



ADVENT 4

Sunday, December 20, 2020, 8:30 & 10:45 AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

1123 Marsh Street, Mankato, MN 56001 | (507-345-4966) | church@mtolivelutheran.org

Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | Principal Adam Pavelchik

Explanation of the Week: *The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" (Is 40:1-8). This message that John was to proclaim was meant to be a message of comfort. It comforts those who are pointed away from themselves and to Christ for salvation! John pointed to Jesus as the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One "whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose" (Jn 1:19-28). Jesus is far greater than we are! He is able to do so much more than we could! We put our hope in Him alone for our salvation. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding which gives us reason to "Rejoice!" (Phil 4:4-7).*



I. The Service of Preparation

(We prepare ourselves for worshiping God by acknowledging our unworthiness to stand before Him, and by receiving His forgiveness through absolution (forgiveness). We respond with thanks and joy.)

~**Prelude** — Preservice music & opportunity for prayer

*(See "Prayers for Worship"
—ELH p. 40)*

~**Opening Hymn 110, vv. 5, 6 O Come, Thou Key of David**

5. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

6. O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

~**Invocation** — Calling upon the Triune God

(ELH p. 60; Matt 28:19)

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

C: ♪ **Amen.**

~**Confession & Absolution** — Admitting our guilt & receiving God's forgiveness

(ELH p. 60-62, II; Ps 124:8, Ps 32:5)

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: ♪ **Who made heav'n and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;

C: ♪ **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and

true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only-begotten Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

C: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.

~**Salutation** — *The people's blessing for the pastor's work*

(ELH p. 66; 2 Tim 4:22)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

~**Collect** — *The congregation's prayer of the day*

(ELH p. 66; p. 148, #7)

P: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, and help us with Your great might, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

II. The Service of the Word



(After receiving the forgiveness of sins, we thanked God by singing His praises and praying to Him. He now increases our faith through His holy Word which we hear through the Lessons and especially through the Sermon where God's Word is applied to our lives today.)

~**Epistle Lesson**

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

~**Alleluia** — *"God Be Praised"*

(ELH p. 67)

C: ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

~**Special Music** “*Sing Now With Great Rejoicing*”

(Pachelbel/Bach)

*Sing now with great rejoicing
That Christ the Lord is coming
To earth for man's salvation!
Sing now with great rejoicing!
Awaits the earth, Messiah's birth:
The King of all creation!
Sing now, O sing: Alleluia!
Oh, hasten, Infant Jesus,
To earth be born and save us;
And send Thy tender mercy To us,
O Holy Jesus:
Awaits the earth Messiah's Birth;
O Prince of Peace, now gladly
We sing to Thee: Alleluia!*

~**Holy Gospel Lesson**

P: The Holy Gospel for the 4th Sunday in Advent is written in the 1st chapter of the Gospel according to St. John, beginning at the 19th verse.

C: ♪ Glory be to You, O Lord!

John 1:19-28 This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, “Who are you?”

He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, “I am not the Christ.”

And they asked him, “Who are you then? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?”

“No,” he answered.

Then they asked him, “Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ just as Isaiah the prophet said.”

They had been sent from the Pharisees. So they asked John, “Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?”

“I baptize with water,” John answered. “Among you stands one you do not know. He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.”

These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

C: ♪ Praise be to You, O Christ!

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the 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 is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall 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 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 of the world to come. Amen.

~**Chief Hymn 89, vv. 1, 2** *Jesus Came, The Heavens Adoring*

*1. Jesus Came, the heav'ns adoring,
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came for man's redemption,
Lowly came on earth to die,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Came in deep humility.*

*2. Jesus comes again in mercy
When our hearts are bowed with care;
Jesus comes again in answer
To a faithful, trusting prayer,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comes to save us from despair.*

~**Epistle Lesson & Sermon Text**

Isaiah 40:1-8 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.
Her warfare really is over.
Her guilt is fully paid for.
Yes, she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
A voice is calling out:
In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord.

In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.
Every valley will be raised up,
and every mountain and hill will be made low.
The rugged ground will become level,
and the rough places will become a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all flesh together will see it.

Yes, the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
A voice was saying, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry out?"
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside.
Grass withers, flowers fade,
when the breath of the Lord blows on them.
Yes, the people are grass.
Grass withers, flowers fade,
but the Word of our God endures forever.

~Sermon Message

"The Savior Is On The Way"

1. *That's a comforting message.*
2. *It's a message calling for preparation.*
3. *And, a message for all time!*

~Offertory — *Prayer of renewal before offering*

(ELH p. 70-71; Ps 51:10-12)

C: ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit. Amen.

~Prayer of the Church

(ELH p. 71-72)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

(Special petitions are included)

P: For..., let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: O Lord, heavenly Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit we faithfully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. We praise You for His victorious resurrection from the dead. We thank You for the strength of grace and majesty of faith which He bestows on the Church by virtue of His ascension to Your right hand, where He intercedes for us as our Advocate and High Priest. Grant that the Holy Spirit will gather us into the company of all the faithful from the ends of the earth, so that we may celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

In Your mercy receive our prayers. Deliver us and preserve us. To You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. Amen.

III. The Service of Holy Communion



(Following Christ's command, we receive His grace to us in the special meal He instituted for the forgiveness of our sins. Here, He feeds with His true body and His true blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. This is the same body which was born of the Virgin Mary, and the same blood which dripped down the wooden cross. This part of the liturgy is one of the oldest parts, dating back to at least the third century AD.)

Questions and prayers to assist in preparing for the Lord's Supper are found in the black hymnal, pp. 38–40.

Guests & Visitors: *We practice "Close" or "Closed Communion". We do this out of love and concern for you. We want to make sure that those who take this holy meal receive it as a blessing and not to their harm as Scripture warns. We also understand that those who come forward to take communion are professing a unity of faith with our congregation and are in full agreement with the teachings and doctrines of Mount Olive Lutheran Church and of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Therefore, we ask those who have not taken Holy Communion with us before to Speak with a pastor before communing. Thank you.*

~Preface

(ELH p. 72 ff.; 2 Tim 4:22, Col 3:1, Ps 136)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And with your spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: ♪ **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: ♪ **It is good and right so to do.**

~The Preface for Advent

(ELH p. 73- 75)

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the Messiah, the very Lamb of God, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

~Sanctus — “Holy”

(ELH p. 76)

C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav’n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

~Lord’s Prayer

(ELH p. 77-78; Mt 6:9-13)

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 pow’r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

~Words of Institution

(ELH p. 78; Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25)

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: “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, gave thanks, and 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 and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

~The Pax Domini — “The Peace of the Lord”

(ELH p. 79; Jn 20:19)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: ♪ Amen.

~Agnus Dei — “Lamb of God”

(ELH p. 79ff; Jn 1:29)

C: ♪ O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God. You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.

~Distribution

(Communicants come forward at the direction of the ushers. During the Distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:)

~Hymn 111, vv. 1-4 *When Sinners See Their Lost Condition*

*1. When sinners see their lost condition
And feel the pressing load of sin,
And Jesus cometh on His mission
To heal the sin-sick heart within,
All grief must flee before His grace
And joy divine will take its place.*

*2. When Jesus enters meek and lowly
To fill the home with sweetest peace;
When hearts have felt His blessing holy
And found from sin complete release;
Then light and calm within shall reign
And hearts divided love again.*

*3. When Jesus enters land and nation,
And moves the people with His love,
When yielding to His kind persuasion,
Our hearts His truth and blessings prove,
Then shall our life on earth be blest,
The peace of God on us shall rest.*

*4. When Jesus comes, O blessed story!
He works a change in heart and life;
God's kingdom comes with pow'r and glory
To young and old, to man and wife;
Through Sacrament and living Word,
Faith, love and hope are now conferred.*

~Hymn 109 *Hark the Glad Sound!*

*1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.*

*2. He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.*

*3. He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.*

*4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.*

~Hymn 90, vv. 3-7 Wondrous Birth! O Wondrous Child

3. *Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the Virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned,
Still to be in heav'n enthroned.*

4. *From the Father forth He came
And returneth to the same,
Captive leading death and hell—
High the song of triumph swell!*

5. *Thou the Father's only Son,
Hast o'er sin the vict'ry won.
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be;
When shall we its glories see?*

6. *Brightly doth Thy manger shine,
Glorious is its light divine.
Let not sin o'ercloud this light;
Ever be our faith thus bright.*

*7. Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.*

~Hymn 89, vv. 3, 4, 5 Jesus Comes To Hearts Rejoicing

3. *Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes in sounds of gladness,
Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Now the gate of death is riv'n.*

4. *Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,
Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us,
Glads our hearts, and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Cheering e'en our failing years.*

*5. Jesus comes on clouds triumphant
When the heav'ns shall pass away.
Jesus comes again in glory;
Let us, then, our homage pay.
"Alleluia" ever singing
Till the dawn of endless day.*

~Dismissal — *Assurance of blessing for those who have communed* (ELH p. 81)

P: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, and His precious blood strengthen and preserve you in the true faith to everlasting life. Depart in peace. Amen.

~Nunc Dimittis — *"Now I Depart"* (ELH p. 81-82; Lk 2:29-32)

C: ♪ **Lord, now You let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people**

Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

~Collect of Thanksgiving

(ELH p. 83, 11)

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup;

C: ♪ We proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

P: Let us pray: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in lovingkindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

~Salutation — *The people's blessing for the Pastor's work*

(ELH p. 84)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

~Benedicamus — *Call for blessing*

(ELH p. 84; 2 Cor. 13:14)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: ♪ Thanks be to God.

~Benediction — *Final blessing for God's people*

(ELH p. 84; Num. 6:24-26)

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: ♪ Amen, amen, amen.

~Closing Hymn 111, v. 9 *Come Thou Who Spreadest Joy And Gladness*

*9. Come Thou who spreadest joy and gladness,
Forever bide with me and mine,
And bring to those who sit in sadness
And gloom of death Thy light divine.
A voice comes from my soul within:
Thou blesséd of the Lord, come in!*

~Postlude — *Opportunity for prayer & to greet one another!*

*(See "Prayers for Worship"
—ELH p. 40)*

*Liturgist/Preacher: Pastor John Petersen
Organist: 1st Service: Cassie Johnson
Organist: 2nd Service: Mark DeGarmeaux
Monday Service: Kristin Matzke
Special Music: Bloedel Family
Preservice Music: Mariah Munsen (flute) & Benjamin Faugstad (guitar)*

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:

Wednesday: 110

Sunday: 8:30am, 114; 10:45am, 111

Monday: 25

SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEEK:

Greeters: 1st Service: Ryan & Sheila Ruschmeyer and Joyce Petersen;
2nd Service: Paul & Mary Jane Tweit and John Bungum

Offering Counters: John Baumann; Jana Finken

Altar Guild: Heidi Graham; Sharon Madson

Weekly Financial Update:

Given Last Week: \$20,244.81 (includes text & on-line giving)

Fiscal Year To Date Deficit (as of 11/30/20): \$24,878

Philippians 4:19-20 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Catch Mt. Olive Worship Services Online at www.mtolivelutheran.org

OR

TV on local cable channels 181 (Spectrum) and 7 & 507 (Consolidated Communications) on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM and Thursdays at 11:30 AM.

To give your offering online, go to www.mtolivelutheran.org and click on the link "DONATE ONLINE".

Or TEXT 833-726-3742 along with the amount you wish to donate. Or Mail your offering to the church office.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: *December 20, 2020 – December 27, 2020*

Sunday, December 20	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM 3PM 4PM	Divine Service with Holy Communion SS/BIC/Bible Class/Sr. Youth Divine Service with Holy Communion Virtual Children’s Christmas Service Youth Group Activity
Mon., Dec. 21	6:30PM 7PM	No School: Christmas Break Begins Divine Service with Holy Communion Board of Stewardship
Tues, Dec. 22		
Wed, Dec. 23	9AM 4PM	NO Bible Study NO Confirmation Classes
Thurs., Dec. 24	4PM 5:30PM 7PM	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Divine Service Divine Service Divine Service
Fri., Dec. 25	8:30AM 10AM	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Divine Service with Holy Communion Divine Service with Holy Communion
Sat, Dec. 26		
Sunday, December 27	8:30AM 10:45AM	Divine Service NO SS/BIC/Bible Class/Sr. Youth Divine Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please pick up your 2021 offering envelopes from the table in the old narthex.

Mask Policy For Upcoming Christmas Services: We request that face coverings be worn at the 4:00 PM service on Christmas Eve, and at the 8:30 AM service on Christmas Day. Those having mask exemptions should plan to worship at the 5:30 PM or 7:00 PM services Christmas Eve, and the 10:00 AM service on Christmas Day.

Youth Group Activity Today! Sunday, December 20th at 4pm the Youth Group will be watching the movie “The Nativity Story” in the youth room. Please feel free to bring a snack or dessert to share with the group. The movie runs 1 hour and 41 minutes, so the event will end around 6 or 6:30. See you there.

Virtual Christmas Program Mount Olive Lutheran School's Children's Christmas Service will be available virtually this year on **Sunday, December 20th at 3:00 p.m.** The service will be broadcast on the church website www.mtolivelutheran.org, our Facebook page, and archived on the Mount Olive Vimeo page, Additionally, a link to the service will be emailed to all church and school newsletter groups and available to watch at any time.

Singing for Christmas Eve and Day - We will be gathering a small ensemble of singers again for Christmas Eve (4/5:30) and Christmas Day (8:30/10). If you are interested in participating for one or both days, please come! The last rehearsal will be Wednesday, Dec. 23 at 7 p.m. For more details, please contact Elisabeth at elisabeth.urtel@blc.edu or 612-272-2420.

Instrumentalists for Christmas Day - If you would like to be part of an instrumental ensemble with the choir for Christmas Day, we are looking for strings or C instruments. We will meet Wednesday, Dec. 23 to rehearse with the singers. For more details, please contact Elisabeth at elisabeth.urtel@blc.edu or 612-272-2420.

Bethany Lutheran College

Job Postings: Bethany Lutheran College is actively searching for an additional Business Professor and a Computer Systems Specialist in the IT department. More information on these jobs can be found at www.blc.edu/jobs.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School

MVL Test Readers Needed MVL is looking for semester exam readers the morning of **Tuesday, December 22**. These readers really help some of our students excel on their exams. Mask requirements and distancing guidelines will be followed. To volunteer, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044faaa729a6fe3-exam2>. If you're interested in volunteering for future semester exams, please contact Sarah at sallee@mvlhs.org or 507-354-6851.

MVLHS Director of Mission Advancement Position Open MVLHS seeks a WELS or ELS male to serve as Director of Mission Advancement. Interested individuals should contact MVL Principal, Dr. Tim Plath, for more information at 507-354-6851 or tplath@mvlhs.org.

MVL Sacred Christmas Concert - December 23 MVL's sacred Christmas concert will be livestreamed on Wed, December 23 at 5pm and 7pm. Both concerts will include the same musical groups and the same selections. Please join us online at www.mvl.org!



**The Poinsettias displayed on and around the altar have been donated
by our members in memory/honor of the following:**

Members

Mercedes Hansen
Art & Terri Westphal
Brenda Garbers
Elli & Joe Fisher
Paul & Mary Jane Tweit
Rev. Ted & Diane Gullixson, Mark & Paul
Audrey Spear
John & Kari Sehloff
Bob & Ruth Heidenreich
Tom & Joni Bode
Mark & Michelle Graham
Bill & Suzanne Bohning
Phil & Jean Jurgenson
Dottie Kunkel
Greg & Janet Costello
Bruce Gratz
Peggy Harstad
Mark & Sharon Madson
Antonino Guerrero Jr.
Craig & Lisa Brown
Chad & Sally Sorensen

In Memory/Honor of

Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Ruth Wilde Gullixson Webber
Stella & Raymond Richter
Loved Ones
Our Parents
Loved Ones
Our Fathers
Our Grandchildren
Luella Jurgenson
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
David Gratz
Mark O. Harstad
Our Parents
Loved Ones
Bea Brown
Loved Ones

Special offering to ELS and Christian Education:

Special offering envelopes have been distributed in the bulletins today. The following message explains the purpose of this special appeal on behalf of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and its efforts for Christian Education. May God bless us as we serve Him!

“Our delegates and pastors at 2019 convention set a base budget of \$760,000 for gifts from congregations to our ELS missions and ministries for 2020. In addition, the convention earmarked all gifts over this amount to help provide funding to the Board for Lutheran Schools. \$790,000 is our total goal for congregational offerings. Please note the envelope provided for this special offering to the ELS and its missions. Write the check to our church and please include your envelope number and place it in the collection plate today or over the next couple of weeks. As you do, please consider that our Lord’s grace extends to us so we are able to ‘overflow in every good work’ 2 Cor. 9:8. May our gift be in accord with our Lord’s abundant blessings to us.”

~Dan Basel, ELS Giving Counselor

Note From Our Synod Business Administrator:

Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft reports that through November 25, 2020, we have received \$631,869 toward our \$790,000 congregational contribution portion of the budget. This means that through the month of December we are hoping that our congregations are able to contribute \$158,131 to enable us to meet our projected expenditures for the year. Congregations will be allowed to remit their gifts for 2020 up until January 9, 2021. Congregations have been sent special year-end envelopes to be used in the next couple weeks to encourage budgetary gifts.

