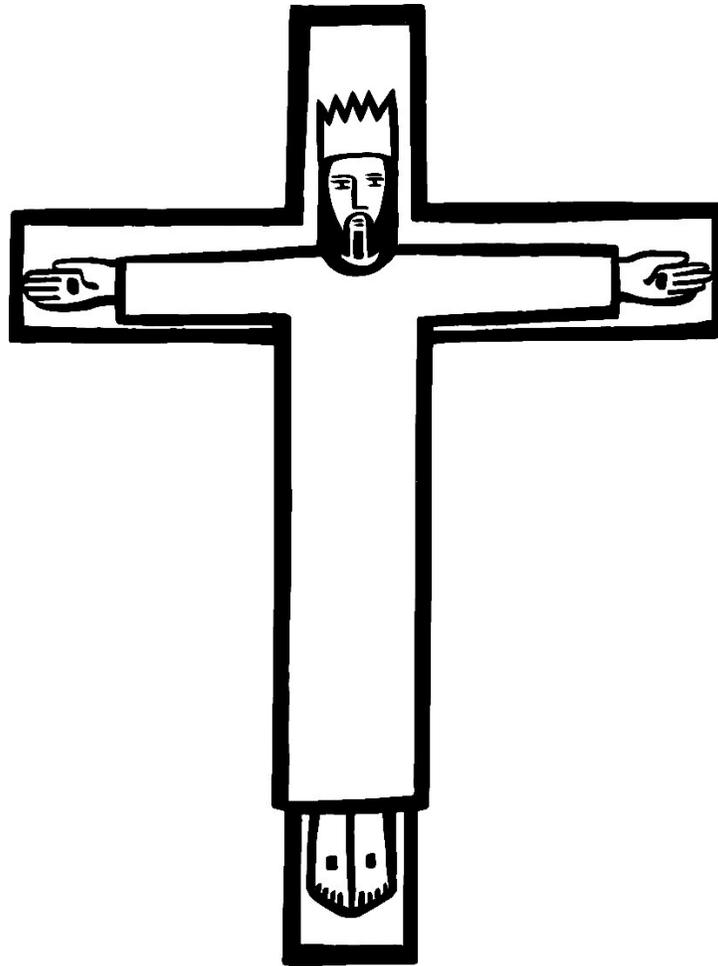


# Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church

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*“Growing Relationships with God, Each Other, and Our Neighbors in the Way of Jesus”*



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**Saturday, November 22, 2025, 4:00 PM**

**Sunday, November 23, 2025, 9:00 AM**

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# *Welcome...There's a place for you here!*

## *Welcome to the Lord's Table*

All Christians—including visitors of all denominations or no church membership—are invited to the altar to receive Holy Communion. If you prefer to take communion while remaining in your seat, select a prefilled cup from a basket at the top of the ramps before the service begins.

Worshippers may come forward via the center aisle to receive communion at the altar, then return by the side aisles. Bread, wheat wafers or gluten-free wafers are offered, as is a choice of wine (lighter color, outer rings of tray) or grape juice (darker color, inner rings). Paper towel-lined baskets are provided for empty cups at the end of the first pew and at the top of the ramps. Those who are not yet communing may also come forward to receive a blessing, crossing your arms to indicate this choice.

## *Children have a place here, too!*

During our Sunday services, children are invited to come forward for the children's time. They may also receive communion at whatever age their adult(s) agree(s) they may. "Busy bags" are hung along the wall in the sanctuary for use during services. Toys and books are also found in and near the "cry room", the window-enclosed room at the front right side of the worship space.

You'll find one changing table in the bathroom near the top of the spiral staircase in the entryway, and another behind the door at the front of the sanctuary behind the choir section. Our unstaffed nursery is located at the bottom of the spiral staircase as a place for an adult to stay with their child, if needed.

*Restrooms* are located in the entryway on either side (mirrored cubes).

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*Note: our Sunday service is livestreamed, and some worshippers may be seen in the broadcast. Those seated behind the ramps will not be seen on camera.*

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*The assembly may stand at sections marked with an asterisk (\*).  
Thank you for silencing your phone as you worship today.*

PRELUDE

SAT. Michael Becker

SUN. Bell Choir "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" arr. Lloyd Larson

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

\* INTRODUCTORY READING: **Jeremiah 23:5-6**

*A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.*

Look, days are coming, said the LORD, when I will raise up a righteous shoot for David, and a king shall reign and prosper, and do justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah shall be rescued, and Israel shall dwell secure. This is his name that they shall call him: The-LORD-Is-Our-Righteousness.

\* GATHERING SONG "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" ELW 634 v.1, 2, 3

\* GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY

REFLECTION 1: ADVENT

HYMN 855, VERSE 1

**Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
And hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.**

ADVENT READING: **Luke 1:26-33**

*A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.*

Then, six months after Zechariah's vision, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a Galilean town, Nazareth by name, to a young woman who was engaged to a man called Joseph. The girl's name was Mary. The angel entered her room and said, "Greetings to you, Mary. O favored one! The Lord be with you!" Mary was deeply perturbed at these words and wondered what such a greeting could possibly mean. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; God loves you dearly. You are going to be the mother of a son, and you will call him Jesus. He will be great and will be known as the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his forefather, David, and he will be king over the people of Jacob forever. His reign shall never end."

ADVENT SONG "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ELW 257 v.1, 7

REFLECTION 2: CHRISTMAS

HYMN 855, VERSE 2

**Crown him the virgin's Son, the God incarnate born,  
Whose arm those crimson trophies won which now his brow adorn;  
Fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
The root whence mercy ever flows, the babe of Bethlehem.**

\* CHRISTMAS READING: **Isaiah 9:5-6**

*A reading from the Book of Isaiah.*

For a child has been born to us, a son has been given to us, and leadership is on his shoulders. And his name is called Wondrous Councilor, Divine Warrior, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace—making leadership abound and peace without end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to make it grounded and upheld in justice and righteousness, forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of Hosts shall do this.

\* CHRISTMAS SONG

“Joy to the World”

ELW 267 v. 1, 4

REFLECTION 3: EPIPHANY

HYMN VERSE 3

**Crown him the Lord of light, who o'er a darkened world  
In robes of glory infinite his fiery flag unfurled  
And bore it, raised on high, in heaven, on earth, beneath,  
To all the sign of victory o'er evil, sin, and death.**

EPIPHANY READING: **Matthew 2:1-2**

*A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.*

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in Judea, in the days when Herod was king of the province. Not long after his birth there arrived from the east a party of astrologers making for Jerusalem and enquiring as they went, “Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? For we saw his star in the east and we have come here to pay homage to him.”

EPIPHANY SONG

“Arise, Your Light Has Come”

ELW 314 v. 1, 2, 3, 4

REFLECTION 4: LENT

HYMN VERSE 4

**Crown him the Lord of love—behold his hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bend their burning eyes at mysteries so bright.**

\* LENT READING: **Mark 15:25-39**

*A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.*

It was about nine o'clock in the morning when they nailed him to the cross. Over his head the placard of his crime read, "THE KING OF THE JEWS." They also crucified two bandits at the same time, one on each side of him. And the passersby jeered at him, shaking their heads in mockery, saying, "Hey you! You could destroy the Temple and build it up again in three days, why not come down from the cross and save yourself?" The chief priests also made fun of him among themselves and the scribes, and said, "He saved others, he cannot save himself. If only this Christ, the king of Israel, would come down now from the cross, we should see it and believe!" And even the men who were crucified with him hurled abuse at him. At midday darkness spread over the whole countryside and lasted until three o'clock in the afternoon, and at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders heard these words which Jesus spoke in Aramaic—"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"—and said, "Listen, he's calling for Elijah!" One man ran off and soaked a sponge in vinegar, put it on a stick, and held it up for Jesus to drink, calling out, "Let him alone! Let's see if Elijah will come and take him down!" But Jesus let out a great cry, and died. The curtain of the Temple sanctuary was split in two from the top to the bottom. And when the centurion who stood in front of Jesus saw how he died, he said, "This man was certainly a son of God!"

LENT INTERLUDE

SAT. Michael Becker "Ah, Holy Jesus"

SUN. Bell Choir "Fairest Lord Jesus"

arr. Ronald Kauffman

REFLECTION 5: EASTER

HYMN VERSE 5

**Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave  
And rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.  
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
Who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.**

\* EASTER READING: **1 Corinthians 15:20-25**

*A reading from the First Epistle to the Corinthians.*

But the glorious fact is that Christ did rise from the dead; he has become the very first to rise of all who sleep the sleep of death. As death entered the world through a man, so has rising from the dead come to us through a man! As members of a sinful race, all people die; as members of the Christ of God, all people shall be raised to life—each in their proper order, with Christ the very first and after him all who belong to him when he comes. Then, after Christ has conquered every authority and power, he will hand over the kingdom to God the Father. Christ's reign will and must continue until every enemy has been conquered.

\* EASTER SONG

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

ELW 392 v.1, 2, 4

REFLECTION 6: PENTECOST

HYMN VERSE 6

**Crown him the Lord of heav'n, one with the Father known,  
And Holy Spirit, through him giv'n! All praise to God alone,  
Glossed in a sea of light, where everlasting waves  
Reflect the throne of Christ on high, who lives and loves and saves.**

PENTECOST READING: **Acts 2:1-11**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

Then when the festival of Pentecost came, they were all assembled together. Suddenly there was a sound from heaven like the rushing of a violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were seated. Before their eyes appeared tongues like flames, which separated off and settled above the head of each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages as the Spirit gave them power to proclaim the message. Now there were, staying in Jerusalem, Jews of deep faith from every nation of the world. When they heard this sound, a crowd quickly collected and were completely bewildered, because each one of them heard these people speaking in their own language. They were absolutely amazed and said in their astonishment, "Listen, surely all these speakers are Galileans? Then how does it happen that every single one of us can hear the particular language they have known from childhood? There are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; there are people whose homes are in Mesopotamia, in Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the parts of Africa near Cyrene, as well as visitors from Rome! There are Jews and converts to the Jewish faith, people from Crete and people from Arabia—yet we can all hear this message of the magnificence of God in our native language."

PENTECOST SONG FOR PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(sing **twice** before and once after prayers)

"Spirit of Gentleness" (ELW 396)

*Refrain*



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen-tle-ness, blow through the wil-der-ness  
call-ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest-less-ness,  
stir me from plac-id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

REFLECTION 7: TIME AFTER PENTECOST

HYMN VERSE 7

**Crown him the Lord of lords, who over all doth reign,  
Who once on earth, th'Incarnate Word for ransomed sinners slain,  
Now lives in realms of light where saints with angels sing  
Their songs before him day and night, their God, Redeemer, King.**

REFLECTION 8: EUCHARIST

\* PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

OFFERTORY

Fendrick & Peck (Sun.)

MISSION MOMENT

Karen Krey

OFFERING

*Use the QR code to reach our online giving page:*



\* OFFERING PRAYER

God of healing and hope,  
**you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. Amen.**

\* HOLY COMMUNION

ELW Setting 3

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

\* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God...  
...as we boldly proclaim the mystery of our faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Send now your Spirit...  
...blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

\* LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

INVITATION

Children of God, there is a place for you at the table of God.  
Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

DISTRIBUTION *(see inside of bulletin cover for communion directions)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* FINAL READING: **Revelation 21:1-4**

*A reading from the Book of Revelation.*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared and the sea was no more. I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, descending from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride dressed in beauty for her husband. Then I heard a great voice from the throne crying, "See! The home of God is with humanity, and God will live among them. They shall be God's people, and God indeed shall be with them, and will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death shall be no more, and never again shall there be sorrow or crying or pain. For all those former things are past and gone."

\* HYMN VERSE 8

**Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.**

\* BLESSING

\* SENDING SONG

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

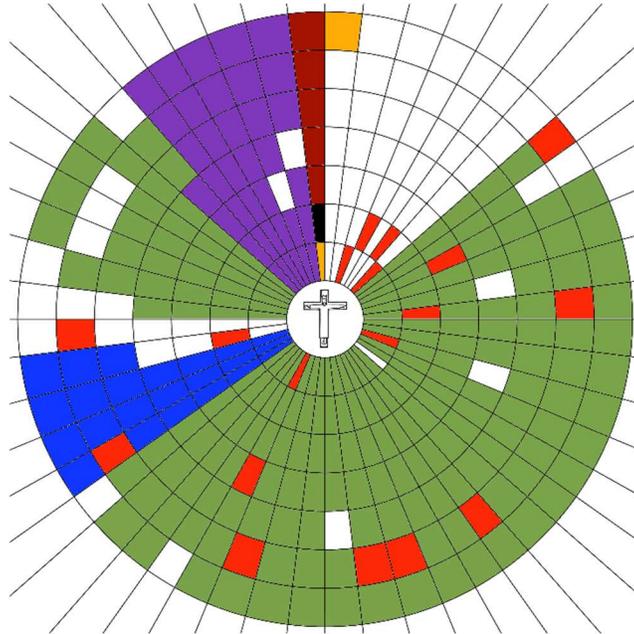
ELW 634 v. 4, 5, 6

\* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



### **Today's Worship Leaders**

Presider: Pastor Beth Ann L. Stone; Preacher: Pastor Nathan Pratt  
Musician: Michael Becker; Bell Choir Director: Gregory Schroeder  
Minister of Music: Dimitri Shapovalov  
Sun. Greeter: Nancy Clausen  
Coffee Hour Refreshments: Teresa Jacobs, Jeanne Main  
Sat. Reader: Kathy Behm; Sun. Readers: Karen Magee, Kirsten Graves  
Sun. Communion Assistants: Stephen Gifford, Karen Magee  
Video Producer: Chris Ryshkus

### **Worship Leaders for 11/29 & 11/30:**

Sun. Greeter: Chris Corcoran  
Coffee Hour Refreshments: Kevin Jocius, *One needed*  
Sat. Reader: *One needed*; Sun. Reader: Jan Fuller  
Sun. Communion Assistants: John Berge, Brenda Booker  
Video Producer: John Simpson

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## THIS WEEK AT MPLC: Nov. 23 - 30

### Sun. Nov. 23

- 9:00 AM:** Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM:** Coffee Hour (Fellowship)
- 10:15 AM:** Sunday School (Education)
- 10:20 AM:** Hanging of the Greens (Sanctuary)
- 4:00 PM:** Fendrick & Peck Concert (Sanctuary)

### Tues. Nov. 25

- 11:00 AM:** Chair Yoga (Fellowship)
- 5:30 PM:** GriefShare (Conference Room)
- 6:30 PM:** Bell Choir (Sanctuary)

### Wed. Nov. 26

*Wed. AM Bible Study will resume January 7*

- 6:30 PM:** Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Social (Sanctuary/Fellowship)
- 7:15 PM:** Adult Choir (Choir Room)

### Thurs. Nov. 27

**Church Office closed – Happy Thanksgiving!**

### Sat. Nov. 29

- 4:00 PM:** Worship (Sanctuary)

### Sun. Nov. 30

- 9:00 AM:** Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM:** Coffee Hour (Fellowship)
- 10:15 AM:** Sunday School (Education)
- 10:20 AM:** Prayer Shawl Ministry (Conference Room)



## "Practicing Faith" Blog by Kirsten Graves

*Sharing the stories of how MPLC folks practice their faith*

I remember years ago when Holly Hess pitched the idea of Open Table. She told of a time that she was serving a meal at the Hospitality Center when the gravy on the plate mixed with the juice from fruit cocktail. She said it was gross and that no one deserved to be served a meal like that. She wanted to start a free, restaurant-style community meal where we would serve our guests a meal that we would be proud to serve our family or friends. Holly was adamant that we would show our guests kindness, respect, and love. As soon as I heard about her plan, I was sold. Our kids were in middle and high school at the time, and it seemed like a wonderful opportunity for our family to volunteer together and serve our community through MPLC.

It was slow going at first, but a wonderful team was Reske preparing the food and many, many volunteers happen. We learned a lot, made adjustments each our attendance grew to between 130-150 people each was simple: treat everyone like a special guest at our feed them a delicious, home-cooked meal. And it saw people come in honestly appearing downtrodden make eye contact. After their time in Fellowship Hall, walking taller with a smile on their face. It was obvious with kindness and love made a huge difference!



created with Kara pitching in to make it month, and steadily, month. The concept 'restaurant' and worked! Early on, we and not wanting to they would leave that treating people

We had to take a break during Covid, but we've been up and running for a few years again, and we have a consistent, loyal following of guests who come back each month. Many of them have become friends, and it's not unusual to be greeted with hugs when they arrive and again when they leave! It's work, but the good kind that leaves you feeling like your cup is full when the night is over. As they say, many hands make light work, and we'd love to have you join us. Come see how good it feels to serve our community at Open Table!

*Kirsten is one of dozens of volunteers who make Open Table happen each month. If you'd like to help this way, you can sign up on the monthly signup for any available spot, or talk to one of the volunteers to find out what you can do.*

## MPLC STAFF DIRECTORY

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We are called by Jesus to **love God and one another**, to practice generous hospitality, and to serve all unconditionally. We fully welcome you to join us, embracing your race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical abilities, mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, background, and wherever you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God and are welcome here. You are accepted and openly affirmed just as you are. We commit ourselves to undertaking the work of racial equality and social and economic justice. We invite you to join us as we joyfully and inclusively love and serve God and our community, as **we are all one in Christ Jesus.**



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