

**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.
- †* Our congregation stands at various times throughout the service. If your mobility is limited, please do not feel that you have to stand. You are welcome to remain seated!
- †* We love families! Your children are welcome in our service! Thanks for bringing them to hear about Jesus!
- †* 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!

**Worship Participants**

**Liturgist**..... Pastor Brian Adams  
**Preacher**..... Pastor Wayne Shevey  
**Pianist** ..... Mrs. Rachel Manske

# THE COMMON SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

*Christian Worship pg. 15*

## THE OPENING HYMN ..... "Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates"

*Christian Worship (21) #305*



1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be - hold, the King of  
2 The King is born in pov - er - ty, his char - iot is hu -  
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the rul - er  
4 Fling wide the gates; pre - pare your heart to be a tem - ple  
5 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here,



glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing near; the  
mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is ho - li - ness, his  
is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py homes to  
set a - part from earth - ly use for heav'n's em - ploy, a -  
Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with your sav - ing grace; show



Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion  
scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of all our  
whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less sun of  
dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov - 'reign  
me your kind and friend - ly face. Your Ho - ly Spir - it



he will bring; there - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To  
woe he brings; there - fore the earth is glad and sings. To  
joy is he who comes to set his peo - ple free. To  
en - ter in and new and no - bler life be - gin. To  
guide us on un - til our glo - rious goal is won. E -



God the Fa - ther raise your joy - ful songs of praise.  
Christ the Sav - ior raise your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
God the Spir - it raise your hap - py shouts of praise.  
God a - lone be praise for word and deed and grace!  
ter - nal praise and fame we of - fer to your name.

*Please Stand*

## THE INVOCATION

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



## THE CONFESSION OF SINS

**P:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.

## LORD, HAVE MERCY

*Kyrie*

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

**P:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



# PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## GLORY BE TO GOD

*Gloria in Excelsis*



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;



you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,  
are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** The Lord be with you.



**C:** And al - so with you.

**P:** Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C:** A - men.

*Please be Seated*

**THE FIRST LESSON .....Zephaniah 3:14-17**

*We can rejoice, because the Lord has saved us and delights in us.*

- <sup>14</sup> Sing, Daughter Zion;  
shout aloud, Israel!
- Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,  
Daughter Jerusalem!
- <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away your punishment,  
he has turned back your enemy.

The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;  
never again will you fear any harm.

<sup>16</sup> On that day  
they will say to Jerusalem,  
“Do not fear, Zion;  
do not let your hands hang limp.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is with you,  
the Mighty Warrior who saves.  
He will take great delight in you;  
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,  
but will rejoice over you with singing.”

**THE PSALM OF THE DAY.....Psalm 130**

*Christian Worship pg. 114*

*Refrain*



Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;



re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

*Psalm tone*



Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;\*  
O Lord, hear my voice.

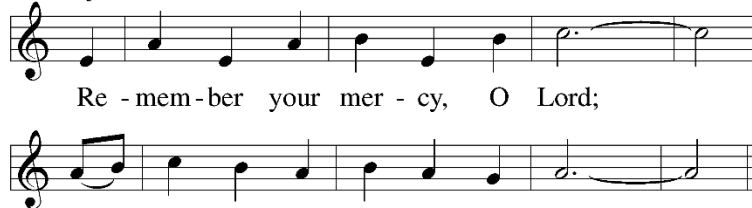
Let your ears be attentive\*  
to my cry for mercy.

*Psalm continues on next page*

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,\*  
O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness;\*  
therefore you are feared.

*Refrain*



Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;  
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

The musical notation consists of two staves in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for 'Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;' with a long note on 'O'. The second staff contains the melody for 're - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.' with a double bar line at the end.

*Psalm tone* \*



The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef, starting with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of several notes: a half note Bb, a quarter note G, a quarter note F, a quarter note E, a quarter note D, a quarter note C, a quarter note Bb, and a quarter note A.

I wait for the LORD and in his Word I put my hope.\*  
My soul waits for the Lord more than  
watchmen wait for the morning.

O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,\*  
for with the LORD is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.

**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.**

*Refrain*

**THE SECOND LESSON..... Philipians 4:4-7**

*What is the reason for our enduring joy? The Lord is near to us.*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

**P:** Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Please Stand*

**THE GOSPEL LESSON..... Luke 3:7-18**



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

*Those who rejoice in the good news of salvation joyfully produce fruits of repentance.*

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

<sup>11</sup>John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”



<sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

<sup>13</sup> “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

<sup>14</sup> Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” <sup>18</sup> And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

## THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Please be Seated*

THE HYMN OF THE DAY..... "Arise, O Christian People"  
*Christian Worship (21) #310*



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -  
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him, pre - pare for him the  
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on  
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; turn not from me a -



day; pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, who  
 best; cast out what would of - fend him, this  
 high; be - neath his feet in ter - ror the  
 side, and help me to re - ceive you this



takes your sins a - way. To us by grace a -  
 great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the  
 haugh - ty soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and  
 bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger



lone the truth and light were giv - en; the prom - ised  
 way: the low - ly val - leys rais - ing, the heights of  
 right, that heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion and makes true  
 low come now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing your

*Hymn continues on next page*



Lord from heav - en to all the world is shown.  
 pride a - bas - ing, his path all e - ven lay.  
 prep - a - ra - tion— it is the Lord's de - light.  
 prais - es glad - ly and forth your glo - ry show.

**THE SERMON ..... Luke 3:7-18**

“Your Christmas Invitation Can Have an Affect”

*Please Stand*



**C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -**



**new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -**



**way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it**



**from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -**



**tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.**

*Please be Seated*

## THE OFFERING

*(We invite you to sign our Friendship Registers in each pew during the offering.)*

## THE OFFERING PRAYER

*Please Stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## THE SACRAMENT

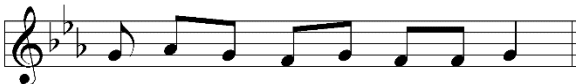
### PREFACE

**P:** The Lord be with you.



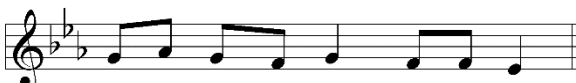
**C:** And al - so with you.

**P:** Lift up your hearts



**C:** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



**C:** It is good and right so to do.

**P:** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

### *Sanctus*



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

*Agnus Dei*

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 Pastor Adams.

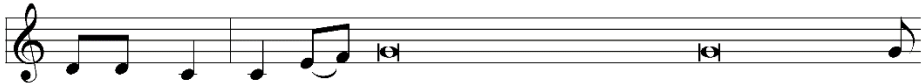
Please Stand

## SONG OF SIMEON

*Nunc Dimittis*



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-

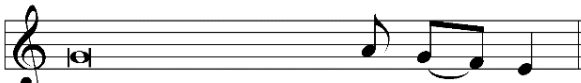


pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

## CLOSING PRAYER

**P:** 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.



## THE BLESSING

**P:** 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.



*Please be Seated*

## THE CLOSING HYMN..... "My Soul in Stillness Waits" *Christian Worship (21) #325*



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



- 1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,
- 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;
- 3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,
- 4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil-grim-age;

*Hymn continues on next page*





your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the  
our thirst-y hearts are yearn-ing for your Word; come, make us  
and in your ad - vent draw us all to you, our hope re -  
we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to



hearts of all in dark and shad-ow.  
whole, be com-fort to our hearts.  
born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.  
us the path-way of your peace.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU:** Thank you to Pastor Wayne Shevey for sharing God's word with us this weekend! Pastor Shevey serves as Campus Pastor at Wisconsin Lutheran College.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** This weekend's altar flowers are given by Pete & Sherry Kosovich in memory of Joyce Pasbrig, Enid Prochnow and Howard Pasbrig.

**SOUTHSIDE MINISTRIES DOOR COLLECTION:** We collected \$947.50 for Southside Ministries in last weekend's door collection! Thank you for your generous donations!

**MARY & MARTHA COOKIE SALE:** Our annual Mary & Martha Cookie Sale is taking place this weekend, December 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Cookies will be sold before and after services. Each box is \$10.00. The proceeds from this sale benefit the ongoing work of the Mary & Martha Society and their support of missions.

**2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** The adult 2025 offering envelopes are available for pick up on the tables in the west hallway of church. Children's envelopes have not yet arrived.

**HEATHER SCHMIDT HEALTH NEWS:** Dear Members of St. Paul's, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord..." (Jeremiah 29:11) Sometimes God has plans for us that we do not understand, but we trust that, in His wisdom, it will work out for our good. In November, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. The good news is that it was caught early and is very treatable. The bad news is that it will affect my ability to play organ for church and be in the classroom at times moving forward. I will be having surgery on December 23 with radiation to follow once I have recovered from surgery. I have worked with the faculty and church leadership to come up with a plan for covering my absence. Hopefully, I will only need to miss a week or 2 from teaching and a few weeks from playing. At this point, I just ask for your prayers and patience! I have peace knowing that our Savior has overcome this world and is in control! "I lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1-2) If you would like to reach out, you can email me at [hschmidt@stpaulsfranklin.org](mailto:hschmidt@stpaulsfranklin.org) or text 262-391-1056. In Christ, Heather Schmidt

**3K & 4K CHRISTMAS SERVICE:** Our 3K & 4K classes invite everyone to their Christmas service this Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM in church.

**ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON FOR PASTOR ADAMS:** We will be celebrating Pastor Adams' 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at St. Paul's with a luncheon following the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like to attend, please sign up on the sheet on the narthex counter or online [here](#). To help with planning, please sign up by January 5<sup>th</sup>. We are also asking everyone attending the meal to bring a non-perishable food item that will be used to help re-stock the St. Peter's Food Pantry for the winter months.

**CLASSROOM WISH LISTS:** In past years we've had a Christmas tree in our school lobby full of "wishes" for our classrooms, but now our tree is digital! If you would like to grant a classroom wish, please scan the QR Code on the poster in the narthex, find it [here](#), or you can donate using the blank envelopes on the narthex counter and we will do the shopping! Thank you for your support of our school!

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS:** Everyone is invited to join our Adult Bible Class lead by retired Pastor Andy Backus on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. This week we will be taking a look at Joseph. **Please note that after this week we will take a break from classes until the new year!**

**NO PUBLIC SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CLASS:** We will be putting our Public School Confirmation Class on hold while Pastor Adams is recovering from surgery. Watch for a new start up date soon!

**HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:** During the upcoming holiday season there are many opportunities for worship! Please join us!

3K & 4K Christmas Service – Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM

Worship Services – Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

\*No Monday evening Worship on December 23<sup>rd</sup>

Children’s Christmas Service (K5-Grade 8) – Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 PM

Christmas Day Service – Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

Worship Service – Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at **9:00 AM** (one service only)

\*No evening New Year’s Eve Worship

**LUTHER PREP CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Join LPS on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm or Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am for their Christmas Concert in the gym. 1300 Western Ave, Watertown. Or watch on livestream at [lps.wels.net/apps/pages/lpsconcertsstream](https://lps.wels.net/apps/pages/lpsconcertsstream)

#### **USHERS FOR DECEMBER**

**8:00 AM** – TEAM #4 – Pete Kosovich, Craig Gebert, Gordy Lesser, Adrian Boldt

**10:30 AM** – TEAM #8 – Walter Falkowski, Jacob Marciniak, Fred Socha, Scott Seymer

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

#### **ALTAR GUILD**

December 11-17 – TEAM #1 – Beverly Garves, Sherry Kosovich, Vanessa McKee

December 18-24 – TEAM #1 – Beverly Garves, Sherry Kosovich, Vanessa McKee

#### **REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE**

December 15: Set-up – Jerry & Alyce Lehtinen, Clean-up – Carl & Carolyn Streeter

December 22: Set-up – John & Jean Terek, Clean-up – Andy & Chris Backus

## THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### Sunday, December 15

*Mary & Martha Cookie Sale Before & After Services*

Worship Service with Communion.....8:00 AM

Adult Bible Study .....9:15 AM

Worship Service with Communion.....10:30 AM

### Monday, December 16

*Mary & Martha Cookie Sale Before & After Service*

Lutheran Girl Pioneers.....6:00 PM

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

### Tuesday, December 17

Women's Bible Study .....9:00 AM

### Friday, December 20

3K & 4K Christmas Service.....11:00 AM

Half Day of School .....12:00 PM Dismissal

### Sunday, December 22

Worship Service.....8:00 AM

Worship Service.....10:30 AM

K-8 Children's Christmas Service .....4:30 PM

### Statistics – Last Week

Attendance:

8:00 AM – 68

10:30 AM – 70

6:30 PM – 33

Total Attendance – 171

Midweek Advent: 3:30 PM – 129, 6:30 PM – 33