

# **Sunday School Christmas Program**

**December 8, 2024**



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS

*Welcoming all to walk together  
toward abundant life in Christ.*

## 2024 THEME: JOY COMES IN THE MORNING

*For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.  
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. Psalm 30:5 (ESV)*

### THE PREPARATION

*We prepare our hearts and minds by confessing our sins and humbly turning to our God who alone is able to forgive our sins. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."  
(II Corinthians 5:17)*

**A NOTE ABOUT SAFETY:** We desire to remain a warm and friendly congregation while providing a safe and secure place to worship. To that end, we have a few tips for your participation with us today.

- If you see something, say something. If you happen to notice something out of the ordinary, please mention it to our safety team (yellow badges) or elder (golden badges).
- In the event of any safety emergency, please call 911. More phone calls received by law enforcement will help ensure a prompt and accurate response.

**A REMINDER:** Please turn your cell phone to mute or to vibrate during the worship service. Thank you.

### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, WELCOME & TOLLING OF THE BELLS

*The sign of the cross T may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. *LSB 184*

C **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b [18:20]*

*(Congregation may remain seated while the children process into the sanctuary)*

**CONGREGATION HYMN** Oh Come, Little Children *(Everyone sing)*

**O come, little children, O come, one and all.  
To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small.  
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night.  
To be your redeemer, your joy and delight.**

**He's born in a stable for you and for me,  
Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,  
In swaddling clothes lying so meek and so mild,  
And purer than angels the heavenly child.**



## OPENING PRAYER

**Student:** Dear Lord Jesus, be with us today  
As we tell the Christmas story.  
In all we do, in all we say,  
Help us to give God glory. Amen

**S:** Christmas is Jesus' birthday. On this day Christian people, young and old, come together in God's house to worship their Savior. In Luke 2 the Bible tells us of the first Christmas service. The church was the field near Bethlehem. The congregation was made up of shepherds, dressed not in their Sunday best, but in simple shepherd clothes. The preacher was the angel sent from God. The message was the greatest ever given: "A Savior is born to you!" The music was sung by the heavenly choir of angels.

**S:** Christmas is Jesus' birthday!

**S:** Yes! Christmas is Jesus' birthday! We see signs of Christmas all around us. We see the lighted candles. Christmas lights on the houses inside and out. The lights of the Christmas tree shine in the eyes of little children. We hear beautiful Christmas songs and hear church bells ring.

**S:** It is Christmas, the birthday of the King! Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them, for the kingdom of God belongs to them and is made up of such as these." Let the little children come. Tell them of Jesus. Tell them why the bells of Christmas ring, why the children sing, and why love fills the heart. Tell the world of Jesus, the Savior of all!

### The Christmas Tree

**S:** Martin Luther was one of the first to spread the use of a tree as a Christmas decoration. One Christmas Eve he was taking a quiet walk. Suddenly he saw a green tree shining in the silvery moonlight. He could not forget the beautiful picture. When he returned home, he brought in an evergreen tree and decorated it with shining candles.

**S:** We think of the Christmas tree as being like Jesus, the Tree of Life. Its lights point to Jesus, the Light of the world. And we remember that the first Christmas gift ever given was later hung on a tree. For this is what happened when Jesus died on the cross.

## Christmas Bells



Glad Christmas bells, your music tells  
The sweet and pleasant story,  
How came to earth, in lowly birth,  
The Lord of Life and Glory.

We love the bells at Christmas.  
Brightly colored bells on the Christmas tree and on packages!  
But best of all we like the church bells,  
calling us to come see the newborn King.

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Ring, ring, hear the bells,  
Christmas bells are they;  
Hear them call the little children  
On this happy day.

Ring, ring, hear the bells  
Christ is born, they say;  
Hear them call the little children  
On this happy day.

## Christmas Carols

- S:** At Christmas time we hear and sing many carols. Carols are songs or hymns. Christmas carols help us show a true and deep Christmas Spirit.
- S:** The oldest Christmas carol is “Glory to God in the Highest.” The angels sang this song to the shepherds when Jesus was born.
- S:** “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to men!”



**CONGREGATION HYMN**      Angels We Have Heard on High      (*Everyone sing*)

**Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.**

*Refrain*

**REFRAIN**      **Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?**

*Refrain*

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

*Refrain*

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; French  
Text: Public domain

### **Christmas Angels**

- S:**    The Bible tells us of angel messengers who came from heaven to earth. They came both before and after Jesus' birth.
- S:**    The angel Gabriel came to Zacharias, the priest. He told Zacharias that his wife Elisabeth would be the mother of John the Baptist. John would tell many people about Jesus.
- S:**    This same angel later came to Mary, who was to be the mother of Jesus. An angel also came to Joseph, who would be Mary's husband.

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-30, 35 (ESV)

**S:** *“The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”*

*But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*

*The angel said, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the son of God.”*



**S:** What joy these heavenly messengers brought! Think of the shepherds on that holy night when an angel of the Lord came down to them. What sweet words the angel told the shepherds!

**S:** “Don’t be afraid! I have some happy news to tell you. For this very day a Baby is born in Bethlehem.”

**S:** This Baby is Jesus, the Savior.

**S:** And suddenly there were with the angel many more angels, all singing praises to God.

## Christmas Candles

**S:** A light has become the sign of a Christian’s joy at Christmas. The shepherds in Bethlehem’s fields saw the angel, and the glory of the Lord shone around them—a great, bright light reflecting the brightness and holiness of God Himself. Candles burn on the birthday of Jesus in honor and memory of Him whom the Bible calls the Light of the world.

Like a Christmas candle  
with its happy glow,  
we will shine for Jesus,  
For we love Him so!

Christmas candles in a row  
Make us think of Christ, you know.  
A light unto world below,  
He washes sins as white as snow.



## SCRIPTURE READING

**Luke 2:1, 3-7, 8-13; 14-17 (ESV)**

**S:** *In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

*And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying.*

*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.”*

*When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.*

### **The Manger**

- S:** The manger scene is a lovely sign of Christmas. In our homes and churches, in decorations everywhere, on our Christmas cards, we like to see the stable, the manger with the Baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the cattle, the sheep, and the shepherds kneeling in worship. This sign can help us make our Christmas much more meaningful.
- S:** We can do like the shepherds. We can look at the manger – it is like God told us.
- S:** The Christian family celebrates Christmas together, not only in church, but also at home. We can get together beside the Christmas tree and its gifts and there also worship the Savior in the manger.

**CHILDREN’S SONG**

Away In A Manger

(Children Sing)

**Telling The Good News**

**S:** When the shepherds had seen the Baby, they told everyone about Him. This was the wonderful result of their visit to the manger. The shepherds had hurried to see the Baby Jesus for themselves. Now they knew that the Savior of the world had come, and they told others the good news.

**S:** Our love for Jesus makes us want to serve Him and tell others about Him.

**CONGREGATION HYMN**

Go Tell It On The Mountain

(Everyone Sing)

**REFRAIN** *Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev’rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!*

**While shepherds kept their watching  
O’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.**

**The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior’s birth.**

**Down in a lonely manger  
The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.**

*Refrain*

*Refrain*

*Refrain*



Text (sts. 1–3): John W. Work II, 1873–1925, alt.; (ref): African American spiritual  
Text: Public domain

**Christmas Stars**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)**

**S:** *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him, and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “in Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:*





*And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
Are by no means least among the rulers of Judah:  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”*

*Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.*

- S:** When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Wise Men from the East followed a star and came to King Herod in Jerusalem, saying: “Where is this newborn King of the Jews? We have seen His star in the East, and we want to worship Him.” Later the star that the Wise Men had followed appeared again. When they saw the star, they were very happy. It went before them and led them to the place where Jesus was living with Mary and Joseph.
- S:** A bright star at the very top of a tall, shining Christmas tree is like the star that the Wise Men followed. It reminds us that we, too, may follow the star to find our newborn King.
- S:** We, too, can worship Jesus and give Him gifts of our love and thanks.

**CONGREGATION HYMN**

We Three Kings

*(Everyone Sing)*

We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.



## Christmas Gifts

### SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:16 (ESV)

- S:** *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”*
- S:** God so loved that He gave His Son – that was the first Christmas gift! What love God showed when He gave us Jesus, who was later to die for the sins of the world!
- S:** The gifts we give and the gifts we get at Christmas remind us of Jesus, the greatest Gift of all. Our reason for giving gifts is the same as God’s reason for giving His Son. The reason is love. The Wise Men brought precious gifts to the Baby Jesus. We, too, want to bring our gifts to Him.

Jesus came, a little child;  
In His mother’s arms He smiled.  
Men, led by Bethlehem’s star,  
Brought Him gifts from lands afar.  
Christ, who came from Heaven above,  
Asks of us the gift of love.

God bless each child in all the world today  
Because of Him whose birth we celebrate,  
The child who, smiling, in a manger lay  
Seeming so small and weak, yet wonderous great.

God bless each household, father, mother, child.  
In every land let Christmas carols ring,  
Let church bells peal, and truth be undefiled,  
For Christ is born and evermore is King.

Thank You, God, for all Your love,  
For sending Jesus from above.  
Help that everyone may hear  
The story of that Baby dear. Amen.



### CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Joy to the World

(LSB 387 v. 1)

*(Sung by congregation as children depart the chancel)*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n and heav’n and nature sing.**

APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 192

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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 T everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING



*For those worshipping online, please visit [www.lccross.org](http://www.lccross.org) to find links to our Give+ secured online giving portal and our online Pew Card which is called a Connect Card. Or to fill out the card directly go to <https://forms.gle/X46ym1HuZ9DCsq9s6>*



*For those worshipping in-person, please indicate your attendance and any requests on the Pew Card.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC (10:30AM)**

**Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

**Vocal Choir**

**OFFERING HYMN (7:30AM)**

**Now Sing We, Now Rejoice**

**LSB 386**

**1. Now sing we, now rejoice,  
Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
He from whom joy streameth  
Poor in a manger lies;  
Not so brightly beameth  
The sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art!  
Thou my Savior art!**

**2. Come from on high to me;  
I cannot rise to Thee.  
Cheer my wearied spirit,  
O pure and holy Child;  
Through Thy grace and merit,  
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
Draw me unto Thee!  
Draw me unto Thee!**

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.  
Text: Public domain

3. Now through His Son doth shine  
The Father's grace divine.  
Death was reigning o'er us  
Through sin and vanity  
Till He opened for us  
A bright eternity.  
May we praise Him there!  
May we praise Him there!

4. Oh, where shall joy be found?  
Where but on heav'nly ground?  
Where the angels singing  
With all His saints unite,  
Sweetest praises bringing  
In heav'nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there!  
Oh, that we were there!

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P As we wait in love for the coming of our Lord, let us together, as His advent people, bring our prayers before Him.

Father in heaven, You prepare a heavenly home for all who trust in You and come into Your presence through faith in Your Son. By His coming into this world to save us from the devastation of our sins, dying and rising again to make us eternally Yours, we have been reconciled to You. We praise You, Father, for this amazing gift of love and ask that Your Holy Spirit keep Your steadfast love secure in our hearts throughout our days of waiting. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

C **To You alone our prayers we bring!**

P Knowing that You have come once into this world, Lord Jesus, we are confident that You will come again. On that glorious Day when we are all gathered before You, when every knee will bow to You and every tongue confess Your holy name, we will receive the restoration of all things in heaven and on earth that Your Word has promised. Until Your final coming, O Lord, keep us secure in our salvation. Remind us that our waiting is because of Your patience, and that You call us to use this time we have been given to share Your precious Gospel with the world You died and rose again to save. Stir up the hearts of all who hear Your Word this day, that many will come to saving faith and experience the comfort of Your presence in their lives. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

C **To You alone our prayers we bring!**

P As wanderers in this land, O Lord, we experience various types of brokenness and pain, suffering and grief. We lift before You in prayer those we love, who are also loved by You. For those longing for food and shelter, grant Your mercy. For those needing protection and peace, grant Your Spirit. We pray for those in our families and connected to our family of faith who have special concerns of body and spirit, [*especially . . . Chuck Anderson, the family of Ann Curley-LaFave*].

Grant that the cries of the needy come before Your throne of grace. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

C **To You alone our prayers we bring!**

P Comforting Spirit, fill our land, our homes, our workplaces, our schools, and all our interactions with others with Your blessings. Allow this season of waiting and preparation to refocus our hearts and minds upon Your mission for our congregation and for us as individual members of this household of faith. Stir up our hearts to make known to all the wonders You have done, so that more souls may be brought to saving faith and many would join with us in saying, “Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!”

C **To You alone our prayers we bring!**

P Confident in our coming King and Savior, we entrust our prayers into the good and gracious hands of our sovereign God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who lives and reigns, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

### **LORD’S PRAYER**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**

### **BENEDICTION**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

**PARTING HYMN**

**Hark the Glad Sound**

*LSB 349*



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Tune and text: Public domain

**SILENT PRAYER, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & POSTLUDE**

**Acknowledgments**

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**RECEPTION FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE FMC**



The Congregation is invited to the FMC for a light reception for our Sunday School Students and their families immediately following today's service. Come over to the FMC and let them know how much you enjoyed their program.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. R. Brian Stolarczyk ~ Winter Assistant Pastor: Rev. Jerry Menk  
Guest Organist: Sarah Stolarczyk ~ Flute Soloist: Raymond Stolarczyk

Handbell Co-Directors: Bill & Ronna Trueman  
Clarinet: Bill Trueman ~ Drums: Chris Wrightsman  
Saxophone: Cheryl Domingo ~ Trombone: Arnie Piering

December 8, 2024

*Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ*

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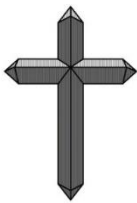
The **ETERNAL LIGHT** this month is provided to the Glory of God by David Aiken in remembrance of Robert & Corinda Aiken and Charles & Marilyn Gordon.

The **FLOWERS** on the altar this week are provided to the Glory of God by Bill & Diana Chesen in memory of Elinor Chesen.

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### **WORSHIP SERVANTS**

Bell Tollers	Marita Noe, Luke Stolarczyk
Elders on Duty	David Aiken, Mark Keck
Greeters/Ushers	Kay Helgerson
Altar Servers	LCC Altar Guild Members
Safety Team	David Aiken, Mark Keck
Streaming Team	Gloria Cvelbar, Kay Helgerson, Alex Scherer



### **OFFICE HOURS:**

By Phone: Monday – Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm  
(941) 627-6060 ~ Fax: (941) 627-5467

By email: [secretary@lccross.org](mailto:secretary@lccross.org)

Find us on the Web: [www.lccross.org](http://www.lccross.org)

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel or Like us on Facebook.

**IF YOU HAVE** any comments, questions or suggestions, please contact:

Parish Administrator	Jennifer Strefling:	941-627-6060
Head Elder	Jim McCabe:	847-471-1421

In case of Emergency you may reach	<u>Pastor Stolarczyk:</u>	<u>Cell: 941-979-7490</u>
	<u>Pastor Menk:</u>	<u>Cell: 941-327-9453</u>

## IN OUR PRAYERS

### **Homebound Care:**

John & Lois Arens, Laura Cox, Millie Cox, Dave & Gayle DeBraccio, Marv & Lil Fitzwater, Aida Florit, Bruce & Connie Frilstad, Janet Jackson, Cris & Linda Kelly, Dale Kuhn, Dale Sawicki, Millie Tyczka, Ken & Mary Werring

### **Strength, Healing, Guidance: \***

Chuck Anderson	Recovery & healing
Fran Boatwright	Recovery
Jim DeGroot	Continued recovery
Clare Jeffery	Sister-in-law Jean Wrightsman; strength & comfort
Val Korman	Hospice Care
Chris Sabin	Healing & recovery
Dale Sawicki	Peace & comfort
Carol Scheff	Recovery & healing
Steve Taylor	Friend of LCC; strength & healing

*\*Prayers will run for four consecutive weeks unless otherwise notified.*

### **Battling Cancer:**

Adriana	Family Noel & Linda Hyde; diagnosed lymphoma
Ivana	Friend of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; battling cancer
Karen	Daughter Ann LaFave; battling cancer
Mike	Son of Phil Woodruff; battling cancer
Rick Bausch	Son Barbara Durst; battling cancer
Cate Bocassi	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Diana Chesen	Battling cancer
Dave DeBraccio	Battling with Leukemia, healing & strength
Lisa Anne Denofrio	Daughter Tom & Krystyna Johnson; palliative care
Bill Docherty	Brother-in-law Joy Hougan; battling cancer, surgery
Matt Doctor	Brother-in-law of Diane Barton; strength & peace
Mack Gonzales	Battling cancer
Robert Jeffery	Brother of Jean Wrightsman; battling leukemia
Steve Kirkland	Brother of Bruce Kirkland; battling cancer
Todd Kliez	Battling cancer
Rev. Peter Kolb	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Audrey Kowalski	Friend of Dorothy Christman; terminal cancer
Patricia Ruiz	Family of Fadely/Maestas family; battling cancer
Kathy Sanders	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Lisa Sayers	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Barb Sullivan	Friend of LCC; diagnosed with cancer
Carmen Torres	Sister-in-law of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; cancer
Lori Truelove	Niece Joyce Schankin; cancer battle; strength, peace



Connie Warner

Friend of Mary Woodruff; diagnosed lymphoma

**Military:**

US Army SSG. Paul Behling

USAF TSGT David Cope Jr.

US Army CSM Matt Hopkins

USAF Sr. Airman

Shawn Golembieski

US Navy ENS Joe Golembieski

US Navy Seaman Nick Golembieski

USCG SCPO Robert Kecken

USAF A1C Riley Latarski

Marines LCPL Jonathan Metz

Marines LCPL Kyle Spilker

USAF TSGT Kalin McDonnell

US Army PFC Parker Woodruff

Bragg

Son of Ron & Cohleen Nottingham; stationed FL

Son of David and Shelly Cope stationed in NM

Grandson of Dave & Gayle DeBraccio; in Kuwait

Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in FL

Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in VA

Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; Seabound

Son Jerry & Meredith Kecken; stationed in CA

Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman in ND

Grandson of Jerry & Joyce Metz; in MD

Grandson in law Chuck Anderson; in CA

Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman; in MA

Grandson of Larry & Delila Woodruff; in Fort

We commend to our gracious God the body and soul of  
Ann Curley-LaFave, beloved member of LCC.

**Family Prayer:** We remember all our **families** during times of personal and family **trial and tribulation.**

If you know of someone needing church prayers, please contact the church office at 941-627-6060. Be sure to have the name, relationship to the church family and what is the need for the prayer.

**LCC ATTENDANCE REPORT & WEEKLY INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT 2024**

<b>Week Of: 12/01/2024</b>			
<b>On-Site Attendance</b> 37 / 112	<b>Weekly Contributions</b>		
	Income:	\$ 8,296**	
	Expense:	\$ 13,846	

*\*\*Includes Thanksgiving 11/28/24 Offering*

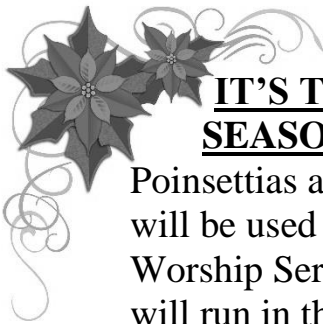
Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday our December Newsletter is slightly delayed. Be sure to check out the next copy to see more information on:

† 2025 Directory Pictures

† Our January New Member Welcome & Fellowship Pot Luck

† 2025 Giving Envelopes Distribution – *If you do not yet have giving envelopes but would like some, please contact the church office before December 23<sup>rd</sup>!*





**IT'S TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON!**

Poinsettias are available for purchase and the cost will be \$12.00. This purchase will be used to place a Poinsettia Plant on the Altar during our Christmas Season Worship Services. You may also designate a memorial for this poinsettia which will run in the Christmas worship folder as well as the January newsletter. The final day to turn in your request for purchase will be **Sunday, December 15th** and they go rather quickly. **Please note there is one card per available poinsettia.** **Please take a card for each one you wish to purchase.** Once the cards are gone, there will be no more available for purchase.

Christmas is a special time to spend with family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Savior! *And if you are blessed to have family to celebrate with this holiday, this is great!* But if **you OR you and your spouse will be alone,** please join us Christmas Day (12/25) in the FMC for an Intimate Christmas meal!



Ham, potatoes, buns, and beverages will be provided! Please sign up in the narthex with your name, the # of people, and choose a dish to share.

Join us as we celebrate Jesus' birth with food, fun, and fellowship!

Contact Jennifer in the office or Mary Menk (847-682-2995) with any questions.

**Please sign up by Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>!**

A Short Christmas Blessing:

May the blessing of joy  
abide within you;

May the blessing of peace  
rest upon you;

May the blessing of love  
flow out through you;

May all the blessings of the Lord  
be yours at Christmas  
and in the new year.

~ Author Unknown

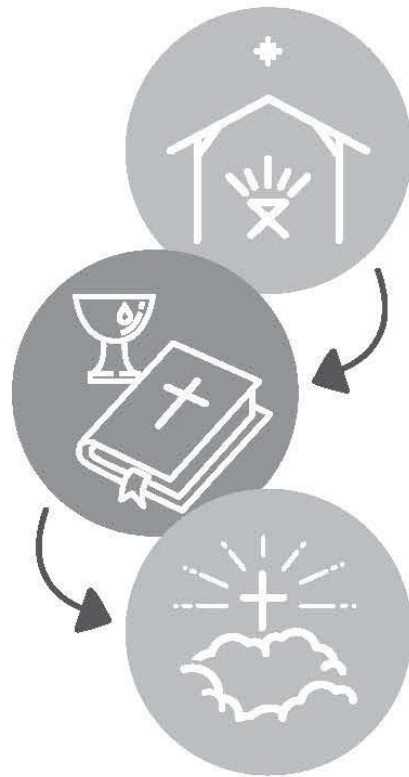


A huge Thank You to all our Youth, the parents of our youth, our Sunday School staff and our Co-Chairs of the Christian Education Board for putting together this wonderful Youth Christmas Program today!

# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

## The Advent of Christ

As you may remember, the word Advent means "coming." During the season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. But that is not the only coming of Jesus that we hear about in the Advent story.



## What is the rest of the Advent story?

The Advent of Christ has three parts. God's Word tells us that Jesus not only came to earth as a man at Christmas, but that He comes to be with His church through His Word and Sacraments. Finally, God's Word reminds us that He will return in judgement on the Last Day. If you think about it, there sure are a lot of great things to remember and look forward to during the season of Advent!



### Parents:

When Holy Communion is offered, allow your children to attend the altar with you. Remind them that Jesus is truly present here in the Sacrament, and that we will see Him face to face on the Last Day!



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### UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

<u>Mon. Dec 9</u>	LCC Christmas Decorations @ 10:00am – Sanctuary
<u>Tues. Dec 10</u>	Board of Christian Education Meeting @ 3:30pm – FMC
<u>Wed. Dec 11</u>	Mid-Week Advent Services @ 10:30am & 7:00pm – Sanctuary Board of Elders Meeting @ 3:30pm – Old Fellowship Hall
<u>Thurs. Dec 12</u>	Shepherding Leaders Meeting @ 9:00am – FMC
<u>Sat. Dec 14</u>	Stephen Minister Supervision @ 9:00am – Old Fellowship Hall
<u>Tues. Dec 17</u>	Church Council Meeting <b>**CANCELLED**</b> <i>will meet in January</i>
<u>Mon. Dec 23</u>	Altar Guild Communion Set Up @ 9:00am – Sacristy/Sanctuary
<u>Tues. Dec 24</u>	Christmas Eve Worship Services @ 3:00pm, 5:00pm & 7:00pm
<u>Wed. Dec 25</u>	Christmas Day Worship w/ Holy Communion @ 10:30am

*Please note the church office will closed  
Dec 24 & 25 in observance of the Christmas Holidays.*

### WEEKLY RE-OCCURRING CAMPUS EVENTS:

- † **AA Meetings:** Meets weekly in the FMC @ 7:00pm  
Monday (Women Only)  
Tuesday & Wednesday (Open to all)
- † **Christian Education & Fellowship:** Every Sunday in the FMC @ 9:00am
- † **LifeLight Bible Class:** Life of David meets Thursday in the FMC @ 10:00am
- † **Handbell Choir Rehearsal:** Meets every Thursday in the Sanctuary @ 4:30pm
- † **LCC Garden Committee:** Meets every Wednesday in the Prayer Park @ 9:30am
- † **Raise Right Fundraising Team:** Meets every Sunday in the FMC  
Operates at 9:00am & after the 10:30am services
- † **SON-Seekers Bible Study:** Meets every Monday in the FMC @ 11:30am
- † **Vocal Choir Rehearsal:** Meets every Thursday in the Sanctuary @ 5:45pm
- † **Youth Confirmation Class:** Meets Tuesdays in Pastor's Study @ 6:30pm