



## ADVENT—CHRISTMAS—EPIPHANY

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*

—Galatians 4:4-5

The seasons of the year flow from one right into the next. The new life of spring blossoms beautifully into the long days of summer, but that fresh life begins to fade away into the beauty of fall and finally into the dead of winter, only to start back up when spring returns yet again. The Church Year operates very much in the same way. The seasons flow from one right into the next, and we will see that now in the months of December and January with Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

**ADVENT.** The word advent literally means “to come,” which is what our God has done in his Son Jesus Christ. God came down from heaven to be with mankind not only back then but even now in his Word and Sacraments, and not only now but also forever when he returns. Jesus was here, he’s still here, and he will be here. He advented, adverts, and will advent again. And so, this isn’t simply the pre-Christmas season, but it’s more like the pre-Last Day season. Like Lent, it’s a season of repentance and fasting, as we prepare ourselves for our Lord’s final advent at the resurrection.

**CHRISTMAS.** As we look forward to his final return, we do recognize his first appearance in the flesh. But Christmas isn’t simply a celebration of Jesus’ birthday, but most especially, we celebrate his incarnation, that is the great mystery that the Infinite became finite, the Creator became a creature, God became a man. Such a celebration takes us from the manger to the altar, where his flesh and blood is still offered for us to eat and to drink. Christmas is the Mass of Christ, which means it’s celebrated first and foremost not at home with gifts under a tree but in the church with the Gift that came from his tree, wrapped up in bread and wine for us to receive by his grace.

**EPIPHANY.** The word epiphany means a “manifestation” or “revelation.” When Christ was born, God revealed himself to the world in the flesh and blood of his Son. Thus, St. Paul says that “in Christ all the fullness of the deity dwells bodily” (Colossians 2:9). Jesus manifested his glory in the waters of the Jordan when he was baptized, through his many miracles, and at his Transfiguration on the mount. These manifestations ultimately lead us to the fullness of such glory revealed in his death on a cross, showing God’s love to the whole world.

Advent anticipates the final return of the God who came to us then and even now. Christmas celebrates how he came to us, still comes, and will come—in the flesh. Epiphany reveals to us the reason he came and will come again—for our salvation. During these seasons of the Church Year, one thing is crystal clear: Our God comes.

In Christ,

Pastor Haller

# WHY?

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LITURGY

### Why do we cross ourselves?



Making the sign of the cross is something Christians have most likely done since the time of the apostles. It is in no way an exclusively “Catholic thing,” but, in fact, Martin Luther himself instructs us to do this in his Small Catechism: “In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Making such a sign is a reminder that you are baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, marked with his blessed cross, branded with his holy name, and forever claimed as a child of God. St. Paul says to “put on the breastplate of righteousness,” which is none other than the cross of Christ, wherein his righteousness was given to sinners. To make the sign of the cross is to confess: “I belong to Jesus.”

There are certain times you can make the sign of the cross during the Divine Service. An easy way to remember when is simply to do it whenever the pastor makes the cross over you and the congregation or whenever the hymnal instructs you to do so with this symbol ✠.

Here are some other times in the Divine Service when you can make the sign of the cross:

- **Invocation.** At the beginning of the Divine Service, the name of the Holy Trinity is invoked, as we, the baptized, begin in the same way it all began for us at the baptismal font. We make the sign of the cross to remember that very fact: I am baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- **“...and the life of the world to come.”** Every time a Christian speaks one of the Church’s three creeds, it is a confession of Holy Baptism. The Triune God into whom we were baptized is the same one we confess in the Creed. Therefore, it is appropriate to make the sign of the cross at the last line of the Creed as a reminder that this confession is not our own but one given to us as the baptized, and as the baptized, we have the promise of the life of the world to come.
- **“Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!”** During the Sanctus, we sing the same words the people cried out as our Lord Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We welcome him into our church, as he rides in on bread and wine in the Holy Communion. He comes in the name of the Lord, the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That same name has been made ours in Baptism. Like the Invocation, we make the sign of the holy cross to remember just that.
- **“But deliver us from evil.”** The sign of the cross may also be made for the final petition of the Lord’s Prayer, a prayer for the baptized. This petition of deliverance from the devil was finished in the death of Christ. We remind ourselves with the making of the holy cross that the devil can’t touch us. He’s judged; the deed is done.
- **Holy Communion.** It is also appropriate to make the sign of the cross as you receive the Lord’s Supper. That which you eat and drink is the same body given and the same blood shed from our Lord’s cross for your salvation. You partake of this meal because you are baptized into Christ and are now fed by him.



*In anticipation of our congregation's 75th anniversary in November 2024, we will have a hymn chosen for the month that will be used during the Divine Service. The hymns of the church give God's people the words to sing his praises and to confess what he has done for them in the saving death and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ.*

## ***O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*    LSB 334**

We Christians patiently wait for our Lord to make his final advent, to come again in glory on the Last Day. Since we're not told when that day will be, we must always be ready. This Advent hymn written by Paul Gerhardt puts into words the prayer we pray as we long to greet Jesus when he does return. Here on earth and because of our sin, we "lay in fetters, groaning" and "shame bemoaning," yet Jesus sets us free and honors us. He gives us a glorious crown, "a treasure safe on high that will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly."

While we Christians patiently wait, the hope we have is that the Lord has already come once and he is still with us now. He's not far from us, but he remains the Incarnate God who loves us and, by that love, came down and embraced our fallen race. Therefore, our hope of his return is certain, just as certain as his love, which cannot be erased. He has secured for us, his children, eternal life in heaven.

Therefore, he makes our wait quite easy. Despite not knowing his ETA, despite the devils around every corner, despite the world's lies and our heavy eyes, he gives us hope to fight the good fight, to finish the race, and to wait. He gives us the faith to pray: "O glorious Sun, now come, send forth Your beams so cheering, and guide us safely home."

<p>1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright? Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight! O kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast To do in spirit lowly All that may please You best.</p>	<p>3 I lay in fetters, groaning; You came to set me free. I stood, my shame bemoaning; You came to honor me. A glorious crown You give me, A treasure safe on high That will not fail or leave me As earthly riches fly.</p>	<p>5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Cannot His love erase; Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by His grace. He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n, His children thus securing Eternal life in heav'n.</p>
<p>2 Your Zion strews before You Green boughs and fairest palms; And I too will adore You With joyous songs and psalms. My heart shall bloom forever For You with praises new And from Your name shall never Withhold the honor due.</p>	<p>4 Love caused Your incarnation; Love brought You down to me. Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty. Oh, love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race.</p>	<p>6 He comes to judge the nations, A terror to His foes, A light of consolations And blessed hope to those Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come, Send forth Your beams so cheering, And guide us safely home.</p>



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## ***The Gifts Christ Freely Gives*    LSB 602**

In the twenty-third psalm, King David writes that our “cup runneth over,” which is to say that God doesn’t just fill us up half-way or only to the top of the brim, but his grace overflows, it never ends. Jesus doesn't just give us a one-time gift, but he bestows on us “grace upon grace” (John 1:16) that we might “be His Church, His bride, His chosen, saved and free.” We are sinners by nature but saints by grace, “who proclaim that they were won by Christ and cling to his strong name.”

These gifts of God flow from the font of Holy Baptism, “where He calls us His own,” and the gifts keep coming in the grace and peace of Holy Absolution, in the “restoring and refreshing” Holy Word which we listen, hear, and receive, and in the feast of the Holy Supper, the “food from Calvary.” Richard Resch so beautifully teaches us in this hymn that the Word and the Sacraments are the means of grace, the ways in which God gives us the gift of salvation won for us on the holy altar of his cross.

God gives. He never holds back, and we never receive too much of his love. There is no limit to his mercy and no end to our need of it.

<p>1 The gifts Christ freely gives He gives to you and me To be His Church, His bride, His chosen, saved and free! Saints blest with these rich gifts Are children who proclaim That they were won by Christ And cling to His strong name.</p>	<p>3 The gifts of grace and peace From absolution flow; The pastor's words are Christ's For us to trust and know. Forgiveness that we need Is granted to us there; The Lord of mercy sends Us forth in His blest care.</p>	<p>5 The gifts are in the feast, Gifts far more than we see; Beneath the bread and wine Is food from Calvary. The body and the blood Remove our ev'ry sin; We leave His presence in His peace, renewed again.</p>
<p>2 The gifts flow from the font Where He calls us His own; New life He gives that makes Us His and His alone. Here He forgives our sins With water and His Word; The triune God Himself Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.</p>	<p>4 The gifts are there each day The holy Word is read; God's children listen, hear, Receive, and they are fed. Christ fills them with Himself, Blest words that give them life, Restoring and refreshing Them for this world's strife.</p>	<p>6 All glory to the One Who lavishes such love; The triune God in love Assures our life above. His means of grace for us Are gifts He loves to give; All thanks and praise for His Great love by which we live!</p>

# WHAT DOES PRIVATE CONFESSION LOOK LIKE?

Private Confession can be used at anytime. It's not only for really bad sinners but for any and all sinners. It's a gift from God and not meant to be a burden. Although it might seem daunting to confess your sins to a man, you must remember that your pastor isn't any old person. He has been given orders by God to never divulge any sins confessed to him, for in reality, they aren't confessed to him but to God. The pastor is the ear and mouthpiece of the Lord. Therefore, no one should feel ashamed to come to Private Confession, for the Lord wants you there. He wants to absolve you.

The rite takes place at the communion rail in the sanctuary to remember your place in the kingdom of God and at his table. The pastor is vested to cover himself, so that you are reminded of his position and to whom you are really making a confession. Below is what the rite of Private Confession looks like, as it is found in our hymnal, the Lutheran Service Book, page 292. **Private Confession and Absolution will be offered on Saturdays during Advent from 9 am to 10 am.**

*You may prepare yourself by meditating on the Ten Commandments (LSB pages 321–322).*

*You may also pray the penitential psalms (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, or 143).*

*If you are not burdened with particular sins, do not trouble yourself or search for or invent other sins, thereby turning confession into a torture. Instead, mention one or two sins that you know and let that be enough.*

*When you are ready, kneel and say:*

**Pastor, please hear my confession and pronounce forgiveness in order to fulfill God's will.**

Proceed.

**I, a poor sinner, please guilty before God of all sins.**

**I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most.**

**My Lord's name I have not honored as I should;  
my worship and prayers have faltered.**

**I have not let His love have its way with me,  
and so my love for others has failed.**

**There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help.**

**My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin.**

*If you wish to confess specific sins that trouble you, continue as follows:*

**What troubles me particularly is that . . .**

*Confess whatever you have done against the commandments of God, according to your own place in life.*

*The pastor may gently question or instruct you—not to pry or judge—but to assist in self-examination.*

*Then conclude by saying:*

**I am sorry for all of this and ask for grace. I want to do better.**

God me merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

**Amen.**

Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

**Yes.**

Let it be done for you as you believe.

*The pastor places his hands on the head of the penitent and says:*

In the stead 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.

**Amen.**

*The pastor may speak additional Scripture passages to comfort and strengthen the faith of those who have great burdens of conscience or are sorrowful and distressed.*

*The pastor concludes:*

Go in peace.

**Amen.**

*You may remain to say a prayer of thanksgiving. Psalms 30, 31, 32, 34, 103, or 118 are also appropriate.*

## December Divine Services

*(services with Holy Communion)*

*Sunday, December 3, 2023*  
The First Sunday in Advent  
Matthew 21:1-9

*Wednesday, December 6, 2023*  
Advent Midweek  
Matthew 3:1-6

*Sunday, December 10, 2023*  
The Second Sunday in Advent  
Luke 21:25-36

*Wednesday, December 13, 2023*  
Advent Midweek  
Matthew 11:11-15

*Sunday, December 17, 2023*  
The Third Sunday in Advent  
Matthew 11:2-11

*Wednesday, December 20, 2023*  
Advent Midweek  
Luke 1:26-38a

*Sunday, December 24, 2023*  
The Fourth Sunday in Advent  
John 1:19-28

*Sunday, December 24, 2023*  
Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Luke 2:1-14

*Monday, December 25, 2023*  
The Nativity of Our Lord  
John 1:1-14

*Sunday, December 31, 2023*  
The First Sunday after Christmas  
Luke 2:22-40

## January Divine Services

*(services with Holy Communion)*

*Saturday, January 6, 2024*  
The Epiphany of Our Lord  
Matthew 2:1-12

*Sunday, January 7, 2024*  
The Baptism of Our Lord  
Matthew 3:13-17

*Sunday, January 14, 2024*  
The Second Sunday after the Epiphany  
John 2:1-11

*Sunday, January 21, 2024*  
The Transfiguration of Our Lord  
Matthew 17:1-9

*Sunday, January 28, 2024*  
Septuagesima  
Matthew 20:1-16



## Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023 at 7 PM**

For the seventh year in a row, the singing voices of both the children and adult choirs will join together on Christmas Eve night to sing a joyful noise to the Lord. As we begin in the book of Genesis and end up at the manger of our Lord, we will see God's work throughout history, as he fulfilled the promise made to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and also to us today—the promise of his Son, Christ the Lord.

The children will be preparing for this service during the Sunday School hour. They will begin in their classrooms for a short lesson of the day and then practice in the sanctuary until the usual ending time of 12 pm. If you desire to have your child participate in the service, please have them in Sunday School on a regular basis. The adult choir will practice after the Advent Midweek Services on Wednesday nights.



## **CHRISTMAS CAROLING & OPEN HOUSE**



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2023**

**THE SIXTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**CAROLING 3:30 PM**

**OPEN HOUSE 5:30 PM**

**4818 Slack Rd., Fairgrove**

For caroling, no singing skills are required.

For the open house, you are welcome to bring a dish (appetizer or dessert) to pass.

The Hallers will provide soup and drinks.

**NEXT VOTERS MEETING:  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024 @ 11 AM**

### **SHUT-IN ADDRESSES**

Continue to pray for those who can't be with us on Sunday mornings.

**Jean Adams**

8678 W. Deckerville Rd.  
Reese, MI 48757

**John & Ruth Ann Kaijala**

6004 Gilford Rd.  
Fairgrove, MI 48733

**Marge Montgomery**

8039 Massoll St.  
Reese, MI 48757

### **PRIVATE CONFESSION**

Private Confession and Absolution is available throughout the season of Advent every Saturday morning from 9 to 10 am.

Beginning in January, it will be offered every first Wednesday of the month at 11 am and every third Saturday of the month at 9 am.

It is also always available by appointment.

## **—DONATIONS—**

### **HIGHER THINGS YOUTH TRIP**

*cans and bottles can be placed in the box at the north entrance of the building*

### **CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

*Donations can be placed on or under the Christmas tree in the narthex.*

For Orphan Grain Train:

- hats
- gloves
- socks
- underwear

For Positive Alternatives:

- larger size clothes (2T-3T)
- larger size diapers (5, 6, 7)
- pull-ups
- coats (any size)
- baby carriers

### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Isaac Seeley
- 4 Lynn Dinsmoore
- 6 Leslie Reinbold  
Willow Hall
- 16 John Kaijala  
Steven Reinbold
- 19 Gabriella Reinbold
- 24 Marilyn Cottrell

### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Helene Weber
- 6 Isabella Reinbold
- 16 Sarah Reid
- 17 Lee Voss
- 22 Jennifer Bender
- 26 Ruth Ann Kaijala
- 28 Sarah Hall
- 30 Joe Bublitz

### **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 6 Steve & Melinda Reinbold
- 9 Richard & Marilyn Cottrell

### **JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 24 Vic & Jean Trisch

# GRACE'S GAMES GALORE

Inviting family & friends to gather  
for a fun night in our community!

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

board games, card games,  
hot chocolate, popcorn, coffee



**FRIDAY JAN 26TH**

**7PM - ?**

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, FAIRGROVE**

## STEWARDSHIP

December Coffee Money  
Good Samaritan Fund

January Coffee Money  
Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols  
Wellspring Lutheran Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Grace Lutheran Church

Christmas Day  
Grace Lutheran Church

New Year's Eve  
POBLO

Epiphany  
Orphan Grain Train

The Stewardship Board's quarterly mission for January through March will be to our two adopted seminary students: Ian Habicht and Nathan Bublitz. We supported Ian last year in his first year at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. This year, we've added Nathan who began his studies this fall at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Nathan is also the brother to our very own Joseph and Daniel Bublitz. Special offering envelopes can be found on the back table of the narthex.

## *Ladies Aid News*

- A Holiday Bake Sale will be held on Sunday, December 3rd, after the Divine Service.
- Poinsettia orders are due on Sunday, December 3rd. Return forms to Diane Spencer.
- Serving the Advent Dinner for Wednesday, December 6th.

## *Evangelism News*

- Soups are ready for pick-up. Payment is due December 3rd.
- This year's giving tree will be collecting hats, gloves, socks, underwear,
- Family Game Night is Friday, January 26th, at 7 pm. Invite your family & friends to join us.
- Collecting school supplies and clothing all throughout the year for the Clothing Giveaway. Donations can be put under the coatrack.
- Serving the Advent Dinner for Wednesday, December 13th.



# CHRISTIAN TRAINING

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY

	Sunday School	Adult Bible Study
11 am to 11:40 am	Lesson (preschool—4th grade)	Hebrews (also 5th—8th grade)
11:20 am to 12 pm	Music (preschool—8th grade)	Large Catechism

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE SINGING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS AND CAROLS (December 24th at 7 pm)**

## THE MEN'S STUDY

December 16th, 7:30 to 9 am  
every 3rd Saturday of the month  
prayer + breakfast + the Lutheran Confessions



## WEDNESDAYS AT GRACE

9:30 am Matins  
10 am Bible Study

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

—Romans 1:16-17

## DEVOTIONS IN ADVENT



We will be making use of Rev. William Weedon's devotions this Advent, as we have in the past. Be diligent in devoting time out of your day for yourself and your family to meditate even more on God's Word throughout the week. Extra devotion books can be found on the back table of the narthex.

## WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT

The practice of holding additional evening services on Wednesdays in Advent and Lent comes out of the Ember Days. One Wednesday, Friday and Saturday were set aside in each quarter of the year for a penitential and catechetical focus. While two quarters have fallen from use, the days were expanded to the entire season of Advent and Lent.

**December 6th** Matthew 3:1-6  
**December 13th** Matthew 11:11-15  
**December 20th** Luke 1:26-38a

Dinner at 6 pm  
Divine Service at 7 pm

## THE DAILY READINGS

“God’s Word is the treasure that makes everything holy. By it all the saints have themselves been made holy. At whatever time God’s Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or pondered, there the person, the day, and the work is hallowed, not on account of the external work but on account of the Word that makes us all saints.”

—Martin Luther, *The Large Catechism*, 91-92

Friday, December 1st	Psalm 34:1-18	Isaiah 7:10-8:8	1 Peter 3:1-22
Saturday, December 2nd	Psalm 82	Isaiah 8:9-9:7	1 Peter 4:1-19
Sunday, December 3rd	Psalm 55:16-23	Isaiah 9:8-10:11	1 Peter 5:1-14
Monday, December 4th	Psalm 145:1-9	Isaiah 10:12-34	2 Peter 1:1-21
Tuesday, December 5th	Psalm 49:5-15	Isaiah 11:1-12:6	2 Peter 2:1-22
Wednesday, December 6th	Psalm 56:1-13	Isaiah 14:1-23	2 Peter 3:1-18
Thursday, December 7th	Psalm 25:1-7	Isaiah 24:1-13	1 John 1:1-2:14
Friday, December 8th	Psalm 11	Isaiah 24:14-25:12	1 John 2:15-29
Saturday, December 9th	Psalm 17:6-15	Isaiah 26:1-19	1 John 3:1-24
Sunday, December 10th	Psalm 86:1-7	Isaiah 26:20-27:13	1 John 4:1-21
Monday, December 11th	Psalm 5:1-8	Isaiah 28:14-29	1 John 5:1-21
Tuesday, December 12th	Psalm 106:1-5	Isaiah 29:1-14	Jude 1-25
Wednesday, December 13th	Psalm 89:20-29	Isaiah 29:15-30:14	Rev. 1:1-20
Thursday, December 14th	Psalm 27:1-14	Isaiah 30:15-26	Rev. 2:1-29
Friday, December 15th	Psalm 146:1-7	Isaiah 30:27-31:9	Rev. 3:1-22
Saturday, December 16th	Psalm 149	Isaiah 32:1-20	Rev. 4:1-11
Sunday, December 17th	Psalm 40:1-5	Isaiah 33:1-24	Rev. 5:1-14
Monday, December 18th	Psalm 119:81-88	Isaiah 34:1-4, 8-35:10	Rev. 6:1-7
Tuesday, December 19th	Psalm 103:1-18	Isaiah 40:1-17	Rev. 7:1-17
Wednesday, December 20th	Psalm 119:25-32	Isaiah 40:18-41:10	Rev. 8:1-13
Thursday, December 21st	Psalm 102:24-28	Isaiah 42:1-25	Rev. 9:1-12
Friday, December 22nd	Psalm 115:1-11	Isaiah 43:1-24	Rev. 9:13-10:11
Saturday, December 23rd	Psalm 39:4-8	Isaiah 43:25-44:20	Rev. 11:1-19
Sunday, December 24th	Psalm 98:1-9	Isaiah 45:20-25	Rev. 12:1-17
Monday, December 25th	Psalm 96:1-13	Isaiah 49:1-18	Matt. 1:1-17
Tuesday, December 26th	Psalm 34:4-10, 19	Isaiah 49:22-26	Matt. 1:18-25
Wednesday, December 27th	Psalm 92:8-15	Isaiah 51:17-52:12	Matt. 2:1-12
Thursday, December 28th	Psalm 9:11-14	Isaiah 52:13-54:10	Matt. 2:13-23
Friday, December 29th	Psalm 78:1-7	Isaiah 55:1-13	Luke 1:1-25
Saturday, December 30th	Psalm 89:14-18	Isaiah 58:1-59:3, 14-21	Luke 1:26-38
Sunday, December 31st	Psalm 111:1-10	Isaiah 60:1-22	Luke 1:39-56

Monday, January 1st	Psalm 113	Isaiah 61:1-11	Luke 1:57-80
Tuesday, January 2nd	Psalm 6:5-8	Isaiah 62:1-12	Luke 2:1-20
Wednesday, January 3rd	Psalm 108:1-6	Isaiah 63:1-14	Luke 2:21-40
Thursday, January 4th	Psalm 40:6-10	Isaiah 63:15-65:7	Luke 2:41-52
Friday, January 5th	Psalm 37:34-40	Isaiah 65:8-25	Luke 3:1-20
Saturday, January 6th	Psalm 45:1-7	Isaiah 66:1-20	Luke 3:21-38
Sunday, January 7th	Psalm 46:4-11	Ezekiel 1:1-14, 22-28	Romans 1:1-17
Monday, January 8th	Psalm 19:1-14	Ezekiel 2:1-3:11	Romans 1:18-32
Tuesday, January 9th	Psalm 62:5-12	Ezekiel 3:12-27	Romans 2:1-16
Wednesday, January 10th	Psalm 85:1-13	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32	Rom. 2:17-29
Thursday, January 11th	Psalm 7:1-11	Ezekiel 33:1-20	Rom. 3:1-18
Friday, January 12th	Psalm 63:3-11	Ezekiel 34:1-24	Rom. 3:19-31
Saturday, January 13th	Psalm 32:1-7	Ezekiel 36:13-28	Rom. 4:1-25
Sunday, January 14th	Psalm 104:27-30	Ezekiel 36:33-37:14	Rom. 5:1-21
Monday, January 15th	Psalm 29:1-11	Ezekiel 37:15-28	Rom. 6:1-23
Tuesday, January 16th	Psalm 36:1-6, 10	Ezekiel 38:1-23	Rom. 7:1-20
Wednesday, January 17th	Psalm 76:1-3, 6-9, 11-12	Ezekiel 39:1-10, 17-29	Rom. 7:21-8:17
Thursday, January 18th	Psalm 44:1-3, 9-10, 20-26	Ezekiel 40:1-4, 43:1-12	Rom. 8:18-39
Friday, January 19th	Psalm 15	Ezekiel 44:1-16, 23-29	Rom. 9:1-18
Saturday, January 20th	Psalm 117	Ezekiel 47:1-14, 21-23	Rom. 9:19-33
Sunday, January 21st	Psalm 20	Joel 1:1-20	Rom. 10:1-21
Monday, January 22nd	Psalm 69:19-23, 32-33	Joel 2:1-17	Rom. 11:1-24
Tuesday, January 23rd	Psalm 139:1-6, 12-14	Joel 2:18-32	Rom. 11:25-12:13
Wednesday, January 24th	Psalm 131	Joel 3:1-21	Rom. 12:14-13:14
Thursday, January 25th	Psalm 6:4-10	Zechariah 1:1-21	Rom. 14:1-23
Friday, January 26th	Psalm 18:46-50	Zechariah 2:1-3:10	Rom. 15:1-13
Saturday, January 27th	Psalm 1	Zechariah 4:1-5:11	Rom. 15:14-33
Sunday, January 28th	Psalm 12	Zechariah 6:1-7:14	Rom. 16:17-27
Monday, January 29th	Psalm 107:1-9	Zechariah 8:1-23	2 Tim. 1:1-18
Tuesday, January 30th	Psalm 33:18-22	Zechariah 9:1-17	2 Tim. 2:1-26
Wednesday, January 31st	Psalm 135:1-14	Zech. 10:1-11:3	2 Tim. 3:1-17

# DECEMBER 2023

Church Office: (989) 693-6322 Pastor Haller's cell phone: (248) 794-3703

Executive Director: Aaron Reinbold (989) 233-5105

Elders of the Month: Steven Reinbold (989) 233-5097 & Daniel Bublitz (989) 392-7805

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 <i>The First Sunday in Advent</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Study	4	5 7 pm Elders	6 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Dinner 7 pm Divine Service adult choir practice	7 10 am Ladies Aid	8 Pastor's Day Off	9 9 to 10 am Private Confession
10 <i>The Second Sunday in Advent</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Study 6 to 8 pm H.S. Catechesis	11	12 7 pm Properties	13 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Dinner 7 pm Divine Service adult choir practice	14	15 Pastor's Day Off	16 7:30 am Men's Study 9 to 10 am Private Confession
17 <i>The Third Sunday in Advent</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Study	18	19 7 pm Parish Planning	20 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Dinner 7 pm Divine Service adult choir practice	21 <i>St. Thomas, Apostle</i>	22 Pastor's Day Off	23 9 to 10 am Private Confession
24 <i>The Fourth Sunday in Advent</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 7 pm Lessons & Carols 11 pm Divine Service	25 <i>The Nativity of Our Lord</i> 10 am Divine Service	26 <i>St. Stephen, Martyr</i>	27 <i>St. John, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</i>	28 <i>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>	29 Pastor's Day Off	30 3:30 pm Caroling 5:30 pm Open House

# JANUARY 2024

Church Office: (989) 693-6322 Pastor Haller's cell phone: (248) 794-3703

Executive Director: Aaron Reinbold (989) 233-5105

Elders of the Month: Thomas Reid (989) 225-8315 & Joseph Bublitz (989) 528-9120

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 31 <sup>st</sup> <i>The First Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Study	1 <i>The Circumcision &amp; Name of Jesus</i>	2 7 pm Elders	3 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 11 am to 12 pm Private Confession 7 pm Catechesis	4 10 am Ladies Aid	5 Pastor's Day Off	6 <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i> 4 pm Divine Service
7 <i>The Baptism of Our Lord</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School 11 am Voters Meeting	8	9 7 pm Properties	10 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Catechesis	11	12 Pastor's Day Off	13
14 <i>The Second Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Study 6 to 8 pm H.S. Catechesis	15	16 Pastor at Symposia	17 Pastor at Symposia 7 pm Catechesis	18 <i>The Confession of St. Peter</i> Pastor at Symposia	19	20 7:30 am Men's Study 9 to 10 am Private Confession
21 <i>The Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Study	22	23	24 <i>St. Timothy, Pastor &amp; Confessor</i> 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Catechesis	25 <i>The Conversion of St. Paul</i>	26 <i>St. Titus, Pastor &amp; Confessor</i> Pastor's Day Off 7 pm Game Night	27
28 <i>Septuagesima</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Study	29	30	31 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Catechesis			

# Serving Our Lord in the Month of December

## **Elders for December**

Steven Reinbold & Daniel Bublitz

## **Ladies Aid for December**

Diane Spencer & Hannah Haller

## **Sunday, December 3, 2023**

*Refreshments:* Ashley Bublitz, Sandy D'Addezio, Joyce Dickson

*Propers Choir:* Joanne Hills, Mary Masker, Susan Pfund

*Acolyte:* Erwin Reinbold

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Jennifer Bender

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Chelsea Worden

## **Wednesday, December 6, 2023**

*Dinner:* Ladies Aid

*Acolyte:* Erwin Reinbold

## **Sunday, December 10, 2023**

*Refreshments:* Ann Emery, Sarah Hall, Hannah Haller

*Propers Choir:* Hannah Haller, Hunter Reid, Sarah Reid

*Acolyte:* Winston Reinbold

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Chelsea Worden

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Jennifer Bender

## **Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

*Dinner:* Evangelism & Mercy

*Acolyte:* Winston Reinbold

## **Sunday, December 17, 2023**

*Refreshments:* Renee Hecht, Joanne Hills, Beth Hoppe

*Propers Choir:* Aaron Reinbold, Amelia Reinbold, Leslie Reinbold

*Acolyte:* Brandt LaPouttre

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Susan Pfund

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Stephen Bender

## **Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

*Dinner:*

*Acolyte:* Brandt LaPouttre

## **Sunday, December 24, 2023**

*Refreshments:* Pamela Ill, Susan Pfund, Sarah Reid

*Propers Choir:* Alberta Reinbold, Daniel Reinbold, Winston Reinbold

*Acolyte:* Noah Reinbold

## **Sunday, December 24, 2023, 7 pm**

*Acolyte:* Erwin Reinbold

## **Sunday, December 24, 2023, 11 pm**

*Acolyte:* Winston Reinbold

## **Monday, December 25, 2023, 10 am**

*Propers Choir:* Joanne Hills, Mary Masker, Susan Pfund

*Acolytes:* Erwin Reinbold, Winston Reinbold, Brandt LaPouttre

## **Sunday, December 31, 2023**

*Refreshments:* Joanne Reinbold, Leslie Reinbold, Tracey Reinbold

*Propers Choir:* Hannah Haller, Hunter Reid, Sarah Reid

*Acolyte:* Wayne Seeley

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Alberta Reinbold

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Susan Pfund

\*\*If your name is not on the refreshment list and you would like to serve, please contact the church office.

\*\*If you're not able to serve on a particular Sunday, please call someone to replace you.

# **Serving Our Lord in the Month of January**

## **Elders for January**

Thomas Reid & Joseph Bublitz

## **Ladies Aid for January**

Diane Spencer & Joanne Bigham

## **Saturday, January 6, 2024**

*Acolyte:* Noah Reinbold

*Propers Choir:* Aaron Reinbold, Amelia Reinbold, Leslie Reinbold

## **Sunday, January 7, 2024**

*Refreshments:* Diane Spencer, Laura Starkey, Bev Voss

*Propers Choir:* Alberta Reinbold, Daniel Reinbold, Winston Reinbold

*Acolyte:* Erwin Reinbold

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Jennifer Bender

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Hannah Haller

## **Sunday, January 14, 2024**

*Refreshments:* Cindy Voss, Helene Weber, Chelsea Worden

*Propers Choir:* Joanne Hills, Mary Masker, Susan Pfund

*Acolyte:* Winston Reinbold

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Chelsea Worden

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Laura Starkey

## **Sunday, January 21, 2024**

*Refreshments:* Jennifer Bender, Ashley Bublitz, Sandy D'Addezio

*Propers Choir:* Hannah Haller, Hunter Reid, Sarah Reid

*Acolyte:* Brandt LaPouttre

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Susan Pfund

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Pamela Ill & Alberta Reinbold

## **Sunday, January 28, 2024**

*Refreshments:* Joyce Dickson, Ann Emery, Sarah Hall

*Propers Choir:* Aaron Reinbold, Amelia Reinbold, Leslie Reinbold

*Acolyte:* Wayne Seeley

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Alberta Reinbold

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Steven Reinbold

\*\*If your name is not on the refreshment list and you would like to serve, please contact the church office.

\*\*If you're not able to serve on a particular Sunday, please call someone to replace you.

For a day in your courts is better  
than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

—Psalm 84:10