421-9988 (Day off: Fridays)

DCE: Shelli Haynes, shelli@praiselutheran.com, cell: (909) 226-3179

Congregational President: Dr. Tom Wittkopp, Vice President: Tim Nunnink

Prayer requests: if possible, please submit by 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays

Organist/pianists: Janice Kaiser, Susan Johnson, Gary Schauerman

Choir Director: Laura Bisconte, Choir Pianist: Susan Johnson

Church Calendar: praiselutheran.com/events



Moved? Changed your email address? Changed cell phone or home phone? Please let the church office know.

Two Large Print Hymnals are available. Please ask those who are helping as ushers to locate a large print hymnal for you.

Visit praiselutheran.com/build to see our build completion video!

Building Fund	2023 Receipts	2024 Receipts	Total Receipts
Actual	\$345,752	\$208,162	\$1,179,704
Pledged	\$277,877	\$179,106	\$1,065,270
Remaining	\$67,875 [over]	\$29,056 [over]	\$114,434 [over]

Build Project total cost estimate: ~ 2.8 million (approximately 38% funded).

Gifts to the Build Fund are still encouraged (through at least the extended end of the Capital Campaign in December 2025). Please prayerfully (continue to) give gifts.

Shop at Kroger? \$128.64 was raised this last quarter! Link your account to Praise Lutheran Church in the "Community Rewards" area from your digital account for Praise Lutheran to receive community funds from Kroger. Please reach out to the church office for help: (865) 977-5810 or tina@praiselutheran.com

Subscribe to our newsletter at praiselutheran.com, homepage, right hand side, blue box. Need help? Contact tina@praiseluteran.com

PLEASE NOTE: New phone numbers for Pastor Roberts and his family:
Pastor Derek Roberts cell: **(865) 421-9988** Gretchen Roberts cell: **(865) 336-6265**
Kate Bohnet cell (formerly Roberts, now married to Sam): **(865) 468-9090**
Sophia Roberts cell: **(865) 336-6121** Jonathan Roberts cell: **(865) 324-9434**

Youth and Families

Sunday School (weekly on Sundays) for 2 year olds - 12th grade kids will meet during the Education hour from 9:45 - 10:45. Please see Shelli Haynes or Linda McMichael with questions on specific meeting places for each group.

Middle and High School Midweek Youth meet Wednesdays (6-7pm Middle School and 8-9pm High School)

The LCMS Youth Gathering is coming to New Orleans July 19 - 23, 2025! Praise will send a group of 11 to the gathering! Our students are raising money for this camp and invite you to mark your calendars for a BINGO fundraising event February 15 here at Praise. Cost to play is \$10 per person (additional cards are \$3). We will offer drinks and snacks available for purchase. All proceeds will help support our NYG group. Please see Linda McMichael or April Torres with any questions.

- **Tidal Wave Car Wash Vouchers** available now. Secure their BEST car wash (normally a \$30 wash) for \$12, or 2 vouchers for \$20. Purchase from our Youth.

Campfirmation (yearly event for middleschoolers and highschoolers) at Camp Linn Haven, North Carolina from July 7-11, 2025. Theme for 2025: *The Sacraments: Signed, Sealed, and Delivered*. Designated fundraising events will take place throughout the year.

- **All parents and students interested** in being part of this wonderful week of learning, please mark your calendars for an information meeting on **Sun, Feb 2**, during the Sunday School hour in the middle and high school Sunday School classroom. The meeting should be about 20 minutes.

Youth Catechesis with Pastor Roberts

Sun, Jan 19 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. in the Social Hall

Sun, Feb 2 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. in the Social Hall

Personalized Lutheran Mugs Available (member made by Suzanne Nunnink) See order forms in Narthex; suggested donation \$25 each; use, wash, and store here at church or take home if you want. Funds benefit Youth Campfirmation this summer.

This Week

Youth Group Middle School 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., High School 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Men's Lunch meets THIS Wed, Jan 15 at Smoky Mountain Brewery at 11:30 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Men's Bible Study Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Ladies Bible Study Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall with Barbara Morsch

Elders meet Thurs, Jan 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Baby Shower on **Sun, Jan 19** after 11:00 a.m. service for Cole and Tamia Smith's baby girl, Sunday. Registered at Target.com under Tamia & Cole's Baby Registry.

Jan 26 (Sun) Church Council Meeting

Jan 28 (Tues) Cards Creation

Feb 2 (Sun) Campfirmation Info Meeting; Adults and Students 9:45 am

Feb 15 (Sat) Bingo at Praise! Youth fundraiser. \$10 to play, \$3 each additional card

Feb 23 (Sun) Voters Meeting at 9:45 a.m. Agenda: (re-)election of officers and board members and the previously presented proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws.

Christmas Thank You!

Dear Church Family at Praise Lutheran, my family and I are blessed by your generous show of love this Christmas with Christmas cards, cookies, fudge, faith shared and faithful fellowship in the Lord's name, and even by the generous gift of funds that our Vice President Tim Nunnink presented to me this Christmas on your behalf. Thank you! My family and I will again set apart this gift for some family vacation time later this year. God gives us such joy in the birth of His Son and the life that flows through His incarnation and redemption. Giving thanks and remembering you all in our prayers with joy and thankfulness during Christmas, Epiphany, and throughout the year of worship and praise. Christ is born for us, Alleluia+ Pastor Roberts, Gretchen, Kate (& Sam), Sophia, Jonathan, and Xavier.

Special thanks and love from the Haynes! With apologies for this late thank you - we are delighted and overjoyed with your Christmas cards, baked gifts, and generous monetary gift this past Christmas - wow!! We are so happy to be part of this beautiful Praise family, and it is a joy to serve alongside each of you! As many of you know, these past 8 weeks have been pretty surprising in good and tough ways, and your generous gift allowed us to fill in gaps! We thank God for you all! With love, Travis and Shelli Haynes (as well as Tyler and Megan Smith, and the brand-new Turner and Mandy Gough)