

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21st, 2025

Order of Service

7:45 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
DSIII (pg. 184)	DSIII (pg. 184)
Hymns	Hymns
341, 412, 400	341, 412, 332, 400, 343

Sermon

"I am the light of the world"
Pastor Wes Gillaspie

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 42:5-8: This is what God the Lord says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: "I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. "I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.

Ephesians 5:8-14: For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is

said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

John 8:12-18: When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid." Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me."

Serving in Worship Today

Elders	Dave Miller; Mark Schiefer, Lucas Brown, Jason Hecht
Organist	Calista Daenzer
Usher	Jeff Buchinger; Alan Kischnick
Altar Guild	Sue Spiekerman, Pam Bierlein
Acolytes	Alexis Balcer, Aubrey Baase

This week at St. Michael's

Today	Worship Service 7:45 a.m. Communion 10:30 a.m.
	Artifact Day 12 p.m.- 2 p.m.
Wed	Christmas Eve Worship Service 4 p.m. Communion 7 p.m.
Thurs.. .	Christmas Day Communion 9 a.m.
Next Sun.....	Communion 7:45 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

It's Artifact Day! The 175th Anniversary Committee has some historical ledgers, photos, and news clippings that have been locked away in closets for many years. It is no longer practical to keep many of them. Today between services and after late service you are invited to look through them in the church basement and take home any that have sentimental value.

Pastor Gillaspie's Bible Class will not meet today.

No Nursing Home Communion Service this Tuesday, December 23rd.

New Year's Eve Communion Service will be at 6:00 PM.

Call Accepted: We rejoice that Mr. Rachow has accepted the call to serve as our school principal. May God bless him and St. Michael's with His grace as we begin a new chapter together!

Snowy Weather: In case we have to cancel a church service please check our Facebook page or call the church office (868-4791), Pastor Gillaspie (262-8011), or one of the elders. Also, channel 5 no longer lists church service cancellations. Please check channel 12 or at abc12.com

Christmas Eve and Day: Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 PM; Christmas Eve Communion 7:00 PM; Christmas Day Communion 9:00 AM.

The Christmas envelope in your offering packet will go to Home Purpose.

Installation of officers: Newly elected and appointed officers of the congregation will be installed at the 10:30 worship service on December 28th. Pastor Mark Aunernhamer will

be installed at the same service as a non-salaried visitation pastor.

The Pew Candles are used for special services, i.e. Easter, Church Anniversary, Christmas, and weddings (upon request). They are temporarily fastened to the pew. They are not firmly attached. For your safety, please do not hang onto them when standing up or sitting down.

Parents of young children: Be sure to check out the pew pack station and try one of our new colorful doodleboard tablets for your child to use during services. Donated by the Outreach Board.

New Officers: Please forward your email addresses and phone numbers to Linda Trombley (ratherbekniting@gmail.com)

Envelope Boxes for 2026 can be picked up in the foyer. Please do not use until Jan. 1st, 2026.

Attendance

Sun. Dec 14 th	348
School Christmas Program (Dec. 17 th)	990

Weekly Income: 12/7-12/13: \$56,393.48

Weekly Income includes: Home Purpose Envelopes, Misc. Income, Gifts in Kind, IRA Donations, and Loose Plate.

Other News

The Lutheran Hour airs on WSAM-1400 from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Next Sunday: "Get Ready for the Best" Rev. Germán Novelli Oliveros; Christ will return—maybe this year, maybe even today! Pastor German Novelli helps us to prepare for the blessings and challenges of a new year. Luke 12:36-37

Prayers

Health

*Bruce Bierlein; Michelle DeCoe; Don Duperon;
Hope Hecht; Makenna Hoeppner; Ann Houser;
Bev Jacobs; Dave Janson; Jim Karst; Barb Kern;
Jenna Mathews; Eugene Palmreuter; Barb
Rupprecht; John Schemm; Bev Schemm; Rollie
Wenzel*

Sympathy

*The Family of Norm Petzold,
whose funeral was Saturday, Dec. 20th*

Mission

(From Daniel & Kathy Conrad)

Warm greetings in the name of the Lord. We pray that all is well with you as you prepare for Christmas. We are very busy here as we finish up the academic semester and plan our advent and Christmas services. The latest newsletter can be found on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Thank you for your prayers! Have a Merry Christmas and may the Lord bless you abundantly in 2026!

Prayer of the Day

"Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to help us by

Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by

Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever."