

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

***C: We long to be still.***

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

## The Dismissal

**Ushers** – Amanda Long, Gwen Davenport, Laken Williams

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 14<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>It 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, <sup>3</sup>and 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. <sup>4</sup>He 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. <sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

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

[<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>For 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.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.] <sup>11</sup>Besides 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. <sup>12</sup>The 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. <sup>13</sup>Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

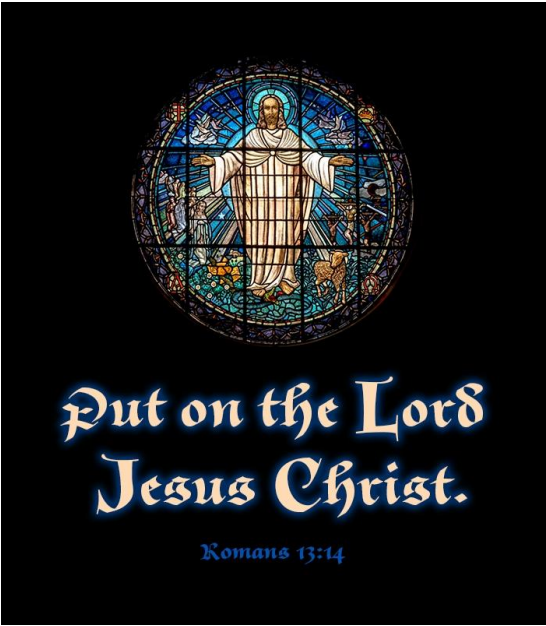
<sup>36</sup>{Jesus said,} “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup>For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking,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

be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup>Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But 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. <sup>44</sup>Therefore 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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