## Our Savior Lutheran Church

Pastor Doug Minton

209 West Jones Street, Milford, IL Email: pastor@oursaviormilford.com

Phone: (815) 889-4121 Cell: (507) 626-0202



## Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024

#### **Welcome Visitors!**

We celebrate the Lord's Supper at this holy gathering in celebration and confession that the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14) is present here with His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine we receive at the altar (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25).

Because this Sacrament is called Communion, all who come to the rail are to confess the same confession of faith. Because there are differences between denominations, we ask that you please speak to Pastor if you are not a member in good standing of a Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod congregation.

This practice is not a judgment upon anyone's faith. It is the Church's ancient practice to make sure that no one takes Jesus' body and blood to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). During the distribution, we ask that you sing the distribution hymns, meditate upon Jesus' death and resurrection as the reason for our gathering, and pray for the day that the devilish divisions between us will be abolished by the Son of God when He returns.

## **Divine Service Setting Four**

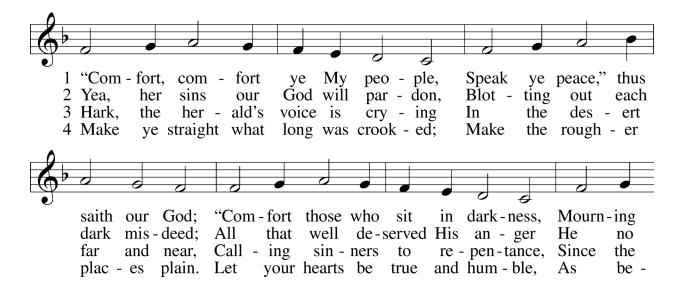
## Prayer Before Worship

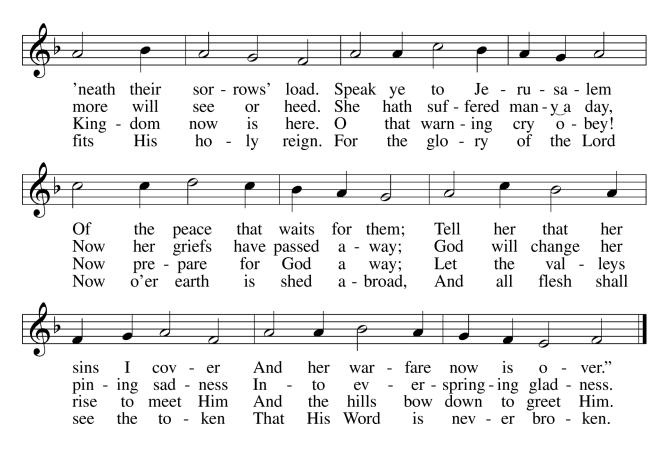
O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

## Opening Hymn

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

LSB 347





Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

#### **Confession and Absolution**

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **©** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- **C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

- 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.

#### Psalm 85

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<sup>1</sup>LORD, you were favorable to your land;*
       you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
<sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your people;*
       vou covered | all their sin.
<sup>3</sup>You withdrew | all your wrath;*
       you turned from your hot anger.
<sup>4</sup>Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,*
       and put away your indignation | toward us!
<sup>5</sup>Will you be angry with us for- | ever?*
       Will you prolong your anger to all gener- ations?
<sup>6</sup>Will you not revive | us again,*
      that your people may re- | joice in you?
<sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,*
       and grant us your sal- | vation.
<sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the | Lord will speak,*
       for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
       but let them not turn back to | folly.
<sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
       that glory may dwell in our land.
<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet;*
       righteousness and peace kiss each other.
<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,*
       and righteousness looks down | from the sky.
<sup>12</sup>Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*
       and our land will yield its | increase.
<sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
       and make his foot- steps a way.
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.
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Kyrie LSB 204



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

#### Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 205

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray.
  Almighty and gracious Lord, . . . who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

#### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

#### **Old Testament Reading**

Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;

shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;

you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

"Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The Lord your God is in your midst,

a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

<sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

<sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal

with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

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

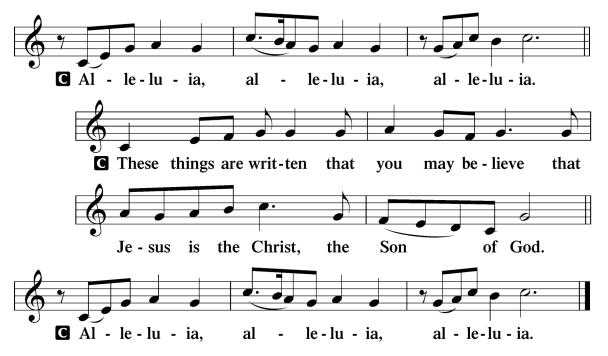
## **Epistle Reading**

Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

#### Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

Luke 7:18-28

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.
- **C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

<sup>24</sup>When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. <sup>26</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom it is written.

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- **C** Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed LSB 206

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;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

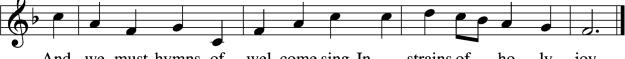
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

### Sermon Hymn

"The Advent of Our King"

LSB 331





And we must hymns of wel-come sing In Him-self a ser-vant's form puts on To Nor let your faith-less heart de-spise The And His true mem-bers all u - nite With strains of ho - ly joy.
set His ser - vants free.
peace He comes to bring.
Him in heav'n to reign.

- 5 Before the dawning day
  Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
  The sinful self be put away,
  The new self now put on.
- △6 All glory to the Son,
  Who comes to set us free,
  With Father, Spirit, ever one
  Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, alt.

Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76 Text and tune: Public domain

#### Sermon

## Prayer of the Church

- **P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy....

#### Offertory Hymn

#### "We Give Thee but Thine Own"

LSB 781 vs 1,2,6

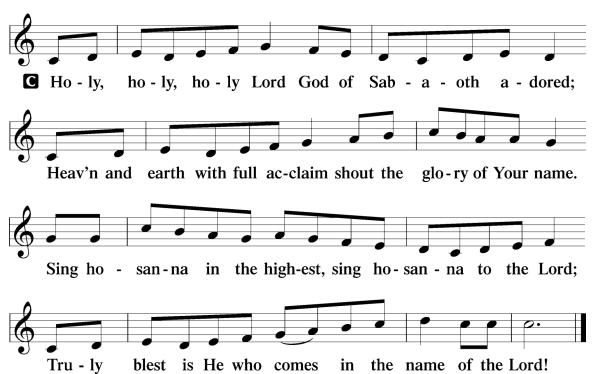


Text: William W. How, 1823–97 Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89 Text and tune: Public domain

Preface LSB 208

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also 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.
- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You ... Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus LSB 208



#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

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

## Lord's Prayer

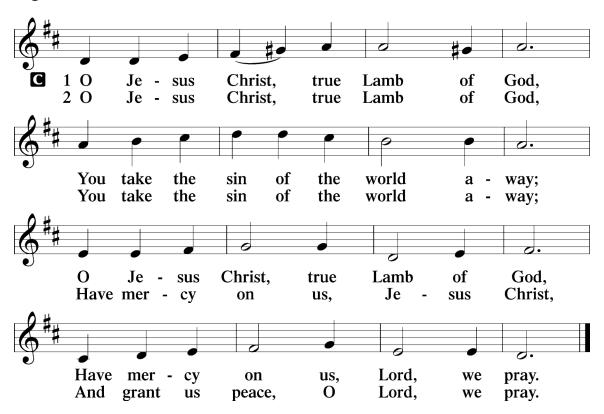
C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever, Amen.

#### The Words of Our Lord

#### Pax Domini

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

Agnus Dei LSB 210



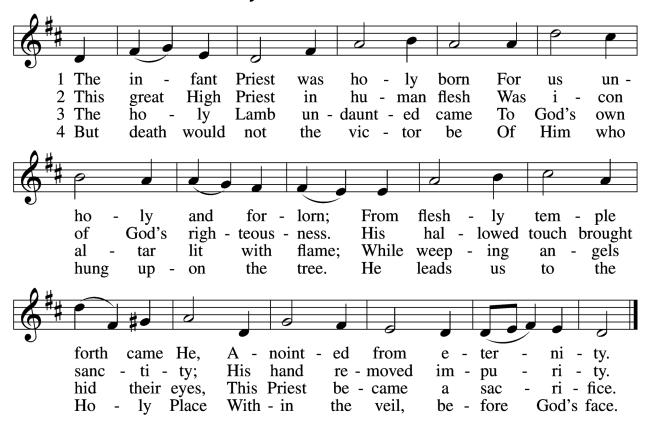
## **Prayer Before Communing**

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive his holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **Distribution Hymns**

## "The Infant Priest Was Holy Born"

LSB 624



- 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see, As at the rail on bended knee Our hungry mouths from Him receive The bread of immortality.
- 6 The body of God's Lamb we eat, A priestly food and priestly meat; On sin-parched lips the chalice pours His quenching blood that life restores.
- 7 With cherubim and seraphim
  Our voices join the endless hymn,
  And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
  To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970

Tune: Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, 1778, London; adapt. Edward Miller, 1731–1807

Text: © 1997, 2003 Chad L. Bird. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001355

Tune: Public domain



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high-est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.
Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001355

## Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis LSB 211



## **Post-Communion Collect**

- **P** Let us pray.
- C Amen.

#### **Benedicamus**

- **P** Let us bless the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

#### **Benediction**

- C Amen.

#### **Closing Hymn**

## "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

LSB 338



- 1 Come, Thou long ex pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free; 2 Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!

From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee. Born to reign in us for -ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art, By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart. By Thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

Text and tune: Public domain

#### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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## **Events this Week**

**Today:** Worship at OSLC, 9am

**Today:** Worship at Good Shepherd, 10:45am **Wednesday:** Bible Study; *Bulletin Deadline, 10am* 

Wednesday: Confirmation, 4:30pm

Wednesday: Advent Meal, 6pm; Hymn Sing, 6:45pm

Wednesday: Advent Service, 7pm
Saturday: Worship at Immanuel, 6pm

## **Those Serving at OSLC**

	12/15/24	12/18/24	12/22/24
Elder	Con Campbell	Con Campbell	Neil Rieches
Organist	Linda Kellerhals	Theta Lee	Ben Verswijver
Radio Monitors	Linda Buhrmester Deb Wright		Chris Shroeder Marilyn Reeves
Sound Board	Dean Lingley	Dean Lingley	Kendra Morts
Greeters	Patrick and Dawn Teig		Jon and Diane Goldenstein
Acolyte		Jackson Lavicka	Ellie Schwartz
Head Usher	Elders	Elders	Elders
Altar Guild	Sheila Selk Patty Bruens Renee Minton	Sheila Selk Patty Bruens Renee Minton	Sheila Selk Patty Bruens Renee Minton

#### **Announcements**

**ADVENT MEALS and FELLOWSHIP** continue this Wednesday, starting at 6pm. This week we are having Chicken Enchiladas and Christmas cookies. We will take a **free will donation** for money towards meals and supplies. Thank you for joining in the fellowship this year before our Advent services. Our next Wednesday meal will be in Feb.

**2025 ALTAR GUILD:** Sign up list is in the Narthex. We welcome a few more people to help with the "behind the scenes" necessities. This is a simple job and the commitment is minimal. Just 2 months a year would be helpful.

**2025 GREETERS LIST:** If you are currently on the Greeters List, you will stay on unless you talk to Renee. If you want to be added, please talk to Renee. It is a commitment of 2-3 Sundays a year.

**2025 RADIO MONITORS AND SOUND BOARD:** Dave Lucht is working on this list. The Radio Ministry at OSLC needs volunteers to make it run smoothly. We need a few more people. If you can help, please talk to Dave.

**THE ANGEL TREE** is set up in the narthex during the Christmas season. We will be helping 2 local families this year. Please feel free to take as many angels as you like. All presents need to be wrapped, with the angel attached, and back under the tree by **Sunday, December 22**. Brenna will be delivering the gifts to the families on Monday, December 23. If you would rather not shop for an item, but would still like to help, please see Brenna Schroeder.

**CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** will be Sunday, December 22 at 9am. After the program, we will host a cookie reception for our SS children and families in the fellowship hall. If you can bake a batch of cookies, bring milk or juice, please talk to Renee or Patty.

**CHRISTMAS DAY CINNAMON ROLLS:** After our Christmas Day service we will serve cinnamon rolls in the fellowship hall. Stop down for a sweet treat and coffee (of course) and a short time of fellowship. It is our hope to have some church fellowship before we disperse to our Christmas celebrations. Our church family is an important family for many of us.

**MEN OF THE CONGREGATION:** We are short Elders to serve the members of OSLC. Please prayerfully consider, or reconsider, serving as an Elder. We would like to have Elders elected at our Annual Meeting in January. If you have questions, please talk to Bob, Justin, Con, Neil, or Pastor.

**LUTHERANS FOR LIFE QUOTE** "Who is going to be king? Christ or Herod? Christ or I? Every day we make dozens of decisions which either acknowledge Christ's lordship or which assert our own. The star of the Magi reminds the Christian that he has a gracious King to whom he can, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, submit his will and live. By His word Christ desires to reign in our hearts through faith!" *Rev. Darren Green, Redwood Falls, MN* 

## **Prayer List**

#### Those celebrating a birthday:

Sophia Billingsley Today

Kyle Brazel Wednesday
Cody Mowrey Wednesday
Brian Neukomm Friday
Roger Reed Saturday

## Those celebrating an anniversary:

#### Those suffering from cancer:

Linda Buhrmester
Nancy Tobeck
Connie Bruns, organist at Calvary
Janet Doyle, friend of Patty Bruens
Kim Cann, friend of Becky Bridge
Dale Colvin, cousin of Jim Winder
Tim Evans, brother in law of Bob Storm
Hugo Hasz, brother of Dorothy Knake
Lisa High, friend of Becky Hiles
Kendra Howard, niece of Doug Benner
Pamela Howard, sister of Doug Benner
Christopher Kruse, community member
Becky Lehmann, cousin of Bob Storm
Fred Wright, brother of Marvin Wright

## Those requesting your prayers:

Ella Frerichs, friend of Charlene Rieches, hospitalized Dalton McWethy, great nephew of Patty Bruens, hospitalized Those still recovering from Hurricanes Helene and Milton

#### **Homebound Members**

Dianne Estes
Delmer Henrichs
Arlene Hines
Dorothy Knake
Joann Sloan
Brenda St. Peter

# Those serving in our Armed Forces and our local Law Enforcement, especially those connected to the OSLC family:

#### **Armed Forces**

Karl Gibbs - serving as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy
Justin McGahan - Milford community member, serving in the U.S. Army
Corey Moore - OSLC Member and son of Kevin and Kasey Moore, serving in the U.S. Marine Reserves
Timothy Raddatz - nephew of Phil and Cindy Raddatz, serving in the U.S. Coast Guard
Kaleb Waldbeser - friend of Bob and Donna Flesher, serving in the U.S. Marine Corp.

#### Law Enforcement

Wyatt Alt - Iroquois County Sheriff Department

Central Illinois District Congregations: St. John in Beardstown and Keith Kettner her pastor.

**Iroquois Circuit Congregations:** Immanuel in Loda and St. Peter in Thawville and Earl Kinnee as he serves them.

#### Those studying at the Seminary:

Vicar Simon Niemtschk, St. Paul in Carroll, IA Seminarian Jacob Bergstedt, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft Wayne, IN.

## Those serving in the Mission Field:

Rev. Samuel Bobby, his wife Erica, and sons Judah, August, Benjamin, Simon, and Pax, our adopted international missionary, currently serving in Latvia. Rev. Bobby teaches at The Luther Academy, the seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia.



# **Moments with Mahlah**

For the week of December 8, 2024

Mahlah and her handler Diane Costello began their week by attending church at Trinity in Goodland. They took a break in Fowler for a walk with Diane's small dog Teddy. From Fowler they traveled on to Lafayette, where they visited Majestic Care.













On Tuesday Mahlah was in Kentland and Rennssalaer to visit the Autumn Trace Community and the Jennie Caldwell Home. Susan Yergler was handler and Brenna Johnson was ministry partner. Two new locations for Mahlah!













At this writing Mahlah was looking forward to a busy day in Gibson City on Wednesday with Dean and Jayne Henrichs, and visits to Good Shepherd Manor in Momence and the Manteno Veterans Home on Thursday with Diane Costello.

On Friday of last week Mahlah traveled to Hoopeston with Sheila Selk as handler and Renee Minton as ministry partner to visit Autumn Fields and Heritage Health. Both were joyful visits.













Remember to email Mahlah at Mahlah@K9Comfort.org if you know of an individual or organization that would benefit from a visit. Thanks for your continued support as we seek to bring the compassion, mercy, presence, and proclamation of Jesus to all.