

Second Weekend in Advent

December 9 & 10, 2018

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word.

- **Restrooms** are located down the hallway and to the right from the back of church.
- **We love families!** Your children are welcome in our service! Thanks for bringing them to hear about Jesus! If you would like, there are children's bulletins with crayons in the back of church and a cry room in the back of the sanctuary.
- Friendship Registers. They are the red colored books located at the end of each row. We invite everyone to fill them out during the offering.

WORSHIP NOTES

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: Our Lord Jesus is coming, bearing real gifts, profoundly important gifts. He came that first Christmas to win forgiveness and give all the gifts that come with it: hope, peace, joy, love. He is coming again at the end of this world to give the gift of resurrection to eternal life. In the season of Advent, we connect Christ's first coming with his second coming. We rejoice in all the unconditional gifts he gives. Each Sunday during the gathering rite Advent candles are lighted.

THEME OF THE DAY: How do you feel when meeting someone important? Maybe it was a job interview with your potential future boss. Did you feel peaceful walking into that meeting? Or perhaps you were summoned, for a reason unknown to you, to come to the principal's office at school? As you walked the hallway towards his door, were you at peace? When we come face-to-face with someone who can influence the direction of our lives, that tends to be nerve-wracking, not peaceful. How nervous will you be, then, when you stand face-to-face with your God, who will determine where you spend eternity?

God is much more than a boss or a principal. He is your Creator, the one who gave you life. And when he did, he intended you to use that life in a very specific way, one which would bring glory to him and beauty to this broken world. So, are you ready to meet him?

Today, we see that God wants you to be at perfect peace when you stand before him. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace..." the angels sang that first Christmas Eve. Through the work of Christ, sinners are at peace with a holy God. Even more, throughout history God's messengers like John the Baptist proclaimed the gospel, so that God's people could live in peace. God raises up a messenger to preach that gospel to you today.

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Order of Service for THE SEASON OF ADVENT

STAND

INVOCATION

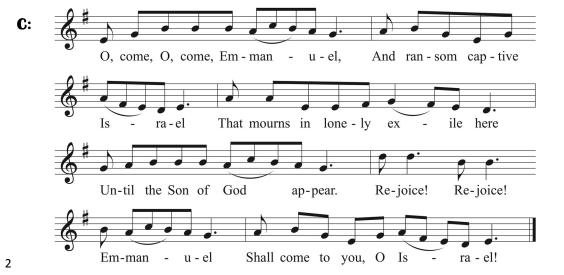
Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

- **M**: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image. Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.
- C: But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death. We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.
- **M**: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

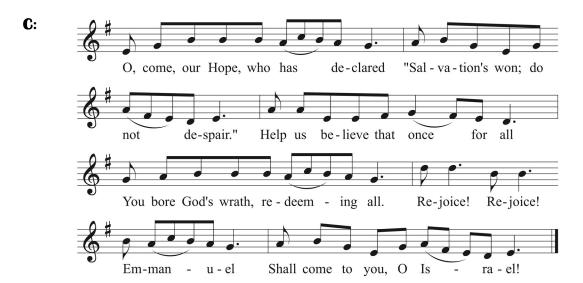
 Genesis 1:26; Romans 6:23



M: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven. In view of God's mercy, today we light the hope candle. The Spirit declares through the psalmist, "Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love, and with him is full redemption."

C: We wait for the Lord, and in his word we put our hope.

Galatians 4:4,5; Psalm 130:5,7



M: In the hope of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

C: God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u-el Shall come to you, O Is - ra-el!

F The Word ₩

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (Spoken) Amen.

BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON Malachi 3:1-4

The LORD promised to send a messenger, John the Baptist, to prepare people to meet the Christ at his first coming. Likewise, we need the LORD to prepare us for Christ's second coming so that we have perfect peace, even as Jesus turns the universe into a furnace.

¹ "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.



PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 24 Christian Worship page 73





The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it,* the world, and all who live in it;

for he founded it upon the seas* and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend the hill <u>of</u> the LORD?*
Who may stand in his <u>ho</u>ly place?

He who has clean hands and a <u>pure</u> heart,*
he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

Refrain

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you <u>an</u>cient doors,* that the King of glory <u>may</u> come in.

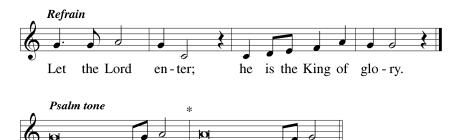
Who is this King of <u>glory?*</u>
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in <u>bat</u>tle.

Psalm continues on next page

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you <u>an</u>cient doors,* that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of <u>glory?*</u>
The LORD Almighty—he is the King of <u>glory</u>.

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.



SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:3-11

We know that we are saved through faith in Christ Jesus. Therefore, at times, we might worry about whether our faith is strong enough. To give us peace, St. Paul assures us that the creation and maintenance of faith is not our work, but something that God graciously does for us through the gospel.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

VERSE OF THE DAY John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

STAND

GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

We all know that the angels on Christmas Eve sang about peace on earth. They were not talking about peace between nations, but peace between sinners and a holy God. Christ grants that peace by producing repentance within us. Let us prepare our hearts to meet him!

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in,

every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.

⁶ And all mankind will see God's salvation.'"

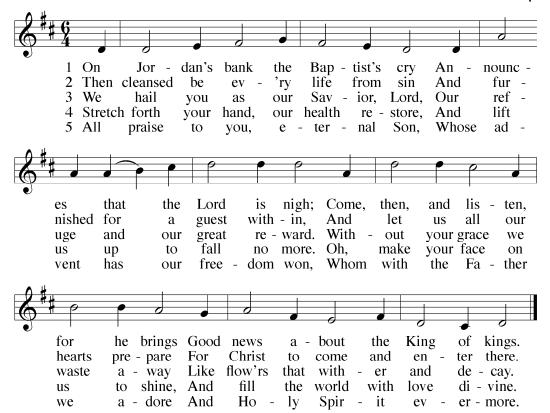
M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: (Spoken) Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry Christian Worship #16



SERMON Malachi 3:1-4

STAND

8

7

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

BE SEATED

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

STAND

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

M: We pray in your name, Lord, and as you taught:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BE SEATED

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM (8:00 AM ONLY) Come and Hear the Joyful Singing Words by Michael Perry / Arranged by Hal H. Hopson

Come and hear the joyful singing, Alleluia, gloria, set the bells of heaven ringing; Alleluia, gloria, God the Lord has shown us favor – Alleluia, gloria Christ is born to be our Savior, Alleluia, gloria!

Angels of his birth are telling, Alleluia, gloria, Prince of Peace all powers excelling; Alleluia, gloria, death and hell cannot defeat him; Alleluia, gloria, go to Bethlehem and greet him. Alleluia, gloria!

Choir and people, shout in wonder, Alleluia, gloria, let the mighty organ thunder; Alleluia, gloria, thank our God for love amazing, Alleluia, gloria, Father, Son and Spirit praising, Alleluia, gloria!

STAND

PRAYER

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give ₱ you peace.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOOR COLLECTION: This weekend we will be doing a door collection for Southside Ministries. The money we collect will help purchase items to build Christmas gift bags for the immigrant children. Each bag contains apples, oranges, peanuts, and candy. The bags are distributed during the December Food Pantry.

ADVENT SUNDAY SERIES: If you give someone a gift only if they meet certain qualifications, that is not a gift. There is one who is coming at Christmas, bearing real gifts, profoundly important gifts. Jesus came that first Christmas to win forgiveness and give all the gifts that come with it: **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.** He is coming again at the end of this world to give you the gift of resurrection to eternal life. In the season of Advent, we connect Christ's first coming with his second coming. We rejoice in the unconditional gifts he gives. Let us prepare our hearts, and the hearts of others, to meet him. Please join us during the Sundays of Advent this year as we focus on these themes:

Advent 1 – December 2-3: "The Gift of Hope"
Advent 2 – December 9-10: "The Gift of Peace"

Advent 3 – December 16-17: "The Gift of Joy"

Advent 4 - December 23: "The Gift of Love."

ADVENT FAMILY DEVOTIONS: This Advent & Christmas season, our national church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), has put together a book of daily devotions that correspond to each of our weekend worship service readings, providing families with a daily opportunity to gather together around God's word. Please take a copy home with you!

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE: This weekend, the Mary and Martha Society will be selling boxes of Christmas cookies before and after each service. The cost is \$7.00 per box. The proceeds from this sale fund the ongoing efforts of Mary and Martha as well as their support of missions. Thank you to all those who donated cookies and also those who purchased cookies. Your support is much appreciated.

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE & MEAL: This Wednesday, December 12th, we will be having our only Midweek Advent worship service. The Junior Choir and Handbells will be a part of this special service. The Board of Elders will also be serving a meal prior to that service beginning at 5:30 pm. In order to assist in our planning for the meal, we



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

LiturgistPastor Brian AdamsPreacherPastor Jacob HoffOrganistMrs. Sharon Larsen

ask you to sign-up on the sheets in the back of church if you'd like to attend the meal. If you would like to help bring some of the food items for that meal, there are sign-up sheets on the counter in the narthex as well. (If you are donating food, please have the items at church by 4:30pm.) Monetary donations are welcome any time, and there will be a free-will offering gathered at the meal.

ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD CAROLING: We are once again planning to do our "Neighborhood Caroling" on Sunday, December 16. This is a great opportunity to invite our neighbors around the church to our worship services at Christmas. Anyone is welcome to join us. We will meet in the school at 6:00 pm. We will then walk to one of the neighborhoods in the area. Everyone is invited to come to the parsonage and have some of Pastor Adams' chili. If you are able, you are invited to bring some Christmas cookies to share that night as well at the parsonage.

SOUTHSIDE MINISTRIES UPDATE: Over the years, we've all heard many forms of thank you. The one that really is at the top of my list is "you are the answer to my prayers." I recently heard that from one of our former ESL students as I was helping her apply for Financial Aid for college. She recalled how scary it was for her and her family as they left the refugee camp in Thailand to come to the United States. She said she prayed for good people to help them and she said "you have been God's answer to my prayer". I was deeply moved but reminded her that it wasn't just me but that there is a whole church of good people supporting them. Your support has been the answer to their prayers. You've kept me very busy with the donations to the collection barrel and the furniture donations. Thank you.

We are having a door collection today for purchasing items to build Christmas gift bags for the immigrant children. St. Paul's has generously supported this effort for the last 6 years. Each bag contains apples, oranges, peanuts, and candy. The bags are distributed during the December Food Pantry. Christmas joy is a perfect description of the reaction of the children receiving them.

Also on my Christmas list are toys and Christmas trees. We give out the toys at a Christmas party between Christmas and New Years. If you have any new or gently used toys they would be greatly appreciated. In past years, we've been able to give many artificial Christmas trees to families for their homes. You can put them in the collection barrel in the hallway or call me at 414-870-9215.

Last month, one of our ESL students, a 6 year old boy, had a medical emergency. He passed out while at home with his parents and couldn't be revived. They called 911 and

he was rushed to the hospital. He had emergency surgery for bleeding on the brain. A lot of prayers were said for Parker, he had a successful recovery, and came home last week. The doctors said it was a condition he was born with. Although it seemed tragic at the time, in later reflection it occurred to me that if this would have happened in the refugee camp or, even in Milwaukee, if it happened in his sleep, it would have been a different outcome.

I have heard stories and seen videos of their lives in Burma and Thailand. In Burma, Burmese soldiers would come into their village burning homes and causing them to flee for their lives into the jungle. The fortunate ones were able to eventually find their ways into refugee camps in Thailand. A lot of them tell me they were in the refugee camp for almost 10 years before they were able to come to the United States. The camps were crowded and food was carefully rationed.

They are very happy and grateful to be here where they live in peace and food is not rationed. There's no shortage of reasons for them to have a lot of friends over for a big feast. I love seeing them so happy and even more, I love seeing the cross on their necklaces. I thought of Southside Ministries when I heard in President Bush's funeral the words "Preach Christ, use words if you need to". Thank God that he has brought them here. The families are extremely grateful.

-- Gary Eickhorst

GREETERS: Thank you to everyone who greeted before worship services this year! Please let Cory in the office know if you no longer wish to greet, otherwise you will be placed on the schedule for the new year. If you have not greeted before, please consider signing up to greet a couple times this year. We need additional greeters for all services. If you are interested in signing up to greet, please place your completed form in the Greeter bin on the narthex counter by the end of December.

LIVING NATIVITY: Our Living Nativity is this weekend. Tonight (Sunday) is our last night of performances. There will be performances with live animals celebrating the birth of the Savior at 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm and 7:00 pm. Following each performance there will be refreshments and crafts. St. Paul's families are encouraged to invite family and friends! There are flyers located in the back of church or on the school lobby bookshelf that you can feel free to take and use for inviting others.

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE: The Refreshment Committee is in need of 1 or 2 people to clean up after the second service. Please consider offering your talents for one Sunday per month for 15-20 minutes. The more volunteers we get, the less often you will be needed. Duties include: emptying and washing out the coffee makers, cleaning the serving trays and table, putting away the coffee condiments and taking out the garbage. If you are willing to lend a helping hand or you have additional questions, please contact Tony Tripoli 414-232-5817.

MARY & MARTHA SOCIETY: We will be conducting a collection of items needed for new mothers and newborn babies on behalf of **Lutherans for Life**— a ministry that unites us in "...protecting a child's right to live and be loved."

Items Needed for the Lutherans for Life Christmas Party:

- Pretty Ornaments / Holiday Decorations (new or lightly used not large)
- Coffee / Flavored Water

Items Needed for New Mothers:

(who attend the Lutherans for Life 'Loving Parents' parenting classes)

- Body Soaps / Lotions (women's or men's)
- Bath Scrubbies
- Lip Balm
- Hairbrushes / Combs
- Soft Slippers / Socks (all sizes)
- Gloves / Mittens (all sizes)
- Scarves / Neck Warmers
- \$10 gift cards (e.g. Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, Pick 'n' Save, etc.)
- Any other 'comfort' item you might give to a friend

The above lists of items will be collected now through December 9-10, 2018

Items Needed for Newborns:

- Bottles (like the old-fashioned kind)
- Baby Bath Soap / Baby Lotion
- Pacifiers

- Socks
- Mittens
- Onesies (up to 12-18 months)
- Sleepers
- Stuffed Animals
- Hand-made (crocheted or knit) blankets

This last list of items will be collected now through January 13-14, 2019

A bin is set up in the church narthex to collect these items. (Mary and Martha members will sort through and distribute these items.) We appreciate ANY help you can give in helping us bring the Good News of LIFE – to new mothers and their newborn babies – with the Good News of JESUS. As Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me." Matthew 25:40 THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT: The congregation is invited to help our school reach it's goal for our second quarter mission project -- Feeding America: Eastern Wisconsin. We have set 2 goals for St. Paul's: raise \$500 in funds and collect 1,000 lbs. of nonperishable food items! Our food drive has begun and will run through Friday, December 21st.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY: On Sunday, September 9th, we began our Sunday morning adult Bible class for this year. The title of the study is: "I Can't Believe That's in the Bible." Below is the list of topics that we will discuss.

- 1) Girl Dismembered Body Parts Shipped Throughout the Country (Judges 19)
- 2) Prophet Marries Prostitute (Hosea)
- 3) Church Benefactors Struck Down After Presenting Gift (Acts 4 & 5)
- 4) Assassin Kills Obese King In His Own Bathroom (Judges 2 & 3)
- 5) Long Winded Preacher Kills Heals Sleepy Parishioner (Acts 20)
- 6) Man After God's own Heart Calls For Revenge On Terrorists (Psalm 109)
- 7) Talking Donkey Rescues Prophet (Numbers 22)
- 8) Police Boat Crashes, Arrested Preacher Among Survivors (Acts 27)
- 9) Biological Warfare Unleashed on World Power (Exodus 7-9)
- 10) Prophet Disappears Not All Believe Successor's Story (2 Kings 2)



- 11) A Father's Plan To Get Rid Of His Future Son-in-Law Backfires (1 Samuel 18)
- 12) God Gets In Wrestling Match (And Taps Out) (Genesis 32)
- 13) Religious Ceremony Used To Wipe Out A City (Genesis 34)
- 14) Think You Have A Sordid Family Tree, Think Again (Genesis 38)

Please come and join us at 9:15am on Sunday mornings.

CHRISTMAS AT WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY: The Seminary Chorus, a 52-voice men's choir composed of students at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, will present its annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 and 7:00 PM in the campus auditorium. Featured will be traditional and contemporary anthems for choir and hymns and carols for the audience. There are no advanced ticket sales; a free will offering is appreciated. The seminary is located at 11831 N. Seminary Drive in Mequon. Find more information on Facebook and at wls.wels.net.

WLHS SACRED CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The annual Sacred Christmas Concert will take place on Sunday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the WLHS auditorium. The concert will feature A Cappella, Cantorei, and Freshman Choirs of WLHS, Inspiration, Jubilation Handbell Choir, Wisconsin Lutheran Children's Choir, and numerous instrumentalists. Admission is free, and a freewill offering will be taken during the concert.

VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS FOR THIS WEEK (December 9 & 10)

8:00 AM – Jacque & Doreen Vallier

10:30 AM - John & Karen Milazzo; Cameron, Trevor, Logan & Kendall

6:30 PM – Donna LaBlanc

GREETERS FOR MIDWEEK ADVENT (December 12)

6:30 PM – Nancy Adams

GREETERS FOR NEXT WEEK (December 16 & 17)

8:00 AM – Roger Buntrock

10:30 AM - Richard & Betty Patin

6:30 PM – Joan Shevey

USHERS FOR MIDWEEK ADVENT (December 12)

6:30 PM – TEAM 1 – Bob Hille, Larry Stujenske, Josh Ebeling, Brandon Wirtz

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

8:00 AM – TEAM #4 – Pete Kosovich, Craig Gebert, Matt Gebert, Gordy Lesser **10:30 AM** – TEAM #8 – Walter Falkowski, Terry Ganyo, Jacob Marciniak, Fred Socha

6:30 PM - TEAM #9 - Terry Plant, John Kiesow

ALTAR GUILD

Dec 5-11 – TEAM #4 – Marge Gebert, Marilyn Krueger, Renate Nazimek Dec 12-18 – TEAM #4 – Marge Gebert, Marilyn Krueger, Renate Nazimek

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Dec 9: Set-up – Tony Tripoli & Connie Myer, Clean-up – Larry & Marion Klug Dec 16: Set-up – Pete & Sherry Kosovich, Clean-up – *Volunteer Needed

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 9

Mary & Martha Cookie Sale	Before & After Services
Worship Service	8:00 AM
Adult Bible Class/Sunday School	9:15 AM
Public School Confirmation Class	9:15 AM
Worship Service	10:30 AM
Church Decorating	11:30 AM
Living Nativity	
-	

Monday, December 10

Mary & Martha Cookie Sale	Before & After Service
Worship Service	6:30 PM

Tuesday, December 11

Wednesday, December 12	
Advent Pre-Service Dinner	5:30 PM
Advent Service	6:30 PM
Men's Basketball	
Thursday, December 13	
Preschool Power Hour	10:45 AM
Friday, December 14	
School Devotion	8:30 AM
Saturday, December 15	
School Cleaning	9:00 AM
Sunday, December 16	
Worship Service with Communion	8:00 AM
Adult Bible Class/Sunday School	9:15 AM
Public School Confirmation Class	
Worship Service with Communion	10:30 AM
Neighborhood Caroling	

Statistics – Last Week

Attendance: 8:00 AM – 110, Communed – 88 10:30 AM – 94, Communed – NA 6:30 PM – 58, Communed – 45 Total Attendance – 262 Total Communed – 133+ Sunday Bible Class – 30, Sunday School – 9