st. John's

Serving Christ & Community! Serving you!



Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 21/22, 2026

As We Gather

The end of the Church Year is filled with both mystery and revelation. We do not know when the Last Day will be, nor when Jesus will return. The Last Sunday of the Church Year turns our attention to what we do know. We know that the Lord Himself will search for His sheep and will rescue them (Ezekiel 34:11–12). We know that Christ has been raised from the dead and that all things will be put in subjection under Him (1 Corinthians 15:20, 27). We know that Jesus will sit on His glorious throne and welcome His sheep into His kingdom (Matthew 25:31, 34). We know that death, the final enemy, will be destroyed (1 Corinthians 15:26). We know that all will be made alive in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:22). We know that the Lord is a great God and a loving King (Psalm 95:3)!

Chimes and Prelude

Please Stand

Opening Hymn **"Come, Thou Almighty King"** **LSB 905 (sts 1-4)**





Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
And let Thy righ - teous-ness On us de - scend.
And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

Text: English, before 1760, alt. Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716–96 Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation and Call to Worship

P In the Name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen**

P In keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,
C **the home of righteousness.**

P O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;
C **let me know how fleeting I am!**

P Behold, You have made my days a few handbreadths,
C **and my lifetime is as nothing before You.**

P And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?
C **My hope is in You.**

P Deliver me from all my transgressions.
C **Do not make me the scorn of the fool!**

P Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; hold not Your peace at my tears!
C **For I am a sojourner with You, a guest, like all my fathers.**

Glory be to the Father and to the ☩ Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P In keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,
C **the home of righteousness.**

Confession and Absolution

P The Lord Himself will search for His sheep and will seek them out.
C **He will rescue them from all the places where they have been scattered.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God, who seeks us out.
C **Most merciful God, we cry out to You from the places that our sin has scattered us. We have sinned against You in ways that we know and in ways that only You know. There are strangers we have not welcomed, the hungry we have not fed, the naked we have not clothed, the sick and imprisoned we have not visited. Deliver us from all our transgressions. Forgive us, bind up our injuries, and strengthen our weaknesses, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P 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**

Please be Seated

Old Testament Reading ***Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24***

11 "For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. **12** As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. **13** And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. **14** I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. **15** I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. **16** I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind

up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.
20 "Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. **21** Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, **22** I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. **23** And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. **24** And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.

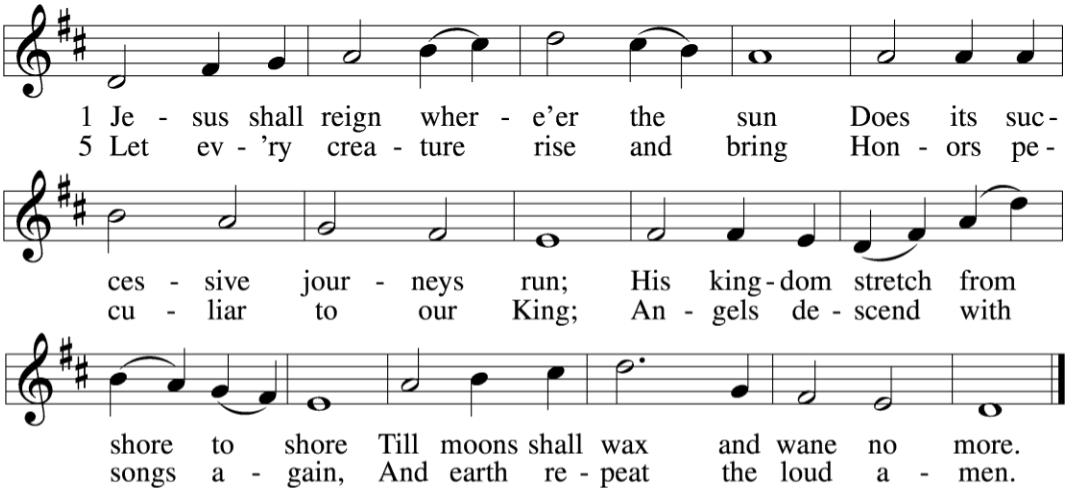
P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle ***1 Corinthians 15:20-28***

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. **23** But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. **24** Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. **25** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **26** The last enemy to be destroyed is death. **27** For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. **28** When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

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

Hymn **"Jesus Shall Reign"** **LSB 832 (sts 1,5)**



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793 Text and tune: Public domain

Please Stand

℗ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
℃ **Glory to You, O Lord**

Holy Gospel ***Matthew 25:31-46***

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then
he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the
nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd
separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his
right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right,
'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for
you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me
food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you
welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited
me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer
him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and
give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or
naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit

you?' [40] And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'
[41] "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. [42] For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' [44] Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' [45] Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

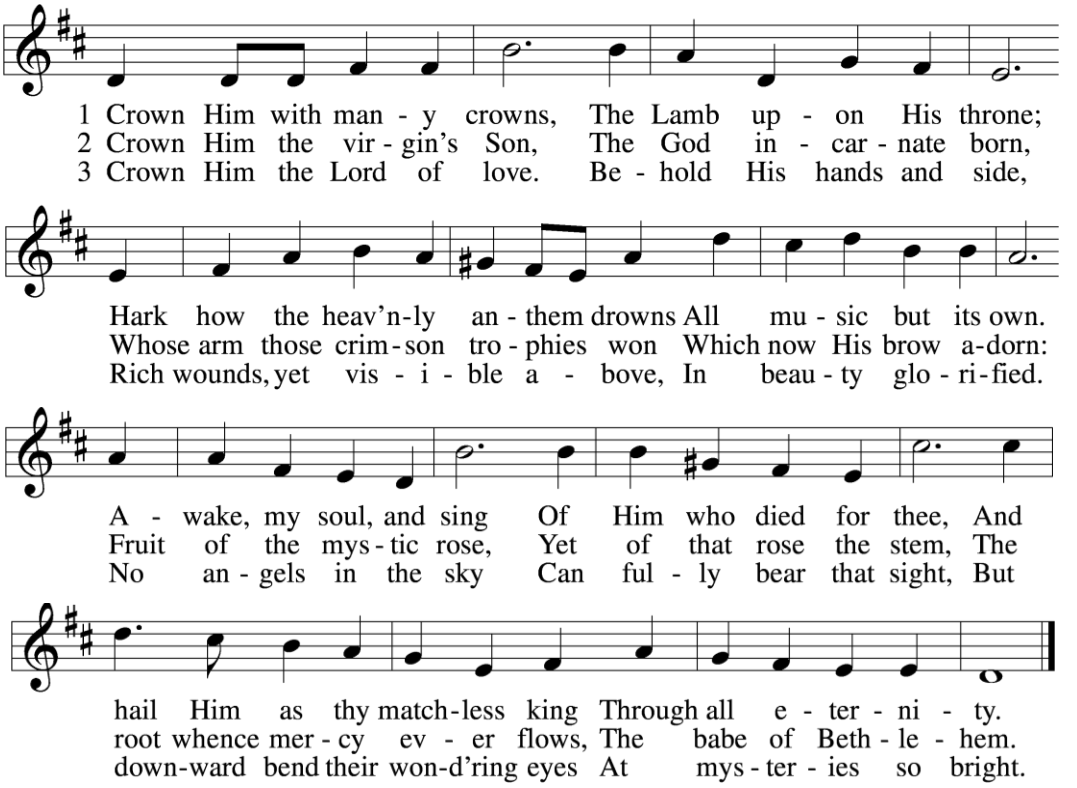
P This is the Gospel of the Lord
C **Praise to You, O Christ**

The Apostles Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✢ everlasting. Amen.

Please Be Seated

Sermon Hymn **"Crown Him with Many Crowns"** **LSB 525 (sts 1-3)**



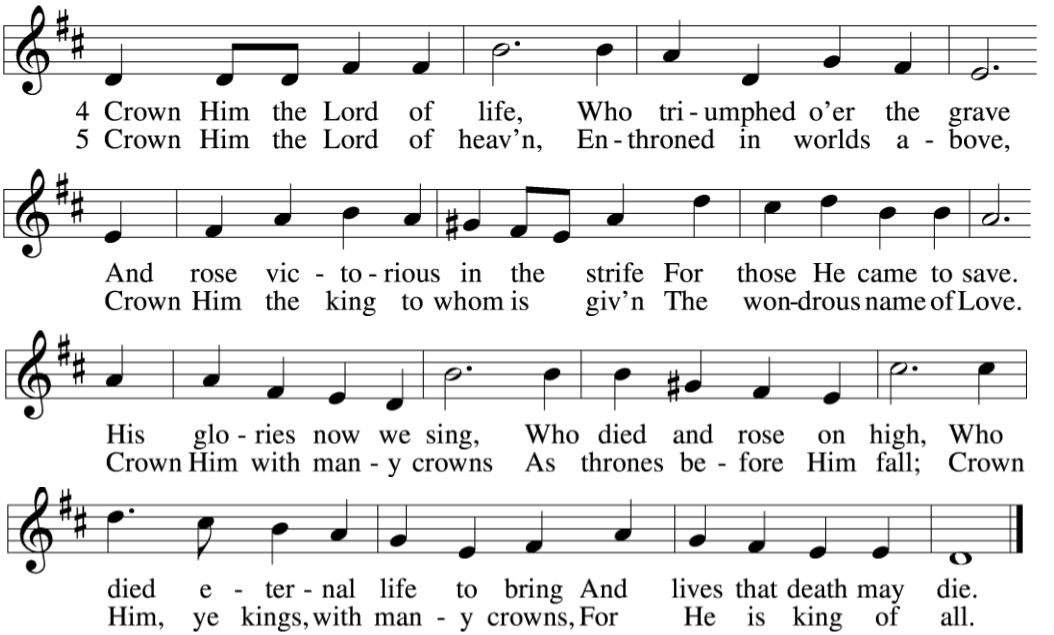
Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–94, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon **"A Vision of Life"** **(*Matthew 25:31-6*)**

In this Parable of the Last Day, Jesus Reveals the Mysteries of Eternal Life.

I. Discovery of the world God created.
II. Discovery of the Lord.
III. Discovery of life.

Responsive Hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns" LSB 525 (sts 4-5)



Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878–1969 Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932 Text and tune: Public domain

Offering (Please place in the Box located in the Narthex)

Kid's Church

Prayer of the Church

℗ Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God and Father, You sent Your Son, our Shepherd, to gather Your sheep according to Your promise. Grant that all of us who have been brought into Your church through the washing of Holy Baptism join in Your ongoing mission of seeking those who have not yet been gathered. Lord, in Your mercy,

℃ **rescue Your flock.**

P Heavenly Father, in Your Son You fulfilled Your Word in setting over us one Shepherd. Bless all pastors in their work as under-shepherds, that they faithfully point us to all that is good and right and true, and that we discern what is pleasing to You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **rescue Your flock.**

P Patient Lord, through Your prophet Ezekiel, You have made clear to us that You will be the one to judge Your sheep and to sort out the mess of this world. In times when we are tempted to take on that work ourselves, help us to remember that Jesus is the one who sits on the throne and that we can trust Him with that work. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **rescue Your flock.**

P Lord of Creation, in Your wisdom You have placed over us people with authority to watch over and protect us. Guide their staff and strengthen their shield that they use their offices for the good of all, especially those among us who are the most vulnerable. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **rescue Your flock.**

P Merciful Lord, You know the needs of Your sheep and all the ways they have been scattered and wounded. We lift before You all who are in need of care, **[*especially*].** Help us to see those You have set before us who are hungry, thirsty, imprisoned, and in need of welcome. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **rescue Your flock.**

P Lord of time and eternity, You alone know the true measure of our days. When our days seem long or when life feels brief, help us to hold on to Your promise of resurrection, that we remain steadfast in our gaze toward the new heaven and the new earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **rescue Your flock.**

P For all these things and whatever else You know us to need, we ask of You, dear Father in heaven; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer ***LSB 179***

℗ Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

℃ **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.

Closing Hymn **"Great is the Lord"**

Verse
Great is the Lord
He is holy and just
By His power we trust in His love
Great is the Lord
He is faithful and true
By His mercy He proves He is love

Chorus 1
Great is the Lord
And worthy of glory
Great is the Lord
And worthy of praise
Great is the Lord
Now lift up your voice
Now lift up your voice
Great is the Lord
Great is the Lord

Verse
Great is the Lord
He is holy and just
By His power we trust in His love
Great is the Lord
He is faithful and true
By His mercy He proves He is love

Chorus 2
Great are You Lord
And worthy of glory
Great are You Lord
And worthy of praise

Great are You Lord
I lift up my voice
I lift up my voice

Great are You Lord
Great are You Lord

CCLI Song # 1149 Deborah D. Smith | Michael W. Smith © 1982 Meadowgreen Music Company For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use Closing Sentences

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen**

Silent Prayer: Lord Jesus, by the power of Your cross and resurrection, I am assured of salvation. What a joy to be a Christian! What a joy to serve You and love others in Your name. Thank you! Amen.

Announcements

Postlude

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REMEMBER OUR MISSIONARIES: (A card of encouragement is always welcomed)

L.W.M.L./WOMEN'S SOCIETY TIM (Together In Mission)
†Supporting: Danelle Putnam Schumann & husband Carlos Schumann, Apartada 1356, Santiago, Dominican Republic.
Danelle.Putnam@lcms.org lcms.org/international lcms.org/putnam

L.W.M.L./WOMEN'S SOCIETY ADOPT A STUDENT: Mr. Derek Arrington Campus Post Office Box, 801 Seminary Pl., St. Louis, MO 63105-3196; arringtond@csl.edu

ST. JOHN'S TIM (Together in Mission):
Rev. Carl & Chenhsi Hanson with Emma, Andrea, and Lydia serving in Seoul South Korea as Pastor at International Lutheran Church.148 Hannam-daero,Yongsan-gu, Seoul, South Korea 04417

****ST. JOHN'S ADOPT-A-STUDENT:**
Mr. Blake Brockman (wife Hannah, son, Judah) Campus Post Office Box, 801 Seminary Pl. Clayton, MO 63105-3196. brockmanb@csl.edu
Mr. Daniel Hampton (wife, Christie, son William, daughter Abigail) 328 Winter Lake Ct. Fenton, MO 63026. OR Campus Post Office Box, 801 Seminary Pl. Clayton, MO 63105-3196. hamptond@csl.edu
Mr. Tristan Jones (and wife Carolyn and son Micah) 801 Seminary Pl. Clayton, MO 63105-3196, jonest@csl.edu. 8000 Canton Ave, St. Louis MO 63130.

MY FRIEND'S CLOSET THRIFT STORE TIM (Together in Mission)

Deaconess Intern Anika Slayton, serving in Kaiserslautern, Germany, c/o The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. OR Mission Central 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034. Include Slayton-Germany in the memo line.

Deaconess Tirzah Krey, serving in Latin America & Caribbean, Tirzah.krey@lcms.org, facebook.com/groups/TirzahTales, c/o The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O.Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. OR Mission Central 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034. Include Krey-Latin America.

Zach & Christy Yoder serving in Nigeria with Wycliffe Bible translators.
Zach_yoder@wycliffe.org, www.wycliffe.org/partner/yoder; christy-yoder@sil.org

El Ayudante/Shick family, serving in Honduras, ryan@eahonduras.org Ryan, Angie, Abigail, Mandi, & Jacob. El Ayudante Missions USA, Inc, P.O. Box 154 Rodeo, CA 94572, (Include Schick Family in Memo Line)

THRIFT SHOP ADOPT-A-STUDENT:
Mr. Alexander Allsing Campus Post Office Box 801 Seminary Pl. Clayton, MO 63105-3196, Allsinga@csl.edu

WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday at 5:30 pm
Sunday at 8:00 am
Sunday at 9:15 am – Education Hour
Sunday at 10:30 am
****Acoustic*** – 4th Sunday 10:30 service

BIBLE EDUCATION

Sunday at 9:15 am
Adults w/ the Pastor – Luke



Pre-School/Kindergarten
Jr. High & High School
WDS and BLAST
Women In the Word

1st and 3rd Monday's at 3:00 & 6:00 pm
Bible Journaling – Mark
Tuesday's 10:00 am
Stitching Blessings – Mark
Wednesday at 9:30 am
Women's Bible Study – Luke
Friday at 6:30 am
Men's Breakfast Bible Study – Fellowship H.
See Church Calendar & Newsletter for additional studies and gatherings!

CONTACT INFO

625 Country Lane Drive,
P.O. Box 216, Lena, Illinois 61048
(Mon – Fri: 8 :00 am – 5:00 pm)

Church Office 815-369-4035
Church Fax 815-369-2535
Emergency (After Hours) 573-987-8420

Jason Shaw, Pastor 573-987-8420
David Offermann,
Director of Family Life 815-821-4034
Sid Kemmis, Lay Minister 309-236-5061
Michelle Rothschadl, Parish Assistant & Director of Celebration Worship 815-275-0397
Chris Winter, Ministry Assistant.....815-291-6994
Lisa Lobdell, Organist 815-275-5165
Ruth Maedge, Choir Director 815-238-1595
Sharon Thompson, Accompanist 815-493-8347
Joy Shaw, Handbell Director 573-987-8421

STAY CONNECTED

www.stjohnslena.org
Facebook: St Johns Lena

COMMUNITY

Church Van: If you live in Lena and would like a ride to the 10:30 am service, please call the church office.
My Friends Closet: Visit our thrift store for heavenly deals! 511 W Lena St, Lena, IL 61048. (815) 369-4527
Adult Day Care: Visit our "Friendship Center" to care for your loved ones. 311 N Lake Rd, Lena, IL 61048. (815) 369-2690

SERVING THE LORD THIS WEEK –November 21/22

	Saturday – 5:30 pm	Sunday – 8:00 am	Sunday – 10:30 am
ELDERS	Tom Bannon	Craig Kroeger	Kevin Keltner
GREETERS	Jim/ Joan Liles	Eric/ Lindsay Bader	Chris Winter
USHERS	Bill Engel	Dale Calow	Ron Conway
ACOLYTES	Usher	Blaine Drake	Gavyn Gerke
AUDIO/VIDEO	Dave/ Judy Zier	Evan Zier/ Barb Harbach	Sam Cobine/ Steve Levan/ Denny Potter
ALTAR GUILD	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel

SERVING THE LORD NEXT WEEK –November 28/29

	Saturday – 5:30 pm	Sunday – 8:00 am	Sunday – 10:30 am
ELDERS	Donny Fox	Jon Werkheiser	Brett Richardson
GREETERS	Roger Schamberger	Tom/ Carol Mau	Steve/ Kathie Levan
USHERS	Ken Lutz	Nick Leiendecker	Derek Tessendorf
ACOLYTES	Usher	Everly Keeffer	Kenzie Hahne
AUDIO/VIDEO	Dave/ Judy Zier	Denny Potter/ Kory Gerbick	Korbin Winter/ Michelle Rothschadl
ALTAR GUILD	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel