

MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Little Mountain, SC
God's Work, Our Hands

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Welcome and Announcements

The Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son (✚), and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Hymn: #438

My Lord, What a Morning

The Greeting

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The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Dialog

P: In the hustle and bustle, in the kitchens and malls,

C: It is hard to feel still.

P: Our to-do lists are long

C: It is hard to be present.

P: We are called to stillness,

C: We long to be still.

P: What can you let go of, that you might rest?

C: What can we not do, that we might be more present with Christ?

The Prayer

P: God our Father, as we await the coming of your Son, our Savior, give us the courage to hope. Help us to make our hearts ready for you and to remember your ways. Give us grace, O Lord, to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world, through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. **Amen**

The Hymn: #257 (vs 1)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The Prayer of the Day:

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

¹I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

²Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,

the thrones of the house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

“May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

⁸For the sake of my kindred and companions,

I pray for your prosperity.

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,

I will seek to do you good.”

The Second Lesson

Romans 13:11-14

The Gospel Acclamation (*Alleluia...*)

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The Holy Gospel (with responses)

Matthew 24:36-44

The Children's Time

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day: #439

Soon and Very Soon

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

The Anthem

The Offertory: #884

The Offertory Prayer

The Prayers of the Church

*(Each petition ends with “Lord, in your mercy,
We respond “Hear our prayer.”)*

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Hymn: #815

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

The Dismissal

Joy to the World

The Doxology

SERVING OUR LORD TODAY

Organist – Gloria Danielowski

Choir Director – Kayleigh Eargle

Lector – Kynley Mack

Acolyte – Grant Shealy

Ushers – Amanda Long, Gwen Davenport, Laken Williams

We welcome Kyle Page today as our guest preacher and worship leader.

We welcome visitors who are worshiping with us today. We invite you to sign one of the Visitor cards in the pew rack and place it in the plate in the narthex as you leave or give it to an usher.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in Memory of Janice Metts by her family. Next Sunday's flowers will be given by Susan Richardson.

Our attendance last Sunday was 113 (112 inside and 1 outside). Offering was \$1,918.00. Sunday School attendance was 57.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the **Thanksgiving Service** last Sunday evening. Also thanks to those that attended. We had an attendance of 96 and the offering for We Care was \$881.

Today's **loose offering** will go to Little Mountain Fire and Rescue. The loose offering for next Sunday will go to the Ronald McDonald House.

Choir practice will be Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

The **2026 Ministry Teams** Sign Up sheet is on the bulletin board. Please sign up if you wish to be on a particular team. Council will be making teams at their next meeting.

Today is the deadline for ordering **poinsettias**. Envelopes/forms are on the narthex table, or if worshipping outside ask an usher. The cost is \$13.00 each. Orders can be turned in with the offering or dropped by the church office. Make checks payable to Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church.

The **CIA** is invited to a **Jesus and Jammies Christmas Party** on Saturday, December 6th from 7 to 10 pm at the home of Amy and Daniel. We will enjoy dinner, a devotional, and some Christmas fun. Please check GroupMe for more information.

Mount Tabor pledged to provide 15 **gift cards to We Care** for their Christmas Child program. Due to the overwhelming response, we were able to provide them with 35 gift cards. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

The **CIA** will go **Christmas Caroling** on Dec. 21st. We will meet at the church at 2 PM. We invite all members of the church to join us caroling as we bring Christmas Joy to our members.

Any **Golden Ager or Shut-In** who would like the CIA to come and **Christmas Carol** to them are asked to sign the sheet in the narthex, call the church office (803-945-2333), or contact Daniel Wicker (803-924-3828) to get your name on the list. A leader of the CIA will contact you with an estimated time of arrival. We look forward to singing to you! Please sign up by December the 16th.

Our condolences go out to the family of Joe Grugan. Mr. Grugan died November 1st. Mr. Grugan was the great grandson of our church's first pastor, The Reverend Jefferson Allen Sligh. Mount Tabor presented him with a walking cane for his service in helping get Mount Tabor established. Mr. Grugan gave the walking cane of Rev. Sligh back to our church in 2022. Mr. Grugan's funeral and burial was at Ebenezer Lutheran Church. His wife, Connie, notified us and said that Joe was so pleased to give the cane to us for its final resting place so people could see it and enjoy it. It gave him great pleasure. The walking cane is displayed in the display case in our narthex. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

Members are reminded to consider using their **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to support our church. Our church is now listed as "Mount Tabor Lutheran Church of Little Mountain." When you make donations through Thrivent, please let our treasurer, Meredith Achelpohl, or our church secretary, Marsha Meetze, know so that the funds can be designated to the fund or area that you wish to support. Thank you for your consideration and support!

Again this year we will provide the residents at **Palmetto Gardens** in Prosperity with a bag of toiletries for Christmas. There are paper stockings hanging on the tree in the narthex with a list of needed toiletry items. You may add to this list if you wish. This year each resident was asked to give us one suggestion of a clothing item which they would like to receive for Christmas. An angel with their name and item is on the tree. When taking an angel or stocking, please sign your name by the appropriate number on the list posted on the bulletin board. Each angel and stocking is numbered. This is just a way to help us know when all stockings and angels have been taken and gifts received. All gifts need to be brought to the church by Sunday, December 14th. You may leave them under the tree in the narthex. Please make sure you attach the stocking to your toiletry gift bag and angel to your gift. If you would like to make a monetary donation instead of shopping that is fine also. Please put your donation in an envelope marked Palmetto Gardens Christmas in the offering plate. Checks should be made payable to Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, contact Lynn Shealy.

The **December/January Newsletter** and the October Council Minutes are available today.

Christmas Program Announcement

All ages are invited to participate in our upcoming Christmas Program, "The Animals' Tale."

Program Date: Sunday, December 14 — during regular service
To Participate:

Please contact Amanda Long at 803-924-4184 (call or text) or email a_r_stockman@hotmail.com.

Practice Schedule (tentative):

- Monday, December 1 at 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, December 13 at 9:00 a.m.

We look forward to celebrating the Christmas season with this special program and hope you'll join us for a wonderful time of fellowship and joy!

The Town of Little Mountain invites everyone to the **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony** on Sunday, November 30, 2025 from 4:30pm-6pm at Brady Park and Old Town Hall, 206 Depot Street. Come out for Santa, cookies, hot cocoa, music by the LME chorus, and snow!

The **2026 Flower Chart** is posted on the narthex bulletin board.

B&B Florist is now able to deliver to the church. If anyone knows another florist interested in delivery, please let the office know. We will contact them and discuss. We now have a lock box with a key we can give them the combination to. We plan to change the combination every couple of months.

If you have any additions or changes to make to your contact information in the **church yearbook**, please contact the church secretary at 803-945-2333 or mttaborlutheran@gmail.com.

Congratulations to our newly elected **council members**: Mark Gosnell, Brandon Shealy, Gwen Davenport, and Billy Lindler!

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Second Reading: Romans 13:[8-10] 11-14

[⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.] ¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

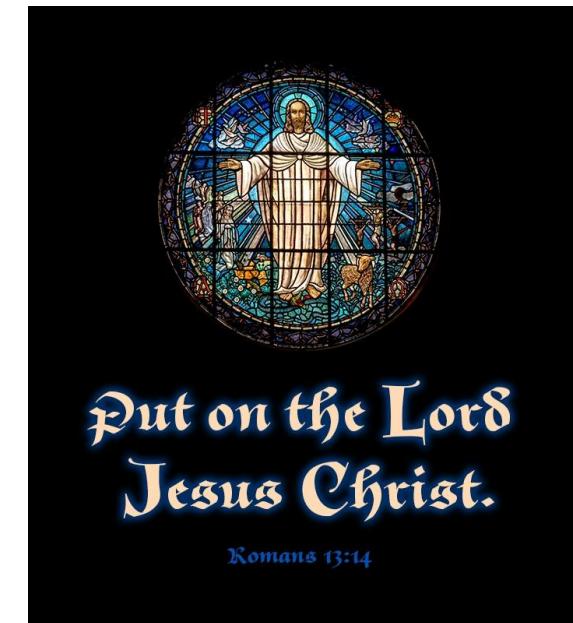
³⁶{Jesus said,} "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will

be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Listening for the Promise

Jesus tells us that we will not know the day or the hour of when he will return to us. No one knows. Not the angels. Not even Jesus himself, the Son of God. However, God has given us plenty of time to prepare for that unexpected moment when Jesus will come back again. God has given us his gifts of grace, forgiveness of sin, and eternal life through the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. We wait for Jesus' imminent return, and as we do so, we witness the pain and heartache around us. We bear witness to conflict, violence, disease, and death. But we also bear witness to the promise that God is always with us. He comes to us through the waters of baptism and the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Thanks be to God! Come, Lord Jesus!

Mount Tabor Lutheran Church



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