

✧ Called to be Christ's Community of Truth and Mercy ✧  
 ✧ Saved by Grace - Solid in the Word - Here to Serve ✧

## Welcome!

*"Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts!  
 We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!"* Psalm 65: 4



Holy Communion

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of our Lord Jesus Christ's true body and true blood. Reception of the Lord's Supper expresses not only fellowship with the Lord, but also fellowship and agreement with the teaching of the pastor and congregation. We want to express our sincere welcome to our guests and assure them that out of care for each person and a desire to be faithful to God's Word we follow the biblical practice of closed communion. **All guests are**

**kindly asked to please speak with Pastor Gaunt before communing at our altar.** Normally, people from churches in fellowship with the LCMS, are welcome to partake. Those not communing, who so desire, may come to the altar to receive a blessing. So that the pastor knows you desire a blessing please cross your arms over your chest. Please pray with us that we might all be truly united in the teaching of our Lord's precious word. (For further study: 1 Cor. 11:17-34; Matt. 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 6:26-29.)

## Prayers of the Church

**Circuit Congregation** Trinity, Blue Hill **Health Issues** + Rodney Rose + Bobbie Carr (relative of the Botsch's) + Marydae Eigenberg + Bill Fintel + Linda Parsons + Don Nissen + Kara Nissen + Rose Witt + John Parsons + Dee Janssen **Military** + Tyler Mars + Ross Peters + Gary Thompson

## In His Service

Presiding Minister: Rev. Micah R. Gaunt  
 Organist: Dr. Phil Hesterman Cantor: Mr. David Witt  
 Altar Guild: December: Tonda Wolfe  
 Elders: Kevin Hoins, Derek Zeisler  
 Acolyte: Elder

## The Lord's Week

Sunday	Dec. 18	8:30am	Pre-Service Prayer ( <i>West wing</i> )
		9:00am	Divine Service
		10:30am	Sunday School, Bible Study
Monday	Dec. 19	6:00pm	Choir Practice
Tuesday	Dec. 20	9:30am	Bible Study
Wednesday	Dec. 21	7:00pm	Childrens' Christmas Program
Saturday	Dec. 24	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Divine Service
Sunday	Dec. 25	8:30am	Pre-Service Prayer ( <i>West wing</i> )
		9:00am	Christmas Day Divine Service

### John the Baptizer Points Everyone to the Messiah

The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mount Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Deut. 18:15-19). God, therefore, raised up a prophet like Moses—the Messiah, the Christ. God came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from heaven; the earth opened her womb and brought forth Salvation (Introit) through the blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Luke 1:39-56). The fruit of her womb is the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose (John 1:19-28). In Jesus we are delivered from fear and anxiety. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:4-7).

Prelude & Ringing of Bells  
 Hymn #347  
 Confession & Absolution p.184

**Service of the Word**  
 Introit *insert*  
 Gloria Patri p.186

Kyrie  
 Salutation and Collect  
 First Reading  
 Gradual  
 Epistle Reading  
 Verse *insert*

Holy Gospel  
 Nicene Creed  
 Hymn of the Day #357

Sermon John 1:19-28

Offertory  
 Offering  
 Prayer of the Church

**Service of the Sacrament**  
 Preface & Proper Preface p.194  
 Sanctus & Lord's Prayer  
 The Words of Our Lord  
 Pax Domini & Agnus Dei  
 Distribution & Hymns

#641 #341 #352  
 Dismissal & Nunc Dimittis  
 Thanksgiving & Collect  
 Salutation & Benedicamus  
 Benediction

Hymn #349  
 Postlude

Announcements  
 P: *Go In Peace*  
 C: **Thanks Be To God!**

## News and Notes of Interest

**Divine Service:** Sunday, Divine Service 9:00 A.M.  
10:30 A.M. Sunday School, Bible Study

**Birthdays** 12/20 Arielle Kathman 12/21 Dan Witt  
12/23 Dick LeBeau **Baptismal** 12/20 Lyla Russell  
12/21 Brock, Hayden & Jessica Hammond, Peyton Blakley  
12/22 Canten Lacy **Wedding Anniversaries** None this week

**Choir practice** 6:00 PM in the choir loft on Monday,  
Dec. 19. to prepare for Christmas Eve!

**Lifequote** “Unlike Christmas ornaments, each baby is a unique life never to be replicated in all of history. Each life brutally snuffed out by abortion will leave the world a lesser place for it.” • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**Wellspring Christmas Project.** This Advent and Christmas season we are partnering with the other congregations in our circuit and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod to support the work of Wellspring Pregnancy Center here in Hastings. Every dollar we collect will be matched by the Million Dollar Life Grant provided by the LCMS Life Ministry. **You may place your donations in the box provided in the narthex.** At Christmas we celebrate the fact that God sanctified human life by giving His Son, born of the virgin Mary. How appropriate to support the work of Wellspring this holiday season! **Our Childrens’ Program and Christmas Eve offerings** will go to support this Project.

**Marriage Retreat.** We are hosting an event aimed to strengthen and foster all marriages. Here’s the plan: The Rev. Dr. Justin Hannemann will lead a seminar **Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> from 1-5** at Peace. Follow-up Saturday, participants are invited back to debrief and discuss what they learned. The cost of the seminar is \$25 a couple. Mark your calendars and join us for what promises to be a wonderful opportunity for growth and fellowship! Register by emailing [revgaunt@gmail.com](mailto:revgaunt@gmail.com) or calling the church office at (402) 462-9023.

2023 **Calendar** update reminder (All Boards) to church office by Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023 or sooner. Thanks!

**Epiphany Service** 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 4th, a joint Epiphany Service at Zion Lutheran Church, Hastings

“**Blessed For Life**” is Lutherans For Life’s theme for **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 22, 2023.** Start saving your change for the Baby Bottle Fundraiser for Wellspring Pregnancy + Health Center here in Hastings. More information to follow!

## The Congregation at Prayer

We have now heard what we are to do and believe [The Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed]. The best and most blessed life consists of these things. Now follows the third part, how we are to pray. We are in such a situation that no one can keep the Ten commandments perfectly, even though he or she has begun to believe. Besides, the devil, along with the world and our flesh, resists them with all his power. Consequently, nothing is so necessary as to call upon God incessantly and to drum into his ears our prayer that he may give, preserve, and increase in us faith and the fulfillment of the Ten Commandments and remove all that stands in our way and hinders us in this regard. That we may know what and how to pray, however, our Lord Christ himself has taught us both the way and the words...

**Martin Luther, *Large Catechism*, 3.2-3**

**Catechism:** Review **Commandments 1-8 with Explanation**  
**Next Week’s Readings:** Exodus 40:17-21, Titus 3:4-7,  
John 1:1-14.

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### Volunteer Tax Preparers Needed

A Free Tax Preparation Clinic will be taking place in Hastings for several days in January and February to help families complete their taxes and **we need volunteer Tax Preparers!** No experience is needed and you will receive training to help people complete simple returns. This is a rewarding opportunity to volunteer for 5-20 hours over one or several days to help families receive Tax Credits they are eligible for. Contact Brady at 402-461-8417 or complete this form for more information:  
<https://bit.ly/VITAHastings>

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
**Divine Service Setting 3**

**December 18th**  
**9:00am**



## Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

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