

**4<sup>th</sup> Weekend of Advent      December 17 & 18, 2016**

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our service we gather before Jesus our Savior to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God’s holy and powerful word. Also,

- † Restrooms are down the hall 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.
- † Please fill out the Friendship Registers located at the end of each row.
- † If you want to review or share today’s service, you can find it on our website.
- † For upcoming events and activities, “like” us on our Facebook page.

Please come again and worship with us very soon!

**TODAY’S THEME:**  
**PREPARE TO RECEIVE YOUR SAVIOR**

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

- Liturgist** ..... Pastor Jacob Hoff
- Preacher** ..... Pastor Brian Adams
- Organist** ..... Mrs. Sharon Larsen
- Adult Choir Director** ..... Mrs. Marie Becker
- Accompanist** ..... Miss Heather Schmidt

**THE OPENING HYMN**

**“OH, COME, OH, COME EMMANUEL”**  
Christian Worship #23, verse 1

*Please Stand*

**INVOCATION**

**Minister:** We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Congregation:** *(Spoken)* Amen.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

- M:** Give glory to the coming King!
- C:** **Oh, come, let us worship him!**
- M:** Behold, He who was to come has come.
- C:** **We welcome Him with thankful hearts.**
- M:** Behold, He who has come is coming again.
- C:** **We wait for Him with fervent faith.**
- M:** The Spirit and the Church cry out:
- C:** **“Come, Lord Jesus.”**

**M:** The whole creation pleads:

**C:** “Come, Lord Jesus.”

**CONFESSION OF SINS & ABSOLUTION**

**M:** Let us confess our sins to God our Father:

**C:** **O almighty, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But my heart is deeply grieved over them, and I sincerely repent of them; and I pray you of your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

**M:** Upon this your confession, I, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and acting in his behalf and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** *(Spoken)* **Amen.**

**PRAYER**

**M:** Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** *(Spoken)* **Amen.**

*Please be Seated*

**PREPARE TO RECEIVE YOUR SAVIOR**

**FORETOLD BY PROPHETS**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**ROMANS 1:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God —  
<sup>2</sup> the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures  
<sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life

was a descendant of David,  
<sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

<sup>5</sup> Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s sake.

<sup>6</sup> And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**WE LOOK FOR A STAR**

*Come, O long-expected Jesus, Born to set your people free;  
From our sins and fears release us By your death on Calvary.  
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope to all the earth impart,  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

*Born your people to deliver, Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever, Now your gracious kingdom bring.  
By your own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By your all-sufficient merit Raise us to your glorious throne.*

**PREPARE TO RECEIVE YOUR SAVIOR**

**WHO COMES AS A SIGN FROM GOD**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**ISAIAH 7:10-14**

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz,  
<sup>11</sup> “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”  
<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”  
<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David!

Is it not enough to try the patience of humans?

Will you try the patience of my God also?

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

CONGREGATION HYMN

WHERE SHEPHERDS LATELY LAID

Christian Worship #54



Choir: 1 Where shep-herds late-ly knelt and kept the an-gel's word,

Cong.: 2 In that un-like-ly place I find him as they said:

Duet: 3 How should I not have known I-sa-iah would be there,

All: 4 Can I, will I for-get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strange-ly stirred;  
Sweet new-born Babe, how frail! and in a man-ger bed,  
His proph-e-cies fulfilled? With pound-ing heart I stare:  
Its way in-to my heart un-asked, un-forced, un-earned,



But there is room and wel-come there for me,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
To die, to live, and not a-lone for me,



But there is room and wel-come there for me.  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.  
To die, to live, and not a-lone for me?

PREPARE TO RECEIVE YOUR SAVIOR  
ANNOUNCED TO MARY

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 1:26-33

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy,  
God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,  
<sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man  
named Joseph, a descendant of David.

The virgin's name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said,  
"Greetings, you who are highly favored!  
The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered  
what kind of greeting this might be.

<sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her,  
"Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.

<sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

<sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.  
The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,  
<sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever;  
his kingdom will never end."



CONGREGATION HYMN

THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

Christian Worship #24



Choir: 1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His

Cong.: 2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree: A

Choir: 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head; "To

All: 4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born In



wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All

bles - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be. Your

me be as it pleas - es God," she said. "My

Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, And



hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y, "Most

Son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told, Most

soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name." Most

Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say, "Most



high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

PREPARE TO RECEIVE YOUR SAVIOR  
ANNOUNCED TO JOSEPH

SERMON

MATTHEW 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about:  
His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph,

but before they came together,  
she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law,  
and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace,  
he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this,  
an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,  
"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take  
Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived  
in her is from the Holy Spirit.

<sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to  
give him the name Jesus, because  
he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord  
had said through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,  
and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the  
angel of the Lord had commanded him  
and took Mary home as his wife.

<sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage  
until she gave birth to a son.  
And he gave him the name Jesus.



CONGREGATION HYMN

HARK THE GLAD SOUND! THE SAVIOR COMES  
Christian Worship #12



Choir: 1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
Men: 2 He comes the cap - tives to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
Women: 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
All: 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
pris - on held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst; The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

THE OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

*Please Stand*

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**M:** Dear Jesus you came to save your people, just as you had promised. You took on human flesh and blood so that you could be one with us to be our sin-bearer and substitute. You suffered the full wrath of your Father so that we would not. You are our Hope, our Joy and our Peace. Yet, as we live in this world, we find ourselves being like Joseph. We do not always fully understand your plan for our lives. Yet, help us to trust your promises and your plan for us. Even though we do not deserve your grace and love, you continue to shower your love on us every day. As we prepare to celebrate your birth, may we also remember your cross and the payment you made for our sins. Any doubts about you and your work evaporated on Easter Sunday as you arose from the grave. We give thanks that you came to

be with us so that someday we will be with you in heaven. In whose name we also join in praying:

**All:** 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Christian Worship, page 23*

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

*Christian Worship, page 23*



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

*Please be Seated*

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a miracle. By God's power, the Lord's body and blood are with the bread and wine. In the Lord's Supper, God gives strength and comfort to His believers. While the Lord's Supper is first about our relationship with Jesus, it is also about our relationship with fellow believers. Therefore, we practice "close communion." We invite all who are members of St. Paul's or visitors who belong to our WELS fellowship to receive the Lord's Supper with us. If you would like to learn more about being a member of our family at St. Paul's, please feel free to contact one of the pastors.*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

**THE ADVENT OF OUR KING**  
Christian Worship #1

1 The ad - vent of our King Our  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In -  
3 O Zi - on's Daugh - ter, rise To  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He  
5 Be - fore the dawn - ing Day Let

prayers must now em - ploy,  
car - nate deigns to be,  
meet your low - ly King,  
soon will come a - gain  
sin's dark deeds be gone,

*Hymn continues on next page*

And we must hymns of wel - come sing In  
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To  
Nor let a faith - less heart de - spise The  
And his true mem - bers all u - nite With  
The sin - ful self be put a - way, The

strains of ho - ly joy.  
set his ser - vants free.  
peace he comes to bring.  
him in heav'n to reign.  
new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*Christian Worship, page 24*

**M:** We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

**BLESSING**

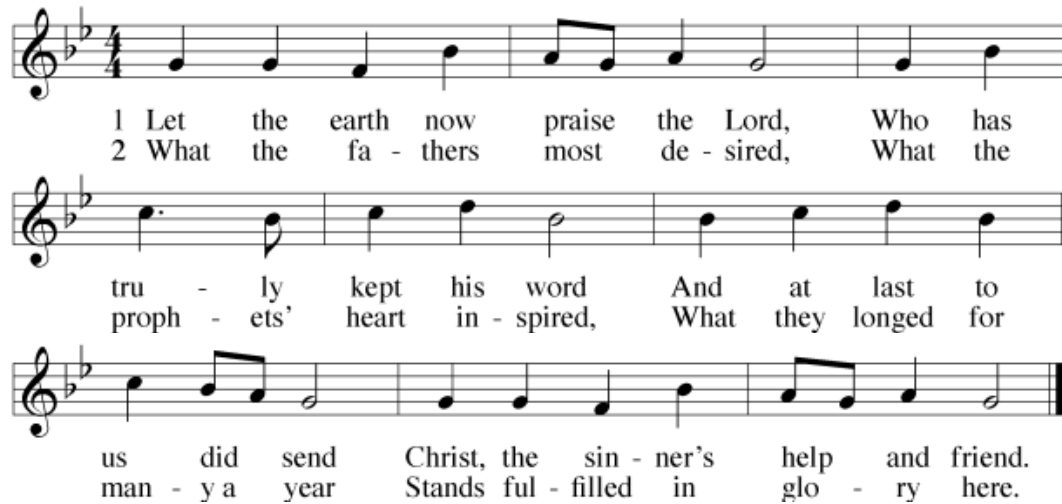
*Christian Worship, page 25*

**M:** 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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

CLOSING CONGREGATION HYMN

LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD  
Christian Worship #28, verses 1 & 2



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has  
2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, What the  
tru - ly kept his word And at last to  
proph - ets' heart in - spired, What they longed for  
us did send Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
man - y a year Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** This weekend's altar flowers are given by Randy & Nancy Willms in thanksgiving for the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Randy's liver transplant.

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

Advent 4 - December 18 & 19 - 8:00am & 10:30 am; 6:30 pm Monday (Song Service)

Christmas Eve Children's Christmas Service - December 24th - 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - December 24th - 10:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship - December 25th - 10:00 am (Please note only 1 service)

December 26th - No Worship Service - 6:30 pm

New Year's Eve - December 31 - 6:30 pm

New Year's Day - January 1 - 10:00 am (Please note only 1 service)

January 2nd - No Worship Service - 6:30 pm

**COOKIE SALE:** A huge thank you from the Mary and Martha Society to everyone who baked and donated cookies to our sale, to those who helped pack cookies and to all who purchased cookies last weekend. We raised a total of \$746 for the work of the Mary and Martha group and their support of missions. Thank you!

**LIVING NATIVITY:** Our Living Nativity has one more night of performances, today, December 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be performances with live animals celebrating the birth of the Savior at 6:00pm, 6:30pm and 7:00 pm. Following each performance, there will be refreshments and crafts. There are various ways that you can help;

- Sign up to help on the easel in the back of church.
- Support the Living Nativity event with a monetary gift.
- Invite people to this event through the use of yard signs, invitation cards and personal invitations.
- Come!

**NEW BIBLE CLASS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER:** The Lord's Prayer has been a part of the Christian Church for the past 2,000 years. Christians know it well. Many a Christian have begun their day or ended their day with the words of the Lord's Prayer. It is a part of nearly every worship service at St. Paul's. Yet, do we always focus on the wonderful things

that we are asking God in each of the petitions of the Lord's Prayer? We continue our new Bible Class on The Lord's Prayer, meeting each Sunday morning at 9:15am. Please come and join us!

**"THE STORY" BIBLE CLASS:** Our next bible class will be Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. As we continue to look at God's story in the Bible, our lesson focuses on the theme: "The Beginning of the End".

**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 especially need people to greet at the 10:30 a.m. and Monday evening services. If you are interested in signing up to greet, please place your completed form on the narthex counter by the end of December.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Mark your calendars for next summer's Vacation Bible Camp which will be July 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. More details will come later!

**REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE:** We are still in need of a few more members for our Refreshment Committee to help out in both services. The sign-up sheet is on the narthex counter, or you may can contact Tony Tripoli at (414) 232-5817 if you would like to help!

**PRESCHOOL POWER HOUR:** Join us at Power Hour two Thursdays a month! Open to children ages 0-4 with their caregivers. Meet us in the church narthex from 10:45-11:45 AM on the following dates: January 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, February 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>.

**RESCHEDULED WLHS SACRED CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Due to inclement winter weather conditions this past Sunday, the WLHS Sacred Christmas Concert is rescheduled for today, Sunday, December 18, at 3:00 p.m. in the WLHS auditorium, with preservice music starting at 2:30 p.m. The concert, titled "How Great Our Joy!" will feature the 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.

**2017 MEN OF HIS WORD CONFERENCE:** Have you seen the news lately? It's crazy out there. The world attacks our Christian values from every direction on a daily basis. To counter these attacks, the MOHW Conference uses God's Word to empower and equip men to carry out their God-given mission in their homes, churches, communities and the world with the theme, "BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS." Whether you attend for the keynote speaker (Pastor Mike Novotny from The Core in Appleton), the relevant, thought-provoking sessions (20 to choose from) or the worship experience with 600 other men (with Koine', the worship band), God's Word will speak to you. The 8th annual MOHW Conference will be held at the Oshkosh Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center on Saturday, February 11, 2017. Additional details and online registration are available at [www.menofhisword.org](http://www.menofhisword.org) for the first 650 men (\$40 by January 29th; \$50 from January 30th - February 5th). Please join us for a day in God's Word that you will not soon forget!

## VOLUNTEERS

### GREETERS THIS WEEK (December 18 & 19)

8:00 AM – Andrew & Renate Nazimek

10:30 AM – Mark & Rosie Derouin

6:30 PM – Joan Shevey

### GREETERS CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT (December 24)

10:00 PM – Don & Marge Gebert

### GREETERS CHRISTMAS DAY (December 25)

10:00 AM – Lyle & Christie Timm

### GREETERS NEW YEAR'S EVE (December 31)

6:30 PM – Don & Marge Gebert

### GREETERS NEW YEAR'S DAY (January 1)

10:00 AM –

### GREETERS (January 8 & 9)

8:00 AM – Josh & Allison Ebeling; Henry

10:30 AM – Marilyn Krueger

6:30 PM – Donna LaBlanc



**USHERS FOR DECEMBER**

- 8:00 AM – TEAM #4 – Pete Kosovich, Craig Gebert, Matt Gebert, Gordy Lesser
- 10:30 AM – TEAM #8 – Nolan Romeis, Kyle Brightsman, Pete Eppen
- 6:30 PM – TEAM #9 – Dave Long

**USHERS FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL DECEMBER SERVICES:**

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM – TEAM #5-** Mark Klein, Chris Klein, Bob Dittrich, Gary Eickhorst, Todd Grunze, Dan Mertz, Brett Abramowski

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 10:00 PM – TEAM #8 –** Nolan Romeis, Klye Brightsman, Pete Eppen

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 10:00 AM TEAM #3 –** Donn Johnson, John Migacz, Brad Johnson, Frank Krajewski

**NEW YEAR’S EVE SERVICE 6:30 PM TEAM #1 –** Bob Hille, Larry Stujenske, Josh Ebeling, Philip Becker

**ALTAR GUILD**

- Dec 14-20 – TEAM #4 – Marge Gebert, Marilyn Krueger, Renate Nazimek
- Dec 21-27 – TEAM #1 – Sherry Kosovich, Beverly Garves, Connie Myer
- Dec 28-Jan 3 – TEAM #1 – Sherry Kosovich, Beverly Garves, Connie Myer

**REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE**

- Dec 18: Set-up – Tony Tripoli & Connie Myer, Clean-up – Tony Tripoli
- Jan. 8: Set-up – Don & Marge Gebert, Clean-up – Tony Tripoli

**THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, December 18**

- Worship Service with Communion ..... 8:00 AM
- Adult Bible Study/Sunday School..... 9:15 AM
- Worship Service ..... 10:30 AM
- Living Nativity..... 6:00-7:30 PM

**Monday, December 19**

Worship Service with Communion ..... 6:30 PM

**Tuesday, December 20**

Public School Confirmation Class..... 6:00 PM

**Wednesday, December 21**

Adult Choir Rehearsal ..... 6:30 PM

**Friday, December 23**

- School Devotion ..... 8:30 AM
- Half Day of School ..... 12:00 PM Dismissal

**Saturday, December 24**

- Children’s Christmas Service..... 4:00 PM
- Candlelight Service..... 10:00 PM

**Sunday, December 25**

- Christmas Day Worship Service ..... 10:00 AM
- NO Adult Bible Study/Sunday School

**Statistics – Last Week**

Total Advent Attendance – 171  
Attendance: 8:00 AM – 58, 10:30 AM – 92, 6:30 PM – 61  
Total Attendance – 211  
Sunday Bible Class – 24, Sunday School – 6  
Saturday Bible Class – 16