

**First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Psalms 146**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**<sup>2</sup>Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, for there is no help in them.**

<sup>3</sup>When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

**<sup>4</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the Lord their God;**

<sup>5</sup>Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise forever;

**<sup>6</sup>Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.**

<sup>7</sup>The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

**<sup>8</sup>The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

**Second Reading: James 5:7-11**

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” <sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

# Mount Tabor Lutheran Church



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## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

***C: we hold fast to God's promise.***

## The Benediction

*Joy to the World*

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for members who wish to serve as **lectors and/or communion assistants** in 2026. Please consider signing up.

The **CIA** will go **Christmas Caroling** next Sunday, 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.

Anyone who would like the CIA to come and **Christmas Carol** to them are asked to sign the sheet in the narthex or contact Daniel Wicker (803-924-3828) to get your name on the list. You do not have to be a shut-in to sign up, just let us know if you want us to stop by and sing. 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.

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!

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).

All church members ages 65 and up are invited to join us for our annual **Senior Christmas Luncheon** on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 12pm. We will have entertainment by the Soggy Bottom Boys from St. Lukes Lutheran Church. Please sign the sign up sheet on the bulletin board by **today, December 14<sup>th</sup>** so that we will know how many to expect.

We still have some open dates on the **2026 Flower Chart** including January 4<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to sign up if you haven’t already. If you would like an additional Sunday, you may sign up again as well. **B&B Florist** and **The Lake Murray Flower Shoppe** are 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.

Our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** will be Wednesday night, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm. Pastor Gary Blobaum will lead the service. All are welcome.

The church secretary, Marsha Meetze, will be **out of the office** this week. Ms. Carolyn Torrence will be filling in some this week to answer calls. Marsha will be back next week. Please contact Ms. Carolyn Torrence or Karen Davis if you need to add announcements to the bulletin or names to the prayer list.

Our **sincere condolences** are extended to Madison Fulmer on the death of her Grandmother, Patsy Sligh. Her funeral was held December 9<sup>th</sup> at Bachman Chapel Lutheran Church.

**Congratulations** to Danielle Ballentine upon her graduation from Newberry College on December 6, 2025 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

**Choir Practice** will be Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

<b>Congratulations</b> to the following Congregational Officers for 2026:	
President	Brad Shealy
Vice President	Mark Gosnell
Secretary	Daniel Wicker

Christmas gift bags and other gifts will be delivered to the residents at **Palmetto Gardens** on Tuesday afternoon, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you have not already brought your gift bag or gift, please do so no later than Wednesday morning, December 17<sup>th</sup>. You may leave it under the tree or in front of the church office. We invite anyone from the congregation who would like to go to please join us. We plan to leave the church at 3:00. If anyone has any questions, contact Lynn Shealy.

Please remember to pick up your **2026 Offering Envelopes**. They are available on the table in the cry room.