



December 21, 2025
4th Sunday of Advent
Band Led



Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

Good Morning and Welcome!

If you are an online worshiper or guest today, please leave a record of your time with us online. Thank you!

[Online Guest Form](#)

7740 HIGHWAY 72 W | (256) 721-0041 | MLUTHERAN.ORG

ORDER OF WORSHIP 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Bread of Life from With One Voice

** Please stand as you are able*

PRELUDE “O Little Town” (Herms, Myrin, Redman)

Band

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT “Gesu Bambino” (Yon)

Holly Martin, Soprano

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God’s timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God’s own righteousness. ☩ we are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

***GATHERING SONG** “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

#71

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
 born a child, and yet a king;
 born to reign in us forever,
 now thy gracious kingdom bring.
 By thine own eternal Spirit
 rule in all our hearts alone;
 by thine all-sufficient merit
 raise us to thy glorious throne.

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

The Bearb Family

O Emmanuel,
Surprise us by your coming.
Amen.

***HYMN “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”**

ELW 240



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
 Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look,

the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- ² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- ³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ⁴ **O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- ⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**
- ¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- ¹⁹ **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Chris Berry

GOSPEL FANFARE

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



* GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Kris Schroeder



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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***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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God of grace, hear our prayer.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

OFFERING

Offertory: "He Shall Feed His Flock" (Handel, Arr by Stuart Barrie)

Gretchen Perry, Violin

***PRESENTATION OF GIFTS “Come Now, O Prince of Peace”**

ELW 247 (verse 4)

Ososŏ, ososŏ

O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ŭi - im - gŭm

1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.

Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
 Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
 Text and music © Geonyong Lee.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.
Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING & PREFACE**

The Lord be with you.	And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.	We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding notes.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

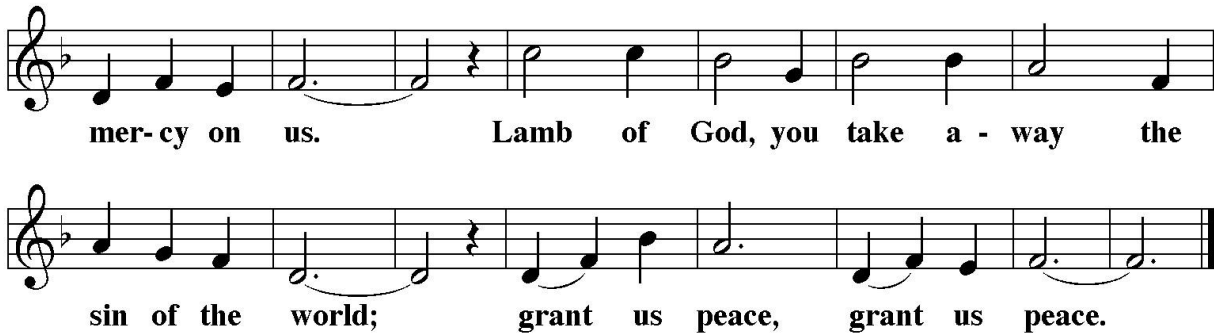
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

COMMUNION SONG "Lamb of God"

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

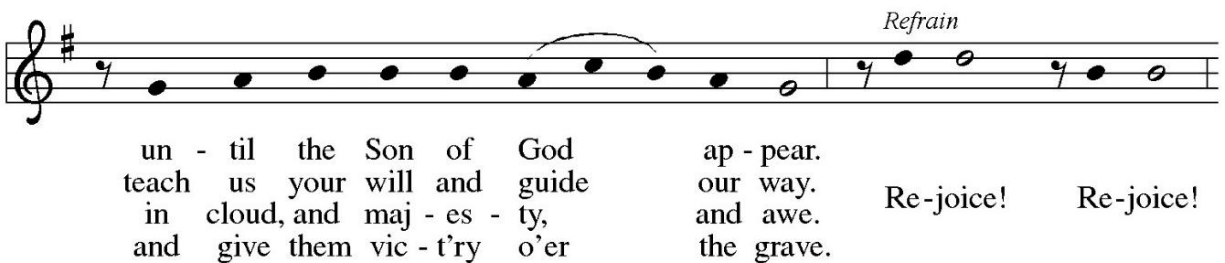
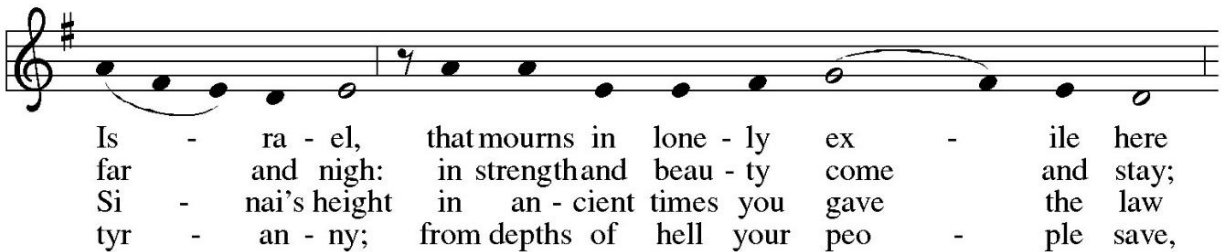
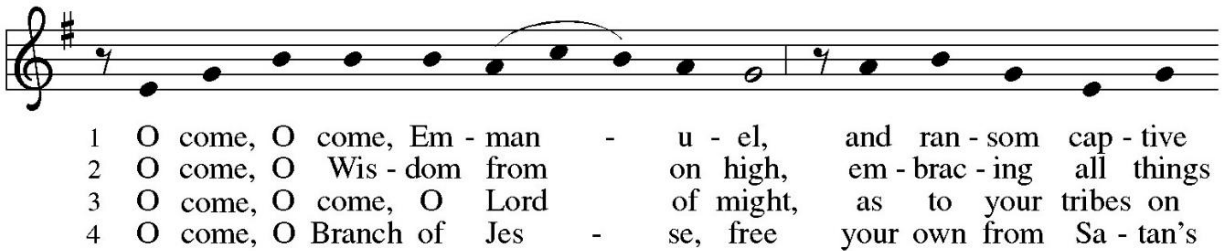
The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding notes.



DISTRIBUTION

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

ELW 257



- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

HYMN "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

ELW 265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

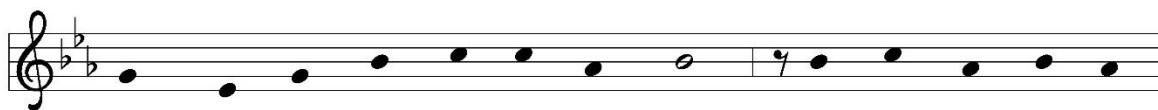


"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

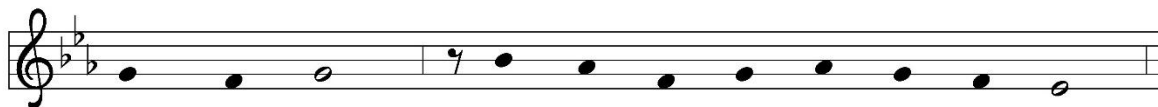


most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
 3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
 4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
 splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
 hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
 Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV
 Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has



done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

*BLESSING

*SENDING SONG “Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)”

#72

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven and nature sing
Joy to the world, the Savior reigns
That all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

Joy, unspeakable joy
And overflowing where no tongue can tell
Joy, unspeakable joy
Rises in my soul, never lets me go

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love

Joy, unspeakable joy
And overflowing where no tongue can tell
Joy, unspeakable joy
Rises in my soul, never lets me go

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Keep awake. **We will. Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE “Joy to the World” (Instrumental)

Band

WE REMEMBER IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Norma Freymuth
Don & Lizzie Palmer
Lindsey & the Porter Family
Kevin
Leighann
Connie Stanger

Stephen
Rich
Kenneth
David
Theresa
David

Bryant
Sharon
Francis Dobbins and Family
Family of Bill Emerson

THE FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God by the people of Messiah.

ALL ARE INVITED to enjoy coffee and fellowship after service in the Fellowship Hall.

NURSERY staffed by Hannah Seitz, is through the double doors in the Narthex leading to the Sunday School classrooms. Newborns, toddlers, and children up to Pre-K are welcome.

A BIG RING AND SING THANK YOU! Thank you to all of our singers, bell ringers, and instrumentalists for making last Sunday's Ring & Sing so fun for members and the community!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION will take place Wednesday, December 24th at 5p and 7p. All our welcome as we greet our Savior.

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH. A special worship service of beloved carols and scripture is presented for your enjoyment. Inspired by the Festival of Lessons and Carols from King's College Cambridge that started in 1918.

CHECK YOUR MESSIAH MAILBOX FOR 2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES. Any offering envelopes that were not picked up in the Narthex will be placed in mailboxes. Contact the office or Mark Neely at finsec@mlutheran.org if you have any questions. Thanks!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER 24-25, 2025. Our office will be closed December 24-25, 2025, to allow our staff to celebrate with family.

INVITATION TO SOUTHEAST SYNOD REVIVAL. Do you find yourself searching for new inspiration and ways to connect deeper in your faith? All members are strongly encouraged to attend one of the SES Revival Days scheduled for Feb 21, 2026, in Birmingham or April 25, 2026, in Nashville. Contact a Council Member for more details and information.

ARTREACH COLLECTING NEW AND USED CHRISTMAS CARDS STARTING IN JANUARY. Save any new or used Christmas Cards for ArtReach. Look for a collection box at Mission Control center in January. Please bundle any new Christmas Cards with their envelopes with rubber bands. Donated cards will be used later in the year for a Christmas Card recycling workshop or delivered to nursing homes in the area.

KIT MINISTRY – Infant Socks

Lector	Dennis Fry
Greeters	Diane Oliver
Ushers	Mark Winge
Altar Guild	LeeLinda Baggett, Janet Smith
Stream Team	Lee Seitz, Daniel Hopkin
Flower Guild	Flower Guild Team

FOOD PANTRY – Soups / Toothpaste

Pastor	Kristine Schroeder
Director of Music	Randall Fields
Organist/Accompanist	Melanie Payne
Office Manager	Jill Casey
Communications Director	Jan Morrison
Information Technology	Chris Elegante

****CHURCH CALENDAR****

Sunday, December 21

9:30 a.m. – *Band Led Service of Worship Bread of Life WOV with the Lord's Supper

10:40 a.m. – MOES + MESY Event

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

*5:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with the Lord's Supper

7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with the Lord's Supper

Sunday, December 28

No Youth or Sunday School

9:30 a.m. - *Service of Worship Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols with the Lord's Supper

LOOKING AHEAD

January 1 - Office Closed

January 7 - Wednesday Night Dinner and Confirmation Class resumes

January 11 - Sunday worship returns to early (8:30 a.m.) and late (11:00 a.m.) services

January 11 - Sunday School starts back

ATTENDANCE December 7 Online: 54 December 14: 155